

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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ISSUE 5

Lifestyle Witnessing

This Issue of the *Prayerwalking* newsletter is dedicated to lifestyle witness. Your heavenly Father desires that you exercise a righteous influence on those around you. He wants your lifestyle to point others to Jesus and to reveal the grace and power of Jesus Christ. Your lifestyle should cause others to consider the claims of Jesus.

An atheist once remarked to me, “I would have become a Christian if I had ever met one.” This harsh comment was obviously unfounded. Faithful Christians surrounded this man. At the same time, he knew many people who professed Christ and did not live a godly life. His comment points out that our lives do have influence. Our influence can be godly or ungodly, positive or negative. We can point people to Christ or away from Christ.

Your heavenly Father wants you to have a godly, positive influence on those around you. He desires that your life manifest the power and the glory of a life that has been changed by Jesus Christ. It is His purpose for you to point your neighbors to Christ – the risen Lord

and Savior who can forgive and transform them.

EXAMINING THE WORD

Read and meditate on **Matthew 5:13-17**. What pictures does Jesus give to describe what our influence should be? Why does He choose these?

Jesus pictures our influence as salt and light. He chooses these because they make a tangible difference wherever they are. When you turn on a light in a dark room, you can see and feel the difference. When you put salt on food, you can taste the difference. Our influence as Christians is to be tangible and real.

Read and meditate on **1 Peter 2:11-12**.
What are you to abstain from in order to have a positive influence in the lives of others?

Peter calls on believers to forsake sexual sin in any form. We are to abstain from the lust that characterizes the world.

What does Peter call on believers to do before the lost (**1 Peter 2:12**)?

Peter calls on believers to have honorable conduct. Believers are to live in such a way that it reveals that we know God and that we are following Him.

Read and meditate on **Colossians 4:4-6**. What three commands does Paul give believers concerning their influence?

Paul commands believers to do three things: walk in wisdom toward the lost, redeem the time, and to have gracious, salty speech. These three things will help you to have a powerful influence on those around you. Wisdom will help you know what to say and how to live before the lost. Redeeming the time will enable you to make the most of the opportunities that you have to minister to the lost. Gracious, salty speech will empower you to say what is needed to influence and guide the lost.

APPLYING THE TRUTH TO MY LIFE

The Word of God calls on you to exercise a godly, positive influence on those around you for the glory of Jesus. The Word teaches us to do this in a variety of ways:

- (1) Acknowledge that you are to be salt and light;
- (2) Abstain from the impurity of the world;
- (3) Walk in wisdom toward the lost;
- (4) Make the most of opportunities to minister to others.
- (5) Develop gracious, salty speech.

What sins do you think would hinder a believer from exercising powerful influence for Jesus?

Ask Him to reveal anything to you that is hindering your influence for Christ.

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Plead that you will point others to Christ with your words and your actions. Ask the same for your church.

PUTTING THE TRUTH INTO PRACTICE

Spend time in prayer asking God to help you determine specific ways that you can bless and minister to others. I call these "Intentional Acts of Mercy." Ask God to help you discover some Intentional Acts of Mercy that you can offer to those around you. Write down some ways that you can be a powerful and godly influence and pray for the opportunity to carry these out in the lives of others.

Warfare Prayers

As you seek to be a witness in your area, you will also have face the reality of spiritual warfare. The devil is at work in our neighborhoods and cities. He longs to hold people captive in their sin. He desires to hinders Christians from witnessing and exercising spiritual influence.

The following prayers are designed to help you confront the work of the enemy. You can use these or develop your own from them.

I ask You to bind and destroy the evil and murderous plans of Satan for this area (**1 John 3:8**).

I pray that the believers in this area will stand strong in faith against Satan and his schemes (**1 Peter 5:8-9**).

Why is wisdom important for dealing with the lost?

What kind of things does a believer need to talk about in order to have gracious, salty speech?

PRAYING THE TRUTH INTO MY HEART

Take time now to call on God to grant you the following things:

- A concern for your influence;
- A clean life;
- Wisdom toward the lost;
- The ability to make the most of your opportunities to bless and minister to others;
- Gracious, salty speech.

