

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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VOLUME 1

MAY/JUNE, 2009

ISSUE 3

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I PRAYERWALK?

When I teach and preach on the subject of prayerwalking, most believers have a common question, "What do I pray when I prayerwalk?" Others have asked, "What do I do when I prayerwalk?" In this chapter, I want to introduce you to the assortment of things that you can do and pray as you prayerwalk. When you prayerwalk, you can listen, discover, minister, and pray.

Listen

When you prayerwalk, you can listen to the Holy Spirit. He longs to speak to you and guide you. He can and will grant you valuable insights as you prayerwalk. You may be wondering, "How can you walk and listen to the Spirit?" It is possible to listen to the Spirit as you prayerwalk. The first step is to develop your ability to listen to Him during your quiet times. Each believer needs to have a time of listening when he or she prays. When you pray, develop the discipline of listening for His voice. This is the anchor for your listening to God during prayerwalks. Before you prayerwalk, confess and repent of sin. Then, seek the filling of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to control you

during the prayerwalk, making you sensitive to His voice. As you prayerwalk, walk in a hushed silence. Be quiet and walk in silence listening for His voice. Or you can stand somewhere in a hushed silence listening for Him to speak to you. You might consider taking a small notebook or notepad with you. By doing this, you can record any insights or guidance that He may grant you.

Discover

When you prayerwalk, you can discover the needs of the people and the community. Prayerwalking makes you sensitive to what is going on around you. Most of the time we go through our cities and communities, oblivious to what is going on and to the needs that exist. When you prayerwalk, it sensitizes you to people and their needs. It slows you down. It provides the Spirit with an opportunity to open your eyes and convict you about the needs in your area. You might also see places where ministry can be carried out. You might discover an area where a particular type of ministry might be carried out. God will open your eyes and heart to the

possibilities for ministry in your city or community. You will discover a variety of opportunities for your church and you to reach out to and minister to the area that God has placed you. When you prayerwalk, keep your eyes and heart open to the needs and possibilities for ministry that exist throughout your city or community.

Minister

When you prayerwalk, you will have times that you are able to talk with people. This will provide you with an opportunity to minister to them. You can pray directly for them in their presence. Jesus prayed directly for people. He prayed for people who approached Him (**Luke 5:12-15, 7:2-10; 17:12-19**). On some occasions he initiated conversations which turned into an opportunity to pray for someone (**Luke 7:11-15, 13:12-13**). When you encounter someone that you would like to pray for, keep the following in mind:

- *Start with a simple introduction.* Tell the person who you are and that you are praying for the community.
- *Inquire about their needs.* Share with the person your willingness to pray about any need that he or she might have.
- *Get permission to pray.* Ask the person, "Can I pray about this for you?" or "Will you give me the privilege of praying about this right now?"
- *Pray to the point.* Pray specifically about the needs that have been shared. Don't try to preach a sermon through your prayer. Don't pray about a variety of other things. Junk the clichés and trite sayings. Pray

sincerely and earnestly for the person and his/her need.

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- *Share your willingness to continue to pray.* Convey to the person that you will continue to pray for him and her and the need that has been shared. Write down the prayer request in his or her presence as a sign of your commitment to pray.
- *Witness to the person if the opportunity arises.* Many witnessing encounters flow out of this type of situation. If you have the opportunity, share the good news about Jesus with him or her.

Pray

When you prayerwalk, you talk to God about what you see. You pray about those things you encounter. Our definition of prayerwalking is, "Praying on-site with insight." You are to pray according to the insights that you receive. You receive these insights to pray in three ways.

Revealed Insight

Revealed insight refers to the insight that the Holy Spirit grants you as you prayerwalk. The Word of God is His primary tool for showing you how to pray. He provides you with insight on how to pray through the Word. The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Word of God. Not only has He inspired the Word of God, He also empowers you to pray. Because of this, it is through the Word that He provides you with the insight to pray. The Holy Spirit who inspired the Word will use that same Word to show you how to pray. He can and will grant you insight as you pray the Word of God. As you pray the Word, the Holy Spirit guides you on how to pray during your prayerwalking. Using the Word as you prayerwalk prepares you to receive His

leadings. It opens your heart and mind to receive insight from Him—insight that

you can use to pray with power and effectiveness.

For this reason, you should pray the Scriptures as you prayerwalk. You can take a small Bible along with you or 3x5 cards with Scripture written on them. You might even consider photocopying parts of the Scripture for one-day use in your prayerwalking. Use the verses of Scripture as prayers for the people and the situations that you encounter on a prayerwalk. You can read the Scripture aloud, claim the promises of His Word, or adapt the verses to prayers for the people of the area. This manual contains numerous prayer guides to help you pray the Scripture as you prayerwalk. See Chapter 9 “Prayer Guides” for this material.

Responsive Insight

Responsive insight refers to the insight that you receive through observation. As you prayerwalk, you will see many sights. You will see people, homes, businesses, objects, and events. Observing these things yield significant insights on how to pray. Responsive insight is allowing what you see to trigger pointed and specific intercession. You use what you see to shape how you pray. It is forming petitions according to the things that you see. *Revealed insight comes as you allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the Scriptures. Responsive insight comes as you allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through what you see.*

Examples of responsive insight are:

▪ **A stop sign**-Asking God to stop the work of Satan in the area Jesus

Christ and the good news about Him; pleading with God to stop the opposition to the gospel in an area so

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that many would turn to Jesus in faith and repentance.

▪ **A bank**-Pray that people would not lay up treasures on earth but that they would lay up treasures in heaven; ask God that people would not be blinded to eternal realities by their possessions.

▪ **A jail**-Plead that the captives to Satan would be set free by the power and grace of Jesus Christ; pray that the demons assigned to the area would be bound and rendered ineffective.

▪ **“Children At Play” sign**-Pray that the area would be filled with children in prayer to God, lifting up holy hands to Him.

▪ **“Wrong Way” sign**-Ask the Holy Spirit to show people in the area that they are headed in the wrong direction and that they must turn to and follow Jesus.

▪ **A hospital**-Pray that people will experience God’s healing power; plead that people will see their need of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ and that they will know that He is the only cure for sin and damnation.

▪ **A peaceful day**-Pray that God would bring peace to the area through His Son Jesus Christ.

▪ **A police car**-Plead for the salvation and protection of the police officers; pray that justice would be carried out in the area.

▪ **A fence**-Pray that God would place a wall of protection around believers; ask God to remove the barriers that hinder reconciliation in the area.

▪ **Power lines**-Pray that the power of the Holy Spirit would be channeled into the area; ask for the removal of anything that would hinder the believers in the area from receiving the power of God.

▪ **Phone lines**-Ask that the people would have a desire to talk with God and listen to Him.

▪ **A transformer**-Plead that the churches in the area would be places where peoples' lives are transformed through the Word and the Spirit.

▪ **A gas station**-Pray that people will see that their lives are empty and that they need God to fill their life with His love and grace.

▪ **A "Slow Down" sign**-Ask that people will slow down and consider where they will spend eternity.

▪ **A grocery store**-Plead that the people will hunger for the Bread of God, Jesus Christ.

▪ **A school**-Pray that the people in the area would turn to Jesus Christ and that they would become disciples or learners of Jesus.

▪ **A drugstore**-Plead that God would destroy drug trafficking and use throughout the area.

These examples reveal that you use what you see to pray. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you observe. Be prepared to see people and objects as you have never seen them before. Be prepared to respond with pointed intercession as the Holy Spirit speaks to you concerning what you see.

Researched Insight

Researched insight refers to the insight you receive from research about the area where you will prayerwalk.

Some believers have found it helpful to do research about their city or community. From this research, they develop petitions for the city or community. When they prayerwalk, they use this research to offer pointed and powerful intercession.

Revealed insight is allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the Scriptures. Responsive insight is allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you through what you see and hear.

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Researched insight is allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to You through your research of an area.

You can do research in the following areas: history of the area, history of religion in the area, physical research, and spiritual research. The following is a series of questions that you can use to do this research concerning each of these areas. As you do this research, pray that the Holy Spirit would show you how you need to pray for your city or community.

I. THE HISTORY OF THE CITY

The Founding Of The City:

- Who were the people who founded the city?
- What was their personal or corporate reason for founding the city?
- What were their beliefs and philosophies?
- What was their vision for the future of the city?
- What is the significance of the original name of the city?
- Has the name been changed?
- Are there other names or popular designations for the city?

Do these names have meanings?

Are they linked to religion of any sort?

Are they demonic or occultic names?

Do they signify blessings or curses?
Do they highlight the city's redemptive gift?
Do they reflect the character of the people of the city?

The Later History Of The City

- What role has the city played in the life and character of the nation as a whole?
- As prominent leaders have emerged in the city, what was their vision for the city?
- Have any radical changes taken place in the government or political leadership of the city?
- Have there been significant or sudden changes in the economic life of the city? Famine? Depression? Technology? Industry? Discovery of natural resources?
- What significant immigration has occurred? Was there ever an imposition of a new language or culture on the city as a whole?
- How have immigrants or minorities been treated? How have races or ethnic groups related to one another? Have city laws legitimized racism of any kind?
- Have city leaders broken any treaties, contracts, or covenants?
- Have any wars directly affected the city? Were any battles fought in the city? Was there bloodshed?
- How has the city treated the poor and the oppressed? Has greed characterized city leaders? Is there evidence of corruption among political, economic, or religious leaders and institutions?
- What natural disasters have affected the city?
- Does the city have a motto or slogan? What is its meaning?

- What kinds of music do the people listen to? What is the message they receive from that music?
- What five words would most people in the city use to characterize the positive features of their city today? What five words would they use for the negative features?

II. History Of Religion In The City

A. Non-Christian Religions

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- What were the religious views and practices of the people who inhabited the area before the city was founded?
- Were religious considerations important in the founding of the city?
- Have any non-Christian religions entered the city in significant proportions?
- What secret orders have been present in the city?
- What witches' covens, satanist groups, or other such cults have operated in the city?

B. Christianity

- When, if ever, did Christianity enter the city? Under what circumstances?
- Have any of the early or later Christian leaders been involved in secret societies?
- What role has the Christian community played in the life of the city as a whole? Have there been changes in this?
- Is Christianity in the city growing, plateaued, or declining?

C. Relationships

- Has there been conflict between religions in the city?
- Has there been conflict between Christians?

- What is the history of church splits in the city?

III. Physical Research

- Locate different maps of the city, especially the older ones. What changes have taken place in the physical characteristics of the city?
- Who were the city planners who designed the city?
- Are there any significant, discernible designs or symbols imbedded in the original plan or layout of the city?
- Is there any significance in the architecture, location, or positional relationship of the central buildings, especially those representing the political, economic, educational, or religious powers in the city?
- Has there been any historical significance in the particular plot of land upon which one or more of those buildings are located? Who originally owned this land?
- What is the background of the city's parks and plazas? Who commissioned and funded them? What significance might their names have?
- What is the background and possible significance of the statues and monuments of the city? Do any reflect demonic characteristics or glorify the creature rather than the Creator?
- What other artwork is featured in the city, especially on or in public buildings, museums, or theaters? Look especially for sensual or demonic art.
- Are there any prominent archaeological sites in the city? What meaning might they have?
- What is the location of highly visible centers of sin such as abortion clinics, pornographic bookstores or theaters, areas of prostitution, gambling, taverns, homosexual activities, etc.?

- Where are areas that concentrate greed, exploitation, poverty, discrimination, violence, disease, or frequent accidents?
- Where are locations of past or present bloodshed through massacre, war, or murder?
- Does the position of hills, trees, stones, or rivers form any apparently significant pattern?
- Do certain landmarks of the city have names that would not glorify God?
- What is the highest geographical point in the city and what is built or located there? This can be a statement of authority.
- Which zones or sectors or neighborhoods of your city seem to have characteristics of their own? Attempt to discern areas of the city that seem to have different spiritual environments.

IV. Spiritual Research

A. Non-Christian

- What are the names of the principal deities or territorial spirits associated with the city past or present?
- What are the locations of high places, altars, temples, monuments, or buildings associated with witchcraft, occult, fortune telling, satanism, secret societies, Mormonism, Eastern religions, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the like. Do these form any patterns when plotted on a map?
- What are the sites of pagan worship from the past, even before the city was founded?
- What are the different cultural centers that might contain art or artifacts connected with pagan worship?
- Has any city leader knowingly dedicated himself or herself to a pagan god or principality?

- Did the original inhabitants on the land or people who founded the city place any known curses on the city or area?

B. Christian

- How have God's messengers been received by the city?
- Has evangelism been easy or hard?
- Where are the churches located? Which of them would you see as "life-giving" churches?
- What is the health of the churches in the city?
- Who are the Christian leaders that are considered as "elders of the city?"
- Is it easy to pray in all areas of the city?
- What is the status of unity among Christian leaders across ethnic and denominational lines?
- What is the view of the city leaders toward Christian morality?

C. Revelational

- What are the recognized, mature intercessors hearing from God concerning the city?
- What is the identity of the ranking principalities seemingly in control of the city as a whole or certain areas of the city's life or territory?

Prayerwalking Bible Study:

A Vision For Your City Genesis 18:16-33

Prayerwalking Principle: *God longs for you to develop a vision for your city, town, or area.*

Prayerwalking is a matter of vision. It is a matter of seeing things from God's perspective. The story of Abraham and his intercession for Sodom and Gomorrah reveal that God deals with large groups of people. He blesses and judges cities. He is concerned about the righteousness and wickedness of a city. He can deliver cities or destroy them. This is the vision that you need to develop. This is the vision that God wants you to develop. He wants you to have a concern for the people in your city, town, or area. He wants you to see beyond the four walls of your church and family. He longs for

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you to have a burden for your city, town, or area.

Why were the angels sent to Sodom and Gomorrah? Read **Genesis 18:20-21** and record your answer.

God was not ignorant of what was going on in Sodom and Gomorrah. He desired to have mercy on them and give them another opportunity to repent. God is merciful and patient. God desires to be merciful and bless cities, towns, or areas. These verses reveal that God is concerned about the righteousness and wickedness of a city or area. He is full of mercy and compassion even for the wicked. He longs for cities to believe Him and live righteous before Him.

Read **Genesis 18:17**. Why does God reveal His coming judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham?

God revealed this to Abraham that he might intercede for Sodom and Gomorrah. He desired that Abraham pray for these cities and their people. Lot and his family lived there (**Genesis 19:1-2**). Abraham would surely want to pray for Lot and his family. Yet, God wanted to increase his vision and intercession. He wanted him to cover these cities with intercession.

God wants to do the same with you. He wants to increase your vision and intercession for your city, town, or area. He is pleased with your prayers for those who are close to you. He will honor and bless your praying for your family and your church family. Yet, He wants you to expand your vision to include all the people of your area. He wants you to pray boldly for your city, your town, or your area. He wants you to fervently intercede for the population around you.

What does Abraham do in **Genesis 18:22**?

The Bible reveals that Abraham stood before the Lord. This phrase means more than just a description of his location. It refers to his determination to intercede for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

What does Abraham say in **Genesis 18:27**? What is Abraham's attitude in pleading with the Lord?

Humility and boldness characterized Abraham's praying. He was humble before the Lord; He realized that God is the "Judge of all the earth" (**Genesis 18:25**). Yet, at the same time, He pleads with God to spare these cities. He boldly asks God not to destroy the

city if there are ten righteous people in it. His vision for these cities led him to pray with humility and boldness.



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This is what God wants to produce in you. He longs for you to have a vision for your city, your town, or your area. He wants you to see beyond your immediate sphere of reference. He longs for you to break out of the boundaries of your comfort zone. Out of this vision, He desires that you plead with boldness and humility with all those around you. Your vision for the city should lead you to bold, humble pleading for the city.

Plead that God would help you see things from His perspective. Pray that He will give you a vision for your city, your town, or your area. Ask that this vision will create bold, humble pleading for people. Call on Him to deliver you from your comfort zone.

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