



# THE PRAYER CLOSET

Equipping & Encouraging Believers  
In Prayer

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ISSUE 3

## PRAYING FOR YOUR WORKPLACE

God is concerned about every area of your life. He is interested and involved in every aspect of your life. No area of your life is beyond His attention or His work. This includes your workplace. God longs to bless the place where you work. He longs to act in the lives of those with whom you work. Through prayer, you can release God's power and blessings into your workplace and into the lives of those with whom you work.

Sometimes believers draw a distinction between church and work. They see their lives divided between church on Sunday and the rest of their week and lives. They do not see a connection between the two. This is also referred to as "the sacred and the secular". However, God does not draw this distinction. For the child of God, everything is done before God. Everything should be done for God's glory, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

God desires to use you in your workplace. He longs to make an eternal difference in your workplace through your life and your praying. This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will deal with praying for your workplace. You will be provided with insights on how to pray for your business and those with whom you work. It is my hope and prayer that God will use your life and your praying to bring stability, blessing, and transformation to your workplace.

The purpose of this issue is also aimed at the church. It is the responsibility of the church to pray for the businesses that surround it. God is concerned about the workplaces in the city, the town, or the area where your church is located. The church is to be a place of intercession for all, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone" (1 Timothy 2:1). This includes the businesses around the church and the employers and employees in those businesses. The church must stand in the gap for this crucial issue.

My hope and prayer is that this newsletter will encourage believers and churches to develop intentional ministries or specific times of prayer for the businesses of its surrounding area. This is an area that is worthy of the church's attention and intercession.

### Why Should I Pray For The Workplace?

There are numerous reasons for praying for your workplace and the businesses around you. *The first reason is because of the church's responsibility to pray for all types of issues and people* (1 Timothy 2:1). The church is to be a house of prayer. It is to be a place where intercession is made for all the aspects of society. This Includes

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the businesses that surround the church. The church is to pray and cover the workplaces in its area.

*The second reason is that prayer releases God's blessing into the workplace.* Prayer is the channel through which He grants His blessings, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (**Matthew 7:7**). As you pray, it will release God's blessings into a workplace. God can establish, sustain, and guide a business as believers seek God. Prayer is not a substitute for wise business decisions and hard work. But prayer does provide the foundation, the insight, and the power for wise business decisions and hard work.

*Prayer also manifests God's presence and power in a workplace.* Jesus says, "For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them" (**Matthew 18:20**). God is present everywhere (**1 Kings 8:27**). Yet, when believers pray for a workplace, it is an invitation for God to manifest His presence in that place. It is a cry for Him to release His power in that particular place. Through prayer, believers are confessing their need of God and His power to work and bring change in the workplace. As you pray in agreement, God manifests His presence and power by blessing the workplace and changing the lives of those who work there.

*Prayer encourages and sustains the believers in the workplace.* There are numerous believers who work in the businesses around the church. In a church, you will most likely have large numbers of believers who are employed in the businesses of the area. By praying, you are asking God to help these believers. You are calling on Him to strengthen and sustain these believers in their work. This is especially crucial for those believers who work in a hostile atmosphere. Some believers work in places where unbelievers surround them. In these places, their faith is under attack and held in suspicion. When we seek God for the workplaces, God will strengthen and encourage these believers.

*Praying for workplaces is a way to plead for financial blessing on the church.* The economy of an area does affect the church. When businesses flourish, there is more money in the economy. This provides more money to be given and used for the work of the kingdom. Praying for workplaces is a simple way of pleading for financial blessing on your church.

*Praying for workplaces is another way that the church can be salt and light* (**Matthew 5:13-16**). God desires that the church have influence on society. He longs for His people to be agents of change and hope in this sinful society. By praying for workplaces, the church extends and exercises an influence for Christ in these places.

## Scripture Prayers For The Workplace

The following prayer guide is offered to help you pray for your workplace. It is also provided to help believers and churches plead for the businesses around them. You can use these or develop your own from them. The key issue is to pray the truth of the Word in behalf of these workplaces. In order to use these prayers, place the name of the business in the blank and plead the truth of the Word for that business.

