



THE PRAYER CLOSET

*Transforming Lives Through Intercessory
Prayer and Fasting*

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PRAYERWALKING

Prayerwalking is moving your prayer closet or prayer meeting outside the four walls of a building. 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 defined as "praying on-site with insight." 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 moving outside the four walls of the church and begin 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.

There has been an explosion of prayerwalking in the last twenty years. Prayerwalking does not have a father; no one person can be identified as the founder of the movement. One cannot find an original prayerwalker who devised the idea years ago.

There has been a mutual sharing of ideas, but God has apparently authored the idea in the hearts of many of the pioneers who have quietly gone on with the job and have passed the idea on to countless others.

Prayerwalking is just what it sounds like it would be: *praying while walking*. Since there are different kinds of walks and different kinds of prayer, we need to have a sharpened, narrow definition of prayerwalking. As defined earlier, it is praying on-site with insight. This definition reveals that there are three distinct parts to prayerwalking. These three elements are necessary to carrying out a successful and powerful prayerwalk.

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

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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 on-site prayer. It is simply praying in the very places where you expect your prayers to be answered. 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.

Finally, prayerwalking is praying on-site *with insight*. When people prayerwalk, they do it with their eyes wide open. By seeing the people, their homes, and their businesses, it floods their prayers with significance. The ordinary powers of observation yield tremendous insights about the best focus in prayer. These insights will refine their prayers and will give a more powerful and sharper focus to their prayers. By having this more powerful and sharper focus in prayer, it will lead to more fervent intercession.

The insight of the prayerwalkers may be researched insight. Before going on a prayerwalk, believers can do research about their community or city. They can therefore understand the problems of the area and the hindrances to the gospel in this area. By doing this, they can develop a prayer strategy that will address these problems and these hindrances. This will allow them the opportunity to pray for solutions and for the removal of any obstacle to the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Insight on how to pray can be given to the prayerwalker as he or she prays through the Scripture. It is crucial that the prayerwalker pray the Scripture as he or she walks. This is due to the person and the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals the truth of Scripture and who enables the believer to pray. As a believer prays the Scripture, the Holy Spirit will grant specific guidance in how to pray for individuals and cities or communities. As a believer saturates his life and prayers with the Word of God, the Holy Spirit can and does grant specific promptings to pray for a city or community and its individuals. Praying the Word of God opens your ears to listen to the prayer guidance of the Holy Spirit. This will enable the prayerwalker to pray more specifically and more intensely.

The insights gained through prayerwalking can lead to powerful intercession for a city or a community and its people. These insights will enable the believer to seek God to deal with the problems and the barriers to the gospel so that God can be glorified by the advancement of His kingdom and the transformation of lives in cities and communities. These insights blend together to fortify prayer with a starkly relevant authenticity. It is no longer prayer as usual. This up-close and personal prayer becomes an adventure.

Why Should Christians Practice 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.

The first reason to consider this practice is because it helps the struggling intercessor.

For most believers, prayer can be difficult and at times boring. And, 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 prayer. 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.

Why Is Prayerwalking So Powerful?

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 muttering prayers?"

God does hear and answer our prayers. These are truths that are hard to grasp, but, at the same time, are wonderfully true. God is at work when we pray. This is true regardless of where a person prays, whether at home, in a church, on a city street, or walking around or standing in front of a building. Yet, it must be remembered that God helps us to pray. God guides our prayers. This is just as remarkable a truth as the fact that God hears and answers our prayers. Prayerwalking is one of God's tools that can be used to gain guidance and help in prayer. You need to think of prayerwalking as a simple help and guide to prayer. Prayerwalking helps your intercession in three ways.

First, 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 who 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 in agreeing 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 or 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 is powerful because it can guide you in your 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. This will grant more power and certainty to your prayers. As you walk your perception is heightened and your prayers can be far more directed by the Holy Spirit of God.

The Basics of Conducting A Prayerwalk

There are a variety of ways to conduct a prayerwalk. The following is simply an offering of suggestions to help you get started. This is an explanation of the basics. These are the basics that will help you begin and sustain healthy and powerful prayerwalks. You may have to make adjustments in light of your situation. Yet, these are the basics that needed to begin. A prayerwalk needs to be conducted in three phases.

Phase One:

The Preparation For A Prayerwalk

Before you prayerwalk, you need to make preparation. This is not something you do on a whim. If it is going to be powerful and effective, you must begin by preparing yourself. You need to take certain steps to get yourself ready to be an instrument that God can use.

Your first step in preparation is to commit yourself totally to God. Before you prayerwalk, you need to have a time of worship and surrender before the Lord. You are about to become a bridge of blessing between heaven and earth. As you worship before the Lord, be still before Him for a short while with a readiness to sense special instructions regarding where you should walk or what you should pray. You need to have a definite plan about the place you should prayer and the prayer requests that you are going to make. Yet, be open to change at the guidance of the Lord. Go with the plans that you have formed unless you clearly sense otherwise.

Another part of your preparation should be the development of a prayer team or prayer teams. A person can prayerwalk by themselves. God can and does use this. Yet, it is best if there is a team. A team can provide encouragement, feedback, and support. It also provides the opportunity for believers to agree in prayer concerning requests. A prayer team can consist of two to three members. This can be adjusted according to circumstances and situations. Yet, each member of the prayer team needs to play a significant role in the prayerwalk. Before the team goes out, make sure that each member is in a right relationship with each other. The team also needs to pray on each piece of the armor that has been given to believers by God for spiritual warfare (**Ephesians 6:10-18**). Any time a believer prays, a spiritual war is going on. This is true for prayerwalking also. Following this, the prayer team should be briefed about the area that will be covered. Go over the prayer strategy for the prayerwalk. Make sure there is a clear understanding as to where the prayerwalk will be and what the plan of prayer is going to be.

Phase Two: The Practice of Prayerwalking

When you prayerwalk, your prayers need to be balanced between three topics: *worship, warfare, preparation of the way for God's blessings*. Every prayerwalk should have the worship of God included. As you walk, praise God who made all the things that you see. Adore God who has created the people that you are praying for on the prayerwalk. Give God the glory for what He is going to do in that area. The purpose of this worship is to glorify God and to seek God's manifest presence. God inhabits or dwells in the praises of His people. His power flows when His people praise Him. God is always present. Yet, in worship, we are seeking God's presence to be made real and vital in peoples' lives. Praise is crucial to this. **When the praise goes up, the power comes down!**

You also need to do *warfare* on the prayerwalk. The purpose of this is to deal with evil spirits that are working in the area in which you are prayerwalking. It is to begin the process of tearing down strongholds and weakening the grip of Satan in the lives of the people by prayer. Satan and his demons work to blind and keep unbelievers in bondage (**2 Corinthians 3:3-4**). Satan and his demons work to hinder and lead believers into bondage (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**). There must be a resistance and binding of these forces. Call on the Lord Jesus Christ to bind, confuse, and send these evil forces away. Ask Him to tear down any strongholds that Satan has built in the lives of people. Plead that the forces of hell will be broken and destroyed by the power of Christ's blood, Christ's cross, Christ's name, and Christ's Word. This is done in preparation for receiving the Word of God and bringing about true repentance and faith in the lives of those for whom you are praying.