

PRAYER: THE ULTIMATE WEAPON

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Radically Ordinary

IN FACE OF IMPOSSIBLE ODDS

- What is one to do?
 - In the face of a culture that is insistent on marginalizing God
 - In the circumstance where Christians are consistently being told to *shut-up and sit down*?
- The temptation is to throw-up our hands and adopt a que sera, sera attitude.
- Or withdraw into the evangelical ghetto.

¹ I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. ⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.

⁸ I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

Prayer and Priorities

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"Prayer is the acid test of devotion."

Samuel Chadwick

When prayer has become secondary, or incidental, it has lost its power. Those who are conspicuously men of prayer are those who use prayer as they use food, or air, or light, or money."

M.E. Andross

Types of prayer

1. Requests - that which is asked with urgency based on presumed need—'request, plea, prayer.'
2. Prayers - to speak to or to make requests of God—'to pray, to speak to God, to ask God for, prayer.'
3. Intercession - to speak to someone on behalf of someone else—'to intercede, intercession.'
4. Thanksgiving - to express gratitude for benefits or blessings—'to thank, thanksgiving, thankfulness.'

Prayer: Purpose

that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1. Internal purpose
2. External Purpose

REPRISING THE GOSPEL

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Problems encountered in Prayer

8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

- Prayer begins with the guys
- Posture which reflects the heart of the one praying
 - An outward expression of an inward orientation

Problems encountered in Prayer

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- Incompatible with:
 - Anger (Settled indignation)
 - Disputing

"The little estimate we put on prayer is evidenced from the little time we give to it."

E.M. Bounds

So What

- How important is prayer?
- What keeps you from becoming a person who is devoted to the ministry of prayer?
- How much time do you devote to concentrated prayer?
- Why is humility an essential ingredient in effective prayer?