

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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WHY PRAYERWALKING?

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. There are some vital reasons why you need to consider this practice. Prayerwalking is not a technique that has been devised in order to get results. It is not a gimmick to get God to hear you. You may be wondering, "God can hear me when I am praying in my living room or in my church. Why should I walk all over the place praying?" There are some vital reasons why you need to consider this practice.

The first reason to consider this practice is that it helps the struggling intercessor. For most believers, prayer can be difficult and at times boring. In addition, let's face it; most prayer meetings in churches are boring. They consist of people using and repeating the same phrases and clichés that they have always used. Prayerwalking can stimulate new ways to pray. It stirs believers to pray in fresh and new ways. It can bring new life and power to the believer's prayer closet. It can bring new life and power to the church prayer meeting. It can refresh a church's prayer ministry. It is not a replacement

for prayer meeting or any other responsibility of the believers. Yet, it can be a catalyst for stirring believers to gather in homes and church buildings to pursue focused and fervent intercession.

Prayerwalking can give you a heart for the lost and hurting people around you. As you walk down roads and streets or station yourself at points, you come to realize that the people you are praying for are not just names on a prayer list. You discover that these people are lost, enslaved by sin and headed for an eternity in hell. You begin to realize the pain and the heartache of people who are suffering in your neighborhood, your community, or your city. This can motivate you to intercede with intensity. You can no longer go down a prayer list simply calling out names and asking God to bless them. This creates a heart in you for lost and hurting people. It creates a longing to stand in the gap for them.

This practice can also show you needs and opportunities that you've never seen before in your city or community. Many of our prayers concern only our own interests. In church prayer meetings, the focus of the praying is primarily for the members and their loved ones and activities of that

church. Our vision is turned inward rather than outward. Our praying has simply become focused on ourselves and the people that we know and that need our prayers. Prayerwalking will provide the opportunity to see the needs of a lost and hurting community or city. It will reveal opportunities to minister that have been hidden from our eyes by self-interest and selfishness.

Prayerwalking will mobilize and energize believers to evangelize and minister to people. It will create the desire to evangelize and minister because people have a tendency to pursue what they have prayed for. Added to this, people tend to be involved with what they have seen. These factors motivate believers to reach and minister to those for whom they have prayed. Prayerwalking is not an end in itself. It leads to all types of ministry, not the least of which is evangelism and prayer.

Prayerwalking helps you to focus your faith. As you walk through a city or community, you begin to see specific needs. Your mind and heart become saturated with the opportunities that are around you. As these things happen, you begin to call on God and believe God for the salvation, healing, deliverance, and blessing of people. You start believing God for specific blessings in the lives of those around you. You are put in a position where you trust God for specific blessings for specific people. You can no longer say, "Lord bless our city" or "Lord, bless our community." Your faith is focused to believe God for blessings in the lives of people in your community or city. You see the need and you are motivated to trust God for the blessing. When you draw close to whom you are praying for, it strengthens your faith to plead with and believe God for what is needed in their lives. This focused, strengthened faith is crucial to receiving an answer from the Lord. The Word of God states in **James 1:6-7**,

"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord."

Prayerwalking also helps you to agree in prayer. Power in prayer does not come through loud cries or eloquence. It comes when believers join together in agreement in prayer concerning a burden. As you prayerwalk, you can join others in specific intercession for people and their needs, agreeing that God's power and blessing has to be released into this situation. Agreeing in prayer is the desperate and united plea of believers who have been joined together by a common burden. It is the plea that the power of Jesus Christ, who is in their midst, might flow into and bring change in the situation (**Matthew 18:19-20**). Believers join in agreement and faith, pleading that the power of Jesus Christ will bring about the necessary changes. It is the desperate dependence on Jesus Christ to transform lives and situations, being expressed in prayer and faith.

Focusing on the same subject can be tough while sitting in a circle in a room. Yet, when you walk a street, road, or stand in front of a building, you are confronted by the needs. You come to a clear understanding of what is needed. You see the problem with clearer vision. For this reason, it becomes easier to share the same concern and the same level of intensity. Prayerwalking can give sharper focus and intensity to the agreement of believers in prayer.

Prayerwalking will enable you to pray specific, pointed prayers. You will begin to see needs and opportunities that are around you. This will enable you to make razor-sharp requests of the Lord. You will be praying for specific families with names and faces. You will be praying for specific places and needs.

This will generate more power and certainty to your prayers. As you walk, the Holy Spirit of God heightens your perception and enables you to pray with power and effectiveness.

What Prayerwalking Is Not

Prayerwalking is a dynamic and powerful spiritual experience. God will honor it and use it to touch and transform the lives of people. Believers can have an enormous impact on their cities and communities through prayerwalking.

We have already defined what prayerwalking is. It is praying on-site with insight. It is moving your prayer closet outside and into the city and community around you. Moreover, we have examined reasons why believers should practice prayerwalking. It will affect both those who practice it and those for whom they pray.

