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## **Bible Study: A Business Person's Prayer**

### **A businessman's bible study on Prayer – 1Timothy 2:1:**

*First, I tell you to pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful to him.* (New Century Version)

#### **Take time and ponder on the far reaching commitment this verse is asking for:**

- Who are all the people?
- What demand is placed on time, should a fraction of prayer be given for each person we know?

#### **What is a plan of action to obey this call?**

I know, “Where shall I find the time to pray for everyone?” and secondly, “Will it really change things for better for those I pray for?” Firstly, if you want to find time, you will find time. But that you already know, “Give me something new” you'll say. Your problem is not time, your problem is either the lack of faith in prayer, or the lack of a required personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If you don't know/believe what God can do, you will not pray to him to do what you ask. But if you know what God can do, the almighty creator of the universe, you will pray. You will find time to pray, because you will realize that human effort doesn't match up with what God can do.

“What about my business?” If God can't bless your business without investing all your time into it, leaving you with nothing to pray, then you're in the wrong business.

#### **The psalmist says:**

*Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain...* (Psalm 127:1a NIV)

To be honest, the picture of the bible is not that you should add prayer to you business, but rather business to your prayer life. Your business should be steeped in prayer. Since God builds the house, you can only plot along in prayer. Remember it's God's house, not yours. Would time be an issue on the builder's demand? I don't think so. I would certainly enjoy it when my boss tells me to leave my classroom, and my students, and take time out for her. To sit in her office and talk about the work and other people and the students etc.

Who are the 'all people' you have to pray for? Easy, that's everyone you cross paths with. From the cleaning lady in the kitchen to the CEO in the boardroom. Prayer equips us with Godlike spectacles, to see the world through God's eyes, and reshape the landscape of reality. Prayer teaches that relationships are reality, as oppose to abstract business systems with people as resources, in the one-to-one encounter with people created in the image of God. In the kingdom of God money is not the currency

and supply-and-demand no the mechanics, but relationships – doing things for God and other people, not for ourselves.

**Jesus said:**

*The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need [what we think money can buy] will be given to you. (Matthew 6:33 New Century Version)*

Jesus illustrated this kingdom living. Jesus lived a life of relationships; some good and others bad but never the less relationships. The things of this world fell outside the parameters of Jesus' mission. Jesus didn't care for a home or money to provide his needs. I think it is safe to say that Jesus' relationships cared for him.

What or who cares for you? Your business, or your relationship with God? Going about your business is not necessarily wrong, as long as it serves the purpose of relationships – first with God and then all people, even when prayer is the least you can do.

**So what is a plan of action to actualize this command?**

- Long prayers for everyone is not what this verse commands. Even only a short thought of prayer would do.
- Prioritize your life. A half hour or an hour a day is not too much asked, when it is your best friend and brother you are meeting with – Jesus Christ.
- Even the time on the toilet (in the restroom) can be time to redeem with prayer.
- Learn to pray for people on the go, in short staccato prayers. This will bring everyone to the prayer shop to pray for their needs.
- What can a business person take home from this life study of the bible? How does it affect your life as a Christian?

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