

HOW TO PRAY

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT



*“Law enforcement officers are a lifeline
for our communities, and their
work is a calling from God.”*

—FRANKLIN GRAHAM

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“I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.” —1 TIMOTHY 2:1-3

- **Supplication** means to ask. God urges us to ask, and He is pleased when we do.
- **Prayer** is talking to God, anywhere, anytime, in any way.
- **Intercession** is praying for someone else. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ constantly intercedes for us (see Romans 8:34), so it pleases God when we intercede for someone else—including heads of state and others in authority—because we are doing what Christ does.
- **Thanksgiving** always pleases God, and the Bible specifically tells us to include thanksgiving when talking to God about those in authority.

We are to pray respectfully for leaders. *“Honor all people. ... Fear God. Honor the king”* (1 Peter 2:17).

We are to pray with the clear understanding that government authority is established by God. *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God”* (Romans 13:1).

WHAT TO PRAY

You can pray using words and thoughts from Scripture.

- Pray that God would open the hearts of law enforcement officers who are far from Him and draw them to Himself. *Acts 16:14*
- Suicide is rampant among law enforcement—in fact, these men and women have one of the highest risks of taking their own lives compared with people in other professions. Pray that officers who are facing despair would discover the hope of Jesus Christ. *Psalms 40:1–3*
- The rate of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is exponentially higher among law enforcement than the general population. These individuals regularly witness devastating violence. Ask God to heal their hearts and protect their marriages and families. *2 Thessalonians 3:3*
- The number of police recruits continues to drop. Pray that the Lord would call young men and women who know Him, love Him, and follow Him to serve their communities in law enforcement. *Ephesians 4:1–3*
- Pray for law enforcement leaders in departments all over our nation. Ask God to give them wisdom, strength, and guidance as they serve. *1 Chronicles 22:12*
- In recent years, police training programs have adapted to include new topics like de-escalation, mental illness, and crowd control. Please pray for both new and seasoned officers as they learn how to best serve our communities. *Psalms 21:11; 1 Kings 3:9*
- While studies indicate that nearly 25% of police officers have experienced symptoms of depression, anxiety, or PTSD, only a fraction of them will ever seek help. Many say they are too embarrassed to ask. Please pray that God would help law enforcement leaders create a supportive work environment for officers. *Colossians 3:12*

All Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version.

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