

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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Praying for Your Personal Witness

God desires that you share your faith in Jesus with the lost around you. He wants you to make known who Jesus is and how people can be forgiven and changed through Him. Praying for your witness is essential in telling others about Jesus and leading them to Him.

Acts 1:8 calls for every believer to be a witness of Jesus Christ. Jesus reveals that He will spread the good news of salvation through His people, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (**Acts 1:8**). As believers go through life, they are to share their faith in Jesus that others might trust in Christ. This is the heart and thrust of **Acts 1:8**.

Yet, how can a believer effectively share his faith in Jesus with those who are lost and in need of Jesus? Prayer is the essential key for sharing your faith in Jesus. Through prayer, you can reach out to others who need the Lord Jesus Christ. Praying for your witness is crucial to your reaching out to the lost.

Examining The Word

Read and meditate on the following verses. What do these verses teach about praying for your witness?

Acts 14:27; 2 Corinthians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 16:9

These verses reveal that prayer provides you with opportunities to witness. Through prayer, you can receive opportunities to share Jesus with others. It opens the door for us to talk to others about Jesus. As we call

on God, He will cross our paths with others who stand in need of a witness.

Ephesians 6:19; Colossians 4:3-4

These verses teach that prayer prepares us to witness. Through prayer, God gets us ready to speak to others about Jesus Christ. It is only as you spend time with God that you can be prepared and ready to share your faith in Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

This text of Scripture teaches that prayer removes the obstacle to our witness. Paul asked the Thessalonians to pray that the word would run swiftly in Corinth. He was asking them to pray that the obstacles to the gospel would be removed and that there would be no hindrances to his preaching. Prayer unleashes the power of God into peoples' lives. This power can remove any obstacle to the gospel in peoples' lives.

Colossians 4:2 and Colossians 3-4

As we ask for open doors into the hearts and lives of people, it will make us more sensitive to those around us who need Jesus. As we pray it will make us sober and vigilant concerning the lost. The more you seek God for the lost and opportunities to share, the more you will have a burden and concern for those who are lost.

Matthew 7:7

This verse reveals that we must ask for opportunities to share our faith in the lives of others. God is willing to give us those opportunities. If we will ask, we will be given opportunities. If we will seek Him for people to share with, we will find them. If we knock, we will be granted open doors into the lives of people.

APPLYING THE TRUTH TO MY LIFE

How does prayer affect your witness? Summarize the five truths that the Bible teaches about prayer and your witness.

Praying The Truth Into My Heart

God will use you and bless you as a personal witness of Jesus. If you will pray for your witness, you can be a tool for leading your neighbors to Jesus. The following is a prayer guide that you can use to pray for your witness. Use this on a regular basis during your prayer times.

Desperation – Call on God to create a holy desperation in you for the lost. Plead that He will create within your church a longing to see the lost come to Christ (Romans 9:1-3).

Opportunities – Pray that God will provide you with numerous opportunities to share your faith in Jesus. Plead that your church will see the opportunities it has to impact its community for Christ (Colossians 4:2-4).

Obstacles – Search your heart; what hinders you from being a powerful witness for Jesus Christ? Plead that God will enable you to remove the obstacles that hinder you from sharing your faith in Jesus. Ask that God would do this for your church (Matthew 7:7-11).

Readiness – Plead that God will prepare you to share your faith with those you encounter. Ask that He will prepare your heart and mind for witnessing (1 Peter 3:15).

Spirit – Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit in your witnessing. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to share your faith. Plead that the Spirit's power

The Bible teaches that we can pray for “open doors” for the gospel. What is meant by the phrase “open doors”?

Prayer can remove the obstacles to the gospel in a person's life. What are some obstacles to the gospel in a person's life?

What would hinder a believer from witnessing? What hinders you from witnessing? How can prayer make a difference in this (Ephesians 6:19; Colossians 4:3-4)?

would stir and embolden your church (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 4:31).

Evangelistic Prayer: **The Person Of Jesus Christ**

The following Scriptures have been designed to help you pray for the salvation of the lost. These prayers will enable you to pray for the person to come to see who Jesus is and their need to embrace Him as personal Savior and Lord.

Father, I ask that _____ will see and understand that salvation only comes through Jesus Christ (**Acts 4:12**).

Father, I plead that _____ will see that Jesus Christ is the only appointed and empowered Savior (**Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18-21**).

