

# 1 Timothy

## I. Introduction

A. **1 Timothy 2:7-15** . . . For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. [8] Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. [9] Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, [10] but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. [11] A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. [12] But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. [13] For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. [14] And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. [15] But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

### B. Pray

## II. Men are to pray. Women are to be godly in dress, word, and deed.

A. [7] For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1. **For this** – refers to **vs 4** which speaks of God's desire for all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, and Jesus giving Himself a ransom for all.
2. **I was appointed** – placed into the position of
3. A **preacher** and an **apostle**...as a **teacher** – Paul combines all three labels in this same order in **2 Timothy 1:11**, “for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.”
4. **(I am telling the truth, I am not lying)** – It is probable Paul included this claim of legitimacy in order to set himself apart from the false teachers he was exposing and accusing of being false apostles and deceitful workers who were disguising themselves as apostles of Christ (**2 Corinthians 11:13**).
5. **As a teacher of the Gentiles** – This is what God chose Paul for and saved him to be – an instrument to bear Jesus' name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel (**Acts 9:15**).

6. **In faith and truth** – Possibly refers to Paul teaching the Gentiles to trust in God for salvation and daily living, and to do so according to the truth of God as given in the OT and through the Apostles teaching.
- B. [8] Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.
1. As you can see from your Bibles, **chapter 2** begins with an exhortation to pray for all people everywhere, and especially for unbelievers, kings, and anyone else in positions of authority.
    - a. Here in **vs 8**, Paul is specifically exhorting the men in the church to be involved in this kind of praying. Yet he is not exhorting them to simply pray. He is exhorting them to support their prayers so as to increase the effectiveness of their prayers by lifting up holy hands.
    - b. But what does it mean to lift up holy hands when praying? Paul gives us a clue by immediately pointing out that their holy hands are to be free of or devoid of wrath and dissension.
    - c. And given the larger context, we can conclude that the wrath and dissension Paul warns against are in relation to how the believers were dealing with the differences between the strange doctrines and the study of genealogies in contrast to what Paul taught.
  2. Therefore, to pray lifting up holy hands is another way of saying pray from the basis of a holy or godly life.
    - a. Now you may be wondering why lifting up holy hands is another way of saying live a godly life? And you may be wondering what living a godly life has to do with prayer?
    - b. According to the Bible, godly living is one of the most significant motivations or reasons for God to hear our prayers, that is, to take them seriously and answer them accordingly.
    - c. But before supporting this from scripture, let me explain why we can rightfully conclude that the phrase, “lifting up holy hands” refers to holy living.
      - (1) The most commonly used Greek word for holy is *hagios*, which means sacred or set apart, and it appears 177 times in the NT.
      - (2) The Greek word used for holy here in **vs 8** is *hosios*. It appears only 8 times in the NT, and it means righteous or pious. So, Paul is saying to lift up righteous or pious hands.

- (3) Therefore, both the context and the Greek language provide adequate support to conclude that lifting up holy hands in prayer is another way of saying support your prayers and make them the most effective they can be by living a godly life.
3. The following scriptures are but a few that support the fact that godly living is one of the most prominent reasons for God to take our prayers seriously and answer them accordingly.
- a. **Psalm 34:15**, “The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and His ears are open to their cry.”
  - b. **Proverbs 15:29**, “The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.”
  - c. In **Isaiah 1:15-17**, God states that He won’t, and why He won’t listen to the prayers of His own people. Then God presents them with a remedy. [15] “So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood. [16] Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, [17] learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.”
  - d. It is possible you don’t think of **James 4:6-10** as having anything to do with prayer. However, **James 4:2-3** makes prayer a part of the context for **vs 1-10**. And **vs 6** makes humility on our part a significant factor in God responding to our need by raising us up.
    - (1) Therefore, as I read **vs 6-10**, notice the emphasis James puts on becoming godly and remaining godly in order to humbly present ourselves to God – which includes presenting our needs – so that He will exalt us or lift us up.
    - (2) “Therefore it says, ‘God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ [7] Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. [8] Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. [9] Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. [10] Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.”
  - e. **James 5:16-18**, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The **effective prayer of a righteous man** can accomplish much. [17] Elijah

was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. [18] Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.”

