



THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRAYER CLOSET MINISTRIES, INC.

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VOLUME XII

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2009

ISSUE 5

The Church Of Jesus Christ

There is dissatisfaction with the church on every hand. The church has not fared well in the 21st century. At a recent conference, I heard one speaker say, "People love Jesus but they don't care much for the church."

To many people Christianity does not require the church. Some even consider the church to be a hindrance to a vibrant personal relationship to Christ. Many have concluded that if you want to get serious about evangelism, missions, or discipleship, you have to go around the church instead of through it.

Yet, according to the Bible, the church is the preeminent institution in this entire world. The church is God's gift to His children for their provision, protection, and growth. The church is the vessel for the display of God's glory not only to the world but also in the heavenly realm. The church is the body of Christ – the instrument for declaring Him and continuing His work in the world by the Spirit and the Word.

We need to remember that the most significant thing happening in history is the calling, redeeming, and perfecting of the people of God. God is building the church of Jesus Christ! The rest of history is simply a stage that God sets for that purpose. He is calling sinners out of sin to trust in Jesus Christ and enter His church. He is equipping them for ministry. He is changing them to reflect His holiness.

Because of these things, the Word of God does not give us the option of accepting or rejecting the church of Jesus Christ. **To love Jesus is to love His church.** To follow Christ means being a part of His church. God calls us to Christ **and** His church.

This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will focus on praying for the church. We will look at what the church is and why believers need to be a part of it. We will also examine what it means to be a part of Christ's church. Once we have laid this foundation, we will offer suggestions on how to pray for your church.

What Is The Church?

The word church means "called out ones." According to the New Testament, the church is a body of believers called out of sin to Christ by the Word and Spirit. It is a body of people who profess and give evidence that they have been saved by the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

The New Testament reveals that the church has a universal and a local aspect. The word "church" may be applied to a group of believers at any level, ranging from a very small group meeting in a private home all the way to the group of all true believers in the universal church. The New Testament speaks of a house

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church (**Romans 16:5**) and of the universal church (**Ephesians 5:25**).

The word “church” does not primarily refer to a building. It does in a secondary sense. Yet, this word refers to the gathering of believers into a community of faith. The building is simply where the church meets. That is why the New England Puritans named the church building “the meeting house.” The early Christians didn’t have buildings for almost 300 years after the church began.

While the New Testament teaches the church universal, the primary emphasis is on the local body of believers. The overwhelming majority of references to the church refer to a local, living, and loving collection of people committed to Jesus Christ and to each other. It is a collection of people who trust in Jesus Christ and are committed to Him in a local area. If you confess Christ as your Savior and Lord, you need to be a part of a local church.

Why Join A Church?

God never intended the Christian life to be lived alone. That is why He provides the church for believers. The church is for everyone who is a Christian. Why should a believer join a church? I’d like to suggest some basic reasons. You can probably think of many more, but I want to emphasize some fundamental reasons.

- (1) **Joining a church is a reflection of your salvation.** Let me say clearly and plainly – joining a church does not lead to true salvation. Being a member of a church does not save. Yet, it must be stated that though church membership does not save us, it is a reflection of our salvation. It reveals that we have come to know Christ and are seeking to follow Him (**John 14:10, 15:21**). Membership in a local church is not outdated, antiquated, and unnecessary. It is a testimony that we have come to Christ in faith and are seeking to follow Him. It is an outward manifestation of our love for Christ and desire to honor Him.
- (2) **Joining a church provides with you a family to support and encourage you.** Being a part of a church means developing relationships with your brothers and sisters in

Christ. These brothers and sisters will help you in your walk with Christ. We need to give up trying to live our Christian lives on our own. We need each other. We need to be a part of a church where we can bless and encourage and at the same time receive blessing and encouragement from other believers (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

- (3) **Joining a church will help you evangelize the world.** Christ calls on believers to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth (**Matthew 28:19-20**). How can a believer do this? How can one, single, lone believer accomplish this? By joining with other believers! By joining a body of believers, we come together to take the gospel to our area and to the ends of the earth through witness, prayer, and giving. Together we can better spread the gospel both at home and abroad.
- (4) **Joining a church is a way to glorify God.** Jesus Christ calls us to live our lives in a way that will bring glory to God (**Matthew 5:16**). Joining a church is one of the ways that we do this. By committing ourselves to the church, we manifest His grace, love, and mercy. We show how great He is and how much He is to be worshipped. It is a witness to God’s greatness.
- (5) **Joining a church is following Christ’s example.** Jesus Christ said, “I will build my church” (**Matthew 16:18**). Jesus Christ loved and gave Himself for the church (**Ephesians 5:25**). He is in the process of sanctifying His church (**Ephesians 5:26-27**). He is head over all things to the church (**Ephesians 1:22**). If Christ is this committed to His church, should we be any less committed to it? By committing ourselves to a church, we honor Christ.

What Does It Mean To Join A Church?

When you join a church, it means that you commit yourself to certain responsibilities. Christ calls us to be “active” members of His church. What are our responsibilities as members of a church?

- ✓ *Regular attendance to the worship services.* The Word tells believers not to “forsake the assembling of ourselves together” (**Hebrews**

10:25). We must be faithful to join with other believers to worship and to hear God's Word preached and taught.

✓ *Actively serve in the body.*

God has given every believer a spiritual gift or gifts. He desires that these gifts be used to bless and strengthen the church (**1 Corinthians 12**). Every believer has a place of service in the church.

✓ *Give regularly (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38).*

We are to give primarily to honor the Lord and show our gratitude to Him. Yet, we are to give also to support the ministry and work of our local church. By giving, we enable the church to carry out the great commission and the will of God for the church.

✓ *Minister to other believers (Matthew 20:28).*

As a member of a church, we are to seek to bless and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to seek out practical ways to build up our fellow believers.

✓ *Pray faithfully (Ephesians 1:15-16).*

When we become members of the church, it is our privilege and responsibility to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are accountable to God for interceding for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Joining a church means committing yourself to pray for the other believers. It is the greatest way to bless and encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ and to help the church grow.

Scripture Prayers For Your Church

God's call to join the church is a call to pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ. The following is a Scripture prayer guide to assist you in praying for your church.

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would be salt and light in the midst of this lost world. Grant them a righteous influence in the world (**Matthew 5:13-15**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church would walk in wisdom toward those who are outside the body of Christ. I also pray that their speech would be full of grace, godliness, and wisdom so that they may know how they ought to answer and respond to the lost (**Colossians 4:5-6**).

