First of All: Pray

1 Timothy 2:1-4

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As part of instructions given to a young church leader, God’s Word directs that he model and teach prayer. There is urgency and priority about our need to pray together as a body of believers.

What’s your go-to response when you are under pressure? Ask someone who knows you well: When stuff blows up, how do I typically respond?

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus promised that storms were an inevitable part of life; the only question is, how do you respond to those storms.

First Timothy is one of the three Pastoral Epistles: letters written by the Apostle Paul to younger men who were shepherding flocks. Timothy was serving in Ephesus.

Paul urged Timothy to make prayer a priority of ministry in the local church (1 Tim 2:1).

S upplications/entreaties – Making known a particular need
Prayers – Common word for speaking to God in prayer
Intercessions/petitions – Entreating, sometimes doing so on behalf of another
Thanksgivings – Expressing gratitude

The four words used to describe prayer are not meant to distract us from the main point: God is urging much prayer for all different kinds of people and situations.
The go-to response of the early church – as seen in Acts 4:24 – when the people were threatened with severe persecution, was to lift their voices together in prayer.

We follow the pattern of the early church which learned from the apostles who learned this pattern of regular and persistent prayer from Jesus.

If you did not get the church email about this morning’s online corporate prayer time, and you’d like to participate, email your name to info@gbclorton.com and you’ll be sent a link to join in this time of prayer.

Questions to Consider

1. What’s your go-to response when you are under pressure? How do those who know you best answer that question? If prayer is not your first response, why not?

2. What do we know from 1 Timothy 1 and Revelation 2:1-7 about some of the challenges that the church in Ephesus was facing?

3. Without trying to be overly precise, what are some of the kinds of praying that are described in 1 Timothy 2:1?

4. What practical steps are most helpful to encourage you to pray?

5. According to 1 Timothy 2:3-4, what incentive does God give to His church to pray?