

# Prayerwalking



## Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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### BASIC PRAYERWALKING

There are a variety of ways to conduct a prayerwalk. In this edition, I want to give you a basic outline of how to prepare, carry out, and finish a prayerwalk. The following is simply an offering of suggestions to help you get started. This is an explanation of the basics. These fundamentals will help you begin and sustain healthy and powerful prayerwalks. You may have to make adjustments in light of your situation. Yet, these basics are needed to begin. A prayerwalk needs to be conducted in three phases.

#### **Phase One: The Preparation For A Prayerwalk**

Before you prayerwalk, you need to make preparation. This is not something you do on a whim. If it is going to be powerful and effective, you must begin by preparing yourself. You need to take certain steps to get yourself ready to be an instrument that God can use.

**Your first step in preparation is to commit yourself totally to God.** Before you prayerwalk, you need to have a time of worship and surrender before the Lord. You are about to become a bridge of blessing between heaven and earth. Adore Him for His character and ways. Give thanks to God with a grateful heart. Confess your sins with honesty and brokenness. Read the Scripture. As you worship before the Lord, be still before Him for a short while with a readiness to sense special instructions regarding where you should walk

or what you should pray. You need to have a definite plan about the place you should pray and the prayer requests that you are going to make. Yet, be open to change at the guidance of the Lord. Go with the plans that you have formed unless you clearly sense otherwise.

The team also needs to pray on each piece of the armor of God (**Ephesians 6:10-18**). God has granted this armor to the believer for help and protection in the midst of the spiritual war. Any time a believer prays, a spiritual war is going on. This is true also for prayerwalking. You are laboring to take back territory and people that the enemy has enslaved. He will not accept this passively. The team must put on the armor of God by faith and prayer.

**Another part of your preparation should be the development of a prayer team or prayer teams.** People can prayerwalk by themselves. God can and does use this. Yet, it is best if there is a team. Why should you have a team of prayerwalkers?

- (1) A team can provide encouragement, feedback, and support;
- (2) A team offers the opportunity to pray in agreement with other believers;
- (3) A team will help you pray specifically and powerfully. As you hear the prayers and insights of others, it can give you guidance. It can help you know how to pray and provide you with insight.

The teams should consist of three members. You can allow partners to find each other spontaneously. You might also consider mixing and matching teams based on maturity, experience, and physical capabilities.

**Before you prayerwalk, you need to designate where the teams will prayerwalk.**

Locate the area that the prayerwalkers will work. Sometimes this can be a roughly designated area. You can also give a specific area or route. It is important to have a definite area or route that you will prayerwalk. However, you must also be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leadership. Routes and areas should not be too tightly designated in order for the prayerwalkers to have the freedom to do as the Spirit leads. God may have a divinely appointed prayer appointment for them! Labor to strike a balance between structure and spontaneity.

**Another part of your preparation is to determine how long the prayerwalk will be.**

You need to agree with the teams on the time that you will regather. It is difficult to gauge how long it will take to cover the territory assigned plus God's providential appointments. For this reason, you should allow reasonable flexibility in the schedule.

## **Phase Two: The Practice of Prayerwalking**

When you prayerwalk, your prayers need to be balanced between three topics: *worship, warfare, and the preparation of the way for God's blessings*. Every prayerwalk should have the worship of God included. As you walk, praise God who made all the things that you see. Adore God who has created the people that you are praying for on the prayerwalk. Give God the glory for what He is going to do in that area. The purpose of this worship is to glorify God and to seek God's manifest presence. God inhabits or dwells in the praises of His people. His power flows when His people praise Him. God is always present. Yet, in worship, we are seeking God's presence to be made real and vital in peoples' lives. Praise is crucial to this. **When the praise goes up, the power comes down!**