Father, I ask for You to release Your blessing on \_\_\_\_\_. I seek You to provide abundantly for \_\_\_\_\_. O God, increase and sustain \_\_\_\_\_ by Your blessing and power (**Matthew 7:7-11**).

Father, I plead that You would identify and unify the believers at \_\_\_\_\_. I pray that they would encourage and bless each other. Empower them to pray for one another and to be salt and light at \_\_\_\_\_ (**John 17:21**).

Father, I pray that the unbelievers at \_\_\_\_\_ will come to Christ in true faith and repentance. Draw them to Jesus through Your Word and Your Spirit (**John 3:16, 6:44**).

Father, I ask You to protect the workers at \_\_\_\_\_. Send Your angels to guard each of them. By Your power and grace, keep the workers safe and sustain them (**Psalms 91:11-12**).

Father, I plead with You to grant wisdom for all the decisions that are made at \_\_\_\_\_. Provide the insight that is needed to make sound decisions (**Proverbs 1:7**).

Father, I ask You to strengthen the workers at \_\_\_\_\_. Sustain them and shield them from work-related stress. Deliver them from fear,

frustration, and anxiety concerning their job and the business (**John 14:1; Colossians 3:15**).

Father, I pray that work at \_\_\_\_\_ would be a joy to all involved. I ask that the focus at \_\_\_\_\_ would be on service and not self. Cause the leaders and workers at \_\_\_\_\_ to focus on contentment and not personal gain (**1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; Philippians 4:12-13**).

Father, I pray that You would grant healthy relationships among the leaders and workers at \_\_\_\_\_. Remove any obstacles to healthy relationships in the workplace (**Colossians 3:22-4:1**).

Father, I plead that the workers at \_\_\_\_\_ will work with all their might. Enable them to work with all their heart. I pray that the workers at \_\_\_\_\_ would work with sincerity at all times (**Colossians 3:22**).

Father, I pray that the leaders, supervisors, or bosses at \_\_\_\_\_ will treat the workers with fairness and compassion. I ask that they will be kind to their employees, keeping their best interests in mind. ~~Deliver them from any favoritism, cruelty,~~ and disinterest in the workers (**Colossians 4:1**).

Father, I pray that You would bless the marriages and families of the leaders and workers at \_\_\_\_\_. Provide all that is needed for the health and stability of their marriages and families. Protect and guide their marriages and families (**Philippians 4:19**).

Father, I pray that You would raise up customers for \_\_\_\_\_. I ask You to increase their business. Make them effective in their business. Bless the customers who do business with \_\_\_\_\_. Grant \_\_\_\_\_ economic success (**Jeremiah 32:17**).

Father, I plead that You would protect \_\_\_\_\_ from the evil one. Guard \_\_\_\_\_ so that he does not use it as place to corrupt believers, bind unbelievers, and have a negative impact on the city or community (**1 Peter 5:8**).

Father, grant the leaders and workers at \_\_\_\_\_ the wisdom and insight that they

need to deal with problems and emergencies (**Proverbs 2:6**).

Father, I plead that the leaders and workers at \_\_\_\_\_ will seek You. I pray that they will commit their way to You and that You will grant them success. Enable them to build a business based on integrity and fairness (**Proverbs 16:3**).

Father, increase the business of \_\_\_\_\_ that it can provide more job opportunities for the people of this area. You made man to work. Bless \_\_\_\_\_ that it might offer gainful employment to the people in this area (**Genesis 2:8**).

Father, bless the business of \_\_\_\_\_ that there might be more money for the church to carry out Your work. I plead that more money would be put into the economy that believers might be able to give more and advance Your church and kingdom (**2 Corinthians 9:7-8**).

Father, I ask that Jesus Christ would be the Lord of \_\_\_\_\_. I pray that He will be acknowledged and followed at \_\_\_\_\_ (**Romans 14:9**).

Father, I pray that the leaders at \_\_\_\_\_ will build the business on wisdom and integrity. Deliver them from greed and dishonesty. I plead that their actions and decisions would be pleasing in Your sight (**Psalms 15:2-5**).

