# THE LAWS OF LEADERSHIP

## 1 Timothy 2:1-8

### LAW #4 A Commitment to Leadership Is a Commitment to Prayer

**We're pursuing the Law of Leadership and we come to the 4th law today and the 4th law has to do with a commitment to prayer. If you are going to assume leadership you must make a commitment to prayer.**

**There was a four-year-old who fashioned his prayer after the prayer he thought he heard in church. *"And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."***

**A little boy asked his politician father, *"What does the chaplain of the Senate do?"***
**The realistic dad replied, *"He stands up, looks at the Senators, and then prays for the country."***



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**A small child attended church with his parents. When he knelt to say his prayers before going to bed that evening, he prayed: "*Dear God, we had such a good time at church today. I wish You could have been there, too!*"**

**What are the 4 laws?**

**Law #1: A statement of goal is essential for leadership.**

**Paul had a goal, chapter 1 verse 5.**

**Law #2: Never get over the privilege of your position.**

**In other words, humility and brokenness is a key to leadership.**

**Law #3: To be a leader you've got to be willing to fight.**

**And that brings us today. And probably the greatest battle that every believer has. And that's the battle of your <u>personal prayer life</u>.**



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**John Dorsey said it well in the poem called "Hindered by Satan."**

***I had a battle fierce today***
***Within my place of prayer;***
***I went to meet and talk with God,***
***But I found Satan there.***
***He whispered, "You can't really pray,***
***You lost out long ago;***
***You might say words while on your knees,***
***But you can't pray, you know."***
***So then I pulled my helmet down,***
***Way down upon my ears,***
***And found it helped to still his voice***
***And helped allay my fears.***
***I checked my other armor over;***
***My feet in peace were shod;***
***My loins with truth were girded round;***
***My sword the Word of God.***
***My righteous breastplate still was on,***
***My heart's love to protect.***
***My shield of faith was all intact***
***His fiery darts bounced back.***



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***I called on God in Jesus' name,***

***I pled the precious blood***

***While Satan sneaked away in shame,***

***I met and talked with God!***

**James 4:7-8**

***"Submit yourself therefore to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He'll draw near to you. Cleanse your hands you sinners and purify your hearts you doubleminded."***

**Now, when do we pray and how much do we pray?**
**It is a commitment to prayer before we experience any usefulness to God in the realm of leadership.**

**There are lots of wonderful books on prayer. You can't even begin to tap all the resources.**
**E. M. Bounds has written 9 in a little set.**
***Purpose in Prayer* is probably the classic.**
***The Kneeling Christian* written by an unknown Christian is another great work.**



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**You know, one of the hardest things to do when you start talking on the subject of prayer is to help people understand how prayer works. So many people today have the idea (*and many of the TV preachers and others contribute to this understanding*) of telling us that if we have enough faith we can demand anything that we want from God. And that is totally foreign to the Scriptures. And totally foreign to the subject of prayer.**

**And in *The Kneeling Christian* we find these words:**

***We may rest fully assured of this—a man's influence in the world can be gauged not by his eloquence, or his zeal, or his orthodoxy, or his energy, but by his prayers. Yes, and we will go farther and maintain that no man can live aright who does not pray aright.***

**And E. M. Bounds said:**

***"Thus, in every circumstance of life, prayer is the most natural outpouring of the soul, the unhindered turning to God for communion and direction."***



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**I'm excited about this study today and we get to have the key verse first. And then the study ends with prayer.**

**So it starts with prayer, ends with prayer and tells you how to pray in between. So it's a great passage of Scripture for this very reason.**
**Let's get right into it. There are 8 verses in the study.**
**A commitment to leadership is a commitment to prayer.**

**Let's look at verse 1.**
**v. 1** ***"I am exhorting, therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks be made on behalf of all men."***

**Paul said in last week's study,** ***"I'm charging you, Timothy, to fight a good fight of faith. Put up a splendid fight."***

**Why doesn't he, today, say,** ***"Timothy, I charge you to pray. I command you to pray."***
**Why does he say,** ***"I exhort you to pray"?***

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**This is the same word that we find in Romans 12:1. *"I'm <u>beseeching</u> you therefore, brethren"* (I'm <u>begging</u> of you, I'm <u>exhorting</u> you, I want you to do this).**

