



A Firm Foundation

FOLLOWING THE FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSFORMATION

Series Overview

In **1 Timothy 3:15**, Paul writes so that we *"may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."* This week, we look at how the household of God behaves when it comes to **prayer**, understanding **God's control**, and recognizing our **divine appointment**.

Icebreaker Question

- In the sermon, Gavin mentioned how high schoolers carry massive Stanley cups today, while previous generations drank out of the garden hose. What is a "back in my day" habit you had that kids today would find baffling?

Part 1: Prayer is Proactive (1 Timothy 2:1–2)

In the sermon, we heard the story of the Papit's calling Jonathan to get through a guard and gate in the Dominican Republic. Prayer is like that—calling the Person who has the ultimate power to change our situation.

Paul uses four distinct words for talking to God:

- **Prayer:** General communication and intimacy with God.
- **Supplication:** Coming from a place of need/want; asking God earnestly, begging.
- **Intercession:** A legal term meaning to approach a King on behalf of someone else.
- **Thanksgiving:** Expressing gratitude, which shifts our perspective.

Discussion Questions:

1. Looking at those four types of prayer (Prayer, Supplication, Intercession, Thanksgiving), which one do you default to the most? Which one do you tend to forget?
2. Read **James 5:16–17** and **Acts 16:25–26**. Prayer is described as proactive and powerful, not passive. Why do we so easily fall into treating prayer as a last resort rather than a first response?

Part 2: God is in Control (1 Timothy 2:3–6)

The sermon made a distinction between God's **Decreed Will** (what *will* happen, like Cyrus rebuilding Jerusalem in Ezra) and God's **Desired Will** (what God desires, but leaves open to human choice, like Jesus weeping over Jerusalem in Matthew 23:37).

Discussion Questions:

1. Read **1 Timothy 2:3–4** and **John 14:6**. God desires all people to be saved, yet Jesus is the only mediator—the only way. How does understanding that Jesus died as a "ransom for all" (**1 Tim 2:6**) fuel

our urgency to pray for people who don't know Him?

2. We see God's Decreed Will and Desired Will meet at a flashpoint in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus prays, "*Not my will, but yours be done.*" When has your *desired* outcome conflicted with what you felt God was *decreeing* for your life? How did you handle it?

Part 3: You Are Appointed (1 Timothy 2:7)

To be "appointed" means to be decided on beforehand or assigned a specific responsibility by the King. Paul was appointed to the Gentiles, a calling that didn't always make sense or look successful at first.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read **Ephesians 2:10** and **2 Corinthians 5:18**. Paul says we are given the "ministry of reconciliation." Who is someone in your immediate sphere of influence (work, neighborhood, family) that God might be "appointing" you to reach or pray for right now?
2. **Application:** We talked about baptism as the ultimate public announcement of new life in Christ (**Romans 6:3–5**). Whether you were baptized years ago or need to take that step today, how are you actively showing the world that you belong to the "household of God"?

Prayer Requests & Ministry Time

Close your time by putting the sermon into practice:

- **Intercede:** Pray for our local, state, and national leaders by name.
- **Supplication:** Pray for those in the group carrying heavy "mule packs" of anxiety, asking for the peace promised in **Philippians 4:6–7**.