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## SERMON NOTES October 11, 2020

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Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:1-4 Praying for Our Nation Pastor Mike

- I. Understanding the \_\_\_\_\_ of the battle
- II. The dangers of a \_\_\_\_\_ of the battle
  - a. We fight the \_\_\_\_\_ battle
  - b. We become \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- III. The \_\_\_\_\_ to a right understanding of the battle
  - a. Proactively relying on \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer
- IV. The \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer
  - a. For \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. For our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. For \_\_\_\_\_ and the spread of \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. For a growing \_\_\_\_\_ with God

### Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:18 Paul calls us to “fight the good fight.” Then only a few verses later he calls us to make prayer our first weapon in that fight.
  - a. When you read Paul’s words to “fight the good fight,” what do you think he is calling you to? What is the good fight God wants you to engage in?
  - b. As you think about what it means to ‘fight the good fight of faith,’ what resources or ‘weapons’ are you most likely to rely on? How often have you made prayer the place you started?
  - c. Many Christians will admit that they usually rely on their own strength and wisdom far more often than they rely on prayer. Why is it that most of us find it so difficult to make prayer a priority?
2. Ephesians 6:12 teaches that, *“we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”* While the problems we face are physical, and moral, and social, and political, they all ultimately have a spiritual root.
  - a. What are some of the battles you face personally now? What are the cultural and national battles that are most on your mind? What are the spiritual forces that could be at work in those issues?
  - b. What are the dangers of having a wrong understanding of the battles we face, and missing this spiritual element the Bible teaches is behind them all?
3. Paul calls us to not only prayer for our own needs, or even the needs of those in our church, but he teaches that *“requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.”* Can you think of someone that you feel God may be calling you to pray for who is difficult for you to pray for?
4. After calling us to pray for everyone, Paul specifically mentions that we should pray for political leaders.
  - a. It is important to remember that as Paul wrote this, Nero was the emperor in Rome. How does the realization that Paul called believers to pray for Nero impact your understanding of the call for us to pray for our political leaders?
  - b. How specifically do you think we should pray for our political leaders? How should we pray for our nation?
  - c. Since we live in a democracy, we also have freedom and opportunity to participate in political life through our voice and our vote. What are our responsibilities as Christians to participate in politics, and how do those responsibilities impact the call for us to pray?
5. Have you made, or are you willing to make the “Pray another minute” challenge? Are you willing to commit to try and pray 1 minute more this week than you usually do, and then to try to stretch that to another minute in the coming weeks?
  - a. Is this a realistic goal? If you are hesitant to make this commitment, why?
  - b. If you have made this commitment, how has it gone? What are you learning?
  - c. Why it is important to share this commitment with someone else?
  - d. Are you willing to commit to 1 hour of prayer in the prayer room or somewhere else?