**You could never command someone to pray. Prayer can never be coerced. Prayer comes out of the realm of need. It's a personal matter of the heart. And the only thing Paul can do in this realm is to exhort and encourage, knowing what's going to happen as a result of it.**

**v. 1a *"I am exhorting, therefore, first of all."***

**Those words *"first of all"* are the key words in the passage. How do we pray? We plan. We program. We cogitate. We work it out. We get everything all set up and then we pray and ask God to bless our plans and our program and for Him to get the glory through what we've done.**

**Paul says, *"You've gotten the cart before the horse."***

**v. 1b *"First of all, I am exhorting you, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks be made on behalf of all men."***



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**And I know what you're thinking. Why didn't he just use one word? Why didn't he just say, "*I exhort you, first of all, to pray*" And then get on with it.**
**Why does he labor here with 4 different words, when he's trying to describe what he wants Timothy and those in Ephesus to do?**

**The Greek never wastes a word. And each word has a very important significance to the passage. And these 4 words are all different and they have an important contribution to the understanding of prayer. Let's take them together.**

**Let's take the word *petitions* and look at it for just a minute. This word originally meant "to lack." And it can be used on the horizontal as well as on the vertical. It's a word to describe a need or a lack that I have and so I'm petitioning for someone or person whom I know who's going to help me meet that need. For example, I could come to you and say, "*I'm petitioning you to join with me in this thing. I need you for this. I want you to help me*."**



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**And the word also can refer to petitioning God because we have a definite need. So the first word always has in view <u>personal need</u>.**

**Now the second word is the word *prayers*. This is a sacred word. It is only used of conversation with God and it's a word that communicates the highest of reverence and respect. It's being overwhelmed that God cares about me and I can say my prayers. I can ask Him for forgiveness. I can pray for strength. I can pray for steadfastness. I see his face and I pray to God.**

**The third word *intercessions*. Now when you think of intercessory prayer, what do you think of? You always think of going to prayer for a specific need or interceding with God for particular people. That's usually the way we use the word. The word only occurs twice in the New Testament by the way. And the word has to do with coming to royalty. It has to do with coming to the king and make great petitions. You have a relationship with the king of universe. And so you're coming to Him and confiding in Him and having a personal conversation with Him as far as your needs are concerned. Intercession in that regard.**



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**One author commenting on this word said:**

***It's to chance upon. It's to have an audience with a king. It's to have the good fortune to be admitted to an audience so you can present your petition before him.***

**Jeremiah 33:3**

***"Call upon me and I will answer you and show the great and mighty things which you do not know."***

**Jeremiah 32:27**

***"Behold, I'm the Lord God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?"***

**There's an old golfing story. Arnold Palmer evidently put on a tournament in Saudi Arabia for the king. And after the very successful tournament was over, the king wanted to do something for Arnold Palmer. And so the king said, *"I want to show you my kindnesses because you've done such a great job."* And Arnold Palmer refused him initially. And the king just insisted. So Palmer said, *"Ah well, a golf club will do it."* And about 2 weeks later he gets a title deed to a wonderful country club from the king.**



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**And all we're saying is, when you come unto the king have some big petitions and be ready to intercede with the King of kings and the Lord of lords.**

**Now the fourth word is the word *thanksgivings*. You see, the first 3 words described the character of our prayer. We petition out of our lack and our need. We pray in reverence and respect. And we intercede with the King of kings. So each word has a way of helping us to understand what prayer is. And then the fourth word is the spirit of our prayer, thanksgivings.**

**That's Psalm 100:4**

***"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving***
***and into his courts with praise;***
***give thanks to him and praise his name."***

**I want to give you an idea. What would it be like if you took out your Daytimer or Palm Pilot right now and you wrote in your appointment with God? And you would never violate that. And you would be faithful to have an audience with Him.**



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**Why haven't we had more audience with Him today than we've had? Two things, and neither one of them are very pretty.**

**Selfishness - I really can handle it myself and if I get into trouble I'll talk to You.**

**And Sin. Sin always breaks the desire to pray. You see it in the Garden of Eden and throughout Scripture. When sinnin' is in, then prayer and fellowship is broken.**

**When it comes to prayer there are a lot of verses we can meditate on today.**

**1 John 5:14, 15**

**"*This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, we know that we have the requests that we asked of Him.*"**

