

Mar 22, 2009



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas



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## God's Gift of Leadership A Study in 1 Timothy

Date	Lesson	Text
03/08	Introduction	
03/15	Strength to Serve	1:12-20
<b>03/22</b>	<b>Need for Prayer</b>	<b>2:1-8</b>
03/29	Call for Leaders Pt 1	3:1-15
04/05	To Be Determined	
04/12	Easter	
04/19	Call for Leaders Pt 1	3:1-15
04/26	Guide for Teaching Pt 1	4:1-16
05/03	Guide for Teaching Pt 2	4:1-16
05/10	Need for Respect	5:1-24
05/17	Summary & Review	

### Food for Thought

#### PRAYER

The most powerful position on earth is **kneeling before the Lord** of the universe. As we attempt to live like Christ in actions, words, and deeds, we'll **follow His design for prayer** and pray for others' needs.

*Pray for one another...  
that you may be healed.  
The effective, fervent prayer  
of a righteous man avails much.*

**James 5:16 (NKJV)**

*(From "Our Daily Bread" - 07/26/2000)*

## NEED FOR PRAYER

### 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-8

Prayer is perhaps one of the most neglected areas of spiritual discipline. This may be due to the fact that many Christians were never taught to pray or how to pray. Perhaps they have not known for what to pray. Or perhaps they have never prayed in faith. They may have felt their prayers were never answered and just gave up praying. That may have been because they did not understand how, or in what ways, God answers prayer. They may not have been willing to accept his timetable. They may ask with wrong motives, praying for the wrong things and for the wrong reasons (see James 4:3). Today's lesson gives a sense of direction to our prayer life. It moves us from uttering vague generalities to addressing specifics purposefully. Today's lesson will have an impact not only in our own lives but also in the lives of those for whom we pray. For years a church has had a prayer chain. This is an organized network of people who believe in the power of prayer. They have volunteered to spend time praying for others who may be in a crisis situation or who have emotional, financial, physical, relational, or spiritual problems. This prayer chain is also the vehicle to communicate praises for answered prayers. What a blessing this is! The blessings are not only for the participants and the objects of prayer, but for the entire church. The prayer chain has gained such a reputation that people outside of the church frequently request to be put on the prayer chain. The inspiring testimonies many give with regard to answered prayers serve as towers of strength, encouragement, and rejoicing among fellow Christians. **This prayer chain helps take the focus off self and place it on others. This in itself has curative value. Even the medical profession increasingly acknowledges the beneficial influence that prayer has on people.** If your church does not have a prayer chain or prayer ministry of some type, I would recommend it highly. Such a ministry recognizes **the priority of prayer in the life of the church. It heightens church members' awareness of concerns that need attention. It focuses on God, who is able to meet those needs. It alters attitudes from being critical or judgmental to that of sympathetic concern.** Remember: "Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16). Paul knew this too. That's why he stresses prayer to Timothy, who is ministering to a troubled church. Paul had left his "true son in the faith" Timothy in Ephesus sometime during the interim between his own imprisonments in Rome. It was a daunting task that he had assigned this young preacher. The great Ephesian church had some doctrinal problems that needed to be addressed. Timothy also had to cope with some strong personalities who were espousing false teaching. This situation is what brought forth Paul's letter of instruction and encouragement. In last week's lesson, Paul reminded Timothy of his charge. Paul accompanied this reminder with further instruction. Paul also encouraged Timothy by citing himself as an example of the sufficiency of God's grace and his enabling power.

Paul did not simply urge the congregations under Timothy's care to pray. He gave a **rationale for prayers for leaders in the context of the worship meeting.** Knowing that the leadership of Ephesus consisted mostly of pagan, Roman-appointed officials, Paul's desire for public prayer on their behalf is all the more amazing. People in a church might think, "Why should we pray for them?" Paul prepared Timothy with answers. God desires to see all humankind know Him. This is the purpose of Christ's coming to be a ransom. His life was a payment for the sins of others, even idolatrous government leaders in Asia Minor. Paul's call for public prayer on behalf of leaders and officials no doubt affected the attitudes of the believers toward their government. It is easy to think of a government or a company as an impersonal, uncaring organization. **By praying for leaders specifically, we can remember that politicians and officials are people. They are people loved by God. They are people Jesus died to save.**

*(Excerpts from the NIV Standard Lesson and Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentaries)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### PRIORITY OF PRAYER (1 TIM 2:1)

#### *Urgency of prayer*

Prayer is urgent because it keeps us from falling into temptation (Matt 26:41)

Prayer is urgent because it aids in escaping the world's problems (Luke 21:36)

Prayer is urgent because Jesus' Second Coming is near (Rom 13:11)

