

Intro: Sun Tzu: "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

Thesis: "To fight spiritual warfare, your strongest weapon is prayer."

I. We're at War! (1:18-20)

- A. **With real enemies:** Ourselves (v.19: sin/conscience); World (v.20; H&A); Satan (v.20).
- B. **Faith is Warfare.** Spiritual (2 Cor.10:3-7). We belong to Jesus.
- C. **Entrusting You Timothy.** God entrusted me. You are to entrust others. 2 Tim.2:2.

ILLUSTRATION: **Cory Alston. Craftsman Apprenticeship.** Sweetgrass basketmaker. Smithsonian. Long line tradition. 5th gen. 300yr tradition. **Multi-Generational Discipleship.**

APPLICATION: *Make disciples*, who make disciples who make disciples.

II. So Pray (2:1-6)

- A. **Prayer, supplication, intercessions and thanksgiving. v.1 PSALMS**
- B. **All People. v.1, 4-5.** Not just who you like/know. *To emphasize that point...*
- C. **Leaders/kings/positions. v.2.** *Not just situational/symptomatic/physical... Platt.*

ILLUSTRATION: "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." - MLK

- D. **Salvation. v.4-6** Kingdom Prayers/Gospel. *Election? Eph.1 same church/author.*
- E. **Sanctification.** peaceful, quiet, godly, dignified in every way. **v.3.**
- F. **In/For Jesus' Name. v.5-6.** Through Jesus. Honest prayers. He knows your thoughts.

ILLUSTRATION: **Woman died.** Came back to life. "**I didn't recognize you.**" Be yourself.

APPLICATION: v.19-20. "**Faith and a good conscience.**"

1. **Faith.** If you don't believe Father is who He says He is (*loving/desiring fellowship*). Jesus has done what He has said He's done (*made a way*) and The Holy Spirit cannot/won't do what He's been promised to do (*power*), or you don't need GOD at all; then you won't pray.
2. **Good Conscience.** If you've got hidden, unrepentant, unfought sin in your life. Or battles you keep losing on your own and your not getting help, you're going to have a bad conscience. You won't be able to pray to God, b/c you'll feel like a fraud/undeserving. You've got weaknesses you're not addressing. Need help. Repentance. Free/Graced conscience.
3. **GOSPEL.** Jesus the God-Man. Mediator. Ransom. Truth. High Priest. Way. Honest. Here!

III. And Keep Praying (2:7-8)

- A. **Prayer is ministry.** Goes with preaching/teaching. Ready to talk about elders/deacons.

ILLUSTRATION: **Grimke/Baxter on Prayer.** Preaching/do ministry without prayer? Sad. Pride.

- B. **Every place** (situation/time/location/setting). Home. Bed. Dinner. Family. Meeting. Convo. **Phone.** Before your meal/restaurant. Hospital.
- C. **MEN.** This is important. Before talking about women, elders and deacons. Prayer.
- D. **How We Fight.** Prayer. Not anger/quarreling. **cf:v2-3 "quiet, godly, dignified".**
- E. **Lifting Hands.** Sign of: 1.Surrender/Giving Up. 2.Reaching for Help. 3.Praise.

APPLICATION: We have gone too long as a church, with a low value on prayer. And I take the blame. I have not led well in that. We want to change that: **Wednesday** nights. **Sunday** mornings. **Meetings. Events.** Let's pray together. Kingdom/Sanctification Prayers. **Jack Miller once said:** "If you've come to our church in the last couple of years and you don't have a strong prayer life, you're weakening our church." Ouch! **1. Faith. 2. Good Conscience/Grace.**

SCRIPTURE: 1 Tim. 1:18-2:8 **TITLE:** "FAITHFUL: Prayer"

President: Joe Biden. **Vice-President:** Kamala Harris.

Speaker: Kevin McCarthy **Minority Leader:** Hakeem Jeffries

Congress: House of Representatives, Senate, etc.

Supreme Court Judges:

SC Governor: Henry McMaster **Lieutenant Governor:** Pamela Evette

BL Town Council: Mayor Lancer Shull, Barbara Brown, Olin Gambrell, Steve Cain, Jonnie Mae Speech Lemon, Shirley Mitchell, Paul Wise, Jason Prouse and Bob Hall.