**But then I would give you the sobering reflection from Isaiah 55:6-9**



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***"Seek the Lord while he may be found;***
***call on him while he is near.***
***For my thoughts are not your thoughts,***
***neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.***
***"As the heavens are higher than the earth,***
***so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."***

**You see that's why it's so critical not to be telling God what He's got to do, in answering our prayers and giving us pleasure.**

**God wants to talk to you!**
**And He longs for that communication.**

**Now there are 6 reasons we don't. And I want to meditate on these for just a second.**

**The first, according to James 4:3 is selfishness.**
**"*You have not because you ask not and then when you do ask you ask with wrong motives that you might spend it on your own pleasures.*"**



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**The second is sin, Isaiah 59:1-2 and Psalm 66:18.**

***Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither is His ear heavy that he cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and as a result of that, your sins have hid His face from you, and He will not hear.***

**Psalm 66:18**

***"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."***

**The third is idols, Ezekiel 14:3**

***"Son of man, these men have put up their idols in their hearts, and have put right before their faces the stumbling block of their iniquity. Should I be consulted by them at all?"***

**And the answer is No. Not as long as those botched up priorities are there and there are idols in the heart.**

**The fourth is no compassion, Proverbs 21:13**

**"*He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered.*"**



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**And the fifth is an unforgiving spirit, Mark 11:35**
***"And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."***

**And of course the sixth one unbelief, and that comes from James 1:5-7**
***"And when you ask, ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord."*** **Praying in unbelief.**

**When Steve Brown, a pastor in Key Biscayne, comes to prayer, he makes 3 statements:**

***"The Christian who doesn't understand the biblical doctrine of prayer is like Batman without his Batmobile. He has the possibility of power, but he doesn't have the tools to make the possibility a reality."***

***"Every day, set aside a specific time for prayer; don't allow anything to interfere with that time except a funeral—yours."***



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***"When you encounter Satan, get on your knees and pray. Then when you turn to do battle with Satan, you may find he's no longer there."***

**John Bunyan was right: "*Pray often; for prayer is a shield for the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan.*"**

***The Kneeling Christian* says:**
***"Do we realize that there is nothing the devil dreads so much as prayer? His great concern is to keep us from praying. He loves to see us "up to our eyes" in work—provided we do not pray. He does not fear because we are eager and earnest Bible students—provided we are little in prayer. Someone has wisely said, "Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray." All this is so familiar to us—but do we really pray? If not, then failure must dog our footsteps, whatever signs of apparent success there may be."***

**You know, I think one of the greatest illustrations of prayer is Jesus Himself. His life was filled with communion with the Father. He felt the need to rise a great while before the day to be with the Father.**



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**And the thing that is so incredible is when He's hanging on the cross. That time on the cross is started with prayer and it ends with prayer.**

**They split His flesh with the nails and He prays, "*Father forgive them for they don't know what they're doing.*"**
**And He concludes it with that final prayer, "*Father into Your hands I commend my spirit. I give it over to you.*"**

**Charles Haden Spurgeon said:**
***"You have no place in which to pour your troubles except into the ear of God. If you tell them to your friends, you but roll your troubles out for a moment, and they will return again. Roll your burden onto the Lord, through prayer, and you have rolled it into a great deep out of which it will never by any possibility rise. Cast your trouble where you cast your sins; you have cast your sins into the depths of the sea, there cast your troubles also. Never keep a trouble half an hour before you tell it to God in prayer. As soon as the trouble comes, quick, the first thing, tell it to your Father in prayer."***

**How are we to direct these petitions, these intercessions, these prayers, these thanksgivings? Let's look at verse 2.**



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**v. 2 *"on behalf of kings and all those who are in a place of prominence, in order that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all piety and reverence."***

**Now remember the king is Nero. And remember that Paul has just been released from prison and gone to Ephesus. And within 2 years he's going to be a martyr of this same king. So he's asking for prayers for anyone who's in the realm of authority. And at this time he says, *"please pray for anybody in a place of prominence."***

**Romans 13:1**
***"Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are established by God."***

**So we're to pray and what is supposed to result from that? Purpose. *"In order that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all."* The word piety is the word godliness. *"In all piety (or godliness) and reverence."* That's the goal of our prayers.**