Prayer is urgent because we are to always pray and not give up (Luke 18:1)

Prayer is urgent because we are to pray continually (1 Thess 5:17)

Prayer is urgent when we are in trouble (James 5:13)

#### *Four elements of prayer*

##### Supplications

Supplications about not being led into temptation (Matt 6:13)

Supplications about avoiding evil (1 Thess 5:22)

Supplications about being protected from Satan (2 Thess 3:3)

Supplications about being kept from harm (1 Chron 4:10)

Supplications about being kept from willful sin (Ps 19:13)

##### Prayer itself

Prayer about needs because God can meet all our needs (Phil 4:19)

Prayer about needs because God is our shepherd (Ps 23:1)

Prayer about the need to seek God's kingdom (Luke 12:31)

Prayer about needs because God is able to provide at all times (2 Cor 9:8)

##### Intercessions

Intercessions because we have been commanded to do so (James 5:16)

Intercessions for God's wisdom and revelations for others (Eph 1:16-17)

Intercessions for inner strength for others (Eph 3:16-17)

##### Thanksgiving

Thanksgivings instead of anxiousness (Phil 4:6)

Thanksgivings for the victory through Jesus (1 Cor 15:57)

Thanksgivings for Jesus (2 Cor 9:15)

Thanksgivings for the inheritance (Col 1:12)

Thanksgivings through Jesus (Col 3:17)

Thanksgivings in all circumstances (1 Thess 5:18)

### EXAMPLE OF WHOM TO PRAY FOR (1 TIM 2:2-3)

#### *For all men (vs 1)*

For the saints (Eph 6:18)

For those in prison (Acts 12:5-7)

For healing (James 5:16)

For sins (1 John 5:16)

#### *For those in authority (vs 2)*

For authorities because God has established them (Rom 13:1-2)

For authorities because it is good (Titus 3:1)

For authorities because it is God's will (1 Peter 2:13-16)

#### *Why pray for others*

##### Peaceful life

So that they will not be anxious (Phil 4:6)

So that they will know God cares for them (1 Peter 5:7)

So that they will rely on God (2 Cor 1:9)

So that they will know that God is with them (Ps 23:4)

So that they will know that when God is for them no one can be against them (Rom 8:31)

##### Godly life

Pray for godly life because they will be persecuted (2 Tim 3:12)

Pray for godly life because it takes training (1 Tim 4:7)

Pray for godly life by asking for God's grace to be upon them (Titus 2:11-12)

Pray for godly life because God knows how to rescue godly people (2 Peter 2:9)

Pray for godly life because the world will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:11)

##### Pleasing to God

Pray for them to please God through offering of their bodies (Rom 12:1-2)

Pray for them to please God through service (Rom 14:17-18)

Pray for them to please God through offerings (Phil 4:18)

Pray for them to please God through caring for families (1 Tim 5:4)

### THE REASON TO PRAY (1 TIM 2:4-7)

#### *For all to be saved (vs 4)*

Pray for salvation because all have sinned and fallen short of God's requirements (Rom 3:23)

Pray for salvation because the whole purpose of Jesus coming was for sinners (Matt 9:12-13)

Pray for salvation because we deserve punishment as sinners, but Jesus being perfect, was sacrificed for our sins (Luke 23:39-41)

Pray for salvation because if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves (1 John 1:8-10)

#### *For all to come to the knowledge of God's truth (vs 4)*

Pray for the knowledge of God's truth because it means we have come into God's light (John 3:21)

Pray for the knowledge of God's truth because this is true worship (John 4:23-24)

Pray for the knowledge of God's truth because Jesus is the truth (John 14:6-7)

Pray for the knowledge of God's truth through the Holy Spirit (John 16:13)

#### *Because Jesus provided the access to God (vs 5-6)*

Access into grace (Rom 5:1-2)

Access to God the Father (Eph 2:17-18)

Access to faith (Eph 3:7-13)

### PRAYER GUIDELINES (1 TIM 2:8)

#### *With holy hands*

Lifting hands toward God's Most Holy Place (Ps 28:2)

Lifting hands in the sanctuary (Ps 134:2)

Lifting hands toward God and desiring His help (Ps 143:6)

Hand of blessing (Gen 48:14)

God's Hands that take hold of us (Phil 3:12)

#### *Without wrath*

Without wrath because wrath brings judgment (Matt 5:22-24)

Without wrath because without forgiveness of others, God won't forgive us (Matt 6:14-15)

Without wrath because it hinders prayer (1 Peter 3:7)

#### *Without doubt*

Without doubt because without faith in may not be done by God (Matt 21:21)

Without doubt because it takes belief to receive answered prayers (Mark 11:24)

Without doubt because doubt causes unsteadiness and wavering (James 1:6-8)