

July 18, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

1 Tim. 2:1-4 *I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.* (NIV)

Paul begins this part of the letter to Timothy with an exhortation for prayer. The Greek word, **protrepo**, means it is God's command for us to pray. It is a priority! The church must be praying! Jesus even said that ***"My house shall be called a house of prayer."***

When we as believers will earnestly pray, God will hear us. **Jer. 33:3** *Call to Me and I will answer you and tell your great and unsearchable things you do not know.* (NIV) And He will move in power, **Mt. 18:19** *Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.* (NIV) The challenge for us is that we are to pray, ***first of all.*** Prayer should be the top priority for us. Many Christians use prayer as the last resort when God intends it to be our lifeline.

Now Paul lists four types of prayers: **petitions, prayers, intercession** and **thanksgiving**. *Petitions* are special needs that we bring with an intense burden. **Heb. 4:16** *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.* (NIV) *Prayers* are putting God on the throne and coming to Him alone for help. If we don't worship Him, why would we pray to Him? *Intercession* is bold praying on the behalf of others. Jesus intercedes for us before the Father; so, we are to stand in the gap for others. *Thanksgiving* is thanking Him for the things He has already done and also for the things He is yet to do.

Let prayer be your compass as you navigate through this world. Pray for our leaders, our authorities, our families, our friends, our co-workers, and the lost. No one should be beyond our prayers; even those who have hurt you, betrayed you, done all manner of evil to you. Pray!

Dear LORD, we need to be people of real prayer. Help us to get beyond the ritual of praying and into the reality of praying. We need You now more than ever. Lord, teach us to pray! In Jesus Name, Amen