Father, I plead that You will create an atmosphere in _____ that will bring sinners to Jesus and that will grow and mature believers (**Acts 2:42-47**).

O God, revive the believers of _____ Church so that we may rejoice in You (**Psalms 85:6**).

Restore, O God, the believers of _____ Church; make Your face to shine on us that we may be delivered from our backsliding (**Psalms 80:7**).

Rise up and help the believers of _____ Church; restore us to Yourself because of Your redeeming love (**Psalms 44:8**).

Father, grant a spirit of brokenness and repentance to the believers of _____ Church (**Isaiah 57:15**).

Father, I plead that the believers of _____ Church will be diligent to confess their sins so that You will be faithful and just to forgive their sins and to cleanse them of their unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

God, I ask that the believers of _____ Church would not let sin reign in their mortal body (**Romans 6:12**).

Father, I pray that the believers of _____ Church would consider themselves dead to sin but alive to God in Jesus Christ (**Romans 6:11**).

I plead that the believers of _____ Church would present their body as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to You, O God. This is their spiritual service of worship (**Romans 12:1**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church would not be conformed to this world, but that they would be transformed by the renewing of their mind so that they may prove what is that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God (**Romans 12:2**).

Merciful God, I pray that the believers of _____ Church would discern

their spiritual gifts and would use these spiritual gifts that You have given them through the power and working of the Holy Spirit. Enable the believers to use their spiritual gifts for the strengthening of the church (**1 Corinthians 12:7, 11**).

As the deer pants for the water brooks, so cause the believers of _____ Church to thirst and long for you, the living God (**Psalms 42:1**).

I pray that the Holy Spirit would grant wisdom and insight to the believers of _____ Church so that they would have a deeper, more intimate knowledge of God (**Ephesians 1:17**).

Father, I plead that the believers of _____ Church will desire you above all things on earth. Though their heart and flesh may fail, I ask that You will be the strength of their heart and their portion forever (**Psalms 73:25-26**).

Father, I plead that the believers of _____ Church will be strong in the power of the Lord and in His might. I ask that they would put on the whole armor of God on a daily basis so that they can stand against the schemes of the devil (**Ephesians 6:10-11**).

Father, I pray that the believers of _____ Church will realize that they are in a spiritual war with a deadly enemy. Cause them to know that they do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but with principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, and the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (**Ephesians 6:12**).

Father, enable the believers of _____ Church to realize that we are members one of another and are totally dependent on each other (**Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:14-26**);

Father, cause the believers of _____ Church to be lovingly devoted to one another just as a close knit family is (**Romans 12:10**);

God, I plead that the believers of _____ Church would honor each other above themselves (**Romans 12:10**);

I plead that the believers _____ Church will praise You with uprightness of heart when they learn about You from Your Word (**Psalms 119:7**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church will worship You, the living and the true God in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**).

O Lord my God, I ask that the believers of _____ Church will praise You with all their heart and that they will glorify Your name forevermore (**Psalms 86:12**).

Praying The One Another Statements Of Scripture

Throughout the New Testament, we see the phrase "one another" used. These statements declare the will of God for believers concerning their unity and how they are to relate to one another. These statements show what God desires among believers and what He wants to produce in believers. Because of this, you can plead these requests with confidence. Since these requests are in line with God's will, plead with God to make these a reality among the believers that make up the church in which you are a member. Trust that God will hear and answer since these requests are in line with His will.

Father, enable the believers of _____ Church to realize that we are members one of another and are totally dependent on each other (**Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:14-26**);

Father, cause the believers of _____ Church to be lovingly devoted to one another just as a close knit family is (**Romans 12:10**);

God, I plead that the believers of _____ Church would honor each other above themselves (**Romans 12:10**);

Father, I ask You to make the believers of _____ Church to be like-minded in Christ Jesus our Lord (**Romans 15:5**);

Lord, I ask that the believers of _____ Church would accept one another in love. Deliver the believers of _____ Church from making hypocritical judgments about each other and/or showing partiality among members (**Romans 15:7**);

Father, I plead that You will fill the believers of _____ Church with the truth of Your Word, love, and humility so that we can admonish one another (**Romans 15:14**);

God enable the believers of _____ Church to greet one another with concern and love and not with superficial, vain talk that means nothing (**Romans 16:3-6, 16**);

Lord, I plead that the believers of _____ Church would bear one another's burdens in humility and love (**Galatians 6:2**);

Father, I plead that the believers of _____ Church will serve one another with a sacrificial, selfless love (**Galatians 5:13**);

God, enable the believers of _____ Church to bear with one another in patience. Deliver the believers of _____ Church from an easily offended spirit (**Ephesians 4:2**);

Lord, cause the believers of _____ Church to submit to one another in love (**Ephesians 5:21**);

God, I plead that You would cause the believers of _____ Church to encourage one another and build up one another with the Word of God (**1 Thessalonians 5:11**);

Father, I plead that You would guard the believers of _____ Church from being conceited toward one another. Keep the believers of _____ Church from provoking one another and envying one another (**Galatians 5:26**);

Lord God, cause the believers of _____ Church to always be kind and tenderhearted toward one another (**Ephesians 4:32**);

Father, enable the believers of _____ Church to always be forgiving toward each other as God for Christ's sake has forgiven us (**Ephesians 4:32**);

God, cause the believers of _____ Church to speak the truth in love and not to lie to one another (**Colossians 3:9**);

Father, I pray that the believers of _____ Church would abound and overflow with love toward one another (**1 Thessalonians 3:12**);

Lord, enable the believers of _____ Church to have mutual concern and love without preferring one before another (**1 Timothy 5:21**);

Father, I ask that the believers of _____ Church would exhort one another to faithfulness and good works (**Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25**);

God, cause the believers of _____ Church to not speak evil of each other (**James 4:11**);

Father, I plead that the believers of _____ Church would not hold grudges toward one another (**James 5:9**);

Father, cause the believers of _____ Church to have a burden to pray for one another (**James 5:16**);

Lord, enable the believers of _____ Church to have genuine compassion for one another (**1 Peter 3:8**);

God, I plead that the believers of _____ Church would exercise hospitality toward one another (**1 Peter 4:9**).

Praying For The Spiritual Growth Of Your Church

The following prayer guide will help you pray for the spiritual growth of your church.

These Scripture prayers focus on your church and the Word of God.