4. Paul concludes **vs 8** with two examples of unholy living – because as we see from the scriptures just read, holy living positively effects God’s response to our prayers while unholy living negatively effects His response. Paul’s two examples of unholy living are wrath and dissension. It is probable he selected these two examples because of the problems in the church surrounding the teaching of strange doctrines and the inappropriate use of genealogies.
  - a. **Wrath** is defined as violent anger, rage, vehement indignation.
  - b. **Dissension** refers to the kind of disagreements that lead to angry arguments which result in contentious divisions that make enemies of friends.
5. The specific application of **vs 8** at the time it was written is: you cannot pray with “holy hands” while harboring wrath, being argumentative, causing divisions, and treating fellow believers as enemies when – as determined by God’s word – they have done nothing to deserve being considered an enemy.
  - a. Paul was not against calling some in the church an enemy, but not because they saw some things differently, but because they unrepentantly lived in ungodly ways, or brought false teaching and ungodly influences into the church.
  - b. An example of this is found in **Philippians 3:17-19**, “Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. [18] For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, [19] whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame (*proud of what they should be ashamed of*), who set their minds on earthly things.”
6. The broader application of **vs 8** is: if you are not praying with holy hands, then you should not expect God to give the same serious attention to your prayers as He gives to the prayers of those who pray with holy hands.
  - a. God affirms this in **1 John 3:21–22**, “Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; [22] and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.”

- b. Therefore, if you want God to hear your prayers and answer them accordingly, then pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.
- C. We will conclude today's teaching by looking at the biblical reasons some prayers are not answered, some are partially answered, and sometimes the answer is delayed.
1. We will begin with an example of a delayed prayer. I know this example appears only once in the Bible, but it does appear and therefore I believe we are wise to consider its implications.
    - a. **Daniel 10:11–14**, [The angel] said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. [12] Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. [13] But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. [14] Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."
    - b. Given the war between God and Satan, and given this story in Daniel 10, I believe it is reasonable to conclude that there are situations where God's answer to our prayers is delayed by some form of opposing forces. How these forces delay something God has or is doing, I don't know. That part is a mystery to me. Nevertheless, according to God's word, a delay of this sort happened, and therefore I assume it could happen again.
  2. Asking God to do or give you things that will satisfy your selfish interests or gratify your ungodly desires or accomplish purposes that are against God's purposes are prayers that God says He doesn't answer. We read this in **James 4:3**, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures."
  3. If you hope your public prayers impress the audience, and if your audience is impressed, then you have gotten everything from your prayer that you were seeking. Jesus says this in **Matthew 6:5**,

- “When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”
4. Ignoring the cries for help from the poor and needy moves God to ignore your cries for help. We read this in **Proverbs 21:13**, “He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered.”
  5. Asking God for wisdom and then distrusting the worth of the wisdom given sets you up for God to ignore that and other such requests. In other words, praying to God and trusting Him to act accordingly are as important as supporting your prayers with a godly life.
    - a. **James 1:5–8**, “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. [6] But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. [7] For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, [8] being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”
  6. The final scripture we will consider today is directed toward husbands, and I’ve chosen this as the final scripture for two reasons. **First**, it deals with hindrances to prayer. And **second**, it will help the men keep a godly perspective when we study what God says to the women in **1 Timothy 2:9-15**.
    - a. **1 Peter 3:7**, “You husbands **in the same way** (*in the same understanding way Sarah dealt with Abraham and in the same understanding way that Christ deals with you*) live with your wives **in an understanding way**, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and **show her honor** (*the kind of respect you want her and every other church member to show you*) as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.”
    - b. Husbands, failure to relate to your wife in an understanding way, that is, in a way that takes into account her humanity and understands that it is just as hard for her to do what is right and loving as it is for you – failure in this puts you at odds with God, who is the same God who will judge us in the same way we judge others. And being at odds with God like this means He will not be giving your prayers the kind of attention you want.

- c. So husbands, if you want God to hear, take seriously, and answer your prayers accordingly, make sure loving your wife as Christ loves the church is part of your commitment and intentional efforts to live a godly life.

### III. Conclusion

- A. **Psalm 145:17-19**, “The LORD is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His deeds. [18] The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. [19] He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.”