

Nov. 3, 2024 Vizion Church – “Prayerful Instructions” | 1 Timothy

By Pastor Tyson Coughlin

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hPf9GKeG4M&t=211s>

Sermon notes from KH:

- 1 Timothy chap 2 beginning in verse 1 “I urge you first of all to pray for all people ask God to help them intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them - pray this way for kings and all who are in Authority so that we can live peaceably and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity this is good and it pleases God our savior who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the Truth for there is one God one mediator who can reconcile God and Humanity the man Jesus Christ he gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone and this is the message God gave to the world at just the right time - and I've been chosen as a preacher and Apostle to teach the Gentiles this message about faith and truth. I'm not exaggerating just telling the truth in every place of worship I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God free from anger and controversy.”
- I want you to pray with me now all over this place father we come to you in Jesus mighty name the name that is above all names and right now I ask you to make ready the hearts of your people to receive the word of truth I ask that you'd be strong in my weakness today because I need you move in power today
- wash Us by Your Word cleanse us and shape us like the Potter molds the clay it's in Jesus precious name we pray and all God's people said amen.
- So a little context here into 1 Timothy Chapter 2 this is written by the Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and he's writing to Timothy who pastors the church at Ephesus - Timothy was an evangelist a soul winner who was pastoring the church and Paul was giving him instructions for how to conduct their worship how to conduct the meetings and the Gatherings of the Saints - and so that's the background
- behind the second chapter of First Timothy.
- **I'm going to warn you from the very beginning today's sermon I am an equal opportunity offender so I'm coming for everybody today no one is safe I'm Going to be in your driveway - tell your neighbor look out look at it's going to get Rowdy today and I would just encourage you to just remain through the duration of today's sermon because some know what I mean by that I just want to let you know - that my job is not to entertain you - and my job is not to impress you with eloquent words - my job is to Shepherd you according to God's word - and somebody has to love you enough to tell you the truth not to cuddle you all right but for - far too long the pulpits of America we've been weak and we've been cowardly and we preached a watered down message to make the gospel and the message more palatable to an unbelieving world. We cannot do it – I cannot fear you - I have to fear God - I have to preach his message.**
- Okay so that's the disclaimer and I love you in advance. Tell your neighbor put some attitude on it and say pray for all people.
- The first instruction that the Apostle Paul through the inspiration of the holy spirit gives to the church at Ephesus is first of all and above all pray for all people.
- In the Gospel of Luke 3:44 these are the words of Jesus then he went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in - saying to them it is written my house is a House of Prayer but you have made it into a den of Thieves.
- **Jesus said my house my temple shall be a House of Prayer not a house of good preaching not a house of good music not a house of great programs - Jesus should be a house devoted to prayer - we are called to establish a prayer culture at Vizion church and in every New Testament Church around the world – The first of all our most important prerogative is prayer - I want you to understand that in our worship Services God doesn't get anything**

from my sermons - there's never been one time that he took notes and said - oh that's good - preach it again - like no no no the only part of our service that benefits God is our worship and our prayer.

