

*First Things First*  
*1 Timothy 2:1-8*

\_\_\_\_\_ is important in every area of life. If you can't get first things first, you will likely face failure, or at least an unnecessary uphill climb, in almost everything you do. When it comes to the central task of the church—to \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_—God also gives us the proper sequence of events necessary to make the task doable. 1 Tim. 2:1-8 tells us our first thing.

The word translated “urge” is like our word “\_\_\_\_\_.” God is saying, “Please, before you do anything else, \_\_\_\_\_!”

The Bible instruct us to pray first, and it shows us multiple \_\_\_\_\_ of how this first step is so important. Still, we tend to get this out of sequence. Prayer is often not our \_\_\_\_\_ to God's commission but our \_\_\_\_\_. What we are slow to grasp is that our struggle is not against \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 6:12).

Notice the scope and breadth of our praying: “\_\_\_\_\_ people.” “\_\_\_\_\_ of prayers.” The reason Paul pens for praying first gives us some idea of what the central focus of our praying ought to be: “God wants all people to be \_\_\_\_\_ and come to know the \_\_\_\_\_.”

We are told also to pray for those in political authority--that authorities would provide a \_\_\_\_\_, soil in which the church could more easily grow and carry out its \_\_\_\_\_.

When the Bible says to pray first, the word is likely telling us that prayer is not only first in \_\_\_\_\_ but first in \_\_\_\_\_.

Author Peter Kreeft said it well: “...nothing is more relevant and responsible; ...nothing else can ever cure our sick world except \_\_\_\_\_, and saints are never \_\_\_\_\_ except by prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_ you do anything else, pray. \_\_\_\_\_ all else, pray.