***"Praying With Purpose"* 1 Tim. 2:1-8 - 1/20/18**

*How and why does God want me to pray with greater purpose*?

We tend to pray for our needs, concerns and desires; this is our natural inclination.

**1 Timothy 2:1+2**

1) So We Can Live An Ideal Life

We desire peace, tranquility & quietness - as opposed to chaos, tumult & anarchy. We desire people to be God-fearing, as opposed to being wicked. We desire dignity & honor, as opposed to irreverence & disrespect - which can often be in the hearts of many.

**Vs.2*a***

We reap much benefit when our leaders, those in authority or government, lead and govern us in peace *as* we pray, if not - then there are no guarantees.

**Psalm 33:12**

While we have the right and the duty to be involved in the government as citizens, the ultimate solution to these problems can *only* be found in the spiritual arena.

**1 Timothy 2:3+4**

2) We See Its Clear Connection To The Salvation Of Souls

We can't escape the fact that prayer for *all* men as well as our leaders, is directly linked to a knowledge of the truth *in order* for them to be saved.

There aren't any shortcuts - if we want to see God do a great work in our community and country, then we need to *pray*! **2 Chronicles 7:13-15**

Pray for neighbors +neighborhoods... For co-workers +management (owners)... For your classmates +piers... For your family +friends... +for *all* men, +kings, +those in authority.

**1 Timothy 2:5-7**

3) So That We Would Proclaim The Gospel In Faith & Truth

A pragmatist by definition is, "an advocate who evaluates theories or beliefs, in terms of the *success* of their practical application".

The gospel is only good news, for those who hear it! **Romans 1:16**

The success of our belief, if we truly hold to it, comes - as we *practice* it... If I really believe the gospel, then I share it.

We are to share it "in faith and truth" (vs. 7).

"*How much will it cost me*?"... Relationally, Financially - +Spiritually.

Let's be faithful to proclaim the gospel "in faith and truth", while removing ourselves, so that He will do what only He can do.

4) We Are To Pray In Holiness, Without Anger & Arguments

This gives us a picture of a man lifting his palms up & out in humble request & plea, asking God to help, intercede, provide, enlighten, heal, restore, fix, and cause His people *to be all that He desires*.

**Vs.8*b***

Even around our praying, we can be putrid (rotten)! **James 3:8-10**

God help us to lay aside all wrath/anger, dissension/arguing, and instead - let's pray with holy hands, with greater purpose!