

God is helping us push our prayers beyond the walls of the church buildings, into the neighborhoods, campuses and workplaces where He desires to bring the hope of His kingdom. In order to better pray with empathy and up-to-the-minute awareness of what God is doing in people's lives, many are praying as they walk through the streets of the city. We call this kind of on-site intercession "prayerwalking." It's simply praying in the very places where we expect God to bring forth His answers. Prayerwalking simply helps us to draw nearer in order to pray clearer. Prayerwalking is usually a low-profile affair. Usually prayerwalking is being on the scene without making one. 1 Timothy 2:8 urges that there would be prayer lifted "in every place." Extending our prayers to every place may be the best way to actually pray, as verse one urges, "on behalf of all people."

1. For every person and every leader (vss 1-2a)

Pray God's blessing upon every person. For some, express requests and thanks that they have yet to offer to God. For others, join them in crying out to God for things they desire and need. Pray blessing and stability upon the leaders of the community.

1 Timothy 2:1-2a

¹ First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all people. ² For kings and all who are in authority...

2. For the blessing of the entire community for God's joy (vss 2b-3)

Pray for Christians to display Christ's name and character openly. Ask God to mature His people to become His servants throughout the community in the power of the gospel. When God accomplishes His blessing, it is "good" in His sight. Ask God to transform the entire community so that it reflects His goodness and peace.

1 Timothy 2:2b-3

² ...so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior...

3. For truth to salvation (vs 4)

Pray for God's desire to be satisfied, that every person would understand the truth of Christ as Savior. Pray for every person you see, that they will be saved.

1 Timothy 2:4-5

⁴ ...who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

4. For the testimony of Christ (vs 5)

Give praise to the One God and the sole Mediator who even now stands between these people and the God who desires them. Ask God to hasten the time of citywide testimony about Christ.

Go for a prayerwalk: Lead the way in on-site intercession

The most important feature of this issue of FreshPrayer is prayerwalking. This issue can be a helpful way to introduce the idea, or to reinvigorate neighborhood and workplace prayer with a short prayerwalk.

A special issue of FreshPrayer: A single sheet with material on both sides

Print out all four pages of this file. The last two pages ("Prayerwalking" and "What to Pray: For those without a Shepherd") are designed to be copied on both sides of one sheet of paper, resulting in an easy-to-use prayerwalking guide.

How to use the participant's guide along with the prayerwalking guide

You'll notice that the prayer ideas found on the participant's guide are also found on the prayerwalking guide. One way to use these tools would be to distribute copies of the participant's guide for an opening round of discussion about praying for every person. Then distribute the prayerwalking guide as a way to introduce the idea of prayerwalking and to provide participants a way to carry prayer ideas at their fingertips as they prayerwalk in small groups of two or three. You can't go wrong using the four steps found on the guide:

- 1. Form a Team.** You'll be most effective in groups of two or three.
- 2. Find a Territory.** Aim to cover a small part of a neighborhood in which you are gathered.
- 3. Follow a Topic.** Get your prayers rolling with the truths of 1 Timothy 2:1-7. Psalm 23 is a bonus for further efforts or meetings.
- 4. Finish with a Talk.** Always insist that participants re-gather after a prayerwalk to talk about their prayers and what they learned. You will instill confidence and boost further prayerwalking by this simple discipline of meeting to debrief.

About 1 Timothy 2: The "why-to's" along with the "what-to's"

This passage has stimulated and sustained many prayers. We point out only a few of the many possible ways to pray through it. This passage not only helps people know what to pray. It can help them know why they are praying for the entire community.

The translation is adapted from New American Standard, and rendered in even more starkly literal ways. The Greek word often translated as "godliness" in verse two is actually a word that has to do with daily regimens of worship. It does not merely speak of high moral standards, (we usually think of "godliness" referring to correct or right behavior), the word has to do with a powerful God-oriented ordered life of worship and devoted obedience. The immediate context of verse three is completely given to worship language ("This is good and acceptable in the sight of God..."). This means that our prayers fundamentally must pursue something lovely and desirable to God Himself. What would please Him most? His people shining in Christlike beauty and living in open devotion and obedience. Pray towards that! This is God's purpose, the "why-to's" of prayer, which powerfully inform us about what is important to pray.

What to Say:

To those who ask what you are doing...

"We are praying for God's blessing in Jesus' name for people living/working near here. Is there any specific way that we might pray for you?"

To those who ask who you are ...

"We are concerned Christians from a variety of churches. Today we wanted to bring some of our prayers a little closer so that we might pray a little clearer."

To those who may be open to your offer to pray for them ...

"Perhaps you are facing situations which defy human solution. We would be happy to pray with you about any of your specific concerns. How can we pray particularly for you?"

You may have more to pray than you have to say (and we have plenty to say!). If you pray with people, pray briefly in the simplest, non-religious language possible. Pray for their specific need and pray a blessing of God's love on their life. Don't feel compelled to explain the gospel at this time. In fact, it may be more powerful in the long run for you to leave them with a blessing and give God opportunity to bring an answer to your prayer. Ask God to send someone who will introduce them to the joy of living as a follower of Christ.

What to Pray: Blessing and Truth for Every Person

1. For Every Person and Every Leader

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all people. For kings and all who are in authority...

Pray God's blessing upon every person. For some, express requests and thanks that they have yet to offer to God. For others, join them in crying out to God for things they desire and need. Pray blessing and stability upon the leaders of the community.

2. For God's People to Bless the Entire Community for God's Joy

...so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God...

Pray for Christians to display Christ's name and character openly. Ask God to mature His people to become His servants throughout the community in the power of the gospel. When God accomplishes His blessing, it is "good" in His sight. Ask God to transform the entire community so that it reflects His goodness and peace.

3. For Truth to Salvation

...our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Pray for God's desire to be satisfied, that every person would understand the truth of Christ as Savior. Pray for every person you see, that they will be saved.

4. For the Testimony of Christ

...For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all,

the testimony given at the proper time. (1 Timothy 2:1-7)

Give praise to the One God and the sole Mediator who even now stands between these people and the God who desires them. Ask God to hasten the time of citywide testimony about Christ.

How to Prayerwalk

1. Form a Team

You'll be most effective in groups of two or three. It often helps for a carload of five or six people to form two groups which work their way along particular streets.

2. Find a Territory

Aim to cover a small part of a specific neighborhood. As you approach this area with sensitivity and wisdom, you'll discover the best way to cover it with prayer.

3. Follow a Topic

Get your prayers rolling by praying along with scripture. Begin with the truths of 1 Timothy 2:1-7 and/or Psalm 23. Any biblical promise will help you pray with hope and blessing. Don't carry heavy Bibles. Carry this sheet or small portions of scripture.

4. Finish with a Talk

After you're finished, talk about it. What prayers should be prayed again? When and where will you prayerwalk next? How should you watch for God's answers and bring the good news? What acts of kindness or service is God giving you to do? How can you bring this kind of praying into your ongoing work in your home city?

May your kingdom come...

in this ZIP Code

...as it is in heaven.

Prayerwalking

by Steve Hawthorne

God is pressing us to bring our prayers beyond the walls of the church buildings, right into the neighborhoods, campuses and workplaces where He desires to bring the hope of His kingdom. In order to better pray with the shepherd heart of God, we're going to pray as we walk through the streets of the city.

Praying On-Site With Insight

We call this kind of on-site intercession "prayerwalking." It's simply praying in the very places where we expect God to bring forth His answers. Prayerwalking simply helps us to draw nearer in order to pray clearer.

Praying with a Low Profile

Prayerwalking is usually a low-profile affair. Once in a while, the prayers can be demonstrative, but usually prayerwalking is being on the scene without making one.

Praying with High Hopes

Pray with hope by dreaming of the good things that God desires to do for the people you see.

Try to express what's in God's heart with your words. That's what praying blessings is all about: God's great love, expressed in prayer by ordinary people like us.

TOLD HERE SECOND

TOLD HERE FIRST

What to Pray: For those without a Shepherd

Read Psalm 23 with particular people of this community in mind. Consider how Jesus Himself is at work in their lives, pursuing them and caring for them, like a shepherd would care for his own sheep. Pray for people that you see, or for those that you know are nearby the place you are praying. Let these verses help you express God's heart in your own words.

1. Lead them to a time of renewal (vss 1-2).

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters....

Pray for freedom from pressures which keep them on the run from God; that they would be weaned from the intoxication of being busy; that Jesus would break addictive habits that keep them filling themselves with hunger; for Christ to renew their appetite for things of God and fill their deepest thirst.

2. Lead them in the joy of right living (vs 3).

...He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake....

Pray that Christ would overhaul the interior of their lives, that they would be restored to see what is true and to value what is right; that they would be guided to make choices in accordance with God's design, to taste the joy of living rightly. Pray that Christ leads people into doing His justice and righteousness in a way that His renown will be great.

3. Lead them through fear and grief (vs 4).

...Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me...

Pray that Christ would manifest his presence to them as they navigate difficult days of fear or grief; that Christ's rod would be experienced as a great protection against evil powers; that Christ's staff would gently nudge them as a guiding force in times of terror or confusion; that they will be both confronted and comforted by Christ. Pray for the peace of Christ to lift the shadow of fear throughout the community.

4. Lead them to know and worship God (vs 6).

...Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me
all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever [*literally "length of days"*].

Pray that God's goodness will overshadow them, virtually herding them into renewed trust and intimacy with Him. Pray that Christ's love would be revealed, attracting them into a worshipping relationship with God. [*Note: The phrase "house of the Lord" probably refers to the temple, as in Psalm 27:4, and all that it signifies today: a committed, worshipping relationship with God.*] Pray that their lives would be long and that God would draw them near to Himself in lasting relationship.

This prayer guide has been prepared by WayMakers,
a ministry that helps people pray in life-giving ways for their community.

Many of these ideas for prayer have been published as small booklets in the *Ways to Pray* series.

One of them is called, *The Lord is Their Shepherd: Ways to Pray for Goodness and Mercy*.

To find out more about prayerwalking, or about proven prayer resources,
please visit our website www.waymakers.org, or call us at (800) 264-5214.

