

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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WHAT IS PRAYERWALKING?

Prayerwalking. You've probably heard of it. Maybe you're unsure about it. Perhaps you're even skeptical of it. For most Christians, prayerwalking is a new and rather strange concept. As with anything new, people may be skeptical and wonder why they should consider this practice. Yet, prayerwalking is a biblical practice that enables the believer to communicate with God in fresh and exciting ways. It also provides believers with the opportunity to make a difference in lives, communities, and cities through prayer.

The Definition Of Prayerwalking

Prayerwalking is moving your prayer closet or prayer meeting outside the four walls of the church or your house. Many times our prayers wobble between trivial matters of our own selfishness and topics of remote interest. However, prayerwalking focuses believers on the real needs, the real hurts, and the real concerns of their community. As believers prayerwalk, God gives them a heart for people and their needs. It enables believers to intercede with power for people in their cities and communities.

Prayerwalking is "**praying on location for transformation.**" It is an active strategy that calls Christians to

identify targeted places and then physically move about those premises to cover them in prayer. It is praying in the places that you long for God to work. It is moving outside the four walls of the church and praying on city streets or roads for the people and places around you. When you go on the scene, different sights, smells, and sounds will prompt you to pray in ways that you would probably never think of if you were to pray from a remote location. Prayerwalking is just what it sounds like – praying while you're walking.

The first part of prayerwalking is **prayer**. It is intercession for people and their needs. While you walk, you call on God to work in and bless the people of a street, a road, a community, or a city. It is the deliberate activity of interceding for others as one walks by their homes or businesses. In prayerwalking, a believer focuses on people and their cities or communities with a specific plan of intercession. The believer calls on God to bless, to save, to change, and to use the people who live in the houses or work in the businesses. Prayerwalking is not occasionally beaming bundles of religious sentimentality toward people. It is directed and focused intercession. This is the strength of prayerwalking. It is quality intercession for people. The best praying is always done on purpose and not as

casual happenstance. **Quality intercession is not incidental; it is intentional!**

Prayerwalking is **praying on location**. It is praying in the very places where you expect your prayers to be answered. It is praying in the places where you long to see God work. One can pray as he or she walks by a building or house. There can be exceptions to this. One can routinely break from walking to take a deliberate stance at special spots or station oneself at elevated viewpoints. This is for the purpose of intentionally praying for a place and the people who are there. Whether walking or stationed at a place, you are praying at the place where you desire and long for God to work and to pour out His abundant blessings. It is going to the place and praying where you hunger for God to send His power and His blessings.

Prayerwalking is also praying on-site **for transformation**. As you prayerwalk, you receive insight on how to pray by what you see, hear, smell, and feel. When you are praying where you long for God to work, it makes you more open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. You are prepared to receive vivid insight from Him. As you prayerwalk, the Holy Spirit will open your eyes, your mind, and your heart to pray with greater power and effectiveness for people and places.

Prayerwalking is the adventure of praying up-close and personal. It is going and praying in the places where we long to see God work. It is moving out of our comfort zones to go and pray in faith for people and places.

Is Prayerwalking Biblical?

The one question that I'm most often asked about prayerwalking is, "Is it biblical?" or "Where do you find prayerwalking in the Bible?" The word "prayerwalking" is not found in Scripture. Moreover, there is no direct command to prayerwalk in Scripture. Yet,

prayerwalking rests firmly on numerous biblical principles. It is thoroughly rooted in the teaching of the Word of God.

First, the Bible teaches that the believer is to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). This means that the believer is to maintain an ongoing conversation with God. The only way to live in obedience to this command is by talking to God everywhere you go. The only way that you can put this truth into practice is by talking to God throughout your day about what you see, hear, feel, and experience. This is prayerwalking! You cannot be obedient to this command of God apart from prayerwalking. **1 Thessalonians 5:17** and prayerwalking cannot be separated.

Prayerwalking creates a heart in believers for those in need. The Word of God says, "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd" (**Matthew 9:36**). The Bible says that Jesus was moved with compassion for the people. Yet, why did He have this compassion? The text says that when "He saw" the multitudes, He had compassion for them. Jesus saw them. He was brought face-to-face with their lostness and their needs. His view of their condition moved Him to compassion. Prayerwalking does the same. It moves people outside of the four walls of the church to see people and their needs. It is a time when believers are brought face-to-face with the lostness of people. This leads to a heart for them and their salvation and deliverance.