You also need to do *warfare* on the prayerwalk. The purpose of this is to deal with evil spirits that are working in the area in which you are prayerwalking. It is to begin the process of tearing down strongholds and weakening the grip of Satan in the lives of the people by prayer. Satan and his demons work to blind and keep unbelievers in bondage (**2 Corinthians 3:3-4**). Satan and his demons work to hinder and lead believers into bondage (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**). There must be a resistance and binding of these forces. Call on the Lord Jesus Christ to bind, confuse, and send these evil forces away. Ask Him to tear down any strongholds that Satan has built in the lives of people. Plead that the forces of hell will be broken and destroyed by the power of Christ's blood, Christ's cross, Christ's name, and Christ's Word. This is done in preparation for receiving the Word of God and bringing about true repentance and faith in the lives of those for whom you are praying.

There must also be *the preparation of the way for God's blessings and salvation*. The purpose of this part of your praying is to ask for God's blessings on the people who live where you are prayerwalking. It is seeking God so that He will pour out His abundant blessings on the people for whom you are praying. Plead that the people will be receptive to the gospel. Cry out to God and ask Him to remove any obstacles that might hinder people from hearing the gospel. The purpose of prayerwalking is to prepare the way for God's blessings through prayer. It is using the channel of prayer to release God's mercy, love, grace, and peace into a city or community. It is pleading for a genuine and open welcome to the reign of God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you walk, keep these suggestions in mind:

- ◆ **Open your eyes.** Pay close attention to your surroundings and the people. Walk and to God about all you see.
- ◆ **Open your ears.** There are times when you are prayerwalking that you need to be silent. Let God speak to you as you walk. Listen for God's cues to guide you in how to pray.

- ◆ **Open your mouth.** God does not need you to verbalize your prayers in order to hear them. Yet, it will bolster your faith. You do not have to pray in a bold, outspoken way. Speak in a quiet, unobtrusive way. Fill your prayers with adoration and thanksgiving to God.
- ◆ **Pray with the Scripture.** Carry a small Bible with you and pray particular Scriptures. You might consider carrying 3x5 cards with verses that you can pray. You can be confident that you are praying in God's will and it will aid you in following the Spirit's leadership in prayer.
- ◆ **Pray according to what you see.** Let what you see preoccupy your praying. Let what you see motivate and guide your praying. Don't get caught up in using the trite sayings and catch phrases that believers often use in prayer. Pray with sensitivity to what is going on around you and the people that you are encountering.
- ◆ **Pray together.** Seek to pray in line with what your team members are praying. Reinforce what they are praying with your own praying. Use conversational prayer so that you can agree and multiply the points that you pray over.
- ◆ **Write down insights.** It is important to record any insights that God may grant you as you prayerwalk. He may grant you a fresh and vital prayer strategy. It might be a ministry, an outreach idea, or a need that can be met where you are prayerwalking. When you prayerwalk, you might consider carrying a small notebook or pad with you to record these insights.
- ◆ **Talk to each other.** It is okay to break out of the intense intercession that you are offering when you prayerwalk. You can use these times to worship and to discuss insights that you are receiving, what you are feeling, and where you will go next.

### **Phase Three:**

#### **The Evaluation of The Prayerwalk**

When the prayerwalk is finished, it is beneficial to have meeting of the prayerwalkers. This is for discussing the

prayerwalk and how they felt about it. At this meeting, you need to discuss what insights were gleaned during the prayerwalk. Insights will fade over time unless you discuss them and record them. These insights should be compiled and given to each member of the team and other intercessors. This will serve as a further guide to prayer as one continues to intercede for the area in the personal prayer closet or in the church meeting.

This meeting should also include strategies for ministries in these areas. From the insights that were gained, what ministries could be started to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ? Again, the prayerwalk is not an end in itself. It is just the beginning--the beginning of intercession and prayer for the area that one prayerwalks. Along with this, team members should evaluate the prayerwalk. From this session, they may be able to offer suggestions to improve future prayerwalks. This should lead to a decision of where, when, and how to prayerwalk again.