Prayerwalking is an essential tool for believers and churches. Yet, it is important to remember what prayerwalking is not. You must maintain a balance in this issue. Keep the following in mind:

- **Prayerwalking is not a substitute for personal prayer.** Prayerwalking can invigorate your prayer life. It can breathe new life into your prayer life. It can strengthen and intensify your prayer life. But, it should never be seen as a substitute for a personal, daily time when you get alone and get with your Father. Jesus taught the necessity of spending time alone with the Father, "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly" (**Matthew 6:6**). It is not a matter of choosing between

your time alone with God and your prayerwalking. It is a matter of striving to maintain a balance between your time alone with God and your prayerwalking.

- **Prayerwalking is not a replacement for the church's prayer meetings.** Again, you should work for a balance between these things. Prayerwalking can have a positive and transforming affect on your church's prayer meetings. It can rejuvenate the prayer meetings in your church. It can bring refreshing to the same old, tired, boring times that we call prayer meeting. Yet, it does not replace believers getting together in churches or homes to pray. The Bible declares the need for believers to join together for prayer, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers" (**Acts 2:42**). Prayerwalking can be a healthy and vital extension of the church's praying. In turn, it can breathe new life into the church's prayer meeting.
- **Prayerwalking is not an alternative to evangelism.** Prayerwalking leads to evangelism. Prayerwalking opens the door for witnessing. It removes the barriers to the gospel in cities and communities. Prayerwalking and evangelism go hand in hand. They complement each other. Prayerwalking enables the church to fulfill its Great Commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen" (**Matthew 28:19-20**). Prayerwalking is not an alternative to evangelism; it is a crucial key to

winning people to Jesus Christ and discipling them.

- **Prayerwalking is not a substitute for ministering to the needs of people.** Prayerwalking enables you to see and discover the needs of people. And it will produce compassion in your heart for people. It is one thing to hear about a need. It is quite another to see it in living color. Ministering to people requires a heart of compassion and an understanding of their needs. Prayerwalking equips the believer with both these things. Prayerwalking is not a substitute for ministry; it is a prerequisite for ministering to the people. Jesus declares that His people will minister to the needs of others, "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? And the King will answer and say to them, Assuredly, I say to You, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me" (**Matthew 25:37-40**). Prayerwalking can empower you to minister to the needs of others. It puts you in the position to do this.

Prayerwalking is a powerful tool for believers. It can release God's power and blessing into the lives of people. Yet, it must be remembered that it goes hand in hand with personal and corporate prayer, evangelism, and ministering to the needs of people.

THE "ABC" PRAYER

Evangelism is not complete until the evangelized become evangelists!
This statement summarizes the biblical

teaching about evangelism. Leading someone to Christ is not the end of our responsibility. We must strive to lead them to be personal witnesses of Christ. The following prayer guide can help you pray for the conversion and discipleship of your city/community. It can help you pray powerfully for people to come to Christ and then share Christ with others.

Admit their sin and guilt before God.

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and surrender to Him.

Confess Jesus Christ as the Lord of their lives both publicly and privately.

Delivered from sin and the power of Satan.

Experience daily the assurance and joy of their salvation.

Faithful and active in a local church.

Grow and mature in the Christian faith.

Hear and heed the Word of God.

Invoke others to repent and trust in Jesus Christ.

Prayerwalking Bible Study

The Giving God
Genesis 13

Prayerwalking Principle: *God is ready and willing to give you your city or area if you are willing to receive it.*

Why should you prayerwalk? It's because God is the giving God. The fundamental principle of prayerwalking is that God is the giving God. He is ready and willing to give you your city or your area. Yet, you must be willing to receive it by faith and prayer.

In Genesis 13, Abraham and Lot separate (**13:1-11**). Abraham and Lot's families and herds had grown so large that the land could not support both of them. Strife developed between the herdsmen of these two men. Abraham did not want the strife to develop into open conflict. He graciously gave Lot the choice of any part of the land he wanted. Lot chose the well-watered and fertile plain of Jordan and traveled east.

After Lot left, God gave a gracious promise to Abraham. What did God promise Abraham? Read **Genesis 13:14-16** and record your answer in this space.

God promised to give Abraham this land and to make his descendants as

numerous as the dust of the earth. At the same time, God tells Abraham to do two things.

What does He tell Abraham to do in **Genesis 13:14**?

What does He tell Abraham to do in **Genesis 13:17**?

God promises to give the land to Abraham. Yet, Abraham had to see and walk the land. His responsibility was to walk the land thoroughly and trust God and His promise. Abraham's survey of the land was not simply to examine what God was going to give him. It was to look in faith at what God would do through that land and his descendants. He was to believe God for the many descendants that would one day inhabit the land.

God is the giving God. He longs to give you your city or area. In the Word of God, God promises to save, heal, and bless people—this includes the people in your city, town, or area. He is the God who will do these things. Yet, you must see and walk. You must trust Him for this. You must get out and on the streets with prayer in order to receive from God.

