

## PRAYERWALKING BASICS

By Pastor Dave Brown

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** “pray continually [without ceasing]”

**Colossians 4:2** “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

**John 14:12-14** “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

**John 15:5** “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

### **Genesis 12:1-9**

God has given his people a promise to bless them. The blessing is not earned but a gift from God. Abraham received this blessing and followed the Lord’s instructions. He was 75 years old, leading his family to enter a new land. During their walking journey he built altars to worship God. They stood as markers of God’s presence and promise to them.

Likewise, we are promised a blessing from God. It is not physical or material but spiritual. The blessing that believers can find contentment in is that of God’s promised presence. Throughout Scripture God tells His people that He will be with them, He will be their God. This promise is to be recovered because many believers have lost sight of it. Even more, it is practically applied through the art of prayer.

Prayer is to the believer as water is to a fish. We need to realize we can do nothing without God. Prayer says we trust God and that we have faith in His power to act. It is a declaration that we are depending on Him and not ourselves. If Christians do not pray then we have lost sight of God and the heart of what it means to know God and His will.

“When the altars [and communities] of our churches are wet with tears, then and only then will the darkness throughout the land begin to be stamped out.” – J. Chris Schoefield, BSCNC

Before we examine prayerwalking as a strategy we must first understand how to approach God in prayer. The best place to start is realizing and relating to the One whom we speak to in prayer – God. God is our Creator. He’s all-powerful and all-knowing. He is completely perfect and holy. Therefore, when we address Him it should not be half-heartedly or insincere. It must be with humility, repentance and faith.

**2 Chronicles 7:14** “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

**Psalms 66:18-20** “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me.”

Prayerwalking is a strategy to help guide our church to depend on Him in order to reach our community. God loves our community more than we do. God wants them to come to faith more than we do. Only God has the resources to bring salvation, hope and healing to our community. Yet, many Christians and churches attempt to reach their community through marketing and human efforts with little thought toward the spiritual. Prayerwalking is a direct strategy to reverse this trend.

Prayerwalking has three dynamics: Worshiping God, Warfaring Evil and Welcoming Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup> This triple dynamic characterizes the purpose of prayerwalking in that of communing and bringing glory to God, spiritually interceding on behalf of others, and pronouncing God's blessing upon communities to invite God's Spirit to work in that area. Prayerwalking is "praying onsite with insight".<sup>2</sup> It reflects a lifestyle of praying, per 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Here are some more descriptions to help us understand and value prayerwalking.

- **Prayerwalking is praying with vision.** As with any prayer, it is believing God to do the impossible. It is seeing the potential for God to move and for His Kingdom to be advanced in communities, homes and lives. *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."* Ephesians 3:20-21
- **Prayerwalking is praying intentionally.** It takes preparation and action to go on a prayerwalk. Rather than praying reactively to circumstances or needs it prays in advance for God to work and move in lives and communities.
  - Pray using Scripture gives intentionality. Prepare your prayers by allowing God's Word to guide and focus your prayers. Bring a Bible or some verses written down to guide your praying.
    - John 17
      - v. 6-12            Pray for eternal security, protection and salvation
      - v. 13                Pray for them to find joy in Christ
      - v. 14-19           Pray for their spiritual growth, sanctification
      - v.20-25           Pray for unity among believers in effort to spread the gospel
    - Paul's prayers, et al.  
Ephesians 1:18-19; 3:14-19; Colossians 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
  - Pray for people to seek God and for God to use you & our church to bring them the gospel.
- **Prayerwalking is praying missionally.** As a missionary, you will learn about a specific context of people, neighborhood, culture, values and dynamics. You seek to enter a community to know, love and lead others to Jesus. It will increase awareness and understanding of people and their needs.
  - Praying nearer results in praying dearer and clearer. Compassion, sympathy and even empathy are developed when a community has actual names, faces and homes.
  - Pray using your senses. Be aware of sounds, sights and smells to inform you about people and needs. Keep your eyes open and walk slowly that you can take in what you are experiencing. Make mental or written notes about significant things you encounter that will give you insight on what God is doing or how God may want to reach people.
  - Pray against principles not people. In other words, unbelievers are not the enemy, Satan and his lies are. Avoid an 'us against them' mentality.
- **Prayerwalking is praying evangelistically.** The goal of our prayers is that God will open doors to speak about the gospel or draw people to having opportunities to hear the gospel. Prayer is the work of pre-evangelism, it breaks down spiritual barriers and strongholds and paves the way for the gospel to be planted and harvested.
  - Prepare for divine encounters. As you are praying, someone may ask you what you're doing or begin a conversation with you. Feel free to talk with them and perhaps even share the gospel or leave information with them about the gospel and our church (cf. Acts 8:26-40).
- **Prayerwalking praying openly.** Though you will be seen the goal is not to make a scene. Indeed, your praying in public will be giving testimony to faith in God but the goal is not to be intrusive or disturbing to anyone. Wear appropriate clothing for walking and that will not deter from a gospel testimony.
  - Be open to the Spirit's leading or prompting of prayers or actions to take.

---

<sup>1</sup> Prayerwalking: Praying On-site with Insight by Steve Hawthorne.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## PRAYERWALKING VERSES

### PRAY for...

#### God to open eyes to salvation

Ephesians 1:18 "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance..."

John 6:44 "No one can come to [Jesus] unless the Father who sent [Jesus] draws him."

#### God to bring light from darkness

2 Corinthians 4:4,6 "The god of this age (Satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

#### Holy Spirit to convict sin

John 16:8 "When the Holy Spirit comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment"

#### People to confess sin and trust Jesus

John 5:24 "whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

Acts 3:19 "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord"

## PRAYERWALKING VERSES

### PRAY for...

#### God to open eyes to salvation

Ephesians 1:18 "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance..."

John 6:44 "No one can come to [Jesus] unless the Father who sent [Jesus] draws him."

#### God to bring light from darkness

2 Corinthians 4:4,6 "The god of this age (Satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

#### Holy Spirit to convict sin

John 16:8 "When the Holy Spirit comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment"

#### People to confess sin and trust Jesus

John 5:24 "whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

Acts 3:19 "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord"

## PRAYERWALKING VERSES

### PRAY for...

#### God to open eyes to salvation

Ephesians 1:18 "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance..."

John 6:44 "No one can come to [Jesus] unless the Father who sent [Jesus] draws him."

#### God to bring light from darkness

2 Corinthians 4:4,6 "The god of this age (Satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

#### Holy Spirit to convict sin

John 16:8 "When the Holy Spirit comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment"

#### People to confess sin and trust Jesus

John 5:24 "whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

Acts 3:19 "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord"

## **SEVERNA PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **Pray for Sunday School**

- God's Word to be taught

2 Tim 3:16 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

- People to hear & obey

James 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

- Disciple makers

Matthew 28:19 "Go and make disciples of all nations..."

### **Pray for Family Outreach Ministry**

- Children to be saved and grow spiritually

Ephesians 1:18 "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance..."

Colossians 2:6 "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him"

- Families to keep Christ in the home and serve God in a local church

Psalms 78:6 "so the next generation would know [God] even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children."

- Workers to love and lead

1 Thessalonians 2:8 "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."

- Workers to stay healthy and serve faithfully

Romans 12:11 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

### **Pray for Worship services**

- People to thirst for God and not heart idols

Psalms 42:2 "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"

### **Pray for Witnessing opportunities**

2 Corinthians 5:20 "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."

## **SEVERNA PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **Pray for Sunday School**

- God's Word to be taught

2 Tim 3:16 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

- People to hear & obey

James 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

- Disciple makers

Matthew 28:19 "Go and make disciples of all nations..."

### **Pray for Family Outreach Ministry**

- Children to be saved and grow spiritually

Ephesians 1:18 "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance..."

Colossians 2:6 "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him"

- Families to keep Christ in the home and serve God in a local church

Psalms 78:6 "so the next generation would know [God] even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children."

- Workers to love and lead

1 Thessalonians 2:8 "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."

- Workers to stay healthy and serve faithfully

Romans 12:11 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

### **Pray for Worship services**

- People to thirst for God and not heart idols

Psalms 42:2 "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"

### **Pray for Witnessing opportunities**

2 Corinthians 5:20 "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."

## **SEVERNA PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **Pray for Sunday School**

- God's Word to be taught

2 Tim 3:16 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

- People to hear & obey

James 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

- Disciple makers

Matthew 28:19 "Go and make disciples of all nations..."

### **Pray for Family Outreach Ministry**

- Children to be saved and grow spiritually

Ephesians 1:18 "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance..."

Colossians 2:6 "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him"

- Families to keep Christ in the home and serve God in a local church

Psalms 78:6 "so the next generation would know [God] even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children."

- Workers to love and lead

1 Thessalonians 2:8 "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."

- Workers to stay healthy and serve faithfully

Romans 12:11 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

### **Pray for Worship services**

- People to thirst for God and not heart idols

Psalms 42:2 "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"

### **Pray for Witnessing opportunities**

2 Corinthians 5:20 "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."

## PRAYERWALKING BASICS

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** “pray continually [without ceasing]”

**Colossians 4:2** “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

**Psalms 126:5-6** “Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.”

### **Prayerwalking is praying with vision.**

- ◇ It is praying on-site with insight, seeing people as God sees them.
- ◇ Praying nearer results in praying dearer and clearer. Compassion, sympathy and even empathy are developed when a community has actual names, faces and homes.
- ◇ Pray using your senses. Be aware of sounds, sights and smells to inform you about people and needs. Keep your eyes open. Make mental or written notes about significant things you encounter that will give you insight on what God is doing or how God may want to reach people.

### **Prayerwalking is praying intentionally**

- ◇ Use Scriptural prayer prompts to guide your praying.
- ◇ Use maps to guide direction.

### **Prayerwalking is praying missionally.**

- ◇ Entering neighborhoods to pray means seeking to invest and learn how best to communicate the gospel to those residents.

### **Prayerwalking praying openly.**

- ◇ Believers incarnate and invite the presence of God into communities.
- ◇ Though you will be seen the goal is not to make a scene. Be respectful of people & property. Walking on roads & sidewalks rather than lawns. In hanging doorknob bags do not place inside mailboxes, hang in a respectful & visible place if not on front door knob.

<http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/on-alert-as-watchmen-for-your-city.html>

“A watchman on the wall does many things. He carefully watches what is happening and alerts the community when good ambassadors approach the city... A watchman also warns the city far in advance when an enemy approaches. He sounds an alarm to awaken the people because he knows ‘to forewarn them is to alert and arm them.’ Then they quickly can rally to take their stand on the wall against the enemy before he wrongfully tries to enter into the city.” - James Goll

Dear intercessors,

Did you know that prayer changes the atmosphere of your city? If there was ever a time when we needed to be on alert for our cities and pray day and night for our neighborhoods, it is now. Too many evil things are happening at an increasing rate. We have the secret of prayer and God’s presence that can touch our cities and ward off the evil intent of the enemy. Prayer is much more powerful than we realize. It can release the power of God and His anointing in even the darkest of places.

In praying for our city we welcome and honor the Holy Spirit, asking Him to lead us in our prayer time. We need to pray by the power and at the initiation of the Holy Spirit. We can’t do it ourselves ([John 5:19](#)). Sometimes He whispers to us with an impression in our heart as to what to pray. Sometimes He directs us to specific Scriptures to pray. We need to be watchful and attentive to the Spirit’s leading ([1 Peter 4:7](#); [Ephesians 6:18](#)). We ask the Lord what He is doing and listen. We spend time in worship when we come into God’s presence.

It’s almost like putting up the sail in a boat on a lake when the weather is calm. Suddenly the sail catches the wind even with the most gentle breeze, and the boat begins to move. We position our heart to listen carefully for the knowledge of His will; then we pray it back to Him. Many times God’s leading is like a whisper. Sometimes the action God wants us to take is prayer for protection. Sometimes it is reaching out in love to a needy person in the inner city.

Prayer is one of the best ways to protect our cities. This is going to be a necessity in the coming days. Through prayer and intercession we can pray into the atmosphere of heaven and bring heaven’s will to earth, praying the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. The word used for intercession in the Bible is “paga.” This word can also be translated as “boundary.” Through prayer we can build boundaries of protection around our cities. Through united prayer, we can protect God’s purposes and plans for our cities.

What is the central dream of your city? What is the plan or purpose of God for your city?

God has a good plan for your city, but the enemy has an evil plan. God anticipated your city and planned it. Your city does have a divine purpose; there is the need to cry out to Him for the fulfillment of that purpose. You need to protect the dream of God for your city through prayer.

“Protection is an important aspect of the watchman anointing. Watchmen are guards, bodyguards, doorkeepers and, generally speaking, those who protect by covering in prayer.” - Dutch Sheets

We used to live in the city of Virginia Beach, very close to the Atlantic Ocean. Often we were threatened by possible hurricanes that occasionally came up the east coast of the United States. I remember a time when a group of Christian leaders, made up of [pastors](#) and intercessors, decided that

the threat was too serious. They were on alert as watchmen. They called the region—which included seven cities—to day and night prayer for the protection of our area. God protected each city.

In the Old Testament times, a watchman would keep watch on the walls for enemies or watch after the crops at harvest time ([Isaiah 1:6-8](#); [Ezekiel 22:30](#)). We need watchmen to watch over God's harvest in our cities and protect it as well. Just as God appointed mankind as guardians and watchmen of the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2:15, He wants us to be alert watchmen and guard the land where we live.

In an area of Africa, the first Christians were very serious about watchful prayer. Each believer had their own special place outside the village where they could be alone to pray in solitude. They reached these outdoor "prayer rooms" by walking through their own private footpath through the brush. But when the grass began to grow over one of the trails, they knew something was desperately wrong—someone wasn't praying.

They were perfect examples of watchmen because they were so concerned about the spiritual welfare of each other. A custom sprang up among them. Whenever one of them noticed an overgrown prayer path, they would go to the person and warn them in a loving way by saying, "Friend, there's grass on your path!"

God wants you to be an alert watchman just like these villagers in Africa. He wants you to join with others in prayer for your city and for one another. Isaiah 62:6-7 stresses the need to give God no rest, and to pray day and night for the city of Jerusalem:

"I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth."

The same is true for each one of our cities. As you begin to look at your city through the eyes of God and with His heart, realize that it belongs to Him. We read in Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it." God wants you to contend for your city in prayer. He wants you to pray for His authority to rule supreme in your city. Although Satan has invaded our cities, through prayer and action we can take them back.

"Watchmen are ordinarily placed on the walls of a city to give notice to the rulers of coming danger. God appoints watchmen not only to warn men—often they will not hear—but also to summon Him to come to their aid whenever need or the enemy may be threatening. The great mark of the intercessors are that they are not to hold their peace day or night, to take no rest, and to give God no rest, until the deliverance comes. In [faith](#) they may count upon the assurance that God will answer their prayers." Andrew Murray