I pray that _____ will know with certainty that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, even God in human flesh (**John 1:1, 14**).

Father, I ask that _____ will know that Jesus Christ is the only hope that he/she has for salvation from sin and damnation in hell forever (**John 3:16-18**).

I plead that _____ will know that Jesus Christ has come to give life and life more abundantly (**John 10:10**).

Father, I pray that _____ will see and understand that Jesus Christ is full of love and compassion for sinners (**Luke 15**).

Father, I plead that _____ will know and rest completely in the truth that Jesus Christ has the power to save him/her and to change his/her life (**Matthew 8:1-4**).

Father, I ask that _____ will see and understand that genuine and lasting peace and hope comes only through Jesus Christ (**Matthew 11:28**).
Father, I pray that _____ will know that You have sent Jesus into the world not to condemn sinners but to save them (**John 3:17**).

Father, I plead that _____ will know that Jesus' death on the Cross is sufficient to deal with his/her sin and lostness. Cause _____ to trust in and rely solely on Jesus and His death and resurrection (**John 3:14-15**).

I plead that _____ will understand in his/her mind and believe in his/her heart that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead (**Romans 10:9-10**).

I pray that _____ would know that Jesus Christ is fully human and has offered the perfect sacrifice for sin (**1 John 4:2; Hebrews 9**).

Father, I ask that _____ will know that Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between God and man (**1 Timothy 2:15**).

Father, I plead that _____ would comprehend that Jesus is exalted right now at the right hand of the Father.

Cause him/her to know that He is reigning as Lord. Convict _____ that he/she must surrender to Him as the Lord and Savior of his/her life (**1 Peter 3:22**).

Father, I ask that _____ will know and realize that forgiveness of sin is a reality only through Jesus Christ (**Colossians 2:13**).

Father, I pray that _____ will know and be stirred by the fact that Jesus Christ will judge him/her one day (**John 5:22**).

I plead that _____ will know that Jesus Christ is the coming King. Convict _____ that Jesus' Second Coming is to judge and condemn those who do not surrender to Him. O God, use this to show _____ his/her need to surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ (**Revelation 19**).

Father, show _____ that Jesus Christ will receive him/her if he/she turns to Him in faith and repentance. Teach _____ that Jesus will save him/her and that He will not turn him/her away (**John 6:33**).

Father, reveal to _____ that Jesus has come to save people from their sins (**Matthew 1:21**).

Father, convict _____ that Jesus Christ is the only One who can destroy the works of the devil in his/her life (**1 John 3:8**).

Father, I plead that _____ will understand that He is a powerful, merciful Savior who can deliver him/her from his/her sin and guilt (**Hebrews 13:8**).

Nitty-Gritty Praying

When you are praying for a hardened person, it demands pleading some difficult truths. I call this type of praying "nitty-gritty" praying. This concept is based on **1 Corinthians 5:4-5**, "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

In this chapter, Paul instructs the church on how to deal with a member who is involved in an incestuous relationship. He exhorts them to exclude this man from the fellowship of the church. He is to suffer the consequences of his sin. This is carried out in order to bring him to repentance. It would create shame and suffering for him, but it might lead him to repentance.

The principle in this text is that it is better for a person to suffer now than for eternity. It is better for a person to experience pain and humiliation than to live in rebellion to God. Nitty-gritty praying recognizes this. It is difficult to pray in this manner. However, this is a desperate situation. Rebellion against God and His Word is the greatest evil in the world. It brings severe and eternal consequences. Because of this, our praying must be forceful and desperate.

The following are some nitty-gritty prayers that you can pray for a hardened person. You can use these or develop your own from them.

Father, I plead that You would show _____ the danger of the path that he/she has chosen. Reveal clearly the awful consequences of his/her rebellion against You. Do not allow him/her to be deceived about his/her condition before You (**Proverbs 14:12**).

God, I pray that _____ would drink deeply of the bitter consequences of his/her sin. Cause him/her to see how his/her sin grieves and insults You. Let _____ understand how it is destroying him/her. Drain the joy out of sin in his/her life (**Galatians 6:7**).