- The preaching is for the people - the message is for you - not for God - he doesn't need it - he's not learned anything - the preaching is for you – but the aspects of our church that are for him are when we pray and when we call upon his name and when we worship him - those are the only parts of our service that God actually gets anything out of - yes he's glorified - yes his gospel is advanced through the preaching - but the preaching is for the people and the prayer is for the Lord.
- And I'm going to be honest with you this is a convicting sermon to me so not preaching at you I'm
- preaching with you today that Vision church we need to do a better job of prioritizing prayer even in this house – I think we're doing an okay job - I mean we have prayer teams at both locations praying right now - they were the first people in the building at 6:30 a.m. this morning - and every Tuesday night we're devoted to prayer all Tuesday night – no special Frills or anything exciting just prayer but I I'm deeply convicted that we should do more - and we should make prayer a greater emphasis at Vision church - and I'm going to dare to say I believe that Tuesday nights should be the most important nights of our week and at Vision Church - but let's be honest prayer is one of the most neglected ministries of the New Testament Church - it's not exhilarating - not always exciting - not often do we feel anything - prayer can feel mundane methodical - but I want you to understand that we are overstimulated overhyped in America and it's not about our feeling or Goosebumps or being entertained it's about calling on the name of Jesus and crying out to heaven for our lives - and our community - our house must be a House of Prayer.
- Does nybody believe that today that the church should be built on Christ and prayer? But although prayer may not very exhilarating it is powerful and the Bible says that the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous avails much I'm praying that we develop such a prayer culture at this church that every Tuesday night - this place is packed standing room only we're overflowing it not just on Sundays but on Tuesdays - I pray that there's such a prayer movement that takes place in this church that we have to open up another prayer night at Independence and Run Two at the same time just to be able to serve everybody - I'm praying that prayer becomes the emphasis and focal point of our church - I mean this with all sincerity and humility prayer is the engine that fuels Vision church - I say this to bring all glory and honor to Christ but God is moving in this body he really is over the last three and a half years - many people have come to Faith - many people have been baptized - the church continues to grow.
- At 8:00 this morning we were in overflow - I know you got an hour back - but that's still impressive for the early crowd.
- All right - but I just want you to know like God is really - moving here and other pastors from around the region -and the nation have leaned in - and ask me what's happening - what's the secret at Vision Church? Well we pray and preach the gospel - and they're like no no no really Pastor what what's really going on at Vision church? Are you advertising? What's the digital campaign?
- We're praying and we're preaching the gospel - it's that simple the gospel still works - it's the hope of the world and prayer fuels the motivation and the momentum of every Church.
- It truly does - I vividly remember the first four years of this church - it was painful - we started with a 100 college students and \$122,000 - and for the first four years, we grew the church from 100 to 70 - for those of you that are good at math, you know that's the wrong direction.
- There's a lot of experts on Church growth out there - but if you know need to shrink a church - I'm your guy okay - I know how to do it - and four years in – I really became just broken and humbled and I realized that eloquent sermons and whatever Aesthetics weren't going to get it done - and so I just yielded to God and said - all right if you called me to Pastor 70 people for the rest of my life - I'll still say yes - I'm going to give you my very best - and I'm going to serve them even if the church never does the great things I believe it can do - I'll still say yes and we got serious - I still remember - it was July of 2017 and in that month I began a new series where I stopped

comparing our church to everybody else - I stopped trying to preach impressive sermons - and I said we're going to preach a sermon series called "Secret Weapon" which is all about prayer - and for four weeks all July we preached about prayer - we didn't just preach about prayer - we started a prayer team - it's nothing like what we have now - but it was just an attempt to infuse culture into the prayer - into the culture of our church and from that moment till today - the church began to come alive - Souls began to come to faith - in Christ I - was preaching the same type sermons but now all of a sudden people were responding in faith - people were getting baptized - the church began to grow - and people began to mature in their faith in Christ - and I'm telling you the secret was prayer - prayer is the engine that moves the New Testament Church - prayer doesn't just move our ministry - it should move our homes - our individual lives and prayer cannot be neglected - it is essential in the life of every born again Christian.

- Anybody believe today that prayer works and prayer still changes lives?
- The Bold truth is that many of us though are indifferent or apathetic lukewarm at best pertaining to prayer - we've got all these reasons why we can't pray - or why we don't pray - and I brought the Bible - it's Revelation 3:15 - I say this with all love in my heart again - I'm not condemning you - I'm preaching to myself as well Revelation 3:15 I know - all the things you do that you are neither hot nor cold and I wish you were one of the other - but since you are like luke warm - neither hot or cold - I will spit you out of my mouth.
- You say I am rich - I have everything I want - I don't need a thing and you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked the words of Jesus - so if you think my sermons are harsh - you should hear Christ - all right his sermons - he wasn't in the driveway - he was in the living room feet on the coffee table preach - breathing fire at you.
- Okay so but no in all honesty we don't we're not moved to prayer because we don't have a burden we think we're okay we think our life is great - we don't have any gaping needs in our life for the most part in America we think we're healthy wealthy blessed - we've got everything we need - we've got a car - we got a house - we got the grocery bills higher - and we may rebuke the devil on that - but for the most part like we're doing pretty good - that's why we're not moved to prayer - but I believe if you could see yourself spiritually - you would see what Christ saw in the church - when he said you think you're rich - you think you are in need of nothing - but I say to you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked - in other words - spiritually you are destitute and spiritually you are emaciated and you are in need even though you can't see it.
- **I pray that we would be moved back to a place of burden - not just for our lives and our families - but for the world around us - that we would not be apathetic or indifferent towards prayer but it would be a central tenant of our life as a Christian. Many of us don't cry out to God because we think we have it all - and not only that we're seldom burdened for lost people because we're too busy thinking about ourselves - the world in which we live has been we've been tailored to be consumers - so all we think about is ourselves - we're innately selfish - thinking about our desires - our wants - our goal - our 401K - meanwhile we completely overlook - and it's not even a fleeting thought in our mind - the needs and cares and concerns of others. We cannot be a selfish self-centered people any longer we must be moved and have a burden for one another.**
- Let me remind you - we are part of the body of Christ - that means if one part of our body is hurting - we all should feel it - if one part of our body is in need - we should all run to their aid - after all if you stub your pinky toe it might be a small member of your body - but the whole thing is going to know we in pain out here - Can I get a witness anybody? I ran into a coffee table or door frame two months ago - I was playing with my kids and I ran full blast into a door frame - I broke my pinky toe - let me tell you the whole body was aware. Okay it's like you know but that's how we should be spiritually - your needs are our needs - your cares are our cares - and that we carry one another in prayer.

