

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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Praying Outside The Box

You may be wondering what “praying outside the box” means. This means learning to pray beyond your personal concerns. Sometimes our praying focuses only on certain topics – personal issues and needs, family, friends, and church. Our praying concentrates only on what directly affects us. It is boxed in and deals only with a narrow set of concerns.

Yet, God wants you to pray outside the box. God desires that you stretch your praying to the whole world. He wants you to intercede for nations, world leaders, missionaries, and people groups. He longs for you to join Him in His global mission through your praying. He yearns to move you outside of your box and into the world.

Our God is the global God. His compassion reaches to the ends of the earth. His heart beats to bring the peoples of the world to Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but has purposed to extend His love and

grace to the nations through the gospel. Your God, the global God, calls you to pray for His gracious work in the world.

We have to strive to practice “Kingdom praying.” Jesus commands His people to pray, “Your kingdom come” (**Matthew 6:10**). Through this phrase, Jesus invites you to pray for the salvation of sinners across this world. This is Kingdom praying; it is praying outside of the box. He summons you to plead for the spread of the gospel to every person in the human race. He compels you to ask for the fulfillment of the Father’s promise, “Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession” (**Psalms 2:8**).

In this issue, we will examine why we have to learn to pray outside the box. We will look at some hindrances to praying for the world. Moreover, we will offer some practical suggestions on how you can pray for the world.

God And The World

Why should you pray for the world and the spread of the gospel? The Bible offers a variety of reasons for this.

Read and meditate on **Psalm 67, 86:8-10, Psalm 97:1; Psalm 117.**

The first reason that you should do this is because God is worthy to be made known to the nations. Our God is the glorious God of heaven and earth. He is righteous, holy, wise, and sovereign. He abounds in goodness and mercy. He forgives sin and grants eternal life. He blesses with good and perfect gifts. He hears and answers prayer. There is no other God but Him and Him alone. All other gods are false and are unworthy comparisons to the true and living God of the Bible. The nations need to hear of such a glorious and good God. They need to know about His character and His commands. God is worthy to be proclaimed to the nations of the world. Those who know His glorious character and commands are the best equipped to share this knowledge with the world. Since God is worthy to be proclaimed and we know His glorious character, it is our responsibility to pray that His character is made known. You should be pleading that the nations will know intimately this glorious and living God. It is our privilege to pray that the nations of the world will come to know the awesome God of the Bible.

Read and meditate on **Isaiah 49:6.**

It needs to be remembered that God is a universal God. God's compassion and mercy extends to the ends of the earth. He is a God whose concern is not limited to a nation or a race. His desire is that the nations of the world hear about His glorious character and commands. If we are growing in godliness, our compassion and concern will extend to the nations of the world. It will be our desire to see the nations hear of His greatness and see them respond to Him by faith in Christ and repentance toward Him. Kingdom praying honors God because it acknowledges His universal purpose.

Read and meditate on **Matthew 28:18-20.**

Another reason that you should pray for missionaries is the command of Christ. In **Matthew 28:19-20**, the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded His church to carry the Word of God to the very ends of the earth. This is the marching order of the church. The Lord Jesus Christ has assigned this task to us. An essential part of this task is intercessory prayer. To fail to do this is to sin against the Lord Jesus Christ. The good news about Him and His sacrifice on the cross is to be declared to the whole world. This can be accomplished by people going and by people praying. In order to do what Jesus Christ has commanded, we must pour ourselves out in intercession

for missionaries and the spread of the gospel.

Read and meditate on **Romans 10:13-15, 17**.

Faith comes from hearing the Word of God. If a person is going to be brought into a right relationship with God, that person must hear the Word of God. This is Paul's point in **Romans 10:13-15**. People must hear the Word of God and respond to its truth in order to be brought into a right relationship with Him. The Holy Spirit creates faith and repentance in people as they hear the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**). If people do not hear the message, they cannot exercise true faith in God and repentance toward Him. For this reason, people must hear the Word of God. It is crucial that missionaries are sent to proclaim the Word of God so that people can hear and respond to its truth. A part of sending missionaries is praying that God will empower them to proclaim the message and cause those who hear the message to respond in faith and repentance.

Read and meditate on **John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:17-32**.

