

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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Learning How To Prayerwalk

Luke 11:1 declares that Jesus was praying in a certain place. His disciples heard Him pray. When He had finished praying, one of the disciples made a request of Him. What did the disciple request of Jesus?

This request provides us with a basic insight concerning prayer – prayer is learned. When you come to Christ, there is a desire in your heart to pray. You have this desire because you are a new creature with a changed nature. The Holy Spirit also creates within you the desire to communicate with God. You now have a Father who wants to hear from you and speak to You.

Do you truly believe this? What hinders you from believing this?

Yet, prayer has to be learned. You must grow in your ability to communicate with God. When a baby is born, that baby does not know how to communicate as an adult. He has to learn words. He then has to make sentences. This leads to communicating in ways that are more complex.

When you are born again, the process begins of learning how to communicate with God. In other words, you have to learn how to pray. You must grow in your ability to communicate with God. No one enters the Christian life knowing how to pray. It is something that the Spirit teaches us over time through the Word and the practice of prayer.

At the same time, you must learn to prayerwalk. You must grow in your ability to pray in all places for the people you encounter. Most of us spend our days oblivious to what goes on around us. We do not pay attention to the people we encounter or the places

that we go. We allow our minds to be occupied with everything but God and speaking to Him.

However, God wants you to develop an intimate relationship with Him where you talk with Him at all times. God desires to have an ongoing conversation with you. Can you imagine that? The almighty God of time and eternity longs to hear from you and to speak to you. The good news is that God desires that you learn how to pray - wherever you are and for those you encounter. He is willing to teach You. He is ready to equip you and empower you.

Look at the following Scriptures. What do these verses tell you about God's willingness to hear and speak?

Deuteronomy 4:7

Deuteronomy 4:29

1 Chronicles 16:11

Psalm 34:15

Psalm 34:17

Psalm 86:5,7

Jeremiah 33:3

Matthew 7:7

James 5:16

These verses provide abundant evidence that God wants an intimate relationship with you - a relationship where He listens and speaks to you. He longs to have an ongoing conversation with you. He wants you to prayerwalk because prayerwalking is an ongoing talking and listening to God!

What do you feel are the hindrances to you having an ongoing conversation with God?

Confess these hindrances to God right now. Pray for their removal! God is ready to move you past the hindrances into deeper, more effective praying and prayerwalking.

Plead with God today to teach you how to pray and prayerwalk. Pray that your life will be filled with prayer. Ask Him to remove anything that would hinder your growth in this area. Call on Him to create within you a clean heart and a right spirit.

Releasing The Power of God Jeremiah 32:17

Prayer is unique because it releases God's power into lives and situations. Prayer is like a funnel. It takes the almighty, life-transforming power of God and channels it directly into lives and situations. It focuses the power of God on needs and burdens. It channels God's almighty power into the areas, which we pray over.

According to **Jeremiah 32:17**, how did God create the heavens and the earth?

Is anything too hard for God's great power and outstretched arm?

What does this verse teach you about God's power? How does this apply to your prayerwalking?

What do the following Scriptures tell you about the power of God?

Genesis 18:14

Exodus 15:6

1 Samuel 14:6

Psalms 93:4

Psalms 115:3

Psalms 135:5-6

Luke 1:37

powerfully and effectively for the lost. These characteristics are summarized in the acrostic **C.A.L.L.**

Romans 4:20-21

God's power is real, almighty, and life-transforming. When you prayerwalk, you release that power into lives and situations. You have the incredible opportunity and privilege to make a distinct difference in the lives of everyone and everything around you. As you prayerwalk, you take advantage of this opportunity and privilege. Your praying and prayerwalking brings change because it releases His almighty power.

When God releases His power, there is nothing too hard for Him! In fact, the impossible becomes the possible.

God's C.A.L.L. To Prayer Evangelism

God is calling you to pray for the lost. He desires that you plead for the salvation of those who are outside of Jesus Christ. His call to pray for the lost is a call to develop some characteristics in your life. There are some characteristics that you will need to pray

Commitment

Praying for lost people requires commitment on your part. Leading a person to Jesus Christ is a process. The apostle Paul teaches this in **1 Corinthians 3:6**, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." Paul uses farming to illustrate the process of a person coming to Christ and maturing in the faith. A farmer has to work the land, plant the seed, weed out the grass, water the seed, and trust God for the increase. In the same way, there are a variety of steps that take place before a person comes to Jesus Christ in faith and repentance. You must witness, love, set an example, and trust God for His work in this person's life. Prayer is the essential element in each of these steps. Just as a farmer is diligent to work over a period of time, you must be diligent to pray for the long haul.

