

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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Nitty-Gritty Prayerwalking

How do you prayerwalk in a hardened area? When you are prayerwalking in hardened areas, 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 prayerwalking 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 use in your prayerwalking. You can use these or develop your own from them.

Father, I plead that You would show the people of this area the danger of the path that they have chosen. Reveal clearly the awful consequences of their rebellion against You (**Proverbs 14:12**).

God, I pray that the people of this area would drink deeply of the bitter consequences of their sin. Cause them to see how their sin grieves and insults You. Let them understand how it is destroying them. Drain the joy out of sin in their lives (**Galatians 6:7**).

Remove this area’s prosperity so that they must look to You. Take away whatever material blessings You have to so that they will have to look to You. Do not let them rest in or hide behind material blessings (**Luke 12:13-21**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You will convict the people of this area with a sharp and abiding conviction. Let Your conviction pierce their hearts. I plead that You would move powerfully in their lives, revealing their need (**John 16:7-11**).

Holy Spirit, I ask that You would let the people of this area experience no peace, hope, or enjoyment until they repent. Replace these things with sharp, deep, and unceasing conviction (**John 16:7-11**).

Lord God, do whatever it takes to break the pride of the people in this area. This pride is hindering them from repenting and turning to You. Use whatever means You must to break the rebellious pride that has developed in their lives (**Leviticus 26:19**).

Lord Jesus, I plead with You to remove the lying spirits that surround the people of this area. They believe the lies of hell. Bind and remove the lying spirits that are deceiving the people of this area (**Mark 1:23-24**).

Father, I plead that You would remove any influences from the people of this area that would encourage them in their rebellion toward You. Surround them with godly people who will minister to them (**Proverbs 1:10-19; 1 Corinthians 15:33**).

Father, show my church what we must do to reach the people of this area. Reveal to us anything and everything that You want us to do to reach the people of this area. O God, our heart's desire is to see them turn to You. Show us what we must do to effectively minister to them. We will do whatever You lead us to do (**Matthew 20:28**).

Father, the people of this area are living in rebellion toward You and Your Word. They are guilty and deserve nothing but Your judgment. You would be right to judge the people of this area for their rebellion. Yet, deliver them from their rebellion because of Your great mercy. O God, forgive them and draw them to Jesus Christ and forgive them of their sins. Use this situation to reveal what a loving and merciful

God You are. O God, have mercy on the people of this area (**Lamentations 3:22-23**).

When You Get Weary Of Prayerwalking

The following are some practical guidelines to help you when you get weary in prayerwalking – when you prayerwalk and prayerwalk and don't see any fruit from it. These are offered to help you when you grow frustrated and feel like giving up.

- *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 people is not a burden you can bear alone. Ask other believers who will pray with you and for you. Pray in agreement concerning the needs of the people and your endurance in prayerwalking.
- *Don't let your heart become hardened.* Amazingly, when you pray for hardened areas, your heart can become hardened. When you grow weary and frustrated due to this people's rebellion in spite of your prayers, you can become hardened to their 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 people, zero in on the power and mercy of God. Find and plead for hardened people verses of Scripture concerning these things.
- *Cling to God's promise in Galatians 6:9.* God promises us that we will reap if we don't faint. If we continue to be faithful in prayerwalking, there will be fruit. God will hear and honor our praying for people!
- *Don't judge the situation solely by what you see and feel.* It can be discouraging when we don't see fruit from our praying or our prayerwalking. Yet, we can't judge its effectiveness solely by what we see and what we feel. God is at work often when we don't see or feel it. God often allows us to see some fruit so that that we will know that He is at work. Yet, it is often only glimpses of the fruit so that we will continue to depend on Him. Eternity will reveal the impact of our faithful prayerwalking. Rest in the faithfulness of God and trust in Him to work regardless of what you see and how you feel.

Don't Limit Your Intercession (Exodus 8-10)

Pharaoh is a classic example of a hardened person. He refused to let Israel leave Egypt to worship the Lord in the wilderness. The Word of God states in **Exodus 10:3**, "So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, 'Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go that they may serve me.'" Pharaoh had heard the Word of God. He along with the Egyptians had experienced plagues sent by God. Each one

was designed to cause Pharaoh to repent. Yet, in spite of all this, he stubbornly hardened his heart toward God and His Word. He refused to humble himself before the Lord.

On four occasions, however, Pharaoh asked Moses to pray for him. The first time came after the plague of the frogs (**Exodus 8:8-15**). Moses prayed, but Pharaoh hardened his heart. The plague of the insects provoked Pharaoh again to ask for Moses' intercession (**Exodus 8:30-32**). Moses once again prayed, but Pharaoh hardened his heart.

At this point, most of us would have been ready to give up on Pharaoh. The plague of hail ruined the crops of Egypt. Once more Pharaoh wanted Moses to pray, "And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, 'I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. Entreat the LORD, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay here no longer'" (**Exodus 9:27-28**). Moses discerned Pharaoh's hypocrisy and told him, "I know that you will not yet fear the LORD God" (**Exodus 9:30**). Yet, even this did not stop Moses from praying for Pharaoh. Pharaoh's hypocrisy and hardness of heart did not prevent him from interceding for him (**Exodus 9:33-35**).

The fourth and final time that Moses prayed for Pharaoh is found in **Exodus 10:16-20**. Pharaoh again asks Moses to pray for him. Moses does and Pharaoh once again hardens his heart. In this passage, something unique happens, "But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go" (**Exodus 10:27**). This text says that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. Previously, the Word of God declares that Pharaoh had hardened his own heart. Because Pharaoh repeatedly hardened his own heart, the Lord gave him up to his own depravity. Pharaoh had hardened his heart so much that God gave him over to his own hardness of heart. Yet, Moses still prayed for him.

The Bible does teach that God gives people over to their own depravity and hardness of heart (**Romans 1:18-32**). When a person continues to harden his or her heart to God and His Word, God will harden that person's heart beyond salvation.

Yet, who of us is sufficient to know when this takes place? Who knows when this happens in the life of an individual? This is something that only God knows. It is not our responsibility to determine if a person's heart has been hardened beyond salvation.

It is our responsibility to pour ourselves out in intercession for those who are hardened. It is our responsibility to plead and wrestle with God for that person. As long as that person's heart beats and there is breath in his or her body, there is hope. As long as the person is this side of the grave, we must pray fervently for him or her.

Have you ever heard someone say, "It's useless to pray for him"? He'll never become a Christian." What an insult to God! What a lack of confidence in the power of prayer! The first and most basic lesson of praying for hardened people is that you do not limit your intercession. You do not decide who is beyond the grace and the power of God. You don't write people off because they are hardened and rebellious toward God and His Word.

If you are praying for a hardened person, don't give up! Don't lose hope! You are praying to the God of power and mercy. The only time to lose hope is when you stop praying. As long as you are pleading, there is hope for genuine change in this person's life.

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