- One of the greatest things that quenches a prayer culture in a church is the victim mentality - oh let me preach to you all right - I got to be honest Millennials and gen Z - our picture is in the dictionary beside victim mentality - it's like we're always feeling sorry for ourselves - I can't believe this happened to me – that was so unfair - they got the promotion not me - but let me warn you something - so long as you walk as a victim, you'll never walk in victory - and a victim mentality quenches the Holy Spirit like nothing else ever could - because as long as you are feeling sorry for yourself - you're self-insulated by your own care - your own concerns - poor me - you're so self-focused that you never even consider the needs and the wounds of others - you got to come out of this victim mentality - you got to come out of it - but can I tell you something what I have learned over the years – it is a profound truth - from our pain we will pray for others - from our despair, we will minister to others - God will minister to us.
- In the book of Job, we read about the story of an innocent man who suffers unjustly. And you might be wondering what is this doing in the Bible - well first of all - it's the oldest book chronologically and it's foreshadowing a messiah who was also innocent who suffered unjustly for the sins of the world - it's pointing forward to Jesus. Anyway, this man suffered - he lost all of his children - 10 of them died in a moment - all of his wealth vanished and dissipated - everybody even his closest friends began to turn on him - this man who seemingly had done nothing wrong suffered unjustly and for 42 chapters he vacillated being the victim - why me? - why me? - but something miraculous happened in the 42nd chapter of Job - and I want you to listen to vs. 10 – “when job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his Fortunes - in fact the lord gave him back twice as much as before. There is a spiritual principle that when we take our eyes off of our own pain and we begin to pray and minister to the needs of others then God ministers to our needs - he restores to us everything that the enemy has stolen and I just want to encourage somebody today - let's be burdened for other people - let's pray for other people let's love others like we love ourselves and not be so self-centered that we Overlook the needs right in front of us.
- Is this making any sense to anybody?
- Can I tell you what I do now as a pastor - so here's what I've learned - and this is true story - if I talk to somebody that just got diagnosed with cancer - one of the first things I'll do is I'll find somebody else in a church that also has a bad diagnosis - and I'll say – hey, I want you to come here and I want you to pray for her - and they'll be like yeah - I know but as you minister out of your need and out of your pain for them - God's going to do something supernatural in the lives of both of you - people with marital crisis - people that are going through family crisis - I'm like hey I want you to pray for them - they're like pastor – I know pray for them too - because you're not the only one walking through a storm right now - and it's a there's a spiritual principle I do not understand it - but as we pray - others from our own pain have a witness of anybody that believes.
- What I'm saying today at Vision church it's a truth and prayer may not change your situation but prayer will always change you - it always changes you - prayer aligns our heart with Gods - it eliminates distractions and makes God the centerpiece and focal point of our life - and prayer is an essential part of discipleship Journey - I'm convinced if we would stop trying to indoctrinate disciples and merely just teach them how to pray - that's almost half the battle - teaching them to cry out to God and call upon the name of the Lord and lean not on their own understanding but rely on his.
- The Bible says in 1 Timothy 2 that we should pray for all people - turn to your neighbor - the one you've been ignoring and say all people - it's easy to pray for your family - it's easy to pray for your friends - it's easy to pray for people who vote like you - think like you - and root for the Panthers - but all people includes your enemies - all people includes people who disrespected you - all people includes people that unfollowed or unfriended you - all people includes praying for those who have persecuted you - and that's what the Holy Spirit is to me.
- Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus - don't just pray for your homies - pray for your enemies - something happens when we begin to pray for our enemies - it's hard to hate somebody that you're praying for - it's hard to remain

bitter towards someone that you're praying for - it's hard to remain unforgiving towards someone you're praying for - listen - praying for somebody who wronged you doesn't mean that you're affirming their actions - but praying for your enemies sets you free to move forward - and it heals you as you pray for others the Lord meets your need we're called to pray for all people.

