

# Prayerwalking



## Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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## Faithful Prayer For Faithless People

Growing up, my grandmother regularly quoted to me the old adage, “Good things come to those who wait.” I was an impatient young man. I found it difficult to wait. She continually talked to me about and modeled the virtue of patience. It was a hard lesson to learn. Through the years, I’ve slowly learned the need for patience – the need to wait and persevere.

Do you find it hard to wait? Is it difficult for you to persevere in adverse circumstances? The world that we live in stresses convenience. It exalts instant gratification. By nature, we are impatient and our world nurtures this impatience. We don’t have to wait long for much in our lives. We can have most things we want with ease and convenience.

Praying people to Jesus requires praying for the long haul. It requires patience. You must be willing to pray for a long period for those who need Jesus. A person coming to Jesus is a process; sometimes it takes a great deal of time, prayer, and patience for this to happen.

You must exercise patience and persistence in this matter.

How can you pray for the long haul? How can you continue in patience and persistence for someone who is lost? In this session, you will receive some principles to help you pray for the long haul. These principles can help you hang in there and continue to pray for lost people – even when you don’t see any fruit.

### Study The Word

The following principles from God’s Word can help you pray for the long haul:

- *The Faithfulness Principle*  
Read and meditate on **1 Corinthians 15:58**. How do you think that this applies to praying for lost people?

This verse calls believers to faithfulness. When praying for the lost, be faithful to pray regardless. Stand firm in praying the Scripture and the promises of God for those who need Jesus. Don't allow anything that you see or feel hinder you from fervently praying. Give yourself fully to this. This verse promises that God will honor your intercession. He will not allow your labor in prayer to be in vain. God treasures your intercession; it is precious to Him. He will use it.

- *The Fatigue Principle*

Read and meditate on **Galatians 6:9**. How do you think that this applies to praying for lost people?

When you pray for the long haul, it is easy to get frustrated and tired. When you pray and pray and pray and nothing seems to happen, your heart grows weary. You have to fight feelings of quitting and giving up. Yet, this verse reminds us that we will reap if we don't give up. Many times, we will not see breakthroughs in the lives of people until after a long, difficult struggle. Galatians 6:9 says that we will reap in due season. We will see fruit in God's time and not ours. This verse pleads with us not to give up - not to quit. Don't allow your frustration and fatigue keep you from

continuing to pray for people who need Jesus.

- *The Warfare Principle*

Read and meditate on **2 Corinthians 4:4**. How does this apply to praying for the lost?

This verse teaches us that Satan actively blinds the minds of unbelievers. He labors to keep them in the dark. He does not want them to see the truth of the gospel and to trust in Christ. He strives to oppose any efforts to bring any lost person to Christ. When you pray for the lost, you enter into a battle. The battle for the souls of people can be long and hard. This is why you must be ready to pray for the long haul. As you pray, a battle takes place. In this battle, there are going to be difficulties and struggles - good days and bad days. Yet, the key is to continue to fight on your knees. You must continue to seek God for the lost however the battle rages.

- *The Onion Principle*

Read and meditate on **Jeremiah 17:9**. How do you think that this applies to praying for lost people?

This verse of Scripture reminds us of how sinful the human heart is. It also gives us insight in why we have to pray for the long haul for the lost. A lost person's heart is like an onion. Have you ever peeled an onion? You get through one layer and there's another layer. You get through that layer and guess what? There's another layer! A lost person's heart has layers of sin and hardness. Through the years, these layers have built up and keep that person from receiving the truth. When you pray for a lost person, you're going to have to pray through the layers. It takes a great deal of prayer and persistence to tear away the layers of sin and hardness. As you tear through the layers, it prepares the person to hear and receive the truth of the gospel.

- *The Process Principle*

Read and meditate on **1 Corinthians 3:5-6**. How do you think this applies to praying for lost people?

In **1 Corinthians 3:5-6**, the apostle Paul shows us that people coming to Christ is a process. In these verses, he refers to the salvation of the Corinthians. He states that he planted the seed and Apollos watered it. Then God gave the increase and brought them to Christ. Paul compares bringing people to Christ with gardening. When you plant a garden, you have to go through a process – break up the ground, till the soil, plant the seed, fertilize it, and weed it. In the same way, it takes a process of many steps to bring people to Christ. This shows us the necessity of praying for the long haul. We must pray fervently for the lost as this process of bringing them to Christ unfolds.

## Apply The Word

*What obstacles do you think prevent believers from praying consistently for the lost?*

*How can these obstacles be removed?*

*Why is it important to be faithful in praying for those who need Jesus?*

*What hinders you from praying for those who need Jesus?*

*How should knowing that you in a war affect your praying for the lost?*

*How should the "Onion Principle" affect your praying for those who need Jesus?*

*Who were some of the people involved in the process of bringing you to Christ? How do you think God wants you respond to this?*

## **Pray The Word**

Thank God for those who had a part in the process of bringing you to the Lord Jesus Christ. Ask God to help you be a crucial part in bringing others to Jesus. Call on God to grant you the strength and patience that you need to pray for the long haul. Plead with Him to help you deal with anything that will hinder you from praying people to Jesus.

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