

Taking Your Faith Into The Real World

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The Working God

Jesus makes an astounding statement in **John 5:17**. What does Jesus say about His Father?

Deuteronomy 11:12

1 Kings 8:29

Jesus declares that His Father is always at work. Not only is God fully present everywhere, but He is also at work everywhere. God is at work in every place that you go to. God is at work in the life of every person that you encounter.

Read and meditate on the following verses. These verses deal with the "eyes" of God. Notice the connection between watching and working.

2 Chronicles 16:9

Psalm 33:18

Psalm 34:15 every place you go to and every person that you encounter. You can have an eternal influence on countless lives if you will pray. You can join God in His 2 work at all places and in all the lives you encounter. Pray that God will give you a fresh understanding and conviction of His continual work in all places and all lives. Plead that you will see places and people as prayer concerns. Ask for a clean heart and a right spirit.

No Coincidences Acts 8:26-40

You have already seen that God is present everywhere and is at work everywhere. This makes prayerwalking a powerful reality. Yet, another truth should fuel passion vour for prayerwalking. It is that there are no coincidences. Every place you go is by divine appointment. Every person you encounter has been arranged by God. He does this that you may pray for the places you go and the people you encounter.

In Acts 8:26-40, we see a divine encounter between Philip and an Ethiopian eunuch.

What does the angel tell Stephen to do (v.26)?

The Bible reveals that God is continually watching. Yet, this means more than simply being a spectator. God is watching and working. His watching implies that He is actively involved in all things and all lives. God is not a far away God who is unconcerned about His creation. However, He is a very present God who is at work in all places. He is at work in the lives of all people. Wherever you go, God is there and is at work.

This is what makes prayerwalking powerful. Wherever you go, you can make a difference. You can impact

Hebrews 4:13

Proverbs 15:3

Proverbs 22:12

What was the Ethiopian doing in the chariot (v.28)?

What does Philip ask Him (v.30)?

Who was this man reading about (vv.32-35)?

What did they find on this road (v.36)?

What does this man do (vv.37-38)?

God brought Philip and this man together. He happened to be reading about Jesus in Isaiah. Philip rode with him in the chariot and explained about Jesus. This man surrendered himself to Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. They then found water in which the man could be baptized. None of these happened by coincidence or chance. They were divinely appointed.

You may be thinking, "This was an unusual case. Nothing like this could happen in my life." The God who 3

worked in this text is the God you serve today. He is still arranging these divine appointments. Yours may not be as dramatic as this one. However, do not doubt that God is putting you in places and bringing people across your path that you might pray for them.

Realize that every place you go and every person you encounter is God giving you the opportunity to pray and make a difference in those places and people. You just don't happen to go anywhere or just happen to cross the paths of people. God has set these divine appointments that you can pray and intercede.

Plead today that you will be sensitive to the places you go and the people you encounter. Pray that you will see your life as a series of divine encounters that God has given you that you might pray.

Depending On The Lord Of The Harvest

In **Matthew 9:38**, Jesus refers to our Father as "the Lord of the harvest."

The harvest is the transformation of lives through the good news about Jesus. Just as the farmer brings in a crop of wheat with his equipment, our Father will draw many lost people into salvation through the gospel. The harvest is the fulfillment of **Acts 1:8**. The Father does His work of saving and transforming as we carry the gospel to

our neighbors all the way to the ends of the earth.

If we are going to fulfill **Acts 1:8**, we must depend on the Lord of the harvest. What does it mean to depend on the Lord of the harvest? Depending on the Lord of the harvest means the following:

- It means confessing that we cannot fulfill Acts 1:8 in our own wisdom and strength. We must humble ourselves before God if we are to reach the lost. It will take the supernatural wisdom and power of God to share the gospel with every individual in our area and throughout the world. We must begin by confessing our need of God's wisdom and power.
- It means praying that God's people will be burdened to share the gospel. Jesus says to pray that God will raise up laborers. Only God can give believers the burden to reach the lost. Only God can stir a

church to fulfill **Acts 1:8**. Pastors can equip and encourage believers to witness; only God can energize them to do this.

