



The Epistle of 1st TIMOTHY (“He who honors God”)

Chapter 2

“Leadership Through Prayer!”

Introduction: Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the great British preacher said, “The condition of the church may be very accurately gauged by its prayer meetings. So is the prayer meeting a grace-ometer, and from it we may judge the amount of divine working among a people. If God be near a church, it must pray. And if he be not there, one of the first tokens of his absence will be a slothfulness in prayer.”

Proverbs 15:8 - The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Proverbs 15:29 - The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

Samuel Chadwick said, “The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless works, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at wisdom, but trembles when we pray.”

I) Prayer’s Grand Slam (v1-4) (A good offense wins the game!)

> Christians are called to PRAY for ALL MEN (Kings, Presidents, Prime Ministers, Dictators, and all Leaders, etc.) so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, we are to pray for their SALVATION.

#1- SUPPLICATIONS – A sense of need – God’s grace and forgiveness. In Eph 6:18-20 it says, “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints -- and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel”

- What is supplication in the Spirit? After the first disciples had “continued in prayer and supplication” (Acts 1:14) that “they were all filled with the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:4). On another occasion “when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts. 4:23-31) Paul prayed with supplication for “spiritual wisdom” for the believers at Ephesus in Ephesians 1:15-21.

#2- PRAYER – An idea of reverence, listening and talking to God about everything.

- **E.M. Bounds** writes about the power of prayer, “We come to one of the crying evils of these times, maybe of all times—little or no praying. Of these two evils, perhaps little prayer is worse than no praying. Little praying is a kind of make-believe, a salve for the conscience, a farce, and a delusion God commits the keys of His Kingdom to men who think that praying is their main business and devote time to it according to this high estimate of its importance. By these men, He works His spiritual wonders in this world. Great praying is the sign and seal of God’s great leaders. It is the most earnest of the conquering forces with which God will crown their labors.”

- **Abraham Lincoln** said, “I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day.” (Prayer changed the nation from slavery to freedom, from division to unity.)

- **In Acts 12:1-17 we see the power of united power.** (Prayer sets the captives free!)

#3- INTERCESSION – Intensified petitions on behalf of others. Jesus teaches us to be persistent in intercession in Luke 11:5-13 - And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

- **R.A. Torrey** writes in about the mighty weapon of prayer, “It was a masterstroke of the devil to get the church and the ministry to lay aside the mighty weapon of prayer. He does not mind at all if the church expands her organizations and her deftly contrived machinery for the conquest of the world for Christ, if she will only give up praying. He laughs softly, as he looks at the church of today, and says under his breath: “You can have your Sunday schools, your social organizations, your grand choirs, and even your revival efforts, as long as you do not bring the power of Almighty God into them by earnest, persistent, and believing prayer.”

- Let us look to that great intercessory prayer of Jesus found in **John Ch. 17:9-26.**

#4- THANKSGIVING – Being thankful for all things. Daniel 6:10 - *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.*

- Read Psalm 100, is a Psalm of thanksgiving.
*Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.
Know that the Lord, He is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
For the Lord is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.*

II) Prayer's Player/Coach (v5-7)

(v5-6) Jesus Christ the one and only mediator between God and man. (Not Mary, Joseph, the saints, the Pope, a Priest, or a Pastor)

- Jesus said in John 14:13-14 - *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.* (Let us read John 15:1-17, we are to “abide in Jesus” only!)

(v7) Paul was personally “appointed a preacher and an apostle,” he commissioned to proclaim the gospel, and he is a “teacher of the Gentiles in FAITH and Truth.”

III) Prayer's Triple Play (v8)

1 - Men are to pray everywhere, lifting with holy hands (undefiled from sin).

2 - Without wrath - James 1:19-20 - *So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

3 - Without doubting - Hebrews 11:6 - *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

IV) The Role of Women in the Church (v9-15)

(v9-10) Women must profess GODLINESS by GOOD WORKS, not by outward arrogance (rf. 1 Peter 3:3-4).

(v11) LEARN in silence (learn the gospel, not gossip); and be SUBMISSIVE (be a follower, not a fighter.)

(v12-14) God has ordained men to lead His church, not women. Men are called to Pastor as we will discover in chapter 3. Women are to teach women, children, be missionaries, serve in a variety of ways, but they are not called to the Pastorate.

(v15) The word “saved” (Gk. sozo) speaks of being preserved, healed through childbearing; in Genesis 3:16 we read, “in pain you shall bring forth children.”

One commentator writes, “The apostle makes it clear that he is thinking of motherhood in the context of Christian faith. A Christian mother who possesses the essential qualities of “faith and love and holiness, with modesty” can make a priceless contribution to the of Christ, and marriage that is sanctified by these hallowed virtues contributes a degree of strength and health to the Church which is absolutely essential to her well-being.”

~ Here’s a daily prayer practice:

Pray with purpose,

Pray in power (in Jesus’ name),

Pray together and for one another!

- Billy Graham was asked how to have a successful crusade, his response was, “Three things, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!”