Father, I plead that the believers of _____ Church would desire the Word as a newborn baby desires milk. Remove anything from their lives that would hinder this. I pray that the believers of _____ Church would grow to spiritual maturity (**1 Peter 2:1-2**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would be convicted and convinced that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. I plead that they would understand the doctrines of the Bible. I also ask that they would be convicted of their sin through the Word of God, then shown how to deal with it and instructed in how to live lives that please You. Do this so that the believers of _____ Church would be complete and mature, thoroughly equipped for every good work (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).

Holy Spirit, I plead that You will grant the believers of _____ Church a deeper understanding of Your Word (**John 16:14**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would hide Your Word in their heart so that they would not sin against You. I plead that You would grant them a desire to memorize the Word. Enable the believers of _____ Church to do this by the power of the Holy Spirit (**Psalm 119:11**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church will meditate on Your Word and that they would contemplate Your ways in the Word (**Psalm 119:15**).

Open the believers' eyes so that they may see the wondrous truths of Your Word (**Psalm 119:18**).

Give the believers of _____ Church understanding in Your Word so that they would obey Your Word. Enable them to observe Your commands with their whole heart (**Psalm 119:34**).

O God, Your hands have made and fashioned the believers of _____ Church. I ask that

You will give them understanding so that they can learn Your commandments (**Psalm 119:73**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church will love Your Word with all their heart. I ask that the Word will be their meditation all the day (**Psalm 119:97**).

I ask that Your Word would be a lamp to the believers' feet and a light to the believers' path. Cause them to make the Word of God the final guide for what they believe and how they live their lives (**Psalm 119:105**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would long for Your Word (**Psalm 119:131**).

I ask that You would direct the believers' steps according to Your Word and let no sin have dominion over them (**Psalm 119:133**).

I plead that the believers of _____ Church would hate and abhor lying but I ask that they would love Your Word (**Psalm 119:163**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church would search the Scriptures (**John 5:39**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would be directed to keep Your Word (**Psalm 119:5**).

When There's Trouble In The Church

Every church is going to have times of trouble. Because of the devil and the flesh, churches will have to face times of trouble and struggle. The following prayer guide offers suggestions on how to pray during these times.

Father, I pray that Satan's schemes in this situation will be thwarted and completely defeated (**1 Peter 5:8**).

Father, I plead that You would bind Satan and his forces and prevent them from gaining anymore ground in this situation (**Mark 1:25-26**).

Father, I ask that You would clear up the confusion that is involved in this situation; I pray

that You would end the disorder and grant peace (**1 Corinthians 14:33**).

Father, I plead that You would convict and burden those who are causing difficulty; show them the evil and the disorder that they are causing through their words and actions (**John 16:7-8**).

Father, I pray that You would tear down the self-righteousness and hardness of heart in those who are causing problems. Deliver them from being wise in their own eyes (**Proverbs 26:12**).

Father, I ask You to grant brokenness and repentance to those who are causing problems in the body (**James 4:6**).

Father, I ask that You would provide the spiritual leaders of this body the wisdom and the courage to do what is necessary to deal with this problem; give them the knowledge and understanding to confront the problem (**Proverbs 2:6-7**).

Father, I pray that the members of this body will forsake gossiping and taking sides. I plead that they will pray fervently concerning this matter (**Colossians 4:2**).

Father, I ask that the members of this church will not jump to conclusions but will be wise and discerning about the problem (**Proverbs 18:13**).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that the members of this church will seek to be peacemakers in all things – especially in this problem (**Matthew 5:9**).

Father, I ask that every member of this church will seek God's glory in all things. I plead that each member will be delivered from the desire for self-exaltation and importance (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

I pray that this church will seek to be likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose (**Philippians 2:2**).

I plead that the members of this body will do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,

but humility consider others better than us (**Philippians 2:3**).

I ask that the members of this body would not look to our own interests, but also to the interests of others (**Philippians 2:4**).

Father, I ask that this church will have the mind of Christ – willing to humble themselves and serve others (**Philippians 2:5-11**).

Father, I plead that the members of this body will speak the truth to one another in love. Help us to lovingly but firmly confront this problem (**Ephesians 4:15**).

Father, I ask that each member of this body will put off falsehood and speak truthfully to each other for we are members of one body, the body of Christ (**Ephesians 4:25**).

Father, I pray that You would enable this church to get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, and slander, along with every form of malice. I ask You to cultivate in this church kindness, compassion, and a spirit of forgiveness – the same kind of forgiveness that You gave us through Jesus (**Ephesians 4:31-32**).

Father, I plead that You would humble those who are at odds with one another. I pray that You would break their hardness and opposition. Bring them back into a right relationship with You and with each other (**Philippians 4:2**).

Father, it is good and pleasant when brothers and sisters in Christ live in unity with each other. I ask You to move powerfully in this body to create the unity that pleases You and that will enable this church to reach the lost for Christ (**Psalms 133:1**).

Father, I ask that every member of this body will seek to be completely humble and gentle. Empower us to be patient, bearing with one another in love. I plead that we would make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (**Ephesians 4:2-3**).

Father, I pray that You would stir this body to confess sin and make things right with one another. I ask that we would be willing to do

whatever we must in order to be reconciled with our brothers and sisters in Christ (**Matthew 5:23-26**).

A Correction

In the July/August edition of The Prayer Closet, there is typographical error. On page 2, it says, "God responded by casting Satan and his demons out of hell." This should have said, "God responded by casting Satan and his demons out of heaven."

The Prayer Closet By Email

At The Prayer Closet, we have been working hard to improve our ability to send the newsletter by email. Because of the rising costs of publishing and mailing the newsletter, we are seeking to send it to as many people as possible by email. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email instead of snail mail, please contact us at **prayercloset_1998@yahoo.com** with your email address and your snail mail address. You will also be able to forward these to your friends or add them to the email list.

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Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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VOLUME 1

JULY/AUGUST, 2009

ISSUE 7

VARIETY IN PRAYERWALKING

Prayerwalking is a fun and exciting adventure. One of the reasons for this is because of the variety of ways that you can prayerwalk. God never intended for prayer to be boring. When you prayerwalk, you can discover hundreds of ways to pray for your area, your church, and the people around you. You will gain insights and grow as an intercessor. This variety will sustain your prayer life and create excitement and enjoyment concerning prayer.