Father, I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will use their influence and money to help meet the needs of people in this area. I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will be involved in charitable work, helping those in need. Create within the leadership at \_\_\_\_\_ a heart to make a difference in the community (**Leviticus 19:10**).

Father, I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ would be fair and kind to all its employees. I pray that they would not defraud or rob the workers out of their wages or benefits (**Leviticus 19:13**).

Father, I plead that healthy relationships and purity will characterize the workplace at \_\_\_\_\_. I ask that You would deliver each person from impure thoughts and speech and immoral relationships (**1 Thessalonians 4:3-5**).

Father, I pray that the workplace at \_\_\_\_\_ would be filled with compassion and genuine concern. I ask that greed, deceit, lying, slander, and attempts to hurt and undermine others and the business would be totally removed (**Matthew 22:40**).

Father, strengthen the believers at \_\_\_\_\_. I pray that they would not yield to temptation or be conformed to this world through the pressure of others at \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).

Father, I ask You to bless the customers of \_\_\_\_\_. I pray that they will be pleased with the work of \_\_\_\_\_. Use this to draw more business to \_\_\_\_\_ and enhance the financial condition of \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

### Praying For A Hostile Workplace

Some believers work in a hostile atmosphere. When I use the phrase "hostile atmosphere," I mean a workplace where the believer's faith is under attack. It might be suspicion and persecution because of the believer's faith. It might be that the believer is consistently tempted to compromise his or her faith. It might be a situation where the believer is under pressure to conform to the thinking and acting of the world. Whatever the case, it is a place where the believer is under fire for his or her faith in Christ.

**Psalm 17** provides the believer with a model to pray for a hostile workplace. In this psalm, enemies surround David. These enemies desire to wound him and hurt him. The pressure and stress of the situation weigh him down. His prayer gives us insight on how to pray for a hostile workplace.

This model can be used in a variety of ways. You may be working in a hostile workplace. You may know someone who is working in an environment like this. There may be believers in your church who are under constant stress and pressure in their job. These insights can help you pray the Word concerning this situation.

□ *Commit your cause into God's hands* (v.1). David cried out to God concerning the situation that he found himself in. He sought God for help and deliverance. If you are in a hostile workplace, cry out to God. Seek Him for His help and vindication. **Pray that believers will**

**turn to God in the midst of their stress and pressure at the workplace.**

- *Pray that the believer will live a righteous life before the others in the workplace* (vv.1-3). In these verses, David declares that he lived in obedience to God in the midst of this situation. He resolved that he would not sin with his mouth (17:3). Ask God for the strength to live in obedience to Him in the workplace. **Plead that God will give believers the strength to resist temptation and work in a way that pleases the Lord.**
- *Ask that you will not compromise with the evil around you* (vv.4-5). David confesses to the Lord that he kept himself from the ways of the violent (17:4). Plead that you will not give in to the evil around you. Ask for the power to stand strong against evil in the workplace. **Pray that believers would not compromise and give into to the pressure to conform. Ask that their steps will hold to your paths.**
- *Praise God for His loving care and protection* (vv.6-7). David announces that God is the One who saves by His right hand. He is the God who helps those who take refuge in Him. In the midst of the pressure and stress, adore God for His loving care and protection. **Pray that believers will have a spirit of praise in spite of what they face in the workplace.**
- *Declare your confidence in the Lord* (vv.6-7). David expresses his confidence in the Lord in these verses. The believer needs to share his fears and doubts with the Lord. Yet, at the same time, he must also declare his confidence in the Lord. This honors and magnifies the Lord's greatness. Declaring your confidence in the Lord will strengthen your faith and protect you from slipping into discouragement and despair. **Pray that believers in a hostile workplace will put their confidence in Him and will declare that confidence to Him.**
- *Pray that God will sustain you because of His love* (v.7). Call on God to sustain you because of His great love for you. Plead His love for you. **Ask that believers will rest in God's love. Call on God to act in their behalf because of His love for them.**
- *Plead with God for His protection* (vv.8-9). Pray that He will protect you as the apple of His eye. Ask that He will sustain you and encourage you as you take refuge in Him. **Pray that believers will seek God for protection.**

