

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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ISSUE 2

Who Are Your Neighbors?

Your neighbors are the people that you meet on a daily basis – the people you see each day. They are the people that you cross paths with in the ordinary routine of life. It is these people that God calls you to bless and touch for the sake of Jesus.

In **Jeremiah 29**, God sends a message to the people of God who are in captivity in Babylon. Many of them were thinking that they would only be there for a short period. They felt that God would take them back to the Promised Land only after a brief stay in Babylon. Yet, God tells them that they would be there for seventy years. God had placed them there; they were to put down roots and to exercise spiritual influence where they were,” And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace” (**Jeremiah 29:7**).

God is speaking the same message to you today. He has placed you where you are. He has a distinct purpose in putting you in this place. He is bringing people into your life that you might bless them and minister to them. He wants you to exercise spiritual influence where you are. He desires that you be a channel of His blessing for all those around you.

Identifying My Neighbors

What does Jesus teach in **Matthew 22:39**?

What is the first and great commandment?

How are these two commands related?

In **Matthew 22:39**, Jesus teaches us that we are to love our neighbors. We are to love them as we love ourselves. We are to have a sacrificial love for our neighbors. We are to seek their highest good. If we love God, we are going to love our neighbors. These two commands are inseparable. Love for God results in love for your neighbors. Yet who is our neighbor?

Read **Luke 10:29-37**. What question does the lawyer ask Jesus (**v.29**)?

How does Jesus respond to this question?

spiritual influence in their lives. You can do nothing greater for them.

In order to answer the question of “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus responds with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus’ purpose in giving this parable is to show that our neighbors are those that we encounter – particularly those that we encounter daily that are in need. This parable reveals that your neighbors are the people around you. It is those that live next to you, the people you see at work, or the people you stand in line with at the grocery store. Your neighbors are those that you encounter in the ordinary routines of life. It is these people that you are to love as yourself and seek to bless. God has placed you where you are to minister to them. God crosses your paths with them that you might exercise spiritual influence in their lives.

Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commission can be translated literally, “As you are going . . .” (**Matthew 28:19**). It is in the ordinary routines of life that you are to pray for, bless, and share the good news of Jesus. God desires that you minister to people as you go through your daily life.

Luke 10:29-36

Motivations For Reaching Every Neighbor

The Bible reveals that your neighbors are those that you encounter daily – those that fill the ordinary routines of your life. God wants you to exercise spiritual influence in their lives. How can you know that this is God’s will for you? The following verses reveal that God wants you to reach those around you. Read these verses and meditate on them in light of all the people around you:

Jesus’ provides us with a compelling example in these verses. When you see people in need, you are to seek to make a difference in their lives. Every day of your life, you will meet people in need. This should stir your heart to pray for and bless people throughout your day.

Acts 1:8

Matthew 22:39

Loving your neighbor means seeking the highest good of those around you. What is the greatest thing that you can do for your neighbors? It is to pray for them. It is to seek to minister to them by blessing their lives. Loving your neighbors calls for you to exercise

In this text, Jesus provides His disciples with an outline of sharing the good news of Jesus. They were to begin sharing the good news of Jesus in Jerusalem and then spread it to the ends of the earth. Your “Jerusalem” is the area around you. It is the people that you encounter on a daily basis. Jesus wants you to bless and exercise spiritual influence in your “Jerusalem.”

Reaching Your Neighbors

Your neighbors are the people that you encounter on a daily basis. God desires that you pray for, bless, and minister to them in the routines of life. In order to put this into practice, you must consider three biblical truths.

No. 1: See the harvest that is around you.

What does Jesus tell His disciples in **John 4:35**?

Jesus tells His disciples to look and see that the harvest that is ready. You must realize that there is a harvest around you. The people you come into contact with daily have a variety of needs. Some need to turn to Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Others need to return to their first love. Others are brokenhearted. Others are struggling with sin or adversity. You come into contact daily with people who need your prayers and spiritual influence.

No.2: Strive to bless and pray for people daily.

What does Paul teach in **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**?

In **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**, Paul reveals that the transformation of lives is a process. He teaches that people coming to Christ takes time and requires the effort of numerous believers. Making a difference in the lives of others is a process; God will use you in the process. Be faithful to bless people and pray for them. You are making a huge investment in their lives that will bear fruit in time.

No. 3: Be faithful and don't become discouraged.

What does the Word of God teach you in **Galatians 6:9**?

Galatians 6:9 reveals that we will make a difference in the lives of people if we are faithful and do not give up. God will not let your labors for Him go without fruit. He will touch and bless your neighbors, as you are faithful to pray for them and influence them. God will honor your prayers, your ministry, and your blessing of the lives that you encounter on a daily basis. You can trust Him for this; He will move powerfully in their lives, as you are faithful to pray and bless.