In this chapter, we will examine the various ways that you can prayerwalk. There are numerous ways that you can prayerwalk. God honors and blesses each of these ways. God will grant you insight and power for each of these ways. Consider practicing all the varieties of prayerwalking.

Prayerwalking Alone

The Holy Spirit will inspire you to do impromptu prayerwalks. You may not have others who can or will prayerwalk with you. The Holy Spirit will bless and guide your personal prayerwalking. Many believers do this as they exercise, whether it be walking or jogging.

When you prayerwalk alone, keep the following in mind:

- *Pray aloud.* There may be times when God wants you to be silent and listen to Him. Yet, pray out loud if it is possible. Praying aloud helps you to stay focused as you prayerwalk. When you are prayerwalking by yourself, your mind will have a tendency to stray from praying. You may find it hard to concentrate. Praying aloud will aid you in staying focused. A single person praying audibly in public may appear odd or strange to onlookers. A simple word of explanation will suffice in these situations. Be more concerned about what God thinks than what anyone else thinks.
- *Prayerwalk the same route with other believers.* Your solo prayerwalk may just be the beginning of prayerwalking an area. Once you prayerwalk a route by yourself, you might want to recruit other believers to prayerwalk that same route with you. You will be able to add power to that original prayerwalk with the agreement of other believers. You will be able to pray with added faith for the people, places, and situations along that route.

- *Avoid engaging evil powers by yourself.* When you prayerwalk alone, focus on pleading for the release of God's power and blessings on people, places, and situations. Pray for God's righteousness to be exalted and His kingdom to engulf the people and the area. Avoid confronting evil powers by yourself. There is a place for confronting and binding evil spirits through prayer. Yet, it is better to have other believers with you who can pray for you and support you in this type of situation.

Prayerwalking As A Family

Prayerwalking as a family can help your children understand prayer and move them toward becoming powerful intercessors. It can be the beginning of a lifetime of intercession. It will aid you in involving your children in prayer. They will have a part in advancing God's kingdom. It can provide you with new and fresh ways of praying as a family.

When you prayerwalk as a family, consider the following guidelines:

- *Pray for God to speak to and touch your children through family prayerwalks.* Ask God to make these prayerwalks a significant spiritual marker in their lives. Pray that this will create a heart for intercession in your children.
- *Choose areas that are of interests to your children.* Let your children help in planning the areas that you will pray.
- *Plan short and varied routes.* Don't let your prayerwalking as a family become too complicated or too long.
- *Talk with your children about what prayerwalking is and how to do it.* Talk to them about where you are going and the prayer topics for that route. You might even devise short and simple prayer guides to help your children. You might even consider helping them find verses of Scripture that they can use on the prayerwalk.
- *Mix fun with intercession.* Your children will not be able to focus on prayer for the entire prayerwalk. Be willing and ready to have

times of fun mixed in with the prayerwalking. Even when you are having fun, talk with God about the fun that you are having.

- *Pray specifically about your children's concern.* When you prayerwalk with your children, pray about those things that directly affect them. Pray about those things that bother them or make them fearful. Incorporate their interests in your prayerwalk.
- *Invite other family members or friends to prayerwalk with you.* At times, you might want to include extended family members in your prayerwalks. Your children need to see the most important people in their lives in the practice of praying.
- *Affirm that God hears and answers prayer.* After your prayerwalks, talk with your children about the truth that God hears and answers prayer. Share with them that God has heard your prayers and will answer them in His time and way. Use this as an opportunity to teach them about trusting Him and waiting on Him to answer.

Prayerwalking In Small Groups

Prayerwalking can be done in groups of two or three people. It is best to have teams of two to three people. Praying with one or two team members enables you to pray in agreement. God loves it when His people pray together in agreement (**Matthew 18:20**). God's power and blessing are released when His people put this truth into practice.

When prayerwalking in small groups, remember the following general principles:

- *Form prayer teams*-Usually prayer teams will come together spontaneously. Yet, there is good reason to be deliberate in forming teams. You must consider matters of safety, local sensitivities, and prayer maturity of the individuals.
- *Shuffle prayer teams.* It is wise to place experienced intercessors with those who are struggling in prayer. When you do this, you are giving the experienced intercessors

an opportunity to mentor and encourage the ones who are struggling. Prayer is contagious. Take advantage of this opportunity. There are times when a prayerwalk is designed so that prayer teams meet at certain points. When they meet, they rest and re-assign the prayer teams.

- *Develop a rhythm of prayer.* Allow each person to pray in the group. Take turns praying and be sensitive to what the others are praying. Seek the filling of the Spirit and allow Him to lead the praying of the team.

the requirements and restrictions and then adhere to them.

- *Prepare the way.* You might consider sending teams of experienced intercessors on the route before the group prayerwalk. These intercessors can cover the route with prayer and prepare the way for the large group.
- *Use prayer guides and music.* You can allow for spontaneous praying and singing. Yet, you might also consider having prayer guides and programs of music for the people to use in worship.

Where Do You Prayerwalk?

At a prayer conference, we were taking a break when a lady encountered me in the hallway. I had started talking about prayerwalking before the break. She said, “I want to see God’s power released throughout this community. I want to prayerwalk. But where do you do this at?” Perhaps that is your question. In previous chapters, we have dealt with what you are to do when you prayerwalk. Now we need to turn our attention to where you should prayerwalk. In this chapter, I want to introduce you to the many places that you can direct God’s power and blessing through prayer.

The following is a list of places where you can prayerwalk. This list is not exhaustive. But, its purpose is to open you to the possibilities of prayerwalking that are around you.

Churches

You can prayerwalk around your church or neighboring churches. This is crucial for revival and unity among all believers. Many years ago, I was preaching a series of services in a church. Coldness and deadness characterized the first two services on Sunday. I was struggling to preach and minister to the congregation. On Monday, I arrived at the church before anyone else. I began prayerwalking around the church. I prayed the Scripture, pled for God’s blessings on the church, and praised God. After I did this, I

Prayerwalking In Large Groups

There are certain situations that are ideal for prayerwalking in large groups. A large group for prayerwalking is from seven to twenty-four. This type of prayerwalking is ideal for prayer rallies, evangelistic crusades, or protests and demonstrations. Some churches have left their sanctuaries and made a broad sweep of their communities with prayerwalking.