**Ask that they will seek God for the help they need in their workplace.**

- *Describe the opposition to God (vv.10-12).* In these verses, David describes what he is facing. He makes known the attitude and actions of those who oppose Him. Tell God about what you're facing. Go into detail concerning what is happening at your workplace. This helps you release it to God and opens you to see things from God's perspective. It also moves God to act. **Plead that believers will pour their hearts out to God concerning their workplace.**
- *Pray for those who persecute you (vv.13-14).* Ask God to deal with those who are opposing you. Plead with Him to act against them. Call on God to show mercy in dealing with them. There is an obvious spiritual problem in the lives of people like this. They are headed for some unfortunate consequences. Call on God to deal with them in mercy and righteousness. **Plead that believers will have a spirit of prayer for the others in the workplace, including those who are hostile.**
- *Rejoice in God's plan for your life (v.15).* God is going to sustain you and bless you in this life. He is going to grant you unending joy and peace in heaven. You will one day be transformed completely and will enjoy an eternity in His presence. In the midst of the stress and pressure, rejoice in God's blessings now and in the future. **Plead that believers will rejoice in God's plan for their lives. Ask that they will see that God is determined to bless them now and for eternity.**

## Business Card Ministry

Business Card Ministry is a prayer ministry that enables and encourages churches to pray for the workplaces around them. This prayer ministry can be done by individual believers, teams of intercessors, or as a part of the prayer room in your church. In order to start this prayer ministry, collect the business cards of the members in your church. Then place these business cards in a notebook designed to hold business cards or into a Rolodex business card file. Once this has been done, intercessors can begin praying for the businesses.

It is important to keep this list updated. As new business cards become available, add those to

your notebook or Rolodex. You might even consider contacting those businesses on a quarterly basis that you are praying for them.

If no business cards are available, you might consider making a list of the businesses in your area. You can then use this list to intercede for the respective workplaces. The key issue is to cover these businesses with intercession.

This particular prayer ministry can be carried out in a variety of ways:

- *Place the notebook or business card file in your church's prayer room.* You can establish a prayer station in your prayer room that is dedicated to praying for the businesses in your area. Encourage the intercessors to come to the prayer room each week and pray through the business cards.
- *Make multiple books for your intercessors.* You could get several business cards from each business and make notebooks for a team of intercessors. The pray-ers could then pray through the business cards in their home on a daily or weekly basis. These pray-ers could then get together on a regular basis and pray together and share insights concerning these businesses. If you have a list of businesses, you could make a master list and make copies for all those who will pray.
- *Collect business cards from all the businesses in your community.* You might consider extending the intercession to all the businesses in your community. By doing this, you will be praying for God's blessing on your city or community. At the same time, it can be a powerful tool for outreach and impact in your community.
- *Prayerwalk around the businesses for which you are interceding.* Take your prayers to the streets! God can give you additional insight to pray for these workplaces as you prayerwalk around them. He can also invigorate and encourage your intercession these businesses as you prayerwalk around them.
- *Ask the leaders and workers at these workplaces to share answers to prayer.* Invite the leaders and workers to share with the church how God has worked through intercession. You might consider doing this on a periodic basis in order to encourage the intercessors and to praise God for how He is working.
- *Ask the leaders and workers how to pray for the business.* You might consider contacting the

businesses, asking how you might pray specifically for them. You could inquire about what needs they have. As they share these, the intercessor or teams can pray more specifically for the needs and concerns of each business.

- *Plead for financial blessing on each business.* Ask God to enable the businesses to grow and place more money in the local economy that there might be more money for the church and for the advancement of the kingdom.

## Confession Prayers For Healing

A confession prayer is declaring the truth of the Word and then making a petition based on that truth. It is openly asserting the truth and asking on the basis of that truth. It is combining the truth of the Word with your pleas to God.