Some basic guidelines for the reporting about the prayerwalk include:

- ◆ **Pray that God will bless and honor the praying of His people.**
- ◆ **Rejoice in what God is doing and will do through the prayerwalking.** Worship God for the amazing and miraculous blessings He will release through the prayerwalking. By faith, claim the work that God will do in the area, community, or city.
- ◆ **Report on answered prayers.** God will sometimes move in powerful ways in the midst of the prayerwalk. Allow these moves of God to be declared.
- ◆ **Encourage those who are heavy-hearted.** There are times when the prayerwalker will feel as if he or she did not accomplish anything. Encourage this person through the Scripture and the promises of God.
- ◆ **Record the insights that were granted.**
- ◆ **Evaluate the time of prayerwalking.** What did you learn? What will you do in future prayer walks? Where do we go next?

## Prayerwalking And Spiritual Warfare

Satan is described in the Word of God as “a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour” (**1 Peter 5:8**). The devil is on the offensive, looking for opportunities to wreak havoc and destroy lives and churches. Prayerwalking is going on the offensive against Satan and his forces. The main purpose of prayerwalking is to extend God’s kingdom and pray for His blessing. Yet, when you pray for God’s kingdom to expand and His blessing to flow in lives, you automatically find yourself in a struggle with Satan. He will resist you. He does not want you to prayerwalk. He will do what He can to hinder your prayerwalking.

In this chapter, we need to deal with spiritual warfare as it relates to prayerwalking. There are some basic principles that you need to keep in mind as you face and encounter resistance from the evil one.

- *Confess every fear and concern that you have about prayerwalking to your Father.* The devil will attempt to keep you from prayerwalking by exaggerating your fears and making much out of your concerns. Confess any fears or concerns that you have about prayerwalking. Ask Him to help you deal with any fears and concerns that you have. Pray that you will stand strong in faith, resisting the attacks of the enemy.
- *Remember that you are more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ.* Many times during prayerwalks, I have felt extreme resistance from demonic forces. I felt great pressure to the point of being overwhelmed. Yet, I would read **Romans 8:31-39** and confess aloud that I am more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ who loved me and gave Himself for me. When you encounter resistance from the enemy, remember, rest in, and announce your position in Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior. You belong to Jesus. Through Him, you are a conqueror; the enemy has no power over you!
- *Prayerwalking is for the purpose of advancing God’s kingdom and extending*

*God’s blessings.* This is the primary purpose of prayerwalking. Spiritual warfare is secondary. It is something that may have to be done. However, you should never seek to prayerwalk solely for the purpose of spiritual warfare. Prayerwalking is opening the door for God’s kingdom and blessings. That is its first and primary purpose. You may have to pray against evil forces. You may have to ask for the binding of the evil one and his forces. But, first and foremost, exalt Jesus and pray for God’s kingdom and blessings on this area.

- *Seek the filling of the Holy Spirit.* Every believer should daily seek for the filling of the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 5:18**). Yet, it is especially crucial when you prayerwalk. You will need the Holy Spirit’s power and discernment for prayer and spiritual warfare. Cry out Him confessing your need of Him and His power. Deal with any and every known sin. By faith, receive His filling. Walk under the controlling power of the Spirit.

### The 4 “C’s” Prayer Model

This prayer model will help you pray for an area where there are plans to plant a church. It can also be used in an area with high concentrations of lost people. This prayer model will enable you to pray for people to move from curiosity concerning the gospel to churches filled with those who have surrendered to Jesus Christ. You can use this basic outline to cover an area. As you pray, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. He may give you particular points to plead as you work your way through this prayer model.

#### **Curiosity (John 3:1-2)**

In this text, Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. He was curious about Jesus and His ministry. He came to Christ looking for answers out of curiosity. Pray that people will develop a curiosity about who Jesus is and the good news about Him. Plead that this curiosity will lead them to seek answers.

**Conviction (John 16:7-11)**

Pray that the people will go from curiosity about Jesus and the gospel to the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Plead that, as they seek answers concerning their curiosity, the Holy Spirit will convict them of their need of Jesus and the necessity of faith and repentance.