When you are planning or are involved with a large group for prayerwalking, consider the following:

- *Pray fervently for the Spirit’s leadership.* Prayerwalking in a large group requires careful planning under the Spirit’s direction.
- *Plan the routes well.* There are a variety of factors that you must consider when carrying out a large group prayerwalk. Think about how to negotiate the traffic lights and street signs. At what points will you stop and how long will you stop? Walk the route and estimate how much time will be needed to do the prayerwalk. You might consider dividing the large group up into teams of two and sending them out behind each other in one to two minute intervals.
- *Stay within the legal restrictions of your area.* Some places may have laws requiring advance permission to walk. They may have other laws concerning group functions. Make sure that you know

went into the sanctuary and prayed over every pew, pleading for the people who would be sitting there. I continued to do this each night through the week. I began noticing a difference each night in the atmosphere of the church. Through the week, there were numerous conversions. Believers repented and reconciled relationships. The Spirit of God granted refreshing in the midst of the congregation. Prayerwalking in and around churches can make a difference!

Schools

You can prayerwalk around the schools in your area. The schools are one of Satan's primary targets. You can protect the children in the schools from his devious and destructive plans. You can also plead for God's blessings on the school. You can pray that God's glory and righteousness would be revealed in the school. Prayerwalking at schools does make a difference. God began burdening a church concerning the schools in its area. The children of the church were scattered among the various schools in the area. They determined that they were going to make a difference with prayerwalking. They developed teams of prayerwalkers who would go to the schools and pray. Each Saturday, different teams were sent to the local schools. These team would alternate and prayerwalk at a different school each week. They decided to make this an ongoing ministry. As they did this, the schools began to change. There were less discipline problems. The atmosphere in the schools grew more conducive to learning. Students were surrendering their lives to Jesus Christ. The believing students were forming prayer meetings and were ministering to the unsaved students. Prayerwalking can release abundant blessings on schools and bring about genuine change.

Sites Of Past Sin

You can select and target sites of past sin. The reason for this is that sin has consequences. Those consequences do affect those who commit the sin. Yet, there will be ongoing consequences for those who follow. Just as a parents' sins affect their children and

grandchildren, the sin of one generation will impact the following generations. Sin in one generation can be passed on and multiplied in the next. Rampant sin in one generation started with sin in a previous generation. This past sin opened the door for demonic power. As this sin continues, it grants the demons more power to magnify and strengthen the effects on the following generations. In order to deal with this, you must select sites where the sin or sins were committed. Cry out for the Holy Spirit's guidance in this matter. Plead for discernment. A wise way of determining this is by asking the question, "Is there anything in the past which is prohibiting God's work in the present?" Prayerwalk around the site, acknowledging the sin to God. Confess it to Him, admitting that it is rebellion against Him and His Word. Plead for God to grant repentance to everyone who is committing the sin in the present. Pray that they will seek Him and receive forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Sites Of Ongoing Sin

You might consider prayerwalking at places where sin is being openly committed in the present. Plead for God to put an end to the evil that is being carried out. Pray that God will grant repentance to all that are involved in the sinful activity. Ask God to bless and help those who are being affected by the consequences of this evil.

Workplaces

Believers can prayerwalk around their places of employment. Churches might consider sending prayerwalking teams to the various companies, businesses, and stores in its area. They can plead for God's blessing, good working conditions, and the work of the Spirit in these places.

Real Estate

God often grants real estate to families, churches, ministries, and missionaries that has been faithfully prayerwalked. Churches and believers should consider prayerwalking

around land and buildings that it can use for the purpose of ministry. Even a “For Sale” sign can prompt prayer. When you see a “For Sale” sign, plead that God will grant it to people that He will use in the area. Pray that it will be given to those who know Him and who will have significant impact on the area.

Overlook Points

You can pray at an elevated place over a city or area. Use this as an opportunity to zero in on particular parts of the city or area. You might consider having a map of the area so that you can identify and pray specifically for each part of the city.

Sites Of Harm Or Tragedy

Believers might want to gather at a site where tragedy or harm has taken place. The reason for doing this is to ask for God’s blessing on those who suffered and those who inflicted the harm. You can plead for God’s healing and help concerning the situation. In the case of crime, like murder, you can pray that this will not happen again and that justice will be carried out.

Courthouses And Government Offices

Believers often complain about the courts and the government. Yet, how often do believers pray for a change? Believers should prayerwalk around courthouses and government offices. There are a variety of requests that believers can make: efficient use of time and money, wisdom, strength, protection and deliverance from corruption, true and lasting justice, and meeting the spiritual needs of all who work in these places.

Future Church Plants

Prayerwalking prepares the way for church planting. It opens doors for the gospel, moves people to give and to support the church plant, and binds the power of the enemy. It is essential to starting and establishing a new work.

Segments Of The City

You might consider dividing your city or area up into segments that teams can prayerwalk on a regular basis. By doing this, you will be covering your city or area with regular intercession.

Non-Christian Places Of Worship

By using the phrase, “Non-Christian Places Of Worship,” I am referring to worship centers for false religions and cults. In the Bible, God commanded His people to dismantle places of counterfeit worship. He spoke of them as being offensive to Him (Numbers 33:52; 2 Kings 17:11, 18:4; Psalm 78:58; Jeremiah 19:5, 32:35). You can pray that God would bind and remove the evil forces that fuel the group or cult. You can ask for God to see them free from their bondage. You can plead for God to save those who are involved.

This prayer guide is offered to help you pray the Lord’s Prayer as you prayerwalk. Each phrase of the Lord’s Prayer provides you with specific requests that you can make as you walk and pray.

Unleashing God’s Power On The Streets

This prayer guide is offered to help you pray the Lord’s Prayer as you prayerwalk. Each phrase of the Lord’s Prayer provides you with specific requests that you can make as you walk and pray.

Our Father

Father, I pray that the people in this area would surrender to Jesus and come to know You as their Father.

Father, reveal to the people in this area Your willingness to save and bless them.

Father, let the people in this area experience your abundant grace and goodness.

In Heaven

Father, I pray that the people in this area would know that You and You alone are the true God.

Father, I plead that the people in this area would know that You are the powerful God of time and eternity.

Father, I pray that the people here would turn away from their idols and sin to You, the living and mighty God.

Hallowed Be Your Name

Father, I pray that You will be praised and adored by the people in this area.

Father, I ask that the people in this area would reverence and love You with all their being.

Father, I plead that You will be explicitly exalted in this area as the only true God.

Your Kingdom Come

Father, I pray that the people in this area would hear the gospel and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Father, I plead that Your kingdom would smash and destroy Satan's kingdom in this area.