Father, I pray that You would limit, hinder, and thwart the schemes that

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Satan has for this area and its people (**2 Corinthians 2:11**).

I ask in the name of Jesus that You would set free, save, and heal all the people in this area who are under Satan's power (**Acts 10:38**).

I plead that the people in this area will hate and turn from the sin that Satan keeps them bound with (**1 Thessalonians 3:5**).

I pray that the people of this area will no longer be deceived by Satan's clever and attractive ideas and messages (**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**).

Shatter the kingdom of Satan in this area; advance and strengthen Your kingdom here (**Luke 11:17; Matthew 6:10**).

I pray that the believers in this area would put on the armor of God and would experience victory over all the schemes of the enemy (**Ephesians 6:10**).

I ask that You would release of spirit of effectual and fervent prayer in the churches of this area (**Ephesians 6:18**).

Protect and strengthen the spiritual leaders in this area; deliver them from falling into disgrace and the devil's trap (**1 Timothy 3:7**).

Father, I plead that the believers in this area will not give the devil a foothold in

I plead that You would deliver the lost in this area from the kingdom of darkness; place them into the kingdom of Your dear Son Jesus (**Colossians 1:13**).

I ask that the people of this area would no longer believe the lies of Satan (**John 8:44**).

I pray that You would tear down the unbelieving mindset that Satan has built in the minds of the people here (**2 Corinthians 10:5**).

I plead that You would destroy the satanic, ungodly pride of the people in this area (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**).

I ask that Satan would no longer have access to the lost in this area; cut all of his attempts to feed lies to the people in this area (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**).

Cut off all communication and help between the demons assigned to this area and Satan; throw them into confusion and disorder (**Ephesians 6:12**).

I pray that the people in this area will receive Your Word and escape the snare of the devil who has taken them captive (**2 Timothy 2:26**).

Prepare the hearts of the people that they can hear and receive Your Word; frustrate his attempts to snatch the Word from people (**Matthew 13:4, 18-19**).

their lives or churches (**Ephesians 4:27**).

O God, strengthen and protect the churches of this area from the evil one (**2 Thessalonians 3:3**).

When Someone You Love Is Lost

As a believer, you know the condition of those who are outside of Jesus Christ. You understand that they are separated from God, under His wrath, and facing an eternity of misery and damnation. You realize that lost people have no true hope or peace. You are fully aware of their bondage to sin. This understanding burdens you for those who are lost.

Yet, this burden increases when the lost person is someone you know intimately and love. It may be a husband, wife, son, daughter, or other family member. It grieves your heart to know that your loved one is separated from God, under His wrath, and headed for an eternity in hell. You long for your loved one to experience true hope and peace through the Lord Jesus Christ. You yearn for your loved one to be set free from bondage to sin.

What do you do when someone you love is lost? The following are some biblical principles that you can put into practice to help you with this burdensome load:

Realize that there is hope (Acts 16:15, 29-34)

In these texts, God saved whole households. His power can reach and

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change any sinner. Rest in His power and grace that can save your loved one. There are no hopeless cases this side of the grave.

Ask God to grant you patience and persistence (Luke 18:1).

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

Pray that God will grant you the patience to be faithful to this person. When a person turns to Christ in faith, it is usually a process. Ask God to help you to pray, love, and witness to this person for the long haul. Also, pray for a spirit of persistence. Sometimes your loved one may outright reject the gospel. He or she may show no interest whatsoever. Ask God to help you persist in loving, praying for, and ministering to him or her regardless of his or her reaction.

Pray for the influence of other Christians (1 Corinthians 3:5-8).

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

There are times when family members may not listen to you and your witness.

Yet, there may be others that your loved one will listen to. Pray that God would send into your loved one's life believers that he or she will love, respect, and listen to. Plead that He would grant your loved one friends who will be faithful to minister to him or her.

