

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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How Do I Pray For the Lost?

When I have dealt with the subject of praying for the lost, I see believers who want to pray for those who need Jesus. They desire to see people come to Christ. They want to have a share in their coming to Jesus. Yet, they are frustrated by a lack of knowing how to pray for those who are lost. Maybe this is you. Maybe this is how you feel. This chapter focuses on how to pray for the lost. It will offer you some practical tools to use in your intercession for those who need Jesus.

If you're going to build a house, you have to have tools. Without tools, you won't be able to build the house. It will be impossible to construct it without the right equipment. The same is true of praying for the lost. To grow in your ability to pray for those who need Jesus, you have to make us of certain tools. These tools empower you to come to God and to plead with Him for the salvation of the lost. They help you in developing fervency and consistency in your prayers for the lost.

God calls you to pray for those who need His Son Jesus. Yet, He does not call you to this without giving you the proper tools for seeking Him in behalf of the lost. These tools are God's gift to you. God provides you with the tools that you need to seek Him for people who desperately need Jesus Christ.

- *The Word of God*

Your first and most essential tool in praying for the lost is the Word of God. It exists as your prayer manual, especially in seeking God for those who need Jesus Christ. The Word of God offers you a variety of truths that you can use to pray for the salvation of sinners.

Why is the Word of God crucial in praying for the lost?

First, the Word of God is the revealed will of God. It shows us the will of God. Read and meditate on 1 John 5:14-15. What

will God do for those who pray for His will?

God will hear and answer those who pray for His will.

Read and meditate on **Romans 6:23**. What does God reveal that He wants to do for sinners?

God makes it known that He wants to give the gift of eternal life to sinful people. This is His revealed will. We can pray for this, trusting God to do it. It makes for powerful, life-transforming prayer.

Second, praying the Word for the lost helps you stay out of a rut. Many times, our praying becomes routine and ordinary. It is because we use the same requests and phrases. The Word of God will provide you with a rich treasure of ways to seek God in behalf of the lost. It will help keep your praying fresh and powerful.

Third, praying the Word for the lost can build your confidence. When you pray the Word, you can have confidence that God will hear and respond. You are

praying God's will; He has promised to hear and respond to His Word. This can bolster your faith. It can anchor your confidence as you seek Him for those who need Jesus Christ.

Read and meditate on the following verses. What do these verses teach you about salvation? From these verses, write out a Scripture prayer that you can use to pray for those who need Jesus.

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

John 6:44

John 3:16

life-transforming power for those who need Jesus.

Read and meditate on the following verses. How does the Holy Spirit empower you to pray for those who need Jesus?

Acts 4:12

Ephesians 5:18

1 Timothy 2:5

Ephesians 6:18

Luke 13:1-3

John 14:28

- ***The Filling Of The Spirit***

The second tool that you need for praying for the lost is the filling of the Holy Spirit. You cannot pray effectively without the power of the Spirit of God. He will guide you into powerful and

These verses reveal the necessity of the Spirit for praying for the lost. In **Ephesians 5:18**, we see that the Holy Spirit provides us with the power to pray for the lost. The Holy Spirit's power enables believers to live the Christian life. This applies especially to

prayer. The Holy Spirit grants you the strength and power to pray fervently for those who need Jesus.

In **Ephesians 6:18**, we see that the Holy Spirit empowers you to stay faithful in prayer for the lost. The Spirit enables us to pray on all occasions for those who

need Jesus. He helps the believer to persevere in prayer through all circumstances.

In **John 14:28**, we see that the Spirit will guide us in truth. In other words, He will teach us. The Spirit of God can teach you how to pray for the lost. He can grant you the insights that you need in this matter. He can show you how you need to pray for particular lost people.

Every believer stands in absolute need of the power of the Spirit for praying for the lost. Without His power, we will not have the ability, the perseverance, or the insights that are crucial in reaching people for the Lord Jesus Christ. With His power, we will have what we need to seek Him in behalf of those who are without Christ.

Seek the power of the Holy Spirit when you pray for the lost. Confess your need to Him. Cry out to the Spirit for His power. Ask Him to grant you the power, the perseverance, and the insights that you need for this eternally significant matter.

• *Fasting*

Fasting is another powerful tool that God has given you to use in your intercession for the lost.

Read and meditate on **Matthew 6:16-18**. What does Jesus teach you about fasting?

The Lord Jesus teaches us that we are to fast to our Father. Fasting is abstaining from food for a time in order to seek the Father more intensely. The believers will drink water and juices but will abstain from food in order to seek the Father. For some people, they may have to abstain from a particular type of food or pleasure because of health concerns. For instance, I know a woman who fasts from television for periods in order to spend that time in prayer. Fasting is denying yourself in order to seek God more intensely and make yourself more available to Him.

Why is fasting important for your praying for the lost? It will intensify your praying for those who need Jesus. It gives you the opportunity to focus on seeking Him for their salvation. Fasting

saturates your praying with authority and power that comes in no other way. By combining prayer and fasting, you add special intensity to your prayers for their salvation. At the same time, fasting prepares you to receive insights on how to pray for lost people. God can provide you with the insights that you need to pray through the obstacles and problems that keep people from coming to Christ. Fasting is not magical. Yet, it fuels your prayers with greater intensity and makes you more available and open to your Father's leadings.

