

# Prayerwalking



## Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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## Reaching Your Neighbors

Your neighbors are the people that you meet on a daily basis – the people you see each day. They are the people that you cross paths with in the ordinary routine of life. God calls you and me to bless and touch our neighbors for the sake of Jesus.

In **Jeremiah 29**, God sends a message to the people of God who are in captivity in Babylon. Many of them were thinking that they would only be there for a short period. They felt that God would take them back to the Promised Land only after a brief stay in Babylon. Yet, God tells them that they would be there for seventy years. God had placed them there; they were to put down roots and to exercise spiritual influence where they were,” And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace” (**Jeremiah 29:7**).

God is speaking the same message to you today. He has placed you where you are. He has a distinct purpose in putting

you in this place. He is bringing people into your life that you might bless them and minister to them. He wants you to exercise spiritual influence where you are. He desires that you be a channel of His blessing for all those around you.

### *Identifying My Neighbors*

What does Jesus teach in **Matthew 22:39**?

What is the first and great commandment?

How are these two commands related?

In **Matthew 22:39**, Jesus teaches us that we are to love our neighbors. We are to love them as we love ourselves. We are to have a sacrificial love for our neighbors. We are to seek their highest good. If we love God, we are going to love our neighbors. These two commands are inseparable. Love for God results in love for your neighbors. Yet who is our neighbor?

Read **Luke 10:29-37**. What question does the lawyer ask Jesus (v.29)?

How does Jesus respond to this question?

In order to answer the question of “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus responds with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus’ purpose in giving this parable is to show that our neighbors are those that we encounter – particularly those that we encounter daily that are in need. This parable reveals that your neighbors are the people around you. It is those that live next to you, the people you see at work, or the people you stand in line with at the grocery store. Your neighbors are those that you encounter in the ordinary routines of life. It is these people that you are to love as yourself and seek to bless. God has placed you where you are to minister to them. God crosses your paths

with them that you might exercise spiritual influence in their lives.

### *Motivations For Reaching Every Neighbor*

The Bible reveals that your neighbors are those that you encounter daily – those that fill the ordinary routines of your life. God wants you to exercise spiritual influence in their lives. How can you know that this is God’s will for you? The following verses reveal that God wants you to reach those around you. Read these verses and meditate on them in light of all the people around you:

#### **Matthew 22:39**

Loving your neighbor means seeking the highest good of those around you. What is the greatest thing that you can do for your neighbors? It is to pray for them. It is to seek to minister to them by blessing their lives. Loving your neighbors calls for you to exercise spiritual influence in their lives. You can do nothing greater for them.

#### **Matthew 28:18-20**

The Great Commission can be translated literally, “As you are going . . .” (**Matthew 28:19**). It is in the ordinary routines of life that you are to pray for, bless, and share the good news of Jesus. God desires that you minister to people as you go through your daily life.

### **Luke 10:29-36**

Jesus’ provides us with a compelling example in these verses. When you see people in need, you are to seek to make a difference in their lives. Every day of your life, you will meet people in need. This should stir your heart to pray for and bless people throughout your day.

### **Acts 1:8**

In this text, Jesus provides His disciples with an outline of sharing the good news of Jesus. They were to begin sharing the good news of Jesus in Jerusalem and then spread it to the ends of the earth. Your “Jerusalem” is the area around you. It is the people that you encounter on a daily

basis. Jesus wants you to bless and exercise spiritual influence in your “Jerusalem.”

### *Reaching Your Neighbors*

Your neighbors are the people that you encounter on a daily basis. God desires that you pray for, bless, and minister to them in the routines of life. In order to put this into practice, you must consider three biblical truths.

#### **No. 1: See the harvest that is around you.**

What does Jesus tell His disciples in **John 4:35**?

Jesus tells His disciples to look and see that the harvest that is ready. You must realize that there is a harvest around you. The people you come into contact with daily have a variety of needs. Some need to turn to Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Others need to return to their first love. Others are brokenhearted. Others are struggling with sin or adversity. You come into contact daily with people who need your prayers and spiritual influence.

#### **No.2: Strive to bless and pray for people daily.**

What does Paul teach in **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**?

In **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**, Paul reveals that the transformation of lives is a process. He teaches that people coming to Christ takes time and requires the effort of numerous believers. Making a difference in the lives of others is a process; God will use you in the process. Be faithful to bless people and pray for them. You are making a huge investment in their lives that will bear fruit in time.

**No. 3: Be faithful and don't become discouraged.**

What does the Word of God teach you in **Galatians 6:9**?

**Galatians 6:9** reveals that we will make a difference in the lives of people if we are faithful and do not give up. God will not let your labors for Him go without fruit. He will touch and bless your neighbors, as you are faithful to pray for them and influence them. God will honor your

prayers, your ministry, and your blessing of the lives that you encounter on a daily basis. You can trust Him for this; He will move powerfully in their lives, as you are faithful to pray and bless.

### *Preparing Your Heart*

Your neighbors are the people you meet on a daily basis. It extends from the people that live around you to the people you encounter in your daily routines. It is His heart's desire that you pray for and bless them. He longs for you to exercise spiritual influence in their lives. Pray today that God will open your eyes to see the harvest around you. Call on God to help you see your neighbors as He sees them – people in need of Him and His Word. Commit yourself to praying for and blessing them, confessing that God will honor your faithfulness in these matters.

**Dr. Kevin Meador, President  
The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.  
P. O. Box 278,  
Hickory, MS 39332**

**(601) 635-2180**

**(601) 646-5960**

**EMAIL:**

**[prayer@prayerclosetministries.org](mailto:prayer@prayerclosetministries.org)**

**WEB PAGES:**

**[www.prayerclosetministries.org](http://www.prayerclosetministries.org)**