Plead that your loved one will be radically transformed by Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Call on God to change your loved one through His grace and power. There is a tendency to pray for God to change certain sinful habits in a lost person's life. Yet, a person can exchange sins without experiencing a change of heart. Plead with God to regenerate your loved one. Ask Him to transform your loved one through the power of the Spirit and the gospel.

Ask God for opportunities to demonstrate love to your lost loved one (Matthew 5:13-16).

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who

are in the house. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your

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good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Even when your loved one will not listen to your words, he or she can see your actions. Pray for opportunities to demonstrate the love of Jesus to this person. Ask that they will sense and know the difference in your life because of Jesus Christ.

Pray tenaciously (Isaiah 62:2-7).

"I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

Wrestle with God concerning your loved. Plead His promises. Claim His Word. Pray for mercy and grace upon your loved one. Determine in your heart to seek God until He answers.

Don't lose heart (Galatians 6:9).

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

When someone you love is lost, it can be a long, weary struggle. It would be easy to give up hope and feel that he or she will never come to Christ. Yet, don't give up. Don't lose heart. God is a merciful and sovereign God. As long as your loved one is alive, there is hope.

As long as he or she has breath in the body, there is the possibility of him or

her coming to Jesus Christ. In God's time, you will reap the harvest.

Evangelistic Prayer: Praying The Work Of The Spirit

Holy Spirit, I pray that You would open _____'s heart so that he/she will receive Jesus Christ by faith and repentance. I ask that You will cause Your mighty power to flow into his/her life, bringing salvation to him/her (**Acts 16:14**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You will convict _____ of his/her sin. Reveal to _____ that he/she has rebelled against God and deserve eternal damnation. Show _____ the hopelessness of any man-made efforts to enter into salvation (**John 16:8**).

Holy Spirit, I ask You to convict _____ about the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Reveal to _____ that his/her righteousness is as filthy rags and will not grant him/her acceptance with God. I plead that You will convict him/her of his/her need to receive the righteousness of Jesus through faith (**John 16:8**).

Holy Spirit, I plead with You to convict _____ of the coming judgment. Show him/her that there will be a judgment and that those who reject

Jesus Christ will be sentenced as guilty and cast into eternal hell (**John 16:8**).

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Holy Spirit, I ask You to testify to _____ concerning Jesus Christ. Reveal to him/her that He is the Son of God, fully God and fully human. Show him/her that He is the only Savior. Make it clear to _____ that He and He alone can bring them into a right relationship with God (**John 15:26**).

Holy Spirit, I plead that You will regenerate _____. Grant him/her spiritual life through Your power and the Word of God. Let Your life-transforming power fall on him/her as he/she hears the Word of God. Enable _____ to repent of his/her sin and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Bring about the radical change of regeneration in his/her life (**John 3:3-5**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You will teach _____ his/her need of Jesus Christ. Teach _____ that He is the only hope of eternal life and change. Show _____ the necessity of turning to Jesus Christ for salvation. I pray that You would plant this in his/her heart and that You would use this to bring him/her to saving faith (**John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:13**).

Holy Spirit, You are the Power of the Most High God. I pray that You would subdue and destroy any beliefs and excuses that keep _____ from turning Jesus Christ in faith and repentance. I plead that You would

remove any obstacles to
_____ entering into
salvation through Jesus Christ (**Luke
1:35**).

Holy Spirit, You are the Spirit of faith. I
ask You to work faith into
_____’s heart. I
pray that You will enable him/her to
believe the Word of God as he/she
reads and hears it. Grant them saving
faith (**1 Corinthians 12:9; 2
Corinthians 4:13**).

Holy Spirit, You are the Spirit of the fear
of the Lord. I pray that You will grant
_____ the fear of the
Lord. Cause him/her to see and know
that God is God alone, worthy to be
worshipped and surrendered to by them.
Work into their hearts the reverence and
awe of the living God (**Isaiah 11:2**).

Holy Spirit, I plead with You to grant a
repentant spirit to _____.
Teach him/her how abominable his /her

sin is to God. Enable him/her to turn
from it and to turn to Jesus Christ in faith
as his/her personal Lord and Savior
(**Luke 13:1-3**).

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