Your praying for lost people should be characterized by the words of **Luke 18:1**, "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men ought always to pray and not to lose heart." You must be committed to praying regardless of the circumstances. No matter how difficult the circumstances or the hardness of the person's heart, you cannot lose heart. You must keep on seeking God for the salvation of the lost. You should base

your commitment on the promise of Galatians 6:9, “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

A mother named Monica had a wayward son. This son was rebellious and hardhearted. He lived with a mistress at sixteen. He fathered an illegitimate child. He eventually joined a cult. He would not listen to his mother’s talk about her Christian faith and beliefs. Yet, this mother persisted in prayer. She was committed to pray for her son. After nineteen years, her prayers prevailed. Her son surrendered his life to Jesus Christ. Her son was Augustine, who eventually became one of the great leaders and theologians of the early church.

When praying for the lost, you must be committed to praying for a long period of time. Praying for the lost requires a commitment to pray for the long haul. It may take many days and even years of intercession before you see a lost person come to Christ. However, you cannot give up or quit. As Andrew Murray writes, “Prayer must often be ‘heaped up’ until God sees its measure is full. Then the answer comes. Just as each of ten thousand seeds is a part of the final harvest, frequently repeated, persevering prayer is necessary to acquire a desired blessing . . . Real faith can never be disappointed never be disappointed. It knows that to exercise its power, it must be gathered up, just

like the water, until the stream can come down in full force.”¹

Aggressiveness

When praying for the lost, you must be aggressive. You must pray in faith. You must plead with intensity. There can be no passive praying when interceding for those outside of Jesus Christ. There are two basic reasons for this.

This person’s condition requires you to be aggressive. The lost person is under the wrath of God (**John 3:18**). He or she has fallen short of the glory of God (**Romans 3:23**). He or she has earned physical and spiritual death and eternal damnation through sin (**Romans 6:23**). The lost person cannot earn or merit God’s salvation (**Ephesians 2:8-9; Isaiah 64:6**).

The Word of God declares that man is in a desperate condition, “And you He made alive, who were dead in sins and trespasses, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others” (**Ephesians 2:1-3**). The only hope that any person has is Jesus Christ and His transforming power. Through prayer, this person can

¹ Andrew Murray, *With Christ In The School Of Prayer*, (Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1981), 119.

enter into a relationship with Christ. He or she can be led to surrender to Christ through your agonizing intercession. It is only when you pray and this person is moved to surrender to Christ that this person will experience salvation and deliverance from this desperate condition. The sinner's condition should motivate you to pray with all your might.

The sinner's enemy should motivate you to pray aggressively. Satan desires to damn the lost person to hell forever. Jesus declares that He is a murderer and liar (**John 8:44**). He is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (**1 Peter 5:8**). He labors to blind the minds of lost people in order to keep them from hearing and believing the gospel (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).

Prayer is the weapon that stops this enemy and frustrates His wicked and deceitful plans. Prayer releases the power of God into a person's life. Satan cannot stand against the power of God. He cannot hold the lost person when the transforming power of God flows into a person's life. That power is released when you pray. The lost person's enemy should cause you to be aggressive in praying.

Listening

Praying for the lost requires listening to God. God wants to guide you in your praying. Yet, you must listen for His voice. You must discipline yourself to listen to Him. He can

provide you with insights that you will need to plead with Him for lost people. This is an essential for powerful evangelistic praying. A "hearing ear" can enable you to pray with power and insight for a lost person. It will give you the opportunity to move beyond superficial praying.

God speaks to the believer in a variety of ways. His primary way of speaking is through the Word of God. As you read, study, memorize, meditate on, and obey the Word, God will speak to you. He will give you Scripture verses and insights that you will need to pray for the lost. Other ways that God speaks is through prayer, circumstances, people, and distinct leadings. The key issue is to be open to hear God's voice. Pray for sensitivity to His voice in your life. These insights or verses may lead to a breakthrough with the lost person.