- ***Praying In Agreement***

Jesus Christ provides a precious promise to believers in **Matthew 18:19**. What does He promise you? How does this apply to praying for the lost?

Praying in agreement involves at least two or three believers. You can have more involved but the goal should be to have at least two or three believers. These believers join to pray for specific lost people. They determine for whom they will pray and how they will pray. They will then agree in prayer before the Father for those who are lost. They will share any insights or leadings that the Father gives. These believers saturate the lost in prayer.

This is a powerful way to pray for those who need Jesus. God is especially moved when believers join in prayer. God will hear and respond to an individual believer. Yet, when believers join their hearts and prayers, God responds with power and mercy.

In your praying for the lost, join with other believers. Pray together for people that you want to see come to Christ. Plead the promises of God together. Pray the Scripture together. Wrestle with God together for those who need Jesus. Receive encouragement and strength from those with whom you are praying.

Applying The Word

Read each of the questions and meditate on them. Write out your answer to them, thinking especially about ways you can implement into your life or your church.

How does the Word of God teach you how to pray for the lost? How can you use the Word to pray for the lost?

Why do you need the power of the Spirit to pray for the lost? What can you do apart from His power?

or partners that you can pray in agreement with for lost people.

Evangelistic Praying: Faith And Repentance

The following are Scripture prayers that you can use to pray for a lost person concerning faith and repentance. Each Scripture prayer will aid you in pleading for this person to truly turn from his/her sin and to trust in Jesus alone.

What makes fasting a powerful tool in praying for the lost?

Father, I plead that _____ would turn from his/her sinful, selfish lifestyle and surrender to Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and Lord so that he/she can experience Your salvation (**Acts 3:19**).

*What does it mean to pray in agreement?
What promise does God give to those who will do this?*

Father, You now command all men everywhere to repent. I ask that _____ would repent of his/her sin (**Acts 17:30**).

Father, I ask You to give _____ a heart to know You. Enable _____ to turn to You with all his/her heart (**Jeremiah 24:7**).

Praying The Word

Ask God to help you become effective in using these tools. Pray that you will use them with great skill and usefulness. Call on Him to help you practice all these things. Pray for a prayer partner

Lord God, I pray that _____ would seek You while You may be found. I ask that _____ would forsake his/her evil way and evil thoughts. Let _____ turn to You so that You will have mercy on him/her and so that You may freely pardon him/her (**Isaiah 55:6-7**).

I ask You to deliver _____ from a worldly sorrow over sin that brings remorse but no repentance. I plead that You would grant _____ a godly sorrow for sin. Show _____ how abominable and insulting his/her sin is to You, the holy and living God. Cause him/her to hate sin and to forsake it (**2 Corinthians 7:10**).

Father, I ask You to grant _____ repentance unto life (**Acts 11:8**).

Father, I plead that You would create in _____ a hatred of his/her sin. Cause _____ to see how offensive it is to You and how destructive it is to him/her. Through this, enable _____ to forsake his/her sin in order to receive Jesus and His salvation (**Psalms 38:18**).

Father, I pray that _____ would not attempt to rationalize or justify his/her sin. I plead that he/she will see it as rebellion against You. I ask that _____ would confess and forsake his/her sin so that You will have mercy on him/her (**Proverbs 28:13**).

I ask that _____ would understand that if he/she does not turn from his/her sin to Jesus that he/she will die in sin and spend an eternity in hell (**Luke 13:3**).

I pray that _____ would turn to You, O God, with a repentant and broken heart and that You would save him/her; for You are God and there is no other (**Isaiah 45:22**).

I plead that _____ would believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and that he/she would be saved (**Acts 16:31**).

Father, I ask that _____ would trust in Your Son, Jesus Christ, whom You have sent to be the Savior (**John 3:16**).

Father, I plead that _____ would turn to You in repentance of his/her sinful, self-centered lifestyle and would trust in Your Son, Jesus Christ the Savior (**Acts 20:21**).

Father, I pray that You would deliver _____ from simple, intellectual assent to the gospel. Enable him/her to trust in Jesus Christ as his/her Savior, surrendering the control of his/her life to Him (**John 2:20**).

Father, I ask that _____ would not reject Your Son Jesus Christ but that he/she will surrender to Him, trusting in Him as his/her Savior (**John 3:15-16**).

Father I plead that _____'s faith would be focused on Jesus Christ and Him alone. Let him/her trust in Christ only for his/her acceptance with You (**1 Corinthians 2:1-4**).

Learning About Jesus

To share Jesus, you must know Him. For this reason, we must saturate ourselves with the story of Jesus. We must read, study, and reflect on the life and work of Jesus. We must strive to know Him as He is.

What does Mark 1 teach us about Jesus? As you read and meditate on these things, journal about what you see. Ask yourself, "How should I respond to this truth? What difference does this make in my personal witness?"

- Jesus is the empowered Savior (1:1).
- Jesus is the Son of God (1:1).
- Jesus should be proclaimed as preparation to receive Him (1:1-8).
- Jesus is the beloved Son of God, well pleasing to the Father (1:9-11).
- Jesus has power of Satan because He has defeated Him (1:12-13).

- Jesus calls on people to repent of their sin and to believe the good news of His coming (1:14-15).
- Jesus uses people to lead others to Himself (1:16-20).
- Jesus can set the demon-possessed free from their bondage (1:21-28).

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