

## **Prayer and Obedience for Leaders**

**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)**

**Though God uses all the gifts and parts of the body to strengthen and establish a healthy church, it is the shepherds and overseers in each city that carry an added authority and responsibility for that territory. Regardless of their individual personality traits, human weaknesses, or leadership deficiencies, they have been given a charge and we have been urged to pray for them so that their assignment will be a joy and not a burden.**

**Because the adversary knows the power of blessing upon our leaders, the powers of the air continue to stir up strife, dissension, and rebellion against leadership. The curses being spoken against leadership in the country have power in the spirit. If we are to have spiritual authority to displace those rulers in high places, we must bless the spiritual leaders that God has appointed in our own cities and states.**

**We start reversing the curses by first repenting for any way we have personally cursed them or spoken against them. We must acknowledge any bitterness towards those in authority, especially in the Church. We must lay down any corporate offenses against the body of Christ and release any need for personal vindication from those who have hurt us. Unless we clear our own hearts of these offenses and hurt, our prayers will carry little weight in heaven (see James 5:16).**

**When our own hearts have been cleansed and our conscience cleared, we can then release true blessing on those in authority and heaven will move on our behalf. It is the spirit of the sovereign Lord that can turn hearts and change minds.**

**If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14**