



2 THESSALONIANS

2 Thessalonians 3:1-6 – What Do Pastors Need From Their People?

October 27, 2024

1. What should people expect from their pastors?

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. James 3:1 (ESV)

But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4 (ESV)

...for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Acts 20:27 (ESV)

Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. 1 Timothy 3:2-7 (ESV)

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12 (ESV)

...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 2 Timothy 4:2 (ESV)

Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:2-3 (ESV)

2. What should pastors expect from their people?

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17 (ESV)

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (ESV)

A. Pastors need people who pray for them.

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. 2 Thessalonians 3:1–2 (ESV)

For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.
Colossians 1:29 (ESV)

i. Pray that the Word of God will spread rapidly.

...pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead...
2 Thessalonians 3:1 (ESV)

...and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,... Ephesians 6:19 (ESV)

...At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ,... Colossians 4:2–3 (ESV)

...pray also for us, ... that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.
Colossians 4:3–4 (ESV)

ii. Pray that the Word of God will be honored.

...that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored,...
2 Thessalonians 3:1 (ESV)

And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.
Acts 13:48 (ESV)

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,... 2 Thessalonians 3:1 (ESV)

...when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." Acts 18:6 (ESV)

iii. Pray for the safety of your pastors.

...and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. 2 Thessalonians 3:2 (ESV)

But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal,... Acts 18:12 (ESV)

- Attacks come from outside and inside the church.

I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. 3 John 9 (ESV)

...For not all have faith. 2 Thessalonians 3:2 (ESV)

B. Pastors need people who are confident in God's faithfulness.

But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (ESV)

At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me,... 2 Timothy 4:16–17 (ESV)

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)

i. God promises to strengthen us when we are weak.

But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you... 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (ESV)

i. God promises to guard us from Satan's attacks.

...and guard you against the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (ESV)

C. Pastors need people who are obedient.

And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. 2 Thessalonians 3:4 (ESV)

D. Pastors need people who pursue spiritual maturity.

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 3:5 (ESV)

i. I need to increase my comprehension of how much God loves me!

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God. 2 Thessalonians 3:5 (ESV)

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9 (ESV)

ii. I need to increase my comprehension of Jesus' faithfulness to me.

*May the Lord direct your hearts... to the steadfastness of Christ.
2 Thessalonians 3:5 (ESV)*

3. Conclusion.

What do pastors need from their people?

1. **They need people to pray for them.** Pray that God's word would spread rapidly through open doors and clear communication, that the word would be honored, and for the safety of their pastors from attacks against them that come from the inside or the outside of the church.
2. **They need people who are confident in God's faithfulness.** God promises to strengthen us when we face challenges that overwhelm us, protect us from Satan's attacks, and not allow us to face more temptation than we can handle.
3. **They need people who are obedient to the word.** They love and obey the word. They are willing to follow church leadership.
4. **They need people who pursue spiritual maturity.** Spiritual maturity is growing in our comprehension of Jesus' love for us and Jesus' complete faithfulness to us.

Life Group Questions

1. **Read through section 1 in the outline.** As you review what people should expect from their pastors, what do you think is the most challenging part of a pastor's job? What would be the easiest part to handle poorly?
2. **Read Hebrews 13:7 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.** Why do many rebel against church leaders instead of trusting them? What is usually the source of that rebellion?
3. **Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2.** While Paul was a gifted and educated apostle, he asked the baby Christians in Thessalonica to pray for him. Why did he need this? What is the relationship between the prayers of the people and the effectiveness of a pastor? Will you commit to praying for CrossWinds pastors and their teaching each week?
4. **Read Ephesians 6:19, Colossians 4:2-4, 2 Thessalonians 3:1.** When we pray for our pastors, how should we pray for them?
5. **Read 2 Thessalonians 3:3.** Why do pastors need people who are confident in God's faithfulness when the church faces trouble?
6. **Read 2 Thessalonians 3:3 and 1 Corinthians 10:13.** What are some of the practical ways God shows his faithfulness to us?
7. **Read 2 Thessalonians 3:5.** Why does every pastor need people who are constantly growing in their comprehension of God's love for us and Jesus' unwavering faithfulness to us?