- Another thing when the scripture says that we are to pray for all people it's not just saying - hey pray that they'd be healthy, wealthy, and blessed and their 40K would get an extra 5% - no when it says pray for all people - he's saying we should pray for their salvation - we should pray evangelistically - we should pray for the lost. The first step of evangelism is prayer and intercession and the prayer for the lost is a prayer God loves.
- In the 8 weeks leading up to Easter and eight weeks leading up to the Crusade we mobilized Vision church and churches all across the city to pray for lost people - and what happened God heard and God answered and on September 20th 2024 over 500 people repented of their sin and place their faith in Jesus Christ - That doesn't happen by accident - that doesn't happened because there was an event at Bojangles Coliseum - it happens because the church prayed for all people and God heard and he answered.
- **God wants to save the world I don't know who needs to hear this today but God is not Looking for the problems and the evil and the mistakes you've made to disqualify you from Heaven - God is not an evil or unkind God. No God is looking for a way to save you - God is looking for a way to redeem you – God loves the world so much so he gave his one and only son that whosoever would believe in his name would not perish but find life Everlasting.**
- **By the way we got to stop praying half-hearted prayers like casual prayers - I'm the number one lposter child for this - so Lord forgive me - I'm not a hypocrite - I know it's me - I'll be in the car – and I will stay “Lord bless them in Jesus name” okay now I'm going on to issue number #2 - God deserves our desires to be connected to our words God does not want an empty prayer from us - God does not want our mouth and our heart to be disconnected - God wants us to earnestly and fervently pray for people like it was our own life - our own children - our own mom - our own dad that we were praying for. Stop praying half-hearted weak prayers. See Colossians chapter 4 verse 12 “*who is one of you a bond servant of Christ - greets you always laboring fervently for you in prayer that you may stand perfect and complete in the will of God.*” in this text of Colossians 4, Paul was addressing false teachers had infiltrated and were beginning to add complicated things to the gospel message and they were attempting to lure people away from the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ. So the Bible said he labored in fervent prayer so they would not be distracted from the simple gospel message. Laboring in prayer sounds like an oxymoron - it sounds like it sounds like it's not congruent - but the reality is scripture teaches us time and time again that it is the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous that avails much to God - not the effectual half-hearted prayer.**
- **Prayer is a labor of love - prayer is a crying out a desperation - a passionate plea to the maker of heaven and Earth – stop praying halfhearted - half convincing prayers - put your whole heart into it. If your heart feels numb - and you feel disconnected from other people's pain - and need then have a vulnerable conversation with God - pray this: Lord create in me a new heart restore a right spirit within me - help me Lord to love my neighbor as I love myself God - help me to love like you love - and that is a prayer God will answer - and it might not happen immediately - but in time - God will begin to align your hearts - and you'll begin to be sensitive and passionate and care about the needs of other people.**
- There are four categories of prayer and it's found in 1 Timothy Chapter 2. Let's read from the King James version since later translations summarize or condense this this statement: 1 Timothy 2 - King James Version: ***“2 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the 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 a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”***

