

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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The Heart of Prayerwalking

One of my earliest experiences of prayerwalking came during revival services at a church. Of course, at the time, I didn't realize that it was prayerwalking that I was doing. Yet, God taught me valuable lessons about prayerwalking during this meeting.

I was preaching in revival services in a church in Mississippi. It was a series of services from Sunday through Wednesday night. During these services, I struggled to preach. It seemed as if there was a stone wall between the pulpit and the congregation. A coldness, a deadness, permeated that church.

On Tuesday afternoon, I drove into the parking lot of the church. I had arrived early and was the only one there. As I sat in my car, I began pouring my heart out to God. My heart had such a heavy burden for this church and the meeting. I cried out to God to move and work here.

As I prayed, the story of Joshua and Jericho came to my mind. I turned to that story and started reading it. As I read it, I felt prompted to get out of my car and to walk around the church and pray. I can't remember how many times I walked around that church but I did it repeatedly. As I walked, I pray. I wept. I cried out to God. I sought the Lord for a fresh and powerful work in that church.

When people began pulling into the parking lot, I went back to my car and got my Bible and notebook. The church members had prepared a meal for those involved in the services. After the meal and a time of fellowship with them, I slipped off into the sanctuary.

When I went into the sanctuary, I prayed over every pew. I prayed for the people who would be in the pews. I asked God for a powerful work in their lives. I cried out for God to glorify His name in this place.

When the service started that night, you could sense a tangible difference. The worship was permeated with the powerful sense of God's presence. When I stood to preach, there was a liberty that I had not had at any time during those services. When I preached, I could sense the power of the Holy Spirit working and moving.

During and after the service, people began weeping. There were people confessing their sins. There were people seeking to reconcile with others in the congregation. Eight people professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I stood back in amazement. The coldness, the deadness that permeated that church had dissipated. There was a powerful sense of God's presence and power.

What made the difference? I believe it was prayer. It certainly wasn't because of me. However, I'm firmly convicted that the desperate pleading as I walked around that church and in that church made the difference.

Now, has this happened every time I've prayerwalked around a church? No, it hasn't. I'm certainly not prescribing it as a formula for revival.

Yet, my point is that God taught me what the heart of prayerwalking is all about. What is the heart of prayerwalking? It's brokenness. It is desperate pleading with God for Him and His work. I had no idea what prayerwalking was. I had no concept of

this even though that's what I was doing. What God honored was a brokenness that desperately wanted God's blessing and work in a place (**Isaiah 57:15**).

I've had the opportunity to do seminars and conferences on prayerwalking. It's been my privilege to seek to equip and encourage believers in this. Yet, the bottom line is that there is no substitute for brokenness. There's nothing that can take the place of desperate pleading for God's work and blessing in a place.

You can know much about prayerwalking. You can be equipped with various tools to prayerwalk. Yet, if you don't have a desperate longing to see God work and move, it doesn't really matter what else you have. If you're not broken for a place, for a people, it doesn't matter what tools you have to prayerwalk. What God honors and blesses is broken, desperate pleading with Him. This is what makes the difference. God hears the cries of His broken people when they want to see Him glorified and people transformed in a place. That's the heart of prayerwalking!

Prayerwalking Your Church

A unique way to pray for your church is by prayerwalking the facilities. This simple but powerful ministry will yield fruit in time. You might consider

it unusual to prayerwalk your church. Yet, there are some persuasive motivations for this.

- (1) *It enables you to saturate your church in prayer.* Prayerwalking your church will enable you to cover every aspect of your church's worship and ministry. It will provide you with the opportunity to cover your church consistently with prayer.
- (2) *It can renew your passion to pray for your church.* As you walk and pray through your church, it can ignite your intercession. It can stir your heart to faithful and fervent pleading for your body of believers.
- (3) *It can provide you with fresh insight to pray.* As you prayerwalk your church, it will bring to your heart and mind various requests to pray for your church. It puts you in the position to hear afresh and anew from the Holy Spirit concerning your church.
- (4) *It is an excellent way to introduce believers to prayerwalking.* Before they hit the streets, they can start learning the "how-tos" of this ministry at the church. Prayerwalking the church is a good way to get believers started in prayerwalking. By doing this, they can learn the basics and get used to praying on-site with

insight. This can prepare them for prayerwalking in other places and areas.

- (5) *This can become a ministry that believers carry out.* You might consider developing teams that will prayerwalk your church on a consistent basis. These teams will rotate on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. Each team will go through the church praying the Word and the insights that Holy Spirit provides. By doing this, you can saturate your church in prayer. This ministry will bear fruit in time.

The following are some suggestions on how to prayerwalk your church.

The front doors: Pray that people will sense and know the presence and power of God as they enter; plead that their hearts will be prepared to receive what God will speak in the worship services.

The pews: Ask that every person sitting in that pew will be touched and transformed by the power of God; pray for a deep work of the Spirit in each person in that pew.

The altar: Plead that people will seek God and experience His healing power at the altar; pray that people will repent and turn to God in faith.

The pulpit: Pray that the Word of God will be preached powerfully from the

pulpit; ask that the worship leader and the pastor will be anointed and empowered to lead the church in worship and the Word.

The choir loft: Plead that the church will worship God in spirit and truth; ask that the worship services will be pleasing to God.

The piano and/or organ: Pray that people will be prepared to worship; ask that people will sing and worship from their heart; plead that the worship will not be a routine – simply going through the motions but an experience with God.

The baptistery or baptismal fount: Pray that people will come to Christ in true faith and confess Him before men; ask that your church will love and win the lost to Jesus Christ.

The Sunday School rooms: Plead that the people in the class will have a heart for the truth; pray that the people in the class will grow to maturity; ask that the teacher will be prepared and empowered to teach.

The fellowship hall: Ask that the church will grow in its fellowship; plead that there will be greater unity among the believers.

The nursery: Pray that the children in the nursery will be raised in the nurture

and the admonition of the Lord; ask that they will turn to Jesus in faith and repentance.

The parking lot: Ask that many people will come and “park” their lives at your church; pray that God will fill the parking lot of your church with the cars of those who are seeking Him and His Word.

The church sign: Pray that your church will be a sign to your community of what God’s power and grace can do.

These are only suggestions that can help you see the variety of ways that you can prayerwalk your church. These are offered just to help you get started. As you prayerwalk, you will receive many other insights that you can use to intercede for your church. When you faithfully prayerwalk your church, you will see fruit. You will see changes. Prayerwalk and cling to **Galatians 6:9!**

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