Prayerwalking leads believers to pray specific, intentional prayers. Jesus says, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (**Matthew 7:7**). God desires that we make specific and intentional requests of Him. He is not pleased with generalized praying. In prayerwalking, believers are able to pray specifically and intentionally. They pray

direct and simple prayers based on what they see, hear, smell, and experience. This grants greater power and intensity to their prayers. In addition, it glorifies and pleases God.

Prayerwalking is a crucial key in spreading the gospel to your city or community. The Bible says, “Meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains” (**Colossians 4:3**). Prayer opens the door for the gospel. It provides us with opportunities to share the gospel and minister to people. As believers prayerwalk, it opens the door for opportunities to witness in places where we did not have the opportunity before. It makes the way for more significant ministry in an area. Prayerwalking prepares the way for the gospel and ministry to people.

Prayerwalking releases God’s power into lives and places. The Word of God declares, “Ah, LORD God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You” (**Jeremiah 32:17**). Prayer is the channel through which God’s power is released. As we pray, the life-transforming power of God is unleashed into lives and areas. The power of God that is so desperately needed is funneled into lives when we call on God. Prayerwalking enables you to release God’s power in the places where that power is needed. It provides you with the opportunity to funnel His power into a home, a street, a school, a hospital, or wherever you go. The strength of prayerwalking is that you release God’s power into the very places where that power is needed the most.

Prayerwalking is a biblical practice that enables believers to get outside of the four walls of the church. It moves them to see the needs of people and their area. It provides them with the opportunity to pray powerfully and specifically. It is an

essential key in reaching your city or community for the Lord Jesus Christ.

How Can I Start Prayerwalking?

Prayerwalking is a ministry for both the believer and the church. The believer should be praying everywhere he goes and for the people that he encounters. Yet, churches should develop intentional prayerwalking ministries. By doing this, you can saturate your city or your community with prayer. **Can you imagine the difference it would make in your city or community if the entire area were covered with intercession?** When churches prayerwalk, it releases God’s power and lives are changed.

How can you start prayerwalking? The following are some practical steps that you can take:

Ask God to teach you how to prayerwalk. Prayer is a discipline that you must learn to practice (**Luke 11:1**). The same is true with prayerwalking. Pray that the Holy Spirit, the author of all prayer, will teach you how to prayerwalk.

Develop an ongoing conversation with God. Continue to talk to God throughout your day. God is with you everywhere you go; talk with Him everywhere you go.

Find a place that you are going to prayerwalk. This could be your street or road, a street or road around you, the school, or wherever you want to see God. Ask God to give you insight where you are to prayerwalk.

Enlist a partner or partners. You can prayerwalk by yourself. However, it is best to have a partner or partners. This will provide you with more insight and greater protection.

Prepare for the prayerwalk. There are three basic steps to prepare for a prayerwalk: enlist a prayer partner who will pray as you prayerwalk, put on the armor of God, and ask for the filling of the Spirit.

Pray according to what you see, hear, smell, and feel. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you through these things. Let these things move you to pray specifically and plainly. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to specific Scriptures that you can pray.

Pray in a conversational manner. You can pray silently or in a conversational manner. The key is to be on the scene without making a scene.

Minister to people as you prayerwalk. There will be times when you will have opportunity to talk with others. Ask them how you can pray for them. Share the good news of Jesus with them.

Keep a record of your insights. This will lead to continued intercession for the area and its people. It will also help for future prayerwalks.

The Privilege Of Prayerwalking

By: Cindy Evans

Lord, as we stroll through these streets,
May we be those with beautiful feet,
Praying the good news will spread,
In each home, each life, each bed.

We lift up each neighbor's needs
And that they'd live lives as you'd lead.
You are familiar with each person, each
heart,
And we will intercede and do our part.

We feel the Spirit moving here and there,
It is our joy to lift each and every care,
Knowing that you love them dearly
And you answer prayers wisely and clearly.

Help us obey Your prompting,
Give us strength to continue walking,
Lord, what an honor to serve and pray,
Be with us now each step of the way.

Prayerwalking Your Home

One of the most powerful ways that you can pray for your family is by prayerwalking your house. This spiritual exercise can invigorate your praying for your family. It can also help you to cover your family with intercession. At the same time, it's a good way to start learning how to prayerwalk.