Father, remove any obstacles to the spread of the gospel in this area.

Your Will Be Done

Father, I pray that the people in this area will know what Your will is.

Father, I ask that the people in this area would be submissive to Your will.

Father, I plead that the people in this area will do Your will as it is done in heaven.

Our Daily Bread

Father, I pray that You would supply the daily needs of the people in this area.

Father, I ask that the people in this area would know that You are the Source of all good and blessing.

Father, I plead that You would teach the people here to depend daily on You.

Forgive Our Debts

Father, I plead that the people in this area would experience the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ.

Father, I ask that a spirit of forgiveness would exist and reign in this area.

Father, I pray that there would be genuine reconciliation among the people in this area.

Do Not Lead Us

Father, set the people in this area free from the grip and power of sin.

Father, cause the people here to know and understand the consequences of sin.

Father, grant the people here a hatred of sin and a spirit of repentance toward You.

Deliver Us

Father, I plead that Satan and his demons would be bound and driven from this area.

Father, I ask that Your gospel and Your power will destroy Satan's schemes for this area.

Father, I pray that the people here will be delivered from Satan's kingdom and drawn in to Your kingdom through Jesus.

Kingdom, Power, And Glory

Father, let Your kingdom enter this area, expand with power, and conquer the people here.

Father, let Your life transforming power flood into this area.

Father, let Your glory be revealed and shine mightily in this area.

Prayerwalking Bible Study:

The Characteristics of A Prayerwalker Joshua 1:1-9

Prayerwalking Principle: There are certain characteristics that will enable you to be used of God in prayerwalking.

In **Joshua 1:3**, God gives Joshua a startling but sure promise. He declares to him, "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses." God would give him every inch of Canaan that he had faith to receive. This startling but sure promise of God required certain characteristics of Joshua. If he were going to take this land, certain characteristics would have to be exhibited by him.

The same is true for you in your prayerwalking. God is ready to give. Yet, you must be ready to receive. There are certain characteristics that you must cultivate if you are going to be used of God in prayerwalking. **Joshua 1:1-9** reveals these characteristics.

Read the following verses and write out the characteristic that you feel these verses are revealing.

Joshua 1:1-5 _____

Joshua had to trust in the faithfulness of God. He had to believe that God was going to be faithful to His promises. In prayerwalking, you must trust in God's faithfulness. You must believe that He hears and answers your prayers. You must trust that He is the gracious God who saves, blesses, heals, and intervenes.

Joshua 1:6-7 _____

Joshua had to be courageous. He had to be willing to step out in faith and receive what God was promising. He could not shrink back in unbelief. Yet, it was necessary for Him to walk boldly into Canaan ready to accept God's promise of the land. In prayerwalking, you must be courageous. God will bless and answer those who step out in faith. You cannot shrink back in unbelief, but in courage receive what God wants to give.

Joshua 1:7-8 _____

Joshua was to fill his life with the Word of God. He was to read it, meditate on it, and obey it. He would only be able to take the land of Canaan if the Word of God was central in his life. In prayerwalking, you must be filled with God's Word. You must strive to know and obey His Word. By doing this, you will have wisdom and discernment. You will be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit. You will be more prepared to pray the Scriptures. Powerful prayerwalking is anchored in the Word of God. If you want to be used of God in prayerwalking, you too must be anchored in God's Word.

Joshua 1:9 _____

Joshua had to have the assurance that God was with him. God promised His presence. Joshua had to trust that God would be with him. In prayerwalking, you must believe that God is with you. You must trust that He is going before, is with you, and will come behind you.

These characteristics are essential for powerful prayerwalking:

- ***Trust in God's faithfulness***
- ***Courage to step out in faith***
- ***Meditating on and obeying the Word of God***
- ***Assurance of God's presence***

Plead today that the Holy Spirit would release and cultivate these characteristics in your life. Pray that He would do the same for the members of your church.

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Global Point Men

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

July/August, 2009

Praying Through Marital Problems

Every marriage is going to have times of difficulty. Problems will surface and they will be a threat to the joy and even the existence of the marriage. These problems could be due to a crisis or to ongoing problems of one or both of the spouses.

The devil will attempt to use these problems no matter how insignificant they seem. He will attempt to use these problems to cripple or even destroy the marriage. The way to prevent this is through prayer. Through prayer and dependence on God and His Word, a couple can overcome the problems that they are facing.

The following prayer list is offered as a guide that can help you pray through marital problems. You can also use this prayer list for the safeguarding

of your marriage. If you have family members or friends that are having marital problems, you can use this list as a guide to intercede for them. This is especially true of in-laws (Remember in-laws: **Hands off, prayers on**).

- ◆ Pray that God would enable them to communicate with each other in a clear and loving way (**Ephesians 4:15; Proverbs 18:13**).
- ◆ Pray that God would remind them of the value and preciousness of marriage (**Genesis 2:22; Proverbs 18:22**).
- ◆ Ask that God would enable them to find intimate and abiding joy in their love and friendship (**Ecclesiastes 9:9; Proverbs 5:18**).

- ◆ Pray that God would enable them to always be kind to each other, tenderhearted, and forgiving as God for Christ's sake has forgiven them (**Ephesians 4:32**).
- ◆ Plead that God would prevent Satan from gaining a foothold in their relationship (**Ephesians 4:25**).
- ◆ Pray that God would help them to always remember that love is a commitment and a choice (**I Corinthians 13**).
- ◆ Ask that they would always trust in the Lord and would not lean on their own understanding (**Proverbs 3:5**).
- ◆ Pray that they would acknowledge the Lord in all their ways, keeping Him as the top priority of their lives (**Proverbs 3:6**).

- ◆ Ask that they will remember that hatred stirs up strife but love covers a multitude of sins (**Proverbs 10:12**).
- ◆ Pray that they will remember the seriousness of the commitment that they have made to God and to each other (**Mark 10:5-9; Malachi 2:16-17**).

The Power Of Praying Together

A husband and wife can take numerous steps to strengthen and protect their marriage. The key ingredient in building a marriage that glorifies God is prayer. Praying together is an essential to a godly, strong marriage. It is true that both the husband and wife individually need time alone with the Lord. Both spouses separately need to develop their own quiet time. Yet, the couple needs times when they pray together. There needs to be times when the couple enters the presence of God together.

Why should a husband and wife pray together? Why should a couple

that is engaged or thinking about marriage pray together?