• *It means seeking God's vision.* We must cry out to God concerning His plans for our communities or cities. We must call on Him to show us how to reach the lost where we are. God desires to give us His vision; we must seek Him. Remember that it is "His harvest."

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• *It means focusing on God.* Fulfilling **Acts 1:8** is a difficult and demanding task. Fix your eyes on the Lord of the harvest. He can and will help you and your church. It is His harvest; He will provide you with all you need for this task. When you are committed to **Acts 1:8**, you have all of God's power and help at your disposal.

Prayer Guide

Because God is the Lord of the harvest, we should seek Him in the following ways:

 Adore The Lord of the Harvest (Psalm 22:3) Adore God because He is: The God who saves (John 3:16) The God who sends (Matthew 9:38) • Acknowledge The Lord of the Harvest (James 4:6)

Confess and declare to the Lord of the harvest that:

We cannot save anyone.

The task that You have given us is beyond our wisdom and strength. We need You.

We cannot fulfill **Acts 1:8** apart from Your work and help.

• Ask The Lord of the Harvest (Matthew 7:7-8)

Make the following requests of the Lord of the harvest:

To give believers in your church a burden to pray for the lost and share their faith in Jesus;

To give you vision and insight on how to reach your community or city;

To open doors and hearts throughout your community or city for the good news of Jesus:

To remove any obstacles to your church fulfilling **Acts 1:8**.

Prayerwalking And 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

The following prayer guide for prayerwalking is based on 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. In this text, the apostle Paul reveals his confidence in the gospel. He declares that the good news about Christ by the work of the Spirit is enough to save and transform people. It provides a powerful outline of how we can pray for our cities and communities, especially as we prayerwalk.

Father, I ask that the believers in this area will boldly declare the good news of Jesus Christ. Enable them to declare Your testimony about Your Son – that He is the Son of God and the Savior of sinners (**2:1**).

Father, I pray that believers in this area will not depend on superior speech or wisdom. Deliver us from resting in the power and strength of the flesh in 5

attempting to reach the lost around us (2:1).

Father, I plead that we will determine to know nothing among the lost but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I ask that we would boldly announce the message of Jesus and His cross (**2:2**)

Father, I ask that the people in this area would not rest in their morality or their good works. I plead that You will strip them of their confidence in these things. I ask that they will see that the crucified and resurrected Jesus is the only way and the only hope of eternal salvation (**2:2**). Father, I pray that nothing will hinder us from sharing the good news of Jesus. Strip away every hindrance from making the good news of Jesus known to the lost in our area. Fill us with strength in our wisdom. Give us hope and confidence instead of fear. Enable us to stand firm in Christ, boldly making known the message of salvation through Him (**2:3**).

Father, I ask that our preaching and witnessing will be carried out in the power of the Holy Spirit. Demonstrate Your power by convicting, drawing, and saving sinners as we make known the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ (**2:4**).

Father, fill us with Your Holy Spirit. I plead that the Spirit will plead through

our preaching and teaching. I ask that we will speak the gospel in reliance on the Holy Spirit (**2:4**).

Father, I pray that the lost in this area will turn to Jesus Christ in true faith. I plead that their faith will rest not on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. I ask that their faith will be the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God (2:5). Father, I thank You for Jesus Christ. I praise You for sending Him. I praise You for the salvation that I have through Him. Deliver me from taking for granted the salvation that I have in Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior. Renew in me the joy and wonder of my salvation. I pray that I would fall in love all over again with Jesus and with the good news about Him. Stir my heart by the gospel afresh and grant me a burning desire to share it (**2:1-5**).

The Heart Of Prayerwalking

When I began prayerwalking, one of the verses that God used to encourage me and convict me was **Luke 10:1**, "Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come." This verse of Scripture has spurred me

on to prayerwalking, given me encouragement when I got discouraged, and help me to stay focused in all my prayerwalking.

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This verse teaches us about the heart of prayerwalking. What is the heart of prayerwalking? Jesus Christ! Prayerwalking is all about Jesus! Our focus in prayerwalking is to prepare the way for Jesus and to make Jesus known.