You may be wondering, "How do I prayerwalk my house?" When you prayerwalk, you pray according to what you see, smell, hear, and feel. This is something that you can do in your home. As you walk through your house, talk to God about what you see, smell, hear, and feel. Base your praise and petitions on these things as you move throughout your home.

You can prayerwalk your home in two basic ways. One way is to pray on a daily basis. This means praying for your family as you go through your daily routine (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**). As you go through your regular routine, pray specific and pointed prayers for your family. Second, You might also consider doing a periodic prayerwalk of your house. During this time, you intentionally walk and pray through your house. It is a set time when you go through the entirety of your house or apartment, praying specifically for your family. During these times, you could involve the whole family. It would be an ideal time to teach your children about prayerwalking.

The following are some suggestions on how you could prayerwalk your house:

The kitchen – Pray that your family will hunger for God's Word and will be filled with its truth.

A bed – Ask that the family member would learn to rest in Christ and trust Him regardless.

A bathtub or shower – Plead that the members of your family will confess and forsake sin and will experience the cleansing of Jesus' blood.

A closet – Ask that your family will have a spirit of prayer and will have a quiet time with God.

A thermostat – Pray that your family will be on fire for God and that they will not be lukewarm.

A clock – Plead that your family will not waste time but will be diligent in serving God until Christ returns.

The front door – Ask that evil influences will be kept out of your home and that only righteous influences will be allowed.

The doorbell – Pray that your family will be sensitive to hear and obey the voice of God.

These suggestions are offered to you to help you get started prayerwalking your home. These are only suggestions that can help you see the variety of ways that you can prayerwalk your home. These are offered just to help you get started. As you prayerwalk, you will receive many other insights that you can use to intercede for your home. Prayerwalk your home and cling to **Galatians 6:9!**

The H.O.M.E.S. Card

The following is a prayer guide that you can use when prayerwalking. This guide will help you focus on praying for families in your area or wherever you are prayerwalking.

Health (**Exodus 15:26**)

- Plead that God's healing power would be released in the home.

- Pray that God would help and encourage those who are suffering in the home.

Office (**Ecclesiastes 3:22; 1 Corinthians 10:31**)

- Ask God to bless the work of each person in the home.
- Ask that God would help them with work-related pressure.
- Pray that each one will find fulfillment in his/her work

Money (**Matthew 6:33, 1 Timothy 6:17-18**)

- Pray that God will give greater finances to the home.
- Ask God to give the home wisdom in using money.
- Plead that all material needs of the home will be met.

Emotions (**Psalms 147:3, Luke 4:18, John 10:10**).

- Plead that God will grant loving, healthy relationships among the family and those around them.
- Pray for emotional healing for the family wounds.
- Ask God to deal with the problems in the home.

Spiritual life (**John 3:16, 6:44, Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Peter 2:1-2**).

- Plead that each person in the home would have a genuine relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- Pray that each person in the home will grow in faith.
- Pray that the family will be diligent in a local church.

Out Of The Saltshaker

(This section of the newsletter will offer practical advice on how to share your faith and have spiritual influence on those around you.)

Transition Questions

How do you get into a conversation with someone about Jesus Christ? The following are some transition questions that can help you move your conversation into spiritual matters and ultimately the good news of Jesus Christ. These questions are especially helpful when you are prayerwalking.

- What is your concept of God? Do you view Him positively or negatively?
- If you could be sure there is a God, would you want to know Him? On the other hand, if you could know God personally, would you want to?
- We've never had a chance to talk about your religious background. Where would you say you are in your spiritual pilgrimage?
- I am a follower of Jesus and I believe in the power of prayer. How can I pray for you?
- How do you think a person becomes a Christian?
- Most people in America say they believe in God. What does believing in God mean to you?
- Can I share the thing that I've found most important to me in my life?
- What do you think about when you to sleep at night? (If anxiety or guilt robs them of sleep, share with them about the forgiveness and peace that comes through Jesus Christ.)
- Before I came to Christ personally, God was a vague concept that I could not relate or grasp. How would you describe your view of God? Is He a reality to you or more of a vague concept?
- Who do you think that Jesus Christ is?
- What do you think was significant about His life? What do you think He was trying to accomplish?
- Many people claim that Jesus died and rose again from the dead. What do you think about this?
- Jesus said many interesting things. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the

life," and "no man comes to the Father but through me." What do you think He meant by those statements?