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**Look at verse 3:**

***"This is good and pleasing in the presence of God our Savior."***

**It pleases Him when we pray.**
**It pleases Him when we take time to spend in His presence.**

**Now we're getting ready to look at 3 of the most fantastic verses in all of the New Testament. He's describing now how it's possible for us as sinners to have an audience with the King of kings. This is great!**

**Verse 4 "*Who is desiring all men to be saved and to come to an experiential knowledge of the truth.*"**

**There's never been a person that's lived.**
**There never will be a person who's lived.**
**There's not a person who's living now that it is not the Father's desire that those persons be saved.**
**"*And to come to an experiential knowledge of the truth.*"**
**Translated from Greek this means to know by personal experience.**



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**And so Paul says, "*This is my desire.*"**

**Now the word "*all men*" is in the emphatic position.**
**That's what he's emphasizing. Nobody is exempt.**

**2 Peter 3:9**
**"*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count as slackness, but is long suffering to us, we're not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*"**

**When Paul says, "*knowledge of the truth*"**
**what does he mean?**

**Well there's two truths, isn't there?**
**There's a written truth and the living truth.**
**The living truth is Christ.**
**The written truth is the word of God.**
**"*You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free*"**
**John 8:32, The written word.**



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**But we will also know the living truth.**

**John 14:6**

***"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father, but by Me."***

**Now these next two verses are powerful.**

**v. 5 *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus,"***

**The emphasis in this verse is on the word "*one*."**
**There's just one and one only.**
**There is just one God to whom we relate.**

**And the only way we can fulfill the exhortation of the apostle to pray, is to know that we've got somebody to introduce us.**
**We've got somebody to take us into the presence of the King where we're going to intercede.**
**We cannot come on our own merit. He is a holy God.**
**We do not have access until we come into relationship.**



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**Romans 5:1**

**"*Therefore having been made right with God we have peace and by Christ we also have access*" The right or the privilege of coming into, because of who we know.**

**Because of a personal relationship with Christ, you're a member of the family.**
**And you have the privilege to come and to approach Him. He's one God and there's only one way to approach Him and that is through the Mediator, Jesus Christ.**

**Look at the next verse.**

**v. 6 *"who gave himself (what?) a ransom on behalf of all, which was to be attested to (the testimony) in its due seasons (at the right time)."***

**The word "*who*" refers back to "*God our Savior,*" or to "*Jesus Christ,*" in the previous verse.**

**It is He who is a ransom on behalf of all of us.**

**Now, who needs a ransom?**



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**Well, a slave needs a ransom, doesn't he?**

**A prisoner needs a ransom to set him free.**

**And when was a ransom paid? At the right time.**

**Galatians 4:4-5**

***"In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son."***

**John 13:1**

***"Knowing that His hour had come, He was ready to go to the cross and to pay the ransom."***

**Verse 7**

**V. 7 *"For which [testimony] (Paul says) I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) I'm a teacher of Gentiles in faith and in truth."***

**Now the study ends with another word about prayer.**

**He is exhorting in verse 1 that we pray.**

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**And now in verse 8, our last study for today, he's desiring this.**

**Remember, you can't coerce someone to pray or command them.**

**So again he uses a word to express what he hopes they will do.**

**v. 8 *"I am desiring therefore that the men be praying in every place, lifting up holy hands, without anger or disputing"* (skeptical criticism)**

**Now what does it mean when he says, *"I am desiring that men may be praying in every place, lifting up holy hands?"***

**You've been in a congregation I'm sure where you have seen the individuals praise the Lord and someone begins to lift their hands. It is an Old Testament pattern to lift hands toward God.**

***"Lifting up holy hands"* in prayer.**

**But notice there is a very definite stipulation on this and it is *"without anger."***



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***The Kneeling Christian* says:**

**Why are so many Christians so often defeated?**
**Because they pray so little.**
**Why are so many church-workers so often discouraged and disheartened?**
**Because they pray so little.**
**Why do they see so few come to Christ?**
**Simply because they pray so little.**

**Peter Deyneka said,**
**"*Much prayer, much power! No prayer, no power!*"**

**That can bring a great sobering reflection to you when you're going out and failing to pray. But notice it says, "*without anger or disputing.*" Do you realize that broken relationships can affect your access to the Father?**

