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# A Life of Prayer

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2012** 

Prayerwalking flows out of a life of prayer. God has called every believer to live a life prayer. Prayer is to fill every part of your life. It is not limited to a quiet time. It is to extend to all the places you go and for all the people you come into contact with on a daily basis.

**VOLUME 4** 

What does it mean to "pray without ceasing?"

What does Jesus instruct believers to do in **Matthew 6:6**?

How do **1 Thessalonians 5:18** and **Matthew 6:6** fit together?

**ISSUE 1** 

Every believer needs to get alone and get with God. You should have a quiet time with God on a daily basis. This is the desire of your heavenly Father. Jesus is revealing God's heart in **Matthew 6:6**. He longs for you to pull aside and spend time with Him in prayer. He yearns for you to pour your heart out to Him.

Yet, your time of speaking to God doesn't end with your quiet time. It continues even after your quiet time ends. **Matthew 6:6** teaches that you should have a specific time of concentrated prayer with Him. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, God is calling for you to have an ongoing conversation with Him. He longs for you to speak to Him about everything you see, hear, and face throughout your day. God desires that you extend your prayer closet into the real world. He yearns for you to praise Him and thank Him throughout your day. He desires that you intercede for the countless people a daily basis. encounter on vou Prayerwalking means that you have a mobile prayer closet. God is still with you and you continue to talk to Him about what you see, hear, and feel.

Praying without ceasing means having an ongoing conversation with God throughout your day and night. It is continually speaking to Him, crying out to Him, during the good, the bad, and the ugly of your days! He is looking for a lifestyle of prayer. You can pray without having a life of prayer. Your Father wants prayer to fill your life. Speaking to Him should be as natural as breathing is to a human.

Do you pray or do you have a life of prayer? Yes/No

What do you feel hinders you from having a life of prayer?

Your heavenly Father longs to have an ongoing conversation with you. Pray today that He will enable you to remove the obstacles that stand in the way of having a life of prayer. Ask God to give you a clean heart and a renewed spirit. Plead that praying will become as natural as breathing to you.

## The God Who Is Everywhere 1 Kings 8:27

The Bible tells us about God. It reveals who He is. It tells us about His characteristics. The Bible teaches us that God is omnipresent. The omnipresence of God means that God is present everywhere at all times. There is no escape from His presence. Everywhere you go, God is there.

Read the following verses and write down the insights you receive concerning God's omnipresence.

Genesis 16:13

**Deuteronomy 2:7** 

Deuteronomy 4:7 Psalm 46:1	3 These verses reveal that God is present everywhere. He is present at all times in all places. The Bible is clear – God is always present. You and I are always in His presence. There is never a moment or a place where we go away from His presence.
Psalm 139:7-10	Since God is present everywhere, you can pray to Him wherever you are. Wherever you go, God is there. You can talk to Him and listen to Him in all the places you go. He is at your workplace, at the mall, the grocery store, the clinic, and the ballpark. This should motivate you to pray at all times and in all places. God is not confined to one place. He is
Psalm 145:18	present at all places at all times. This means that you can talk with Him and listen to Him wherever you are.
Jeremiah 23:23	Pray today that God will grant you fresh understanding insight, and conviction concerning His omnipresence. Plead that you will be aware of His presence wherever you go. Call on Him to enable you to pray in all the places that you go.
Matthew 28:20	The Brokenness Factor James 4:6
Hebrews 4:13	Brokenness is the forgotten factor in praying for the lost. If you are going to be used of God in praying for the lost, you must be broken. You must see that only God can save sinners. You must see that broken, fervent intercession moves God to save lost people. It is not

enough to understand these things. These things must break you.

How do you move into a spirit of brokenness? This spirit is developed in your life when you realize the sinner's condition and the necessity of grace. We learn about the condition of sinners from the Word of God. It tells us the truth about people apart from Jesus Christ.

What do the following verses teach you about people apart from Jesus Christ?

#### Jeremiah 13:23

Romans 3:11; John 6:44 Ephesians 2:1-3

Matthew 25:46

What do the following verses teach you about the necessity of God's grace?

#### John 3:3

Ask God to give you a brokenness that will enable you to pray for the lost. Pray for Him to deal with any pride or indifference that would hinder you from being broken. Plead for a fresh understanding of man's condition and the necessity of His grace. Pray that these truths will break your heart for the lost and move you to plead for their salvation.

## Praying Acts 1:8

Acts 1:8-"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Father, I praise You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. He is the Power of the Most High, the Breath of the Almighty. Ι thank You for the power that the Spirit provides. I plead that my church would be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. I pray that the Holy Spirit would convict this church about sharing the gospel with the lost. Empower us to share the gospel with the lost in our personal lives, throughout our community, and to the world. Amen.

# Breaking Free From Spiritual Strongholds Ephesians 4:27 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

#### The Definition Of A Spiritual Stronghold

A spiritual stronghold is an entrenched pattern of thought, speech, or behavior that is contrary to the Word and will of God. It is a mindset impregnated with hopelessness. It causes me to accept as unchangeable something that I know is contrary to God's Word and will.