One morning, a believer was pouring out fervent intercession for a young man. This young man was lost and needed Jesus Christ. The believer had witnessed to him on many occasions and prayed fervently for him over a long period of time. Yet, he had refused to surrender his life to Christ. On this morning, as he prayed, the question "*If not now, when?*" kept coming to mind. He discerned that it was the Holy Spirit speaking to him concerning this lost young man. He knew that the Holy Spirit was leading him to say this to the young man.

Later that day, this believer saw the young man. He flagged him down. He said to the young man, "I only have one thing to say to you. If not now, when?" The young man broke down and wept. He told this believer that in the last couple of days he had been under severe conviction. In his mind, the only question he could hear was, "*If not now, when?*" Right then and there, he surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Listening to God was crucial in bringing this young man to Jesus Christ. The same will be true in your intercession and witnessing to the lost. God can and will give you insights to pray for and witness to those who are outside of Jesus Christ. These insights may help you pray more specifically for the lost person. They might help you break through another layer of sin or hardness of heart. They might even lead to a breakthrough, which will lead this person to surrender to Jesus Christ. As you are in the Word of God, pray, and witness, you must listen for His leadings in this matter.

Love

A final characteristic that is needed in praying for the lost is love. The believer who prays powerfully for the lost will need a deep love for God. This has to be couple with a love for lost people. Love for God and for the lost should motivate you to pray for the lost.

What is the great commandment? Jesus declares that it is, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment" (**Matthew 22:37-38**). You are to love God with your entire being. If you love God, shouldn't you want Him to be glorified person who knows and loves God has a burning desire to see Him glorified. The believer wants God to be known as the great and mighty God of all time and eternity.

How is God glorified the most? He is glorified the most when people are saved through Jesus Christ. He is honored and magnified when a sinner is transformed through His love and power. When lost people are saved, it exalts God as the merciful and powerful God. If God is the most glorified through lost people being saved, shouldn't this fuel your fire to pray? Love for God should stir you to plead for the salvation of sinners. You should pray for the lost so that God can be glorified in their salvation.

Love for lost people should also fan the flames of your praying. In **Matthew 22:39**, Jesus declares your responsibility to others, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Loving your neighbor means caring about them and desiring the best for them. If you love others, shouldn't you want them to experience the greatest thing ever—a personal relationship with God? Shouldn't you desire that they be

delivered from eternal hell? They do not have a relationship to God. They are headed for hell. You are the only hope that they have. The condition and needs of lost people should stir your love for them, to the point that you pour your heart out in agonizing intercession for them. Love is not just a feeling; it is characterized by action. When you love lost people, you will pray for them.

Jesus Christ was declared the Friend of sinners (**Luke 15:1-2**). He was moved to minister to the lost because of love, "But when he saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered and had no shepherd" (**Matthew 9:36**). When He saw how lost and miserable people were, He acted, "Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, 'If You are willing, You can make me clean.' Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched Him, and said to Him, 'I am willing; be cleansed'" (**Mark 1:40-41**).

Just as Jesus did, when you see the need and the condition of a lost person, it should stir you to act—to pray. Your love for that person can motivate you to offer powerful intercession for him or her. The comedienne Joan Rivers tells of a time when she was petrified on stage. She wore her glasses on stage! She could actually see the faces of the people. She could see their expressions. This terrified her. She ran off stage because of this experience. She would

only go back on the stage without the glasses. When she did this, the people were only a blur. They did not affect her then.

This often happens to believers. We lose sight of how desperate the lost person's condition is. We are blinded to the fact that they are separated from God and under His wrath. We forget about their lostness and their eternal destiny. The people that surround us and that we meet become just a blur. When this happens, we have no burden. We are not effective or intense in praying for or witnessing to the lost.

Yet, you must put on your "spiritual glasses". You must see them as the Lord Jesus Christ sees them. You must develop His vision when looking at the needs of lost people. They are lost, bound, and perishing. Out of a passionate love for them, you must be concerned and you must pray. Love for lost people can motivate you to pray powerfully and consistently for them.

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