

Prayer Points for the Month of October

These prayer points for the month of October follow two things many US churches mark this month: Pastor Appreciation Month, and Reformation Day on October 31, when Protestants remember how the gospel was brought back into the light in the 1500s. As leaves fall and harvests come in, they also thank God for the harvest and ask for strength to persevere. Use them on your own, as a family, at a prayer meeting or as a whole church.

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.”

Isaiah 40:8 (BSB)

Pray one section a week through October, or one point a day. Pray the pastors section together as a church on Pastor Appreciation Sunday, then send your pastors a note to say you did. At a prayer meeting, give each section to a different leader, and leave a pause after every point for others to pray. Save the Reformation section for the last week of the month.

Our pastors

1 Preaching the word in every season

Lord, give our pastors courage and patience to preach the word in season and out of season, to reprove, rebuke and encourage with patient instruction. Keep them faithful to Scripture when it is unpopular as well as when it is welcome.

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage with every form of patient instruction.

2 Timothy 4:2 (BSB)

2 The daily weight of caring for a church

Lord Jesus, Paul felt the daily pressure of his concern for all the churches. Our pastors carry that weight too: hospital visits, hard conversations, late-night calls. Carry it with them, and show us how to lighten their load.

Apart from these external trials, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

2 Corinthians 11:28 (BSB)

3 Strength for a long journey

LORD, when Elijah was worn out, Your angel touched him and told him to get up and eat, or the journey would be too much for him. Restore weary pastors with rest, good food, true friends and fresh strength from You.

A second time the angel of the LORD returned and touched him, saying, “Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you.”

1 Kings 19:7 (BSB) ·

4 Guarded from temptation

Father, protect our pastors from the temptations that ruin ministries: pride, greed, sexual sin and secret bitterness. Help them keep themselves under discipline, so that after preaching to others they will never be disqualified.

No, I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:27 (BSB)

5 Sharing good things with those who teach

Lord, You tell those who receive instruction in the word to share all good things with their teacher. This Pastor Appreciation Month, show us practical ways to bless our pastors and their families: notes, meals, time off and fair pay.

Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word must share in all good things with his instructor.

Galatians 6:6 (BSB)

Truths the Reformation recovered

6 Scripture: Your word is truth

LORD, the entirety of Your word is truth, and all Your righteous judgments endure forever. Thank You for the Bible as our final authority. Keep our church under Your word, testing every teaching, tradition and trend by it.

The entirety of Your word is truth, and all Your righteous judgments endure forever.

Psalms 119:160 (BSB)

7 The Bible in the people's own language

God, when Your Law was read in Ezra's day, it was explained so that the people could understand. Thank You for those who gave ordinary people the Bible in their own language. Bless Bible translators today, and make us eager readers of what they labor to give.

So they read from the Book of the Law of God, explaining it and giving insight, so that the people could understand what was being read.

Nehemiah 8:8 (BSB)

8 Grace: justified freely

Father, all have sinned and fall short of Your glory; there is no distinction. Thank You that we are justified freely by Your grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. We bring nothing but our need, and You give everything.

And this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:22-24 (BSB)

9 Faith: the righteous will live by faith

God, the gospel reveals a righteousness from You that comes by faith from start to finish. This verse brought Martin Luther peace with You. Let us live by faith in Christ, not by our own record, every day of our lives.

For the gospel reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith from start to finish, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Romans 1:17 (BSB)

10 Christ: the way to the Father

Lord Jesus, You are the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through You. Thank You that You are enough. Give us confidence in You, and love for everyone who has not yet come to You.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6 (BSB) ·

11 To God be the glory

God, from You and through You and to You are all things. To You be the glory forever. Keep us from seeking credit for ourselves, our church or our tradition, and let every sermon, song and good work point to You.

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

Romans 11:36 (BSB)

Autumn and the harvest

12 You prepare our grain

God, You attend to the earth and water it; You soften the soil with showers, bless its growth and prepare our grain. Thank You for this year's harvest, and bless the farmers, ranchers and workers who bring it in.

You attend to the earth and water it; with abundance You enrich it. The streams of God are full of water, for You prepare our grain by providing for the earth. You soak its furrows and level its ridges; You soften it with showers and bless its growth.

Psalms 65:9-10 (BSB)

13 Fruitful seasons and glad hearts

Lord, You have never left Yourself without testimony to Your goodness: You give rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling hearts with food and gladness. As we enjoy apples, pumpkins and full tables, turn our gladness into thanks to You.

Yet He has not left Himself without testimony to His goodness: He gives you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness."

Acts 14:17 (BSB)

14 Leaving the edges for the poor

LORD, You told Israel not to reap to the very edges of their fields, but to leave some for the poor and the foreigner. Show us the edges of our own abundance we can share this fall, through food pantries, neighbors and our church.

When you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You must not strip your vineyard bare or gather its fallen grapes. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19:9-10 (BSB)

15 Green when the leaves fall

LORD, blessed is the one who trusts in You; he is like a tree planted by the waters, whose leaves are always green. As the trees around us lose their leaves, keep our faith rooted and fruitful in every season, even in drought.

But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him. He is like a tree planted by the waters that sends out its roots toward the stream. It does not fear when the heat comes, and its leaves are always green. It does not worry in a year of drought, nor does it cease to produce fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (BSB)

Perseverance

16 The patience of the farmer

Lord, the farmer waits patiently for the precious fruit of the soil and for the fall and spring rains. Give us that patience as we wait for answers to long prayers, and strengthen our hearts, because Your coming is near.

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer awaits the precious fruit of the soil—how patient he is for the fall and spring rains. You, too, be patient and strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near.

James 5:7-8 (BSB)

17 Considering Him who endured

Lord Jesus, You endured such hostility from sinners for our sake. When we grow weary and lose heart, help us look to You. Give fresh endurance to those facing long illness, years of caregiving, stalled careers and slow ministries.

Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:3 (BSB)

18 Finishing the race

Lord, near the end of his life Paul could say he had fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith. Help our older saints finish well, and help all of us keep the faith through every mile still ahead.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7 (BSB)

19 Kept from stumbling

God our Savior, You are able to keep us from stumbling and present us unblemished in Your glorious presence with great joy. Our perseverance rests on Your keeping, not our strength. To You be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, now and forever.

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you unblemished in His glorious presence, with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord before all time, and now, and for all eternity. Amen.

Jude 1:24-25 (BSB)

A closing prayer

Lord, thank You for the pastors who feed us with Your word; bless them, protect them and give them joy. Thank You for the truths You brought back into the light: Your word is truth, Your grace is free, and we are saved through faith in Christ alone. As the leaves fall, keep us rooted in You and patient in hope. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but Your word stands forever. To You be the glory. Amen.