Preparing Your Heart

Your neighbors are the people you meet on a daily basis. It extends from the people that live around you to the people you encounter in your daily routines. It is His heart's desire that you pray for and bless them. He longs for you to exercise spiritual influence in their lives. Pray today that God will open your eyes to see the harvest around you. Call on God to help you see your neighbors as He sees them – people in need of Him and His Word. Commit yourself to praying for and blessing them, confessing that God will honor your faithfulness in these matters.

Praying For Your Church's Witness

The following Scripture prayers deal with praying over the evangelistic witness of your church. These prayers are based on the Word of God and focus on seeing God mold the believers into powerful witnesses for Christ. You can use these prayers by placing the name of your church in the blanks. Plead these Scripture prayers with all your strength

and with consistency. By doing this, you can pray for a powerful work of the Holy Spirit among all the believers concerning evangelism.

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would be salt and light in the midst of this lost world. Grant them a righteous influence in the world (**Matthew 5:13-15**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church would walk in wisdom toward those who are outside the body of Christ. I also pray that their speech would be full of grace, godliness, and wisdom so that they may know how they ought to answer and respond to the lost (**Colossians 4:5-6**).

Father, I plead that You would be the main pursuit of the believers' lives and that they would always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks them a reason for the hope that is in them with meekness and fear (**1 Peter 3:15**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would do all things without murmuring and disputing so that they would become blameless and harmless, a child of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom they should shine as a light in the world, holding fast the word of life (**Philippians 2:14-16**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church would know and understand the terror of the Lord. I pray that the believers of _____ Church would see and know clearly that people without Jesus Christ are lost and headed to an eternal hell to face the wrath of God. Because they know and understand these things, I plead that the believers of _____ Church would persuade lost people to turn from their sin and to the Lord Jesus Christ in faith (**2 Corinthians 5:11**).

Holy Spirit, I plead that You will give the believers of _____ Church a continual and agonizing burden concerning lost people and their need to repent and believe (**Romans 9:1-3**).

Father, You have declared in Your Word that You have given believers the ministry of reconciliation. The believers of _____ Church have surrendered their lives to You. Because of this, You have given them the ministry of reconciliation--sharing the gospel with lost people so that they can be in a right relationship with You. I ask that the believers of _____ Church would be faithful to this ministry by sharing the gospel with others (**2 Corinthians 5:17-19**).

Father, You have saved the believers of _____ Church. You have made the believers of _____ Church ambassadors for Your Son, Jesus Christ, in this world. I pray that they would recognize like never before that they represent the Lord Jesus Christ in this world. Enable them to live a lives worthy of the Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:20**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would see this lost world as God sees it (**John 3:16**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church would not grow weary in sharing the gospel but that they will know that if they do not lose heart they will reap converts to Christ (**Galatians 6:9**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would receive power from the Holy Spirit and that they would be witnesses for You wherever they go (**Acts 1:8**).

I plead that the believers of _____ Church would have certainty and understanding concerning the truth of the gospel. I pray that the believers of _____ Church would diligently search the Scripture so that they will know what they believe and will be able to share and defend the Word of God (**Romans 10:8-17; Acts 17:11**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church would not be conformed to this world but that they will be transformed by the renewing of their mind (**Romans 12:2**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would not love this world or the things of this world. I plead that they would not be attracted to and lured away by the things of this world, but that they will be focused on doing the will of God (**1 John 2:15-17**).

I ask that You would grant the believers of _____ Church opportunities to share the gospel. Bring lost people into their lives so that they can share Your Word with them (**Colossians 4:3; Matthew 7:7**).

Lord Jesus, You have declared in Your Word that we will be hated because we belong to You. For this reason, I ask You to give the believers of _____ Church the strength and the courage to stand for You in this lost world. Lord Jesus, do not allow the believers of _____ Church to compromise their stand due to the reaction of the world (**John 15:18-21**).

Father, I plead that You will make the believers of _____ Church bold and fearless in their witness of Your Son (**Proverbs 28:1**).

Invitation Praying

The invitation is the time where people are given an opportunity to publicly respond to what the Spirit is doing in their lives. It is a holy time that needs to be covered in prayer. The following prayer guide can help you pray during the week before your worship services or during the invitation of your worship services. If your church does not have this time at the end of a service, you can adapt the prayers for that situation. The key issue is to pray that people will hear and respond to God's Word whether there is a formal invitation or not. The preaching of God's Word is an invitation; we must cover this in prayer.

Holy Spirit, I pray that You would move in a powerful way during the invitation. During this time, release Your life-transforming power into the lives of the worshipers (**Isaiah 11:2**).

Holy Spirit, I ask that every worshiper will be sensitive to Your leading and conviction during the worship service (**Psalms 29:4**).

Holy Spirit, I plead that You would clearly speak to the worshipers about God's will for their lives. Make clear the commitments that You are calling on them to make (**John 16:7**).

Holy Spirit, I ask that You would deal with the pride that would hinder the worshipers from responding to Your call. Shatter the self-righteousness that would keep the worshipers from responding to the Word (**James 4:6**).