**Conversion (Acts 16:31)**

Plead that the people will respond to Jesus Christ in faith and repentance as the Holy Spirit convicts them. Pray that they will see their sinfulness and will turn from their sin and selfishness. Ask that they will surrender themselves to Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

**Churches (Acts 2:41-42)**

Pray that those who surrender their life to Jesus will follow Him by being baptized and becoming a member of a church. Plead that many will be converted in the area and that numerous churches will be established from all these converts. Pray the truth of Acts 2:42 for these churches:

- Ask that these churches would be devoted to the Word of God;
- Ask that these churches would be characterized by faithful and loving fellowship;
- Ask that these churches would honor Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
- Ask that these churches would be fervent and faithful in prayer.

## Prayerwalking Bible Study

### Knowing Your Leader Joshua 5:13-15

**Prayerwalking Principle:** Prayerwalking is done **for** Jesus and **through** Jesus.

In Joshua 5:13-15, Joshua discovers who is the true leader of the army of the Lord. As Joshua was surveying the defenses of Jericho, a man with a drawn sword encounters him.

What does Joshua ask this man? Read **Joshua 5:13**.

How does this man reply? Read **Joshua 5:14**.

This man is the Commander of the army of the Lord. It is the Lord Jesus Christ. He reveals to Joshua that He is the true leader of the armies of Israel. Joshua would have to follow His direction if he were going to fight and win the battles in Canaan. It would only be through Jesus that he could win. In addition, Joshua was to fight for Jesus, the Commander of the army of the Lord. The battles were to be fought for His glory and honor.

The same is true in prayerwalking. You must realize that prayerwalking is for Jesus. You are claiming your city, town, or area for Jesus. It is praying for Him to be received and surrendered to by the people. It is pleading that His kingdom would engulf your city, town, or area.

At the same time, it is only through Him that you can receive anything. He is the One who leads you to victory. You must be sensitive to His leadership and dependent on His power. He is the Commander who leads you in the streets as you prayerwalk.

*Pray today that you will have the deep conviction that prayerwalking is done first and foremost for Jesus' sake. Plead that you will depend on His leadership and power as you prayerwalk.*

## Pleading For The Lost

The following Scripture prayers can enable you to plead for the salvation of the lost as you prayerwalk.

Father, in the name of Jesus, I plead that You will draw \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus Christ in true faith and repentance (**John 6:44**).

In the name of Jesus, I ask You, Father, to quicken \_\_\_\_\_ who is dead in sins and trespasses (**Ephesians 2:1**).

Father, I ask You to bind and remove Satan's work in \_\_\_\_\_'s life and to open \_\_\_\_\_'s eyes to the truth of the gospel (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You would convince \_\_\_\_\_ that he/she is lost, separated from God, and headed to hell (**Romans 3:23**).

Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus, I pray that You would destroy any false ideas that \_\_\_\_\_ has about Jesus Christ and salvation through Him (**Proverbs 14:12**).

Lord Jesus, I plead that You will seek out \_\_\_\_\_ and save him/her from his/her sins and eternal condemnation (**Luke 19:10**).

Father, I pray that You will open \_\_\_\_\_'s heart so that he/she will receive and believe the gospel (**Acts 16:14**).

Holy Spirit, I ask You through Your power and \_\_\_\_\_'s circumstances to prepare him/her to hear and receive the Word of God (**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**).

Holy Spirit, I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will understand the gospel when it is presented to him/her so that the devil cannot snatch it away (**Matthew 13: 5, 9**).

Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus, I plead that the Word of God will take root in \_\_\_\_\_'s life and bring about true salvation in \_\_\_\_\_'s life (**Matthew 13:6, 20-21**).

Father, I ask that the pleasures of this world and the pressures of life will not choke the Word of God that has been sown into \_\_\_\_\_'s life (**Matthew 13:7, 22**).

