

What a Pastor Needs in a Prayer Leader

By Kevin Wentworth

Promoting prayer in the local church usually is best served when the senior pastor is in charge. With the possible exception of very small churches, however, pastors can't be successful alone – they need help from a prayer leader or advocate. This person can serve in a formal, paid position or as a volunteer. In either case, the relationship between the senior pastor and the prayer leader needs to be a smooth one.

Here are 10 top qualities that a pastor needs in a good prayer leader.

1. **Trustworthy.** The prayer leader must be deserving of trust. If not, the pastor won't feel comfortable sharing.
2. **Confidential.** A senior pastor needs to know the prayer leader can and will keep information private.
3. **Dependable.** A good prayer advocate can be relied on to help keep the senior pastor accountable. If the pastor agrees to do something in regard to prayer, the prayer leader will find ways to give necessary encouragement until it is done.
4. **Persistent.** A good prayer advocate must have the fortitude to stay the course. Prayer isn't easily promoted; the prayer advocate will need diligence not to give up.
5. **Passionate.** The prayer leader doesn't need to be a gifted intercessor, but he or she does need to have a passion for prayer. While administrative skills are vital and required, this person won't succeed without the desire.
6. **Self-starter.** Pastors can't come up with all the ideas and do everything themselves. A good prayer advocate offers suggestions and gets things done while ensuring the pastor knows about specifics ahead of time.
7. **Wise.** A good prayer leader should be able to screen what information the pastors need to know so they aren't needlessly distracted.
8. **Prayer-focused.** Many times senior pastors don't need to be told how to fix a problem in the church – they just need someone to pray about it. A good prayer advocate is able to listen and pray about a problem without trying to solve it.
9. **Knowledgeable.** A prayer advocate knows of and keeps the senior pastor informed about local and national prayer opportunities and events.

10. **Encouraging.** Senior pastors need support in their prayer lives. Prayer leaders will be in tune with their senior pastors in order to encourage them to take a personal prayer retreat.

You might not find all these traits in any one person, but by looking for them, you will be more likely to get the right person to be your prayer advocate. And to give yourself the best chance of finding that person, try praying for him or her to come along!

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