

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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My Journey In Prayerwalking

People often ask me, “Why prayerwalking?” When they ask me this question, I often share my testimony about prayerwalking. I was prayerwalking even before I knew what it was!

Many years ago, I was struggling with **1 Thessalonians 5:17**, “Pray without ceasing.” I wrestled with how to apply that truth in my personal life. The Holy Spirit began teaching me that God wanted more than just a quiet time with me. He wanted ongoing fellowship with me. God loved me so much that He wanted daily, ongoing contact with me.

At the same time, I read Brother Lawrence’s “Practicing The Presence of God.” It deeply impressed on my heart the need for an ongoing conversation with God. From the time I came to Christ as a preteen, I had a quiet time - reading the Word and spending time with God in

prayer. Yet, I came to see that my praying didn’t end when I finished my quiet time. It was only the beginning.

From that time on, I sought to practice this. Throughout the day, in the

places that I went, I talked to God about what I was seeing, what I was hearing, and what I was feeling.

I would love to tell you that I have faithfully practiced this. However, I haven’t. There have been times when I let the hectic pace of life draw my focus away from the Father. I have missed opportunities to pray that grieve my heart. Yet, my heart’s desire was to have that ongoing conversation with my Father no matter where I was.

In 1997, I felt the Lord leading me to begin The Prayer Closet Ministries. My heart’s desire was to strengthen and equip churches in prayer and intercession. The foundation of this ministry is that prayer has to be at the heart of the believer’s walk and the church’s life. Moreover, I knew that prayerwalking had to be one of the emphases of this ministry.

Let me be clear: I didn’t start this ministry because I’m an expert in prayer. Nothing could be further from the truth. I’m just one struggler laboring to encourage and bless other struggles. What you read in this newsletter and the other

publications of this ministry have been borne out of my own struggles, my own battles, my own failures, and my own growth in prayer.

As this ministry began to grow, I encountered people who talked about prayerwalking. As I talked to others and studied, I began seeing the power and usefulness of prayerwalking. I had been prayerwalking without even knowing what it was!

In the midst of all this, God opened a door for me to go on a mission trip to upstate New York and New York City. It was one of those spiritual markers in my walk with the Lord. We prayerwalked through the day into the night. At night, I would go back to my hotel room, pray, and write. The Holy Spirit was burdening me develop materials on this subject to encourage and equip other believers. He showed me that prayerwalking could be a ministry - both of the individual and the church.

One of the things that came out of that mission trip was prayerwalking prayer rings. I had the idea for putting Scripture prayers on laminated cards. I saw a two-fold purpose to this. First, it would be designed to help those who were first starting in prayerwalking. These prayer rings would give them some idea of how to pray as they prayerwalked. It would offer ideas on how to seek God as you prayerwalk.

Second, the prayer rings are designed to be a prayer starter. In other words, they are provided as a starting place to launch into deeper intercession. For those more experienced in

prayerwalking, the Scripture prayers are given to lead to other Scriptures and insights as you pray.

Our first prayerwalking prayer ring was "Prayers For Powerful Prayerwalking." This prayer ring has 31 Scripture prayers to use for prayerwalking. God has blessed it and it has been used around the world. We have developed other prayerwalking prayer rings and materials. We are in the process of putting together more materials to encourage and equip others in prayerwalking.

I guess at this point you can tell I'm convicted about prayerwalking by the believer and the church. It's true; I believe that it can be a crucial ministry that makes a difference in lives and cities and communities. However, I have encountered people who were skeptical of prayerwalking, even in opposition to prayerwalking.

One of the most common questions I'm asked is, "Where is prayerwalking taught in the Bible?" You're not going to find the word "prayerwalking" in the Bible. The practice of prayerwalking is built on biblical truths. **1 Thessalonians 5:17** is foundational to this practice. How can we pray without ceasing? It has to mean that we pray as we go - that we have an ongoing conversation with God. We can pray at any time and at any place.

At the same time, **1 Timothy 2:1-3** tells us that the church is to make intercession for all kinds of people. It's our responsibility to intercede for a variety of people and needs. Should this be confined to the church? Absolutely not!

The church is to go out and to pray in the streets, roads, and areas where the people and the needs are.

Because God wants us to pray always and wants us to pray for others, prayerwalking is a practical application of these biblical truths. It's a way to flesh out these truths on a practical level. Prayerwalking seeks to apply these truths in a personal way to daily life.