#### The Development Of A Spiritual Stronghold

How can you know that a stronghold has developed in your life? Consider the following questions:

- ✓ Has the sin become habitual? Do I commit this sin habitually even though I know it is displeasing to God?
- ✓ Have I given up striving to fight and overcome this sin?
- ✓ Do I continue to place myself in the way of temptation?
- ✓ Is it hard for me to believe 1 Corinthians 10:13 concerning my sin?
- ✓ Have I decreased or stopped spending time with God, reading His Word, and praying because I am overwhelmed with guilt?

Strongholds develop over time according to a basic pattern?

- Satan entices you to give in to the temptation.
- You believe the lie and give in to the temptation.
- Satan assaults you with accusations.
- You receive the accusations and believe that you cannot change.
- You lose hope for change.
- When you lose hope, you place yourself in the way of temptation and yield to the sin repeatedly.
- Satan continues to heap accusations on you.
- You continue in the sin, experiencing guilt, shame, and feeling as if there is no hope.

#### The Destruction of A Spiritual Stronghold

The following are some steps that you can take to destroy strongholds:\

#### (1) Confess and repent of the sin

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (**1 John 1:9**).

# (2) Ask the Holy Spirit to unleash His power against the stronghold

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

- (3) *Pray that God will help you take back the ground you have lost* (Ephesians 4:27)
- (4) Attack the stronghold with the Word of God

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (**Ephesians 6:17**).

#### (5) Build towers of truth in your life

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. <sup>2</sup>And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. <sup>3</sup>And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. <sup>4</sup>But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:1-4).

(6) *Take every thought captive* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

#### The Denial Of Spiritual Strongholds

How can you prevent spiritual strongholds from developing in your life?

- ✓ Guard your heart
- ✓ Be diligent to deal with sin
- ✓ Know your weaknesses
- ✓ Actively resist the enemy
- ✓ Counterattack Pray for the lost, pray for the establishment of

righteousness and destruction of Satan's work around you.

# Pleading For Spiritual Awakening In Your Area

Spiritual awakening is an unprecedented work of the Holy Spirit in which massive numbers of lost people come to Christ. It takes place when the Spirit of God draws and converts many lost to true faith in Jesus It is an outpouring of His Christ. convicting power in which lost people, both inside and outside of the church, are humbled and brought into a living relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Every believer should long to see this become a reality. It should be the heart's desire of every believer to experience this kind of a move of the Spirit of God. Our lips should be filled with the prayer for this life-altering, church-transforming move of the Spirit of God.

The good news is that we can see this kind of a move of the Spirit of God. Spiritual awakening is not some archaic concept of the Christian yesteryear. It is not something that only happened in the past. It can be a living reality in our day. It can happen in our present day. From the day of Pentecost throughout the history of the church, God has been pleased to exercise His power, saving sinners and transforming whole cities and nations. My prayer and hope is that God will stir your heart and mind to seek

Him for the spiritual awakening that we desperately need. The hymn says, "Mercy drops 'round us are fallin' but for the showers of blessing we plead." We do see the "mercy drops around us. We do see people come to Jesus Christ in true faith. As we share the gospel, people still turn to Jesus. We rejoice in this.

However, our desire and plea must be for the showers of blessing. We must and ought to desire massive numbers of people coming to Jesus Christ. In our society that grows more and more secular, our cry to God must be for spiritual awakening – powerful moves of the Holy Spirit that will awaken and bring about the conversion of many sinners to Jesus Christ.

The following prayer guide is intended to aid you in seeking God for spiritual awakening where you are and across this nation.

Father, I plead that You will unleash a spirit of prayer among the believers in this area. I pray that You will convict us to pray for those who are lost. Unite us in fervent prayer for those who need Jesus (Acts 2:1).

Father, I pray that Your Spirit will manifest His power. I ask that the Spirit will unleash His convicting, life-altering power in this area (**Acts 2:4-6**).

Father, I ask You to get the attention of the lost in this area. I plead that You will awaken them out of their unconcern and apathy (**Acts 2:4-6**).

Father, I ask that You will empower us to proclaim the gospel faithfully in this area. Fill us with Your Spirit and enable us to stand for the gospel of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ (**Acts 2:14-21**).

I plead that people in this area will see Jesus for who He is. Father, strip away any false idea and beliefs that people have about who Jesus is. Show them that He is approved by You as the only true Savior (**Acts 2:22**).

Father, I pray that the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection will go forth in mighty power. No matter how much the people in this area have heard it or haven't heard it, make these truths clear and evident to their minds and hearts (Acts 2:23-36).

Father, I ask that the Spirit will deeply convict and draw many people in this area to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Shatter their pride and unbelief; show them their need and draw them to the Lord Jesus Christ (**Acts 2:27-38**).

Father, I pray that You will show the people in this area that they have sinned and are in need of the Savior that You sent. I pray that the lost in this area will repent of their sin and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ, Your crucified and resurrected Son (Acts 2:36).

Father, I plead that many people in this area will hear the gospel, receive it, believe it, and will confess Christ through their personal baptism (Acts 2:41).

Father, I ask that many will come to Jesus Christ in true faith and that they will continue steadfastly in the teaching and preaching of God's Word, in fellowship, in worship, and in prayer. Give us the wisdom and the power to encourage and to disciple them (Acts 2:42).

## **Please Share!**

If the materials in our newsletter bless you and help you, please feel free to share them with others. Please forward our newsletters on to others. Our goal is to impact the most people possible for the glory of God and the spread of the kingdom of His dear Son Jesus! Dr. Kevin Meador, President

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