

Preface

A few years ago a monthly Prayer Calendar was sent out to church members in a congregation where I was helping to coordinate a Prayer Ministry. We requested that people adopt a church leader or ministry team and pray for them. Daily prayers for these leaders over the next year was to encourage them in their walk with God and guide them in leading the congregation in service to the community.

The Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, a preacher in Ephesus, said, *“The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers (leaders) and their governments (policy, boards, etc.) to rule well...”* (1 Timothy 2:1 MSG).

Don Wallace, a minister in King, NC writes this concerning the passage in 1 Timothy 2:1-8:

“Throughout the New Testament period the church took very seriously its call to be the intercessor for the world. So seriously, in fact, that Paul uses four different terms to describe the prayers to be offered' for everyone' (vs.1). He mentions 'requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving.' He lists these reasons for praying: To establish community peace in which holy and godly living will become prevalent; to bring pleasure to our heavenly Father; and because God longs to be in relationship with all people (vs 2-4). These prayers would be lifted up to 'one God and one mediator... the man Christ Jesus' (vs. 5).

“In Paul's day, it was falsely believed that many angelic mediators existed to build bridges between God and man. But Christians knew that God had revealed himself to humanity in only one person. This 'one man' bought our freedom with the most expensive 'ransom' note ever paid: 'himself' (vs. 6).

“In closing out this teaching on the importance of prayer, Paul made his appeal universal in scope; people in all places were to 'lift up holy hands' (vs. 8) in eager anticipation of God granting their requests.”¹

As our congregation continued to grow in the ministry of prayer, we knew that God would honor our time spent with Him. Our Prayer Chain, Special Requests, and Saturday Prayer Group aspired to meet our prayer responsibilities. As we prayed for one another, it was our intention that our Father in Heaven would be honored as he granted our requests. We have been blessed in the process!

Many of the following pages are “handouts” and articles that we used at our weekly prayer gatherings. The various men and women who have written extensively over the years on *prayer* were a great help to our group. They gave us ideas, views, pointers, encouragement, and most of all, helped us focus on the Lordship of Christ and the awesomeness of our Father in Heaven. I pray that these notes, suggestions and writings help you as they helped us.