Father, I plead that You will deliver \_\_\_\_\_ from the kingdom of darkness and place \_\_\_\_\_ into the kingdom of Your dear Son (**Colossians 1:13**).

Father, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will receive the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord (**Romans 6:23**).

Lord Jesus, I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will not trust in himself/herself, but that \_\_\_\_\_ will completely trust in You as his/her Savior and Lord (**Galatians 2:16**).

Holy God, I pray that You would grant genuine repentance to \_\_\_\_\_, a repentance that will cause him/her to hate sin and to turn from it (**Acts 11:8; Luke 13:1-3**).

Lord God, I plead that You would grant \_\_\_\_\_ genuine faith, a faith that trusts in Jesus alone and surrenders to Him as Lord and Savior (**Ephesians 2:8-10**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You would stir \_\_\_\_\_ out of his/her indifference and complacency concerning his/her condition and his/her need of the Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 6:2**).

I ask in the name of Jesus Christ that \_\_\_\_\_ would surrender himself/herself to the Lord Jesus Christ (**Romans 14:9**).

Father, I pray that You will send people continually into \_\_\_\_\_'s life who will share the gospel with him/her (**Romans 10:14**).

Father, I plead in the name of Jesus that You will put a new heart in \_\_\_\_\_ and that You will place Your Holy Spirit in him/her (**Jeremiah 42:30; Ezekiel 11:19-20**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You will cause \_\_\_\_\_ to hate sin and that You will break the power of those sins that are hindering him/her from coming to Christ (**Mark 9:43-47**).

Lord Jesus, I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ would surrender to You, denying

himself/herself, take up the Cross, and follow You (**Luke 9:23**).

Father, I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will understand that his/her only hope for forgiveness and acceptance with You is through Jesus' work on the Cross (**1 Corinthians 1:18**).

Father, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would not neglect the glorious salvation, which is available through Your Son (**Hebrews 2:1-3**).

Lord Jesus, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will feel and know the burden of his/her sin and will come to You for forgiveness and salvation (**Matthew 11:28-30**).

Father, I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will make a genuine commitment to Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of his/her life (**Luke 14:24-33**).

Lord Jesus, I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will not be content with the appearance of righteousness but will seek You for the transformation of his/her whole life (**Matthew 23:27-29**).

Father, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will see that his/her good works are as filthy rags in Your sight and that they will not save him/her (**Isaiah 64:6**).

Father, I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ would believe and trust Your Son that You sent to be the Savior of sinners (**John 5:24**).

Lord Jesus, I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ would not die in his/her sins but would trust You and receive eternal life (**John 8:24**).

Because You came into the world to save sinners, I plead with You to save \_\_\_\_\_ who is a sinner and in need of Your grace and mercy (**1 Timothy 1:13-16**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You would humble \_\_\_\_\_ so that he/she sees his/her

need of Jesus Christ (**Psalms 18:27; Proverbs 8:13, 29:23**).

## Prayerwalking A Church

The following is a prayer guide that you can use when you prayerwalk a church. It may be your church or a church that you encounter during a prayerwalk. You can plead these truths with confidence and power; they are God's will for His church (**1 John 5:14-15**).

- Filled with power and boldness (**Ephesians 5:18**)
- Fervent and consistent in prayer (**Colossians 4:2**)
- Passion for the lost (**Romans 10:1**)
- Numerous conversions (**Acts 2:47**)
- Faithful in worship and attendance (**Hebrews 10:24-25**)
- Reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ (**Matthew 28:19-20**)
- Leading people to spiritual maturity (**1 Peter 2:1-2**)
- Equipping the saints to minister to the world (**Matthew 20:28**)
- Increasing love and unity in the body (**Psalms 133:1**)
- A spirit of confession and repentance in the body (**1 John 1:9**)
- Generous giving (**2 Corinthians 8:9**)
- A spirit of faithful prayer for pastor and deacons (**1 Timothy 3**)

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