**You know, that occurs enough times in the New Testament we ought to pay attention to it.**



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**In Matthew 5:22-24**

***"If you've got something against somebody go get it straightened out and then come and worship."***

**In other words, you've disqualified your ability to worship until you get that thing straightened out.**

**That's why in Matthew 6:12 when he teaches us how to pray, he says, *"Forgive us debts as we have forgiven our debtors"* (those who are indebted to us in some way).**

**Broken relationships affect one's ability to be able to pray.**

**It was Dr. Andrew Bonar, who was a dear saint, wrote in his diary one night:**

***"Tonight I gave myself to a time of waiting upon the Lord. I had not been much in the spirit of prayer, but now several things have become clear to me. I realize I have not communed enough with the Lord, nor come to Him as often as I should. Little forethought had been given to the request I've made. There have been much conversing and outward engagement with men, but I have not been occupied enough with God himself.***



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***I also realize that a closeness to Him gives abundant strength and is like sunlight shining through the clouds of a gloomy day."***

**Now before we end this study today I'm going to challenge you.**

**I'm going to ask you to do something before we get together next week. I'm going to dare you to pray 6 different prayers perhaps one a day.**
**I want you to jot these down.**

**Prayer #1: Search me. Search me.**
**Prayer #2: Break me. That's kind of scary**
**Prayer #3: Stretch me. I want to grow. Stretch me.**
**#4: Lead me.**
**#5: Use me.**
**#6: Fill me with Your Person and Your power. Fill me.**

**It's search me, break me, stretch me, lead me, use me, fill me.**



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**There are 10 lessons that come out of this study.**

**Lesson #1: A commitment to leadership is a commitment to prayer Law # 4**

**#2: Paul wants our prayers to be worldwide in scope.**

**#3: We are to pray for the righteous and the unrighteous leadership of our lands.**

**#4: The purpose in praying for our leaders is so that "*we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all piety and reverence.*"**

**#5: Praying like this is "*good and pleasing in the presence of God our Savior.*"**

**#6: God is desiring that all "*be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.*"**

**#7: There's only one God and one go-between for God and men, and that Man is Christ Jesus.**



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**#8: Jesus gave Himself a ransom for all men.**

**#9: "*Holy hands*" points to our relationship with God and "*without anger*" points to our relationship with our fellow man.**

**#10: It is Paul's desire that we "*be praying in every place.*"**

**As we close today's lesson I want to share Paul's words with the Corinthians because this is the way I have felt today as we have studied a commitment to prayer.**

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

***"And when I came to you, brethren, I didn't come with superiority of speech or wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not rest in the wisdom of men, but on the power of God."***



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## STUDIES IN THE FIRST EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY

### PART I — 1 TIMOTHY 1-3

### "The Laws of Leadership"

### LAW NUMBER FOUR - A Commitment to Leadership Is a Commitment to Prayer

## 1 Timothy 2:1-8

**Key verse 2:1**

**Notes**

**v. 1 I am exhorting, therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks be made on behalf of all men,**
**v. 2 on behalf of kings and all those who are in a place of prominence, in order that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all piety and reverence.**
**v. 3 This is good and pleasing in the presence of God our Savior,**
**v. 4 who is desiring all men to be saved and to come to an experiential knowledge of the truth.**
**v. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus,**
**v. 6 who gave himself a ransom on behalf of all, which was to be attested to (the testimony) in its due seasons (at the right time).**
**v. 7 For which [testimony] I was appointed a herald and apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) a teacher of Gentiles in faith and truth.**
**v. 8 I am desiring therefore that the men be praying in every place, lifting up holy hands, without anger or disputing (skeptical criticism).**



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## QUESTIONS:

1. **Read 1 Timothy 2:1-8 and summarize in your own words what Paul is saying in this section.**

2. **What is Paul's exhortation in verse 1?**

3. **Why pray for the leadership, according to verse 2?**

4. **What is another good reason for being obedient to pray for the leadership, according to verse 3?**

5. **What is God's desire, according to verse 4?**

6. **Who is the "Mediator," according to verse 5?**

7. **What did the "Mediator" do, according to verse 6?**

8. **What is Paul desiring, according to verse 8?**

9. **What verse in the study has meant the most to you?**

10. **What lesson have you learned from this study?**



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