- ◆ *Praying together can increase the love and intimacy of a couple.* Prayer will draw a person into a more intimate relationship with God. When a couple prays together, they will be drawn closer to God. Yet, at the same time, God will deepen their love and intimacy for each other. God will mold their hearts into one heart.
- ◆ *Praying together can enable a couple to work through problems.* As a couple prays together, God will work in their lives. By praying, the couple is opening up their relationship to God. He works through this to bring about change and healing in the relationship. It is difficult, if not impossible, to pray with and for someone with whom you are having problems. When a couple prays together, it is an opportunity for the power of God to flow into their lives. This power can help them overcome whatever problems they are having inside and outside of the marriage.

- ◆ *Praying together can make a couple sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.* When a believer prays, it makes him or her more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. The same is true for a couple when they seek God together. As they pray together, they become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading concerning their marriage and the decisions that they need to make. The Holy Spirit will also mold and shape their desires to conform to God's will. By doing this, the couple can experience greater harmony in their decisions and purposes.
- ◆ *Praying together can enable the couple to follow God's commands in Ephesians 5.* In this chapter, the wife is commanded to submit to the husband. The husband then is commanded to love his wife as Christ loves the church. These are strenuous commands for married believers. These commands go against the grain of modern thinking and worldly feeling. Yet, a crucial step in obeying these commands is

by praying together. As the couple prays together, they become more sensitive to the needs of the other. These commands go from being a duty to a delight. The couple also receives God's power and encouragement. This can help them live out the commands that God has given to them.

- ◆ *Praying together can provide spiritual protection for the family.* When a couple prays together, it will provide a spiritual covering over the family. The couple will be more sensitive to the attacks of the enemy. As they pray together, the couple receives greater discernment. This discernment is crucial in detecting and defeating the enemy.

If you are married, I would ask you to consider praying together. If you are engaged or thinking about getting married, you need to consider praying together. There is incredible power in a couple praying together. You might even consider praying that couples in your church would start praying together.

You need to establish your own time and place for doing this. If you can only do this once a week, that is a good place to start. Yet, strive to increase the times that you pray together. If you feel that you don't have the time to do this, 3 ask God to help you find the time. He is the God of time; He can help you find the time to do this.

Before you pray together, you might consider reading the Word together. You can share and discuss the insights that the Holy Spirit provides you from your reading of the Word. You might consider developing a prayer request from this insight. Experiment and see what works best for you.

You might also consider developing a Power of Praying Together journal. There are a variety of journals on the market today. You can purchase a journal that fits your tastes and preferences. It could even be a ruled wire notebook. This journal is intended for your wife and you. . You can use it or adapt it according to your needs. This journal will give you the opportunity to look back and see how God has

worked in your family and your marriage. It can also strengthen the faith of your family in the years to come. It can give you the opportunity to share with your family how He heard and answered you in their behalf and in the behalf of the whole family. Your prayer journal can become a testimony to your family of the faithfulness and goodness of God.

I'd like to suggest the following as a way to set up the journal. These are just suggestions to help you get started. You can use or adapt these suggestions. The first section is *Prayer Concerns or Requests*. In this section, you have the opportunity to list the burdens or the concerns that you have. As you share with each other, determine what concerns or requests that you will pray over.

The second section is *Scriptures and Promises*. This section allows you the opportunity to record Scriptures and promises that stand out from your Bible reading. At the same time, they may correspond to your prayer concerns or requests. From these Scriptures and

requests, you can develop your prayer arguments that you will plead as a couple before the Lord.

The final section is *Insights and Guidance From the Holy Spirit*. This section allows you the opportunity to record the insights that the Holy Spirit grants you as you pray and read the Word of God. This will help you determine what steps to take in dealing with the problems or concerns. This section will help you keep a record of God's direction in your lives.

The final section is *Answered Prayer*. In this section, you can record God's answers to your prayers. This is the place where you can write down how God responded to your prayers. There's no need to pray if you're not going to expect an answer from our heavenly Father. This section of your journal will enable you to keep a record of how God worked and provided in responses to your pleas. What a powerful testimony to hand your children one day a journal that shows how God heard and blessed all of you in response to your prayers.

Praying For Your Child's Obedience

God desires obedience from those who have surrendered their lives to Him. He desires obedience more than religious ritual (**1 Samuel 15:22-23**).

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Because of this, you need to pray that God would create a spirit of obedience in your child. You should plead with God to give your child a heart for hearing and obeying the Word of God. You can train your child and live as an example before him or her. However, only God can create a heart for obedience in your child. This is why you must call on Him to do this. If you want your child to please God and to walk with Him, pray that he or she will hear and obey Him.

Not only will obedience please the Lord, it will also protect your child. God's commands have been given to protect people from destroying themselves. God's commands do not take away the enjoyment of life. Actually, they enable a person to live an abundant life that pleases God and that gives the greatest joy. Obedience to

God causes a person to experience the best God has to offer.

The following are prayer requests that you can pray for your children. These requests are based on the Word of God. They can help you pray for a spirit of obedience in your child. You can use these or develop your own requests from these. In order to use these requests, place your child's name in the blank and plead the Scriptures that are given.

Father, I plead that _____ will love You with all his/her heart, soul, and mind (**Matthew 22:37**).

Lord God, I pray that You will be the top priority of _____'s life. Deliver _____ from placing

anything or anybody before You in his/her life (**Exodus 20:3**).

Father, I ask that _____ will understand who You are. Grant _____ an intimate knowledge of You from Your Word. I pray that

_____ will have a true knowledge of Your character and will not develop false ideas about You or Your ways (**Exodus 20:4**).

I pray that _____ will never take Your name in vain. I ask that _____ will treat Your name with reverence and honor. Enable _____ to live a life worthy of Your name (**Exodus 20:7**).

Father, I plead that _____ will honor the Lord's Day. I ask that _____ will worship you and focus on You during the Lord's Day. Cause him/her to make this a special day throughout his/her life (**Exodus 20:8-11**).

Father, I plead that _____ will always love his/her neighbor as himself/herself. Deliver _____ from self-centeredness (**Matthew 22:39**).

Lord God, I pray that _____ will honor his/her father and mother all the days of his/her life. Enable

_____ to obey his/her parents in the Lord (**Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3**).

Father, I ask that _____ would never commit murder. Grant that _____ will not allow anger

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to be a part of his/her character. Deliver him/her from speaking harsh and spiteful words (**Exodus 20:13**).

