

Biblical Leadership: A Study of 1st Timothy
Lesson 4 “Taking Air Superiority”

I. Introduction - We are in a series on *1st Timothy*, which is a letter Paul wrote to Timothy in approximately 62 A.D. after he installed him as the pastor of the church in Ephesus.

A. This is personal letter, Paul wrote to mentor Timothy as Timothy took over one of the most significant churches in the 1st century (about 7 years after the revival that started the church). Paul wrote both to speak directly into Timothy’s life and also teach him how to address challenges the church was having (doctrinal, prayer, women, leadership, and how people handled money.)

B. Last week, we studied *1 Timothy 1:3-17* and talked about how leadership can be complex so we must be intentional about keeping things simple. Paul told Timothy to not get his leaders get caught up in fables, genealogies, and legalism. He wanted them to stay focused on the transformative power of the cross.

II. Taking Air Superiority - Tonight we are going to study *1 Timothy 1:18-2:7* about prayer and focus on the principle of taking air superiority when we wage war.. We must pray for those we lead. We need to take air superiority over their lives so our teachings/practical things we do hit fertile soil and are effective.

A. When we fought the Persian Gulf War against Iraq in 1991, the U.S. knocked out the key Iraqi military, artillery, and communication targets for weeks before they sent in the ground forces. When we finally sent in the ground forces we defeated Iraq in 4 days. We won because had air superiority. God wants us to learn to enforce air superiority in the spirit as well. It is necessary to see the gospel go forward. This is why we must continue to pray for revival.

B. **Matthew 12:28-29** Jesus makes this statement right after he casts a demon out of a man and he is healed of blindness and deafness. He declared that casting out demons is a sign of the rule of God and then says it is necessary to bind the strongman in order to plunder his goods. **We have to take air superiority.**

- a. Too many of us metaphorically send in the infantry without taking air superiority and we suffer needless casualties of war.
- b. We should bind the devil, but we also need to loose heaven.

C. **1 Timothy 1:18-2:7**

1. **Verses 18** We wage warfare with prophecies (the declared word of God over our life). We do this by speaking these words over ourselves and continually decreeing them until they come into full manifestation.

- a. Prophecy given to me about how my job at Robert Half would take me into my destiny.

- b. Elijah prayed until he saw a cloud the size of the man's hand.
- 2. **Verse 19** When we don't wage warfare with prophecies it can cause our faith to shipwreck.
- 3. **Verse 20** Most probably the what Paul meant by turning these two men over to Satan is he withdrew intercession for them so they would feel the gravity of their wrong choices and repent. Ex: Andrew Wommack story about man who got into rebellion so Andrew's church quit praying for him. He repented a short time later because he started feeling the gravity of his choices.
- 4. **Verses 1-4** Therefore links back to the previous verses. Therefore because of the power of prophecy and the declared word, Paul tells Timothy to pray for all men including kings and those in authority so the gospel would have free course because God isn't willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
 - a. Biblical Example - **Acts 12:1-17** Herod killed James and then arrested Peter. When Peter was arrested the church began to pray. **It makes you wonder what would have happened if they prayed the same way for James.**
 - b. This was continued prayer that brought forth angelic deliverance. When Peter arrived at the house, they were still praying.
 - c. Praying for Peter (taking air superiority) led to the furtherance (free course of the gospel). Later in the chapter, King Herod is judged by God and killed because he received praise as a god.
- 5. **Verses 5-8** The reason we can pray is because there is one mediator between God and man. You don't have to be a special person, a prophet, a saint, etc. to go boldly to God in prayer. We all go boldly because of what Jesus did on the cross!
 - a. We are to pray without wrath (grieves the spirit) and doubting (quenches the spirit).

III. Conclusion - We are going to close tonight by taking some time to pray. We will break into groups and pray for one another and then pray for revival for our nation.

A. Prayer Time

B. Offering Verse - **Luke 6:38**

C. Close Service and Call Up Prayer Team