

## The Need for a Pastor

“And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him”  
(Acts 8:30-31).

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus” (Acts 8:35).

**F**or whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:13-15)

Robert Boyd in the *World's Bible Handbook* provides an extensive list of names and titles for ministers. A portion of this list is reproduced here to demonstrate the many responsibilities of a pastor.


- 📖 Ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- 📖 Fishers of men (Matthew 4:19)
- 📖 Laborers (Matthew 9:38; 1 Corinthians 6:1)
- 📖 Messengers (2 Corinthians 8:23)
- 📖 Ministers (2 Corinthians 6:4; Romans 15:16)
- 📖 Overseers (Acts 20:28)
- 📖 Pastors (Jeremiah 3:15; Ephesians 4:11)
- 📖 Preachers (Romans 10:14)
- 📖 Servants (Titus 1:1)
- 📖 Shepherds (Jeremiah 23:4)
- 📖 Soldiers (2 Timothy 2:3)
- 📖 Stewards (1 Corinthians 4:1)
- 📖 Teachers (Isaiah 30:20)
- 📖 Watchmen (Isaiah 62:6)
- 📖 Witnesses (Acts 1:9)

Sister Else Lund served foreign missions for more than forty-two years. She had a profound impact on this author's life while they served together in Ghana. One Thursday morning she sat down beside me and wanted to share with me a Scripture that genuinely touched her heart during private devotions. She felt it reminded her of me.


“He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he fed

them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands” (Psalms 78:70-72).

It sounds like a testimony every godly pastor shares in common. God handpicked David, His servant. He had experience with the ewes great with child. He was tender, compassionate, loved his sheep, was willing to risk his life to protect them, and cared more about feeding the flock of God, than he did about taking care of himself. He had a pastor’s heart. His great heart made him a great shepherd. He was unselfish, possessed unwavering devotion, and exemplified integrity. He was a breath of fresh air when compared to his predecessor, Saul. His sole desire was aimed at the glory of God, and cared only for the good of his people. He also had pastor’s hands. He guided people wisely, prayerfully, and with excellence. He was skilful with all of the tools he used. Sometimes it was a shepherd’s rod or staff, other times it was a sword, harp, or pen. He always endeavored to lead his people to victory and to be over-comers in the face of their enemies. Everyone needs that type of pastor. Why, you might ask? In this lesson we will look at the different reasons everyone needs a pastor. Keep in mind. The pastor-saint relationship is a two-way street. The pastor has a responsibility to lead. The saint has a responsibility to follow. As you go through each of the points below, determine the responsibility of the pastor, but also determine the responsibility of the saint/member.

 Every soul is subject to a higher power. We all need to be accountable to someone. The pastor is God’s ordained leader in the local church.

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God” (Romans 13:1).


 A pastor is a gift from God. He is provided to equip God’s people to do His work, and to build up the church.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

 Pastors are accountable to God for their members.


“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17).

“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God” (1 Corinthians 4:1).


 Pastors tend (care for and feed) the flock.

“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding” (Jeremiah 3:15).

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28).


 Pastors declare the whole counsel of God. They speak what God tells them to say.

“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).


 Being a pastor is a high calling. (That is a word for pastors. God has called you. Your members are waiting for you to lead them.)

Why stoop to be a king when you can be a pastor?

“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

 Pastors pray for the sick, are involved with the laying on of hands, and the bestowal of spiritual gifts.

“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him” (James 5:14-15).

 A pastor is a spiritual father.

He loves, cares, protects, and helps his children to grow.

 A pastor preaches truth and is instant in season and out of season. He teaches us.


A country schoolteacher, applying for a job, was asked, “Do you teach that the earth is round or flat?”

“Which way do you want it taught?” was the reply.

“I can teach it either way!”


That cannot be the attitude in the pulpit. A true shepherd will guide his flock in truth, even when it is not popular. Remember, what is popular is not always right, and what is right is not always popular.

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” (2 Timothy 4:1-5).


 A pastor/preacher helps increase our faith (by preaching and teaching the Word of God).

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

 A true pastor not only feeds the flock, but also will warn them.

“Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears” (Acts 20:31).

 A pastor is jealous over his flock. He fears that they will be led away from their simple devotion to Christ.

“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:2).

**Study Questions**

1. List ten titles or names for ministers. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. List seven reasons everyone needs a pastor. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. According to Hebrews 13:17, why should we obey those that have the rule over us?

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4. Write out the words of Jeremiah 3:15. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Why should we pay close attention to what pastors say? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Comment on the necessity of a pastor to preach truth. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. How does a pastor help increase our faith? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. What are some of the responsibilities of the saint/member that you found, as you looked through each of the points? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. What did you learn about the responsibilities of a pastor from David's story in Psalms 78:70-72? \_\_\_\_\_

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