Lord, I pray that _____ would not commit adultery. I ask that You would enable _____ to think pure thoughts about members of the opposite sex. Deliver him/her from pornography, masturbation, and pre-marital sex. Create within him/her a longing for sexual purity (**Exodus 20:14**).

Father, I plead that _____ would not steal throughout his/her life. Create within him/her a heart for work. I pray that You would instill in him/her a desire to work for You and not for men (**Exodus 20:15**).

Lord God, I pray that _____
would not bear false witness. I plead
that You would deliver
_____ from lying. Create in
his/her heart a longing for truth and
integrity. Enable _____ to be
a person who speaks the truth in love
(**Exodus 20:16**).

Father, I plead that _____
would not covet. Create a spirit of
contentment in him/her. Cause him/her
to trust in You and Your provision in his
or her life. I pray that _____
would look more to the Giver than the
gifts that You give (**Exodus 20:17**).

World Prayer Guide

September

- 1-Poland-The Lost
- 2-Portugal
- 3-Puerto Rico
- 4-Qatar
- 5-Reunion

- 6-Romania-The Church
- 7-Romania-The Lost
- 8-Russia-The Church
- 9-Russia-The Lost
- 10-Russia-Mission Efforts
- 11-Russia-Freedom and Peace
- 12-Russia-Spiritual Awakening
- 13-Rwanda
- 14-Western Sahara
- 15-Samoa
- 16-San Marino
- 17-Sao Tome
- 18-Principe
- 19-Saudi Arabia-The Church
- 20-Saudi Arabia-Open Doors
- 21-Saudi Arabia-Persecution
- 22-Senegal
- 23-Seychelles
- 24-Sierra Leone
- 25-Singapore
- 26-Slovenia
- 27-Solomon Islands
- 28-Somalia
- 29-South Africa-The Church
- 30-South Africa-The Lost

October

- 1-South Africa-Political Future
- 2-Spain-The Church

- 3-Spain-The Lost
- 4-Sri Lanka
- 5-St. Helena and Ascension Island
- 6-St. Kittis and Nevis

- 7-St. Lucia
- 8-St. Pierre and Miquelon
- 9-St. Vincent
- 10-Sudan-The Church
- 11-Sudan-Persecuted Believers
- 12-Suriname
- 13-Svalbard
- 14-Swaziland
- 15-Sweden
- 16-Switzerland
- 17-Syria
- 18-Tajikstan
- 19-Tanzania-The Church
- 20-Tanzania-The Lost
- 21-Thailand-The Church
- 22-Thailand-The Lost
- 23-Togo
- 24-Tokelau Island
- 25-Tonga
- 26-Trinidad and Tobago
- 27-Tunisia
- 28-Turkey-The Church
- 29-Turkey-The Lost
- 30-Turkey-Mission Efforts

31-Turkmenistan

Leading Your Family God's Way

6

I Timothy was written by the apostle Paul to a young pastor named Timothy. Paul finds himself at the end of his ministry. Timothy is just starting his. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write this letter to teach this young man how to lead the church of God, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (**I Timothy 3:15**).

This veteran, embattled pastor sent Timothy a letter to give him guidance on how to lead the church. Since the home is a little church, you are the "pastor" of your home. You are responsible for the spiritual well-being and direction of your home. For that reason, **I Timothy** can give you direction on how to lead your family spiritual.

In the upcoming issues of the Global Point Man newsletter, we will examine the book of **I Timothy**. This book can provide you with insights on how to pastor your home. It can enable you to provide the spiritual leadership and direction that your family needs.

In **I Timothy 1:1-3**, the apostle Paul emphasized the priority of sound doctrine. He begins by asserting his authority. Paul was not a self-appointed apostle nor did any church commission him. He was an apostle of Jesus Christ “by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope” (1:1).

Paul refers to Timothy as “my own son in the faith” (1:2). This reveals that Timothy had true faith in Jesus Christ. The important thing about him was not that he was Paul’s child, but God’s child. He had trusted in Christ and experienced the salvation of Jesus Christ.

The first thing Paul tells his true son in the faith is that he must teach sound doctrine (1:3). The apostle emphasizes that he must focus on teaching and preaching the Word of

God. The truth of God’s Word had been committed to him. He now was to proclaim and defend that truth to others.

What do we learn about pastoring our families from this text?

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- ✓ *You must have a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Before you can lead your family in the faith, you must have personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. First, you must know Christ. You must place your faith in Him, surrendering yourself solely to Him. This is essential to your spiritual leadership of your home. You can’t lead your family in a way that you yourself have not gone. Leading your family to Christ starts with your personal relationship to Jesus Christ.*
- ✓ *You must strive to understand the truths of God’s Word. To teach sound doctrine you have to develop your own understanding. This begins with your personal reading and study of God’s Word. You can build on this through Bible study groups, hearing the preaching of God’s Word, and reading sound doctrinal works.*

- ✓ *You are to pass on the faith to your children.* God desires that you pass on the faith that was committed to you (**Jude 3**). Your children will face a variety of false teachings and ideologies. You must provide the foundation of sound doctrine.
- ✓ *Strive to live the truth.* It is important to know and teach the truth. Yet, you will have greater effect as you labor to put the truth into practice. We must believe, teach, and live sound doctrine if it is to have deep affect on our families.
- ✓ *Ask God to grant you the power and wisdom to pastor your family.* God has called you to pastor your family. Only through God's help can you fulfill this calling. Seek Him for the help that you need; He is more than willing to help you. As you seek Him, He will provide you what you need to lead your family in the faith.

Praying Psalm 121 For Your Family

Read and meditate on **Psalm 121**.
Ask the Spirit to grant you the power to pray this psalm for your family.

Consider these requests as you pray for you family.

- (1) Father, teach this family where to run for help (**121:1-2**);
- (2) Father, grant us the help that You alone can give for our problems and our stress (**121:1-2**);
- (3) Father, grant us the strength to stand firm in You and Your Word; preserve us from falling into the traps of the enemy (**121:3**);
- (4) Father, thank You for Your continual care for our lives; continue to watch over us and grant us peace (**121:4**);

(5) Father, You are our Helper; teach us to take refuge in you (**121:5**);

(6) Father, preserve us from all evil; sustain us and use all things to shape and mold our lives (**121:6-7**)

(7) Father, watch over our lives and protect as we go and come in our daily lives (**121:8**).

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