I do want to make it clear that prayerwalking is not a substitute for personal prayer or prayer meetings in the church. It is not a substitute for evangelism. It is not a substitute for ministering to the needs of people. It is a way to strengthen, support, and propel the praying, evangelizing, and ministering of believers and churches.

Prayerwalking is simply believers and churches going out into their cities and communities to pray. It is hitting the streets to pray for God's blessing and intervention in those places. It's not a mystical practice; it's just going out and praying God's Word in the places you desire for God to work and move. It's going out open to the leading of the Spirit to pray God's will for the area and to minister to those in that area.

There are some things that I want to share with you about my journey in prayerwalking. I'm not sure where you are concerning prayerwalking. Yet, from one struggler to another, I want to encourage and bless you. There are many more things that I've learned than I can share in this issue. I'll be doing that in coming issues of this newsletter.

However, these are some of the basic truths that I've learned:

- **God loves you so much that He wants to have an ongoing conversation with you.**

This is an incredible truth. Yet, it is true. God loves you so much that He wants to have an ongoing conversation with you. Your Father wants to know what you're seeing, what you're hearing, and what you're feeling every day. He delights in hearing your voice. He longs to hear from you. Imagine that! The almighty, eternal God loves you and wants to have an ongoing conversation with you. **1**

Thessalonians 5:17 is the proof of this startling truth. Your Father loves you and wants you to stay in touch with Him all through the day and the night. Your Father has saved you for a relationship with Him; He longs for ongoing contact with Him.

- **Meditate on the omnipresence of God.** The omnipresence of God means that God is fully present in all places at all times. God is everywhere. Wherever you go, God is there (**Psalm 139:7-10**). Why meditate on this? When I started meditating on this truth, it stirred my heart to pray. Since God is everywhere I go, I can talk to Him everywhere I go. God is at the office, the churches I go to, the grocery store, the gas station, Wal-Mart, the fitness center, the pasture, the roads and interstates – wherever I went, He was there and I could talk to Him there.

- **Ask God to teach you how to have an ongoing conversation with Him.**

In **Luke 11:1**, the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. That provides us with a powerful example. We are to ask God to teach us how to pray - how to seek after Him. What is prayer? It's an ongoing conversation with God. Ask your Father how to have an ongoing conversation with Him. Practicing the presence of God - having this ongoing conversation with God - is not easy. It goes against our flesh and the world. It is a challenge in the light of our busy schedules and the hectic pace of life. We need God's help and power to do this. When I first came to Christ, I asked God to teach me how to pray. I pray for this daily. I will pray for it until I breathe my last breathe. Call on the Father to teach you how to pray - how to have an ongoing conversation with Him.

Prayerwalking And Praise: **The Pictures Of God**

The following are pictures of God that you can use to praise Him as you prayerwalk.

Architect-Hebrews 11:10
 Bear Robbed of Her Cubs-Hosea 13:8
 Birds Hovering Overhead-Isaiah 31:5
 Bridegroom-Isaiah 62:5
 Builder-Hebrews 11:10
 Cart-Amos 2:13
 Confidence-Psalm 71:6; Proverbs 3:25
 Consuming Fire-Deuteronomy 4:24;
 Hebrews 12:29

Defender-Psalm 68:5; Proverbs 23:10
 Deliverer-2 Samuel 22:2
 Devouring Fire-Deuteronomy 9:3
 Dew-Hosea 14:5
 Dwelling Place-Psalm 90:1, 91:9
 Eagle-Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 32:10
 Enemy-Jeremiah 30:14; Lamentations 2:4
 Ever-Present Help-Psalm 46:1
 Friend from Youth-Jeremiah 3:4
 Gardener-John 15:1
 Glorious Crown-Isaiah 28:5
 Glorious Sword-Deuteronomy 33:29
 Green Pine Tree-Hosea 14:8
 Hiding Place-Psalm 32:7
 Husband-Isaiah 54:5; Jeremiah 3:14, 31:32;
 Ezekiel 16:32; Hosea 2:16
 Keeper-Psalm 121:5
 Lamp-2 Samuel 22:9
 Leader-2 Chronicles 13:12
 Leopard-Hosea 13:7
 Lion-Isaiah 31:4
 Mighty Warrior-Jeremiah 20:11
 Portion-Psalm 73:26, 119:57, 142:5;
 Lamentations 3:24
 Reward-Genesis 15:1
 Song-Exodus 15:2; Isaiah 12:2
 Sun-Psalm 84:11
 Support-Psalm 18:18
 True Pasture-Jeremiah 50:7

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