- In the Bible, is there on purpose – the first category of prayer is supplication that simply means to ask God for something - it's not wrong for you to ask God for things - in fact biblically - you should – In James 4: 2-3 (KJV), it say this you want what you don't have - so you scheme and kill get it - you are jealous of what others have - but you can't get it so you fight and wage war to take it away from them - yet you don't have what you want - because you don't ask God for it and even when you ask you don't get it - because your motives are all wrong - you only want what will give you pleasure. This powerful the scripture tells that tells us that we don't have what we want - not because God is unwilling – but because you've never prayed - you're trying to do it on your own - rather than rely and trust the maker of heaven and earth to provide for you. I'm a believer that in supplication asking God for things - we should pray detail prayers. What I'm trying to tell you is if you pray detailed prayers God will answer in detail ways. If you're asking with a selfish motive, God is not going to answer that - and let me tell you - you can pray for the right things with the wrong motivation - I could have prayed “Lord give us a bigger building so I can be cool and people will know I'm a good leader - nope - or I could say Lord give us this space so that we can advance your mission and preach your gospel to the ends of this city - that Souls would be saved and disciples would be made - your motive matters and you've got to ask yourself today why am I praying for the things? Check your heart and your motives because God will not bless impure motives - he will not do it.
- **The second category of prayer is general prayer - prayer is all communication with God. Important point: Prayer is not just some rigid formality where we mindlessly recite prayers that somebody else wrote thousand years ago - prayer is a communion - a conversation with god almighty - God doesn't care about your eloquence – you don't have to pray in the King James version Heavenly Father Thou Art - just talk to God - it's a conversation with him and if you haven't figured this out yet that is the ultimate reason for the cross for Calvary - and for the blood of Jesus was the ministry of reconciliation - the reason for the gospel is not to get out of hell free - If Heaven is your goal, you are missing it friend Heaven is not our goal - Jesus is - Heaven is not our goal God Almighty is our goal - Heaven is our prize – the eternal reward. The whole purpose of your salvation is that you would be a friend of God.**
- **The cross is about restoring creation to its creator - that's the highest form of the human experience - friend let me warn you though if you have religion without relationship you come in here to get forgiven to be guilt-free for what you did last night - but you have no interest in prayer and in communion and in relationship with God - you might be in great danger because self-preservation is your goal not reconciliation with God.**
- The 3rd form of prayer is intercession - we often link prayer and intercession call them things that are interchangeable - but intercession is when we make a request on someone else's behalf - that's what we did leading up to the Crusade - that's what we did leading up to Easter - we were praying for people that were spiritually dead and dormant – praying for people that didn't have the awareness to pray for themselves - that's what intercession is. I'm standing in the gap - I'm praying for somebody else and Jesus set that example - as he hung on calvary's Cross he prayed for his accusers – father forgive them for they know not what they do - that's intercession.
- The 4th category of prayer is Thanksgiving - Thanksgiving a spirit of gratitude - an expression of Thanksgiving - that is also a form and a category of prayer.
- My last point today is that pray for those that are in Authority - so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.
- Pray for government.
- Remember the part where I said I was going to offend you – well we are here now - I just want to talk to you just for a moment. The bible speaks clearly about the church and the state about our relationship with the government and our governing authorities.
- Let me read to you Romans 13:1 “everyone must submit to governing authorities for all authority comes from God and those who are in positions of authority have been placed there by God.”

- All authority has been placed by God Almighty - he allowed it - the person you didn't vote for - the person you don't like - the person you do like - God allows it - let me warn you though good leadership is God's blessing on a nation – and bad leadership is God's judgment on a people - either way God allows it - we are to honor and obey the authorities whether we voted for them or not - whether we agree with them or not - the Bible doesn't just say that we are to respect our authority - the Bible tells us that we should also respect and govern righteously.
- But what happens when the government doesn't live up to their end of the bargain? Well we still live up to ours - we still act honorably and respectfully - and we pray for them earnestly - What happens though when the government asks us to do something that is unbiblical? That is where you draw the line - when the government asks you to do something that is unscriptural or ungodly or to endorse or just go along with something that is evil - that's where the line is drawn - and that's where Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are born (Hebrew names Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah – see Daniel 3) and tell Nebuchadnezzar - no we will not bow down this time just.
- And can I say one more thing to you Church - we're called to love people that don't like us - and the world is not your enemy - the world is your mission - pray for them - intercede for them - but you must stand for biblical values - Jesus isn't running for office - not for president - not for school board - or for mayor - so you got to vote for the those things that are closest to the Bible - and I'll let you figure that out.
- Let's pray: Father we love you and we thank you for what you're doing in this place - pray that you would touch every heart and every life and Lord God if there's anybody in this place today that's not right with you right now - we repent of our sin we confess Lord that we're a sinner in need of a savior - and we ask you God for forgiveness and for Mercy - we believe that 2,000 years ago on the cross Jesus died in our place - his blood was shed to take away the sin of the world - he died and was buried and on the third day he rose from the grave. From death to life Lord, we surrender our life to you - Be the Lord Of My Life - guide my steps it's in Jesus mighty name we pray and all God's people said amen.