Worship God as the giving God. Praise Him for being faithful to His promises. Pray that you will trust Him as the giving God. Ask Him to strengthen your faith to see, walk, and receive what He wants to do in your city, town, or area.

Sharing Your Personal Testimony

When you became a believer, you became God's messenger. God wants to speak to the world through you. God has committed His truth to you. He has put the message of life into your heart. He now longs for you to share that message with others. He desires that you share your personal testimony with others.

Your testimony is the story of how Christ has made the difference in your life. This is the heart of witnessing – sharing your personal experience with the Lord Jesus Christ. In a courtroom, a witness is expected to share his story – to tell what he has seen, heard, and experienced. In **Acts 1:8**, Jesus says, "You shall be my witnesses." The Lord Jesus Christ wants you to tell others your story.

Why Tell Your Story?

Why should you share your personal testimony about Jesus Christ?

- **Your testimony has authority.** A personal story is difficult to refute. The experience has happened to you. You are a specialist on your own story. The hostile Pharisees had no answer for the simple, forthright testimony of the blind man who had been healed (**John 9**).
- **Your testimony communicates.** People enjoy hearing other peoples' stories. They capture our attention and we remember them longer. A

concise and well-thought-out testimony of your own personal journey to faith in Jesus Christ can have a powerful effect on your listeners.

- **Your testimony relates.** The people with whom you are sharing may be experiencing the same feelings, struggles and temptations you have, without the benefit of Jesus in their lives. They will be able to relate to your life experiences, especially the difficulties and challenges of your quest for true meaning and joy in life. By sharing your story, you can build a bridge that Jesus can cross from your heart to theirs.
- **Your testimony is powerful.** Your testimony enables the presentation of the gospel to be both unique and personal. Jesus told stories, and we have stories to tell too. The whole Bible is a story of how God has loved and sought the love of His human creation. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus deserves to be retold over and over again. In addition, we have our stories to tell about how God has reshaped who we are. We can share with others how Christ has changed our lives and helped us after we trusting in Him. We have a personal experience with the Christ who died and rose again. People need to hear this. This is why Paul shared his testimony on six different occasions (**Acts 22-26**).

The Bible says, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of` the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (**2 Peter 3:15**). The best way to be ready to give an answer is to be prepared. It's best to write out your testimony. God will honor your preparation. It might be tempting to resist preparation and "let the spirit move." Nevertheless, it is wise to

prepare yourself and have ready the words to describe the most important event of your life.

An Outline For Your Testimony

What should your testimony consist of? The following is an outline to help you prepare your testimony:

- (1) What my life was like before I came to Jesus Christ;
- (2) How I realized that I needed Jesus Christ;
- (3) How I committed my life to Jesus Christ;
- (4) The difference that Jesus Christ has made in my life.
- (5) A recent example of how Christ has worked in your life recently.

The key to preparing your own testimony is to think through your own story. It will be helpful to write it down. I would suggest that you prepare a testimony that you can share in 5 to 8 minutes. You can prepare a testimony that will last longer. Yet, it is wise to have your testimony to the place that you can share it in a short time. Work hard on your opening and closing statements. Memorize these opening and closing statement. Commit your outline to memory. When you prepare your story, God gets the glory, you get the joy of sharing your faith, and someone is blessed.

Practical Tips For Sharing Your Testimony

- Plead with the Holy Spirit to help you put your testimony together. At the same time, ask Him to empower you to share it.
- Ask the Spirit to give you opportunity to share your story with others who need to hear it.
- Practice with another believer.

- Have verses of Scripture ready to share the good news of Jesus. I would suggest that you memorize them but you can have them on cards or marked in a New Testament or Bible.
- Emphasize who Jesus is and what He has done in your life.
- Remember your part and God's part:

Your Part

- "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations'" (**Matthew 28:18-19**).
- "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us" (**2 Corinthians 5:20**).

God's Part

- "'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty" (**Zechariah 4:6**).
- "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power" (**1 Corinthians 2:4**).
- "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him" (**John 6:44**).
- "No one can come to Me unless the Father has enabled him" (**John 6:65**).

Your part is to be a witness. You are to share who Christ is and what He has done in your life. It is God's part to convict, draw, and convert the lost person to Jesus Christ. Share your story and trust God to do His work in the lives of the lost. Salvation is the work of God in a lost person's life through your sharing. Be faithful to tell your story and depend on God to transform people.

Praying For Your Sharing

Father, You are the gracious and merciful God. I praise You for your salvation through Christ. Thank You for sending Jesus. Thank You for Your Spirit who drew me to Him. Thank You for others who prayed for me and shared Jesus Christ with me. I plead for your power to share Jesus with others. I ask that You will grant me wisdom and guidance in telling others about who Jesus is and how He has changed my life. I pray that many will come to You through my personal witness. Amen.

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