I plead that each person will hear and give heed to the Word of God. Holy Spirit, open their hearts that they might do this (**Acts 16:14**).

Holy Spirit, I ask that no one will put off any commitment that they need to make. I pray that they will not think that they can wait until later to act. I plead with You to move powerfully on their hearts and lead them to act according to Your leading at this moment (**2 Corinthians 6:1-2**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You will give each worshiper the strength and the courage to make the commitments that You have burdened them with. Show them that it is the Father's will and that You will help them to obey (**Philippians 4:13**).

Holy Spirit, I ask that You would bind the enemy from lying to people during the invitation. I plead that they would not listen to his lies and turn away from Your leading and conviction. I pray that they will turn to God and His will for their lives (**John 8:44**).

Hell According To God

Hell is not a popular subject. I take no pleasure in dealing with this topic. It breaks my heart to teach or preach on eternal

punishment. However, I am bound to teach and preach about this because it is in the Word

of God. Unfortunately, the doctrine of hell has fallen on hard times:

“Let me say at the outset that I consider the concept of hell as endless torment in body and mind an outrageous doctrine, a theological and moral enormity, a bad doctrine of the tradition that needs to be changed. How can Christians possibly project a deity of such cruelty and vindictiveness whose ways include inflicting everlasting torture upon his creatures, however sinful they may have been? Surely a God who would do such a thing is more nearly like Satan than like God, at least by ordinary moral standards, and by the gospel itself . . . Surely the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is no fiend; torturing people without end is not what our God does” (Clark R. Pinnock, *Criswell Theological Review*).

“Hell has disappeared and no one noticed” (Church historian Martin Marty).

The Word of God is explicitly clear – there is a place of eternal, conscious punishment for those who do not turn to Jesus Christ in true faith and repentance. We must believe in and preach the doctrine of hell. To fail to do so is disobedience to God’s Word and a lack of compassion for those who have not committed their lives to Jesus Christ.

The Word of God provides us with some basic facts about hell:

I. Hell’s Master

God not only pronounces the sentence; He also rules over hell. The power of God over the wicked extends beyond the grave. God is present everywhere; He is present in hell in holiness and wrath. In hell, a person will never again experience the goodness or kindness of God. The lost are forever separated from His grace and goodness to face His unceasing wrath.

“Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the

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LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD” (**Jeremiah 23:23-24**).

“In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction **from the presence of the Lord**, and from the glory of his power” (**2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**, emphasis mine).

“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and **in the presence of the Lamb**” (**Revelation 14:10**, emphasis mine).

II. Hell’s Description

The New Testament paints five pictures of hell. It reveals that hell is a place of endless misery and suffering.

Darkness And Separation – This reveals the rejection of unbelievers by God and their eternal exclusion from His grace and mercy.

“And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (**Matthew 8:11-12**).

“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (**2 Thessalonians 1:9**).

Fire – Hell is a place of unspeakable physical suffering.

“Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast *them* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye

offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire” (**Matthew 18:8-9**).

“So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (**Matthew 13:49-50**).

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (**Jude 7**).

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (**Revelation 20:15**).

Crying And Gnashing Of Teeth – Hell is a place of unceasing and unquenchable sorrow.

“And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (**Matthew 13:42**).

Jesus uses this picture seven times (**Matthew 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28**).

Punishment – Hell is a place of punishment for ungodly people who rejected God’s revelation.

“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (**Matthew 25:46**).

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and

they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (**Matthew 5:28-29**).

Death And Destruction – Hell is a place of eternal ruin.

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“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (**Revelation 20:13-15**).

III. Hell’s Duration

The worst aspect of hell is its duration. It is eternal; it will never end. Hell will exist as long as God exists. It will continue forever.

“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (**Mark 9:48**).

“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (**Matthew 25:46**).

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power (**2 Thessalonians 1:9**).

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (**Revelation 20:10**).

IV. Hell’s Occupants

The Word of God reveals that hell will be occupied by the devil, evil angels, and unbelieving people.

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (**Matthew 25:41**).

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (**Revelation 21:8**).

“In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (**2 Thessalonians 1:8**).

Practical Applications:

- ✓ **Studying the doctrine of hell should increase your appreciation of the Savior’s sufferings.**

When I am tempted to be overcome with thoughts of hell, I turn my thoughts to the Cross and my distress becomes gratitude. Think of it – the Son of God bore the terrors of hell to save sinners like us! His love is beyond comprehension! When I shift my focus to Christ’s saving work, I am overwhelmed by His grace. I have a greater and deeper appreciation for His sufferings and the grace that He shows me.

- ✓ **Studying the doctrine of hell should stir you to bold praying and witness.**

The doctrine of hell should shatter our complacency concerning those who need

Jesus Christ. It should motivate us to pray for the lost and to share our faith. It should move us out of our comfort zone to labor for the souls of people through prayer and witness. Hell is real. Every person who does not know Jesus Christ is headed there. We must pray and share the good news of Jesus with them.

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