

Summary: Government #3

The reflections on dependability in prayer, especially for governing authorities, provide a powerful and timely reminder of the role believers play in God's plan for leadership and governance. The question of whether Jesus can depend on believers to pray for civil authorities strikes at the heart of a believer's commitment to faithfulness, consistency, and sacrifice.

Dependability vs. Inconsistency

For believers' dependability means to consistently fulfilling the call to pray, even in the face of challenges or distractions. It means overcoming the temptation to prioritize personal desires or fatigue over the critical task of intercession, much like the disciples who struggled to stay awake with Jesus in Gethsemane.

Scriptural Foundations for Dependability in Prayer:

- 1. Ephesians 6:18 - "Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance."**
 - This verse emphasizes the need to be **constant and alert** in prayer, particularly in the spiritual battle that surrounds us. Governing authorities face immense opposition, and as believers, we are called to intercede without ceasing, using spiritual armor to stand firm.
- 2. Colossians 4:2 - "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."**
 - This encourages believers to be steadfast, alert, and thankful in prayer. Dependability in prayer comes from a heart that is not easily swayed or discouraged but remains focused on the task of intercession.
- 3. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "Pray constantly."**
 - This simple but profound directive calls for believers to maintain a lifestyle of prayer. To be dependable, we must be consistent in our prayer life, always lifting up those in authority before God.



Example of Dependability: The Garden of Gethsemane

Practical Steps for Dependable Prayer:

1. **Armor of God:** As highlighted, to be dependable, we must put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18), recognizing that there will be opposition. Prayer for governing authorities is part of spiritual warfare, and without the protection and strength from God, we may falter.
2. **Pray Consistently:** Scriptures like **Ephesians 6:18**, **Colossians 4:2**, and **1 Thessalonians 5:17** emphasize continual and steadfast prayer. Being dependable means setting aside regular times for prayer and committing to it, even when distractions or opposition arise.
3. **Specific Prayers:** These are practical, powerful prayers that can be used for intercession:
 - o **Renewal of the mind** for those in authority (Romans 12:2).
 - o **Wisdom in exercising delegated authority** (Acts 16:16-18).
 - o **Development of godly character** in leaders.
 - o **Speaking out against hindering spirits** and declaring **excellent timing** for government officials.

These prayers reflect the power of speaking God's truth and exercising spiritual authority over the nation and its leaders.

Dependability and Sacrifice

Dependability often requires sacrifice. Just as Jesus sacrificed His will in the Garden of Gethsemane, so too must believers be willing to sacrifice their comfort, time, and priorities for the sake of the nation. Jesus asked His disciples to stay awake and pray with Him, but they struggled. This shows that being dependable in prayer, especially in times of spiritual battle, can be challenging, but it is vital.

Conclusion:

Yes, **Jesus can depend on believers** to pray for governing authorities, **but** it requires dependability, perseverance, and sacrifice. Believers must overcome the inconsistency of the flesh by staying alert and steadfast in prayer, putting on the full armor of God, and taking their responsibility seriously. By doing so, they fulfill their role in God's plan for leadership and governance, contributing to His work in ways that go far beyond what is seen.

The call to **pray constantly** (1 Thessalonians 5:17) is not just a suggestion; it is an invitation to participate in the unfolding of God's will on earth. As believers become dependable in their intercession for government authorities, they help to create a society that is governed in alignment with God's principles, leading to peace, justice, and righteousness.

Prayer: "Dear Father, strengthen us to be dependable in prayer for those in authority. Help us to overcome the weaknesses of our flesh and remain steadfast in our intercession. May we be diligent, alert, and constant in lifting up government leaders before You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

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