These short but powerful pleas can be used in a variety of ways. You can use them when you are praying for the sick in a ministry situation. You can use them to pray in agreement with other believers. You can also use them when you prayerwalk at a hospital or medical facility. You can also use them to plead the truth of the Word with God.

In order to use these prayers, place you're the name of the person in the blank and plead the truth of the Word in his or her behalf. If you are prayerwalking at a facility, you might consider using the room numbers, floor names, or the facility's name.

- ◆ Father, You are the Lord who heals; manifest Your healing in \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 15:26; 34:10).
- ◆ Father, You have the power to heal; heal \_\_\_\_\_ by Your mighty power (Matthew 8:3).
- ◆ Lord Jesus, You are Lord over disease and pain; release \_\_\_\_\_ from the grip of disease and pain (Philippians 2:9-11).
- ◆ Father, You are the God of all compassion and the Father of mercies; heal \_\_\_\_\_ because of Your mercy and compassion (2 Corinthians 1:3).
- ◆ Father, You are the Creator of every person; cause \_\_\_\_\_'s body to function as You intended it to function (Genesis 1:26).
- ◆ Jesus, You are the Savior who makes a person whole; heal \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ can experience wholeness (Exodus 15:26-27).
- ◆ Father, You are the God who grants healing; send Your Word and release healing into \_\_\_\_\_'s life (Psalm 107:20).
- ◆ Father, You are the Healer of all disease and deformities; provide healing for \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 103:1-4).
- ◆ Father, You heal those who cry out to You; stir \_\_\_\_\_ to cry out to You and believe You for healing (Matthew 9:29).
- ◆ Father, it is in the name of Jesus Christ that people are healed; I ask in the name of Jesus that You would heal \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 3:16).
- ◆ Father, You heal in response to believing prayer; raise up believers who will pray in faith for \_\_\_\_\_ (James 5:14-15).
- ◆ Father, You enable people to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in hope, knowing that You are at work; I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would be characterized by these things in this midst of his/her suffering (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- ◆ Father, You desire that we live by faith and not by sight; empower \_\_\_\_\_ to trust You for healing in spite of what he/she hears, sees, or feels (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).
- ◆ Father, You are a refuge and stronghold in times of trouble; I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ would turn to You for hope and healing (Psalm 9:7, 9-10).
- ◆ Father, You can do far more abundantly than all that we ask or imagine; by Your mighty power heal and restore \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 3:20).
- ◆ Father, Christ died to set people free and to make them whole; draw \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus in faith and grant him/her healing and wholeness (Isaiah 53).
- ◆ Lord Jesus, those who reach out to You in faith can receive healing and wholeness; stir \_\_\_\_\_ to trust in the Word and to reach out to Jesus Christ in genuine faith (Mark 5:24-34).

## Enhancing Your Ability To Give Thanks To God

God desires that His people give thanks to Him (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**). This is His will for your life. He longs for you to thank Him for His goodness and the continual flow of His blessings into your life. He is worthy of this. And it is your blessed privilege. Giving thanks honors God and changes you.

The following are some suggestions on how you can enhance your giving of thanks to God. These suggestions are offered to help you grow in your ability to thank God while not falling into an empty religious routine.

- (1) *Pray that the Holy Spirit will give you a spirit of thanks.* The Word of God states that it is God's will for you to thank God in all circumstances. Call on the Holy Spirit to enable you to fulfill God's will. Pray that He will create a spirit of praise in you.
- (2) *Fill your day with spontaneous thanks to God.* As you go through your day, give thanks to God ~~for the specific blessings that He gives you.~~ Send arrow prayers of thanks into your Father's presence throughout your day. I've prayed simple prayers like, "Thank You, Father, for that Diet Coke," "Thank You, Father, for protecting me as I drove to the office," or "Thank You, Father, for this sunset." This is based on the biblical principle of faithfulness in small things. If you are faithful in "small" things, you will be faithful in the "large" things. As you praise God throughout your day, it will enhance your giving of thanks to God through your quiet time.
- (3) *Keep your distance from people who grumble and complain.* A spirit of complaining is contagious. It spreads among people. Complaining is more contagious than the common cold. If you are around people who love to complain and grumble, you will soon find yourself doing the same. Keep your distance from people who are characterized by complaining and grumbling. Strive to surround yourself with people have a heart to thank God and show Him gratitude.
- (4) *Develop A Thank You Journal.* You can start another journal or create a section in your journal for this. A Thank You Journal is a place