Does this verse teach prayerwalking? It is not explicit in this

verse but it offers the same principles that prayerwalking is based on. Jesus sent the seventy out in pairs. You can prayerwalk by yourself but there is much greater power when you do with other believers.

They were to go before Jesus preparing the way for Him. This is what prayerwalking is all about. It's about praying for hearts and lives to be open and ready to hear and respond to Jesus whether it is salvation, healing, provision of need, or revival.

The striking truth about this verse is that they were to prepare the way for Jesus. That convicts me; prayerwalking is about Jesus. It's not about my praying or my ability to prayerwalk. It's about going before Jesus making the way by believing prayer and witness.

This also encourages me. I'm not out there on my own. I'm sent by Jesus to make the way for Him. Prayerwalking is not about my agenda for the area or the city. It's about

pleading for people to be ready to hear and respond to Jesus Christ.

This truth also helps me stay focused in my praying. When you prayerwalk, you can get overwhelmed. You can wonder what you need to pray. You can struggle for what to pray especially in the light of great need. Yet, we all need to be reminded that our focus has to be Jesus. We are to pray for people to be open to and respond to Jesus whatever the need is. I hear believers say all the time that Jesus is the answer. We need to carry that with us when we prayerwalk. Jesus is the answer. He is the way, the truth, and the life. People need Jesus. That has to be our focus in prayerwalking. Can we pray about a variety of needs? Can we use a variety of Scripture? Absolutely!! However, we need to keep Jesus at the center of our prayerwalking and prayer.

This verse comes after **Luke 9:62**, "But Jesus said to him, No one after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Then **Luke 10:1** says, "Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others." It's not a coincidence that **Luke 10:1** follows Jesus' radical call to follow Him. I believe this gives us insight into our prayerwalking. Preparing the way for Jesus means being a bold disciple of Jesus. Prayerwalking has to flow out of our commitment to follow Jesus. Prayerwalking is about being bold for Jesus, being sold out to Jesus.

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What I mean is that prayerwalking is a way of expressing our commitment to follow Christ. Following Christ means making Him known. It means boldly declaring and standing for Christ. When you come to Christ, you forsake all to trust in Him and bow before Him as your Lord. This is what prayerwalking is about – it's an extension of your commitment to follow Christ. You have come to know Jesus. You have experienced His salvation. You see His beauty and glory. Now, you want others to experience the same things. You want Jesus to be glorified by many others committing to Him as Savior and Lord. You prayerwalk that others will come to know and experience the same Jesus you have.

This verse also gives an encouragement to faith. The seventy were sent out ahead of Jesus. They were to prepare the way for Him. The text says that they were going "to every city and place where He Himself was going." They knew that Christ would follow in the places where they were going.

I believe this gives us insight into our prayerwalking. When we prepare the way for Jesus, we can have confidence that He will come. The seventy prepared the way; Jesus then came saving, healing, and blessing. When we prepare the way with prayer, faith, and witness, we can expect by faith Jesus to come saving, healing, and

blessing. We can have confidence that Jesus will work in powerful and unique ways.

Prayerwalking is not something to do just to do. It's not just a ministry event. It's about preparing the way for Jesus. It's about praying for people to see, know, and experience Jesus. It's about sharing Jesus with those we encounter as we prayerwalk. The heart of prayerwalking – it's Jesus!

Preparing The Way For Jesus

Lord Jesus, I ask that You will renew my passion for You. I plead that Your love and power will flow through me in fresh and new ways. Teach me to pray and prayerwalk with You as my focus.

Lord Jesus, come in mighty power saving those who are lost and headed for hell. Break the chains of sin from their lives.

Lord Jesus, come in mighty power healing those who are sick and diseased. Set them free from their sicknesses.

Lord Jesus, come in mighty power delivering those held by the power of Satan. Break the grip of the evil one from their lives.

Lord Jesus, come in mighty power filling Your people with truth and power. Revive Your people because of Your love and grace for them. Lord Jesus, come in mighty power providing what people through this area need.

Lord Jesus, come in mighty power transforming this area by Your Word and Your grace.

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