Another reason for praying for the spread of the gospel is that people need Jesus Christ. In **John 14:6**, Christ declares that He is the only truth, the only way, and the only life. He states that He is the only way to the true knowledge of God and of a personal relationship with Him. In

Acts 4:12, the Bible announces that it is only by Jesus Christ that a person can be saved from sin and delivered from the eternal wrath of God. Without Jesus Christ, people are perishing in their sin. They are going further and deeper into sin and rebellion away from God (**Romans 1:17-32**). They will be cast into an eternal hell unless they come to know and surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is the Savior of sinners. He is the only anointed and appointed Savior of sinners. People must be encountered with Him and His claims. This can happen only if someone goes and someone prays.

Read and meditate on **Romans 15:30**.

You need to pray for the spread of the gospel because it will not happen without intercession. The Apostle Paul, the great missionary of the Christian faith, pled with Christians to pray for him, his co-laborers, and their work on the mission field (**Romans 15:30**). Paul realized the magnitude of having other Christians praying for him and his labors on the mission field. He understood that he could not be effective in doing what God had called him to do without the intercession of Christians. On the mission field, Paul faced numerous problems--opposition, financial concerns, sorrow, hardship, laboring to share the gospel plainly and clearly with people. The same is true today. Missionaries must have other Christians interceding for them, their needs, and their ministries. They cannot be

effective in doing what God has called them to do without the prayers of other Christians. You can join these missionaries in their labors, share in their victories, and help meet their needs by praying for them. The spread of the gospel will take place only as believers plead with God for the nations and missionaries.

Time For A Spiritual Check-Up!

Based on the following truths from God's Word, we now need to take a spiritual-check-up. Ask the Spirit of God to search you. Plead with His help to answer honestly.

How would you describe your praying for the world and missionaries? Are you praying in "a box"?

Is your church dedicated to praying for the world? Does it pray fervently for missionaries? Why or why not?

There are a variety of reasons for praying for the world and the spread of the gospel. Yet, why is God's character the greatest incentive and motivation for doing this?

What do you think hinders believers from praying for the world and missionaries? What needs to be done to remove the hindrances?

Praying The Word

Spend some time in silence before the Lord today. Meditate on the questions, "Am I praying in a box? Is my prayer life dominated only by what goes on in my world - my life? How does God want to change my prayer life?" Ask the Spirit to search you. Plead with God to give your church and you a heart for the world. Call on Him to teach you how to pray for the spread of the gospel. Pray that He will make you into a vessel through which He brings countless people to Himself through Jesus.

The following is a guide to help you learn how to pray outside the box:

- ◆ **Monday:** Pray that the nation or people will be freed from the grip of Satan and sin. Call on God to deliver them from being enslaved from the devil. Ask God to deal with and remove anything that the devil is using to keep a foothold in this nation. Plead that the Lord Jesus Christ will set them free from the power of the devil.
- **Tuesday:** Pray that God will raise up missionaries who will go to and labor in this nation. Ask God to raise up qualified and dedicated missionaries who will give their lives to share the gospel and to minister to these people.
- **Wednesday:** Pray that God will empower the missionaries and the believers who are already there to faithfully and powerfully share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Call on God to give them a new and fresh boldness for the Word of God. Ask God to anoint their preaching and teaching of the Word of God. Plead with the Holy Spirit to work through their witness and to transform the lives of those who hear the Word of God.
- **Thursday:** Pray that the nation's leaders would be sympathetic (or at least neutral) to the efforts of the missionaries bringing the gospel and other help (such as medicine, agriculture, education, and industry). Call on God to make them open to missionaries and their message. Plead with God to convert high-ranking officials and that He would give them a burden about establishing Christianity among the people.
- **Friday:** Plead for opportunities and openings for the gospel to penetrate the nation or the unreached people group. Pray that God will give the missionaries freedom to operate and that He would remove any opposition. Call on God to provide the finances and resources for the evangelizing and discipling of this nation or unreached people group.
- **Saturday:** Pray that God would strengthen the believers and the churches that have been established or are being established. Pray that the churches would be able to worship unhindered. Call on God to give the believers grace and power to

stand for Christ, especially against persecution.

- **Sunday:** Plead with God to raise up intercessors for the nation or the people group. Pray that God will burden believers with a concern for the nations of the world and that He will give them a desire and willingness to intercede for the nations.

Evangelistic Praying: Hearing And Receiving The Gospel

Father, I plead in the name of Jesus Christ that You will open _____'s heart so that he/she can receive the Word of God (**Acts 16:14**).

Father, I pray that You will raise up powerful and concerned witnesses who will share the gospel with _____. I plead that _____ will respect these witnesses and will listen to their testimony. Send witnesses into _____'s life that can gain his/her ear (**Romans 10:14-15**).

Father, I ask that _____ will hear Your Word. I pray that _____ would be continually confronted with the truth and the claims of Your gospel. I plead that this message would be presented to him/her everywhere he/she goes (**2 Timothy 3:15**).

I ask You, God, to speak powerfully and clearly through Your Word to _____. I plead that the Word will be living and active in his/her life. O God, make Your Word sharper than any two-edged sword as he/she hears it. Let it penetrate _____'s heart and mind, revealing his/her sinfulness and showing him/her the only hope of salvation (**Hebrews 4:12**).

Father, Your Word is compared to a hammer. I plead that Your Word would shatter all of _____'s excuses and rationalizations for refusing to come to Christ. Let it break _____'s hardened heart (**Jeremiah 29:23**).

Father, I plead that You would use Your Word to reveal _____'s sin to him/her. Your Word is like a mirror. As he/she hears the Word of God, let _____ see himself/herself as he/she really is—sinful, lost, headed to hell, and in need of the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let _____ take a long, hard look at himself/herself through the mirror of Your Word (**James 1:23-25**).

Father, Your Word is perfect. I pray that You will convert _____ through Your Word. Make _____ wise unto salvation through Your Word (**Psalm 19:7**).

I plead that Your Word would be a lamp to _____'s feet. Let

Your Word be a light to his/her path. Use Your Word to guide _____ out of the darkness of sin to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (**Psalm 119:105**).

Father, I pray that _____ would not simply hear the gospel but that he/she would also obey it. When _____ hears the gospel, enable him/her to respond to it with surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. Do not let _____ him/her deceive himself/herself. Do not allow him/her to think that hearing the gospel is enough. Convict him/her of the necessity of hearing and responding with faith and repentance when he/she hears the gospel (**James 1:22; Luke 11:28**).

Father, I plead that _____ would be quick to listen to Your Word. I ask that _____ will carefully and seriously consider Your Word. Do not let busyness hinder him/her from hearing the Word of God (**James 1:19**).

Father, Your Word is like gold. I pray that _____ will treasure Your Word more than gold. Make it more precious to him/her than anything this world offers. Do this so that _____ will hear the Word and respond to it (**Psalm 19:9-10**).

Father, Your Word is like honey. I pray that _____ will desire it above all things. Let him/her understand it

and enable him/her to obey it (**Psalm 119:103**).

Praying John 3:19

John 3:19—"Their judgment is based on this fact: The light from heaven came into the world, but they loved darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil."

Father, I praise You for sending Jesus. He is the Light that pierces the darkness of sin. Father, _____ is a sinner and is lost. He/She is under Your righteous condemnation because he/she loves sin more than Jesus. _____ prefers a sinful lifestyle above following Jesus. I ask You to convict _____ of his/her sin. Make sin so bitter and awful that _____ will no longer love sin and reject Jesus and His salvation. I ask that You will show _____ the necessity and blessedness of following Jesus. I pray that _____ will turn from sin to genuine faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessing Unbelieving Families

The following is a prayer that you can use to plead for God's blessing on families that need Jesus. You can use this prayer or develop your own from it. This prayer is based on **Psalm 127**. The crucial issue is to understand that only God can save families and then build

them up into a godly home. You are to plead with Him to bless these families with His grace and power.

Father, I commit _____ into Your hands. Your Word declares that unless You build the house, those who build it labor in vain. Father, they do not have the power to build and keep this family together. It is only through You that they can be a family and grow as a family. I ask for Your blessing on this family. Meet all their needs—physically, spiritually, emotionally, and financially. I ask that You would draw all of them to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Let Your power love and wisdom flow into their lives.

Protect them from all the attacks of our enemy, Satan. Cut off any avenue that he might attempt to attack them. Cause this family to grow in grace and in the knowledge of You. Let this family shine as an example of what You intend the family to be. Remove any obstacles that would hinder this family from becoming what You want it to be. Through the good and bad of life, let Your grace, peace, and love surround and fill our family.

O God, save this family; transform them by Your Word and Spirit. Cause this family to be a force for righteousness. Empower them so that they can have a powerful, positive impact for the Lord Jesus Christ. Use this family as an instrument for carrying out Your purposes. Glorify Your name through this family. Amen.

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