

PRAYING WITH YOUR FEET - Series on Prayer
James 2:14-18

Where have your feet taken you in your life? Maybe they have taken you to beautiful mountain scenes, or a baseball game, deep sea fishing or relaxing in quiet bayou waters. Maybe your feet have taken you to exotic places with the one you love or lying on white sands with crystal waters far away or just spending time with your family. Where have your feet taken you, and what have you done there?

Some people have their feet planted in the clouds. Have you ever heard the phrase, "They are so heavenly minded, that they're no earthly good"? Several years ago I remember something that happened to one of Rhonda's sisters, in Baton Rouge. Sandy was driving along one of the main roads off of Greenwell Springs Road. She had car trouble and had to pull off the side of the road. A young man stopped and asked if he could be of help. He was on his way to church to a Christian music concert. This was before cell phones, so she asked if when he got to the church, he could call someone to help her. He seemed eager to head on his way; he didn't want to miss the concert. Sandy waited. No one came. He forgot or got sidetracked or something. I don't know what happened to him, maybe he had a good excuse, but it wasn't a very good statement about his Christian faith. His feet were planted in the church. He was so heavenly minded, he was no earthly good. He needed to learn how to pray with his feet.

One of my favorite sections of Scripture is found in Mark chapter 1. It's because it gives a day in the life of Jesus into the next day. It starts out on a Sabbath when Jesus speaks in the synagogue, casts a demon out of a man, heals Peter's mother-in-law, then after sundown, heals anyone else who comes to him that day. Mark 1:35-38 describes the next morning:

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. “Simon and his companions went to look for him, “and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" “Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." “So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

No grass grew under Jesus' feet. He prayed; He acted; then He went to the next place. Jesus knew how to pray with His feet - going from prayer to action.

The author of the book of James might have been James, Jesus' brother. James definitely learned from his brother, Jesus, how to pray with his feet - putting faith into action. James calls it showing our faith by our works. "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." "Faith without works is dead." Pray first, have faith that God will answer. Once you feel God is giving direction, then act - put feet on your prayers. Pray with your feet. Under God's direction, do something that will be an answer to someone's prayers.

I like some of the quotes I found about faith and works:

- C.S. Lewis: I am often, I believe, praying for others when I should be doing things for them. It's so much easier to pray for a bore than to go and see him.
- William Booth: Faith and works should travel side by side, step answering to step, like the legs of men walking. First faith, and then works; and then faith again, and then works again—until you can scarcely distinguish which is one and which is the other.
- Elton Trueblood: Our faith becomes practical when it is expressed in two books: the date book and the checkbook.

You might pray everyday to God: “Lord, please help the lonely people in the world; please help the lonely people in the world; please help the lonely people of the world.” Why isn't God helping the lonely people in the world? Because He expects you to get up on your own two feet, get out of your house and visit at least one of them. We need to put feet to our prayers.

You never know where your feet will take you or what you will do there when you pray with your feet. We pray and literally follow Gods direction. I know of many people who prayed and felt a strong impression to call or visit someone. When they obeyed and responded by going to visit or call that person - it was exactly what was needed at exactly the right time.

I know of people who were dissatisfied with the way their life was. They wanted more. They prayed for deeper meaning to life. Then one day they see an announcement in the newsletter or bulletin or a slide or video presentation of mission work, and they are compelled to go. Their feet take them to Mexico to build a home, or work on a parsonage, or to hand medicine to a sick child. Their feet take them to Russia to work with the Russian Christians there. Their feet take them to Cuba where they work alongside of Cuban Christians