Remove _____'s prosperity so that he/she must look to You. Take away whatever material blessings You have to so that _____ will have to look to You. Do not let him/her rest in or hide behind material blessings (**Luke 12:13-21**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You will convict _____ with a sharp and abiding conviction. Let Your conviction pierce his/her heart. How I plead that You would make this conviction unceasing. Let it flood his/her life. I plead that You would move powerfully in his/her life, revealing his/her need (**John 16:7-11**).

Holy Spirit, I ask that You would let _____ experience no peace, hope, or enjoyment until he/she repents.

Replace these things with sharp, deep, and unceasing conviction (**John 16:7-11**).

Lord God, do whatever it takes to break the pride in _____'s life. This pride is hindering him/her from repenting and turning to You. Use whatever means You must to break the rebellious pride that has developed in _____'s life (**Leviticus 26:19**).

Lord Jesus, I plead with You to remove the lying spirits that surround _____. He/She believes the lies of hell. Bind and remove the lying spirits that are deceiving _____ (**Mark 1:23-24**).

Father, I plead that You would remove any _____ influences from _____'s life that would encourage him/her in his/her rebellion toward You. Surround him/her with godly people who will minister to him/her (**Proverbs 1:10-19; 1 Corinthians 15:33**).

Father, show me what I must do to reach _____. Reveal to me anything and everything that You want me to do for _____. O God, my heart's desire is to see him/her turn to You. Show me what I must do to effectively minister to him/her. I will do whatever You lead me to do (**Matthew 20:28**).

Father, _____ is living in rebellion toward You and Your Word. He/She is guilty and deserves nothing

but Your judgment. You would be right to judge _____ for his/her rebellion. Yet, deliver _____ from his/her rebellion because of Your great mercy. Use this situation to reveal what a loving and merciful God You are. O God, have mercy on _____ (**Lamentations 3:22-23**).

As you intercede for the hardened person, you may grow weary and discouraged. The following are some suggestions on how you can protect yourself from becoming weary and discouraged as you pray over the long haul for the hardened person.

- ◆ *Immerse yourself in praise to God.* Praise will help you stay focused on God. It will fix your faith on His greatness and power. Praising God will turn your eyes from the impossibility of your situation to the God who can do the impossible. Praise also releases the power of God into your life. This power can sustain you and encourage you in your weakest and weariest moments.
- ◆ *Have other believers agree with you in prayer.* Praying for a hardened person is not a burden you can bear alone. Ask other believers who will pray with you and for you. Pray in agreement concerning the person's need and your endurance in prayer.
- ◆ *Don't let your heart become hardened.* Amazingly, when you pray for a hardened person, your

heart can become hardened. When you grow weary and frustrated due to this person's rebellion in spite of your prayers, you can become hardened to his or her condition. You pray but it lacks power and intensity. You might be praying, but your heart is not in it. Ask God to give you fresh strength and power to pray. Plead with Him to give you the compassion of Jesus for this person.

- ◆ *Dig into God's Word.* Digging into God's Word will encourage your faith. It will help you stay focused on God and His power. It will also give you insights that you need to pray for this person.
- ◆ *Plead the power and mercy of God.* When praying for the hardened person, zero in on the power and mercy of God. Find and plead for the hardened person verses of Scripture concerning these things.

The Principles Of Witnessing

Acts 8:25-40 gives us the example of Stephen sharing the gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch. This story provides us with some basic principles of witnessing. We need to remind ourselves of these principles – whether we are beginning to share our faith or whether we have been doing this for years. I would ask you to read and meditate on this text along with these principles. Record any insights that the Spirit gives us.

Principle 1:***The Principle of Sensitivity (8:25-26)***

Stephen was sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. All witnessing is dependent on the Holy Spirit. We must hear and obey the leadings that the Spirit gives us.

Principle 2:***The Principle of Observation (8:27-30)***

These verses remind us that we are to keep our spiritual eyes open. We often miss opportunities to witness because of spiritual dullness.

Principle 3:***The Principle of Scripture (8:31-34)***

The Word of God must be central in our witnessing. It is the means through which the Holy Spirit creates faith in those who hear it (**Romans 10:17**).

Principle 4:***The Principle of Christ (8:35)***

The point of witnessing is to point people to Jesus! If we do not do this, we have missed the point of witnessing.

Principle 5:***The Principle of Response (37-39)***

Encourage people to trust in Christ; press on them their need to turn from themselves and their sin to Christ. We must encourage faith and repentance followed by baptism.

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