



## What Prayerwalking Is Not

Prayerwalking is a dynamic and powerful spiritual experience. God will honor it and use it to touch and transform the lives of people. Believers can have an enormous impact on their cities and communities through prayerwalking.

We have already defined what prayerwalking is. It is praying on-site with insight. It is moving your prayer closet outside and into the city and community around you. And we have examined reasons why believers should practice prayerwalking. It will affect both those who practice it and those for whom they pray.

Prayerwalking is an essential tool for believers and churches. Yet, it is important to remember what prayerwalking is not. You must maintain a balance in this issue. Keep the following in mind:

- **Prayerwalking is not a substitute for personal prayer.** Prayerwalking can invigorate your prayer life. It can breathe new life into your prayer life. It can strengthen and intensify your prayer life. But, it should never be seen as a substitute for a personal, daily time when you get alone and get with your Father. Jesus taught the necessity of spending time alone with the Father, “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly” (Matthew 6:6). It is not a matter of choosing between your time alone with God and your prayerwalking. It is a matter of striving to maintain a balance between your time alone with God and your prayerwalking.
- **Prayerwalking is not a replacement for the church’s prayer meetings.** Again, you should work for a balance between these things. Prayerwalking can have a positive and transforming affect on your church’s prayer meetings. It can rejuvenate the prayer meetings in your church. It can bring refreshing to the same old, tired, boring times that we call prayer meeting. Yet, it does not replace believers getting together in churches or homes to pray. The Bible declares the need for believers to join together for prayer, “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers” (Acts 2:42). Prayerwalking can be a healthy and vital extension of the church’s praying. In turn, it can breathe new life into the church’s prayer meeting.
- **Prayerwalking is not an alternative to evangelism.** Prayerwalking leads to evangelism. Prayerwalking opens the door for witnessing. It removes the barriers to the gospel in cities and communities. Prayerwalking and evangelism go hand in hand. They complement each other. Prayerwalking enables the church to fulfill its Great Commission, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20). Prayerwalking is not an alternative to evangelism; it is a crucial key to winning people to Jesus Christ and discipling them.
- **Prayerwalking is not a substitute for ministering to the needs of people.** Prayerwalking enables you to see and discover the needs of people. And it will produce compassion in your heart for people. It is one thing to hear about a need. It is quite another to see it in living color. Ministering to people requires a heart of compassion and an understanding of their needs. Prayerwalking equips the believer with both these things. Prayerwalking is not a substitute for ministry; it is a prerequisite for ministering to the people. Jesus declares that His people will minister to the needs of others, “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? And the King will answer and say to them, Assuredly, I say to You, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me” (Matthew 25:37-40). Prayerwalking can empower you to minister to the needs of others. It puts you in the position to do this.

Prayerwalking is a powerful tool for believers. It can release God’s power and blessing into the lives of people. Yet, it must be remembered that it goes hand in hand with personal and corporate prayer, evangelism, and ministering to the needs of people.