where you record the blessings of the day. You can record as many as you desire. It developing the holy discipline of remembering the blessings of the Lord. Forgetting what God has done for you puts you into a dangerous position spiritually. A Thank You Journal can help you honor God and keep your heart humble and thankful before Him.

- (5) *Display physical reminders of God's blessings in your life.* The Bible reveals that believers gave concrete expression of their gratitude to God through physical objects. They would build altars (**Genesis 8:20; Joshua 8:30-31**). They also built monuments (**Joshua 4:1-7**). They used these objects to express their thanks to God. These things became tangible reminders of God's goodness to them. You might consider doing the same thing. You might get a rock or rocks and write on them specific blessings that God has given to you. You could build a monument to God with these rocks as a way of thanking God and remembering His goodness toward you. There are other physical reminders that you can have in your home – a rug, tapestry, cross-stitch, and a plaque. One of my physical reminders is a copy of the first newsletter that *The Prayer Closet* ever published. It is on the wall where I study, write, and pray. It is a constant reminder of how God has blessed this ministry, His goodness toward us, and His constant support.
- (6) *Write a praise history.* A praise history is writing down the history of God's blessings throughout your life. The Bible is filled with praise histories (**Exodus 15; Judges 5; Psalms 78, 105, 106, 114, 135, 136; Ephesians 1:3-14**). In order to write a praise history, write down all the significant events and blessings that you can think of. Think of the good times. Think of the bad times. Think of how God was there and what He did in the midst of those situations. Think of the times that God has helped you. Think of the spiritual highlights of your life. Ask for the help of your family and friends. Arrange in chronological order the items that you want to include. Add some Bible verses or phrases that you feel would be appropriate for God's work throughout your life. When you have finished it, read it out loud to the Lord. After this, rewrite it and save it. You can then recite it on special occasions or when you feel the need to. Add to your history once a year to keep it up-to-date.

(7) *Use people to stir your thanksgiving to God.* As you encounter people in your day, thank God for each one. Thank Him for what they mean to you. Thank Him for what they say to you. Thank Him for what they do for you. Thank Him even for the abrasive. Remember that some people are like sandpaper; He is using them to smooth out the rough edges in your life! You can even thank God for them and what they say and do in your life.

(8) *Use colors as a motivation to give thanks to God.* As you go through your day, you will see numerous colors. Use these colors as reminders to thank God:

**Red:** Thank Jesus for His blood that cleanses you of sin.

**Green:** Thank Jesus for the new life that you have in Him.

**Pink:** Thank Jesus for His compassion for you.

**Blue:** Thank Jesus for His sinlessness and purity.

**Purple:** Thank Jesus for His deity – that He is the Son of God – the God-man.

**Black:** Thank Jesus that all your sins have been washed away.

**White:** Thank Jesus that you are clothed in His righteousness through faith in Him.

**Orange:** Thank Jesus for the confidence that He will reign in all the places where the sun rises and sets.

## The Mississippi Prayerwalking Explosion

The Mississippi Prayerwalking Explosion will be held **June 21** at Hickory Baptist Church in Hickory, Mississippi. Registration will begin at **8:30 a.m.** and the conference will begin at **9:00 a.m.** and end at **2:00 p.m.** This conference will equip and encourage believers to develop prayer as way of life. It will provide training and tools to help believers to prayerwalk with greater power and effectiveness. Whether you are a beginner or veteran prayerwalker, you will gain significant insights. It will also give pastors and church leaders strategies for evangelizing an area through prayerwalking and evangelism. Please make plans to attend this vital conference. Please pray for this event. More details about this vital conference will be provided in future editions of *The Prayer Closet*.



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