- If you were to die tonight are you sure you'd go to heaven? Has anyone ever explained to you how you can know for sure?
- What has been your experience with Christianity?
- Do you think much about spiritual things?
- People invest a lot of time and energy in developing their bodies, their careers, and their relationships. Yet, they often neglect the spiritual dimension of their lives. How are you developing your spiritual life?
- Do you have a best friend? I have a best friend. He's has made the difference in my life both for now and eternity. I'd like to tell you about Him. His name is Jesus.
- Do you find that faith and spiritual values play a role in your work? In your family? In your perspective on life?
- Have you ever come to the point where you trusted in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord? On the other hand, do you think this is something that you are still moving toward? Can I share with you how I came to this point?
- Do you go to church? Why or why not?
- We've been friends for quite some time now, and I've never really talked to you about the most important thing in my life. Can I share about this with you?

These are a few questions to help you think about moving conversations with others into spiritual things and a presentation of the gospel. You may use these or develop your own from them. The key issue is speak to others about Jesus Christ and their need for Him, "Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person" (**Colossians 4:2**).

Once you transition into talking about the gospel, keep a couple of things in mind.

- (1) **Pray.** When I'm able to move into a conversation about Jesus, I shoot an arrow prayer to the Father. An "arrow" prayer is short, sharp, and immediate prayer. Many times, I will pray, "Lord, have mercy on me," "Help me, Father," "Open this person's eyes and heart Holy Spirit."
- (2) **Don't condemn the others person's beliefs.** Our goal is to win people to Christ not win an argument. No matter what the person's beliefs, be courteous and respectful.
- (3) **Keep the focus on Jesus.** Point this person to Christ. Always come back to Christ – His death and resurrection.
- (4) **Ask the person to commit his or her life to Christ.** It's not enough to admire or intellectually assent to Jesus Christ. Genuine faith is the commitment of oneself to Christ as Savior and Lord.

Intercession: The Lonely Task

Interceding for others is a lonely task. The people you pray for may not even know that you are praying for them. They may have no idea that you are pleading for them and their needs before the Father's throne of grace (**Hebrews 4:16**). In addition, it may seem that your intercession is having no effect in the person's life.

Throughout the history of the church, intercessors have endured loneliness, despair, and discouragement. Praying for others calls you to do something that most people do not understand. How can you work through the loneliness, the frustration, and the

discouragement that often comes with intercession?

The following are some keys to help you work through these things that can hinder and even cripple your intercession for others:

- (1) **Realize that God understands how you feel.** The Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest intercessor of all (**Hebrews 7:25**). He understands what it means to intercede for others. No one else may understand your struggles in prayer, but Jesus Christ does. He is right there in the midst of the late nights and early mornings of prayer (**Hebrews 13:5**). He hears every prayer; He sees every tear (**2 Kings 20:5; Psalm 56:8**). He loves you and delights in you (**Psalm 18:19**).
- (2) **Keep love as the source of your motivation.** We pray because we know that God answers prayer and because we want to see God's will done on earth. Yet, your love for the people you pray for should motivate you to continue to continue in your intercession. **1 Corinthians 13** is the love chapter of the Bible. When it gets difficult to intercede, read this chapter. Recall the love that you have for the person and the desire that you have to see him or her blessed, changed, saved, or healed. Even if you do not know the person, your love for others and the desire to see them blessed by God should motivate you to continue to pray.
- (3) **Don't focus on the present pain, but look to the end result.** **Hebrews 12:1-3** reveals that we are to focus on the finish and not on the pain of the race. The same is true when you are praying for a person. In intercession, we must not be overwhelmed with the frustration, the loneliness, and the desperation. We must look in faith to what God is doing

(4) in the life of the person for whom we are praying.

(5) **Rejoice in the character that God is producing in you through your intercession.** It is true that God blesses and uses our praying for others. However, He also works in your life when you pray. As you pray for others, God changes you!

(6) **Remember that God values your intercession.** Those you pray for may never know that you have prayed for them and they may not value your intercession in their behalf. Yet, God values your intercession. It is the way that God has chosen to work in this world. God accomplishes His will in the lives of people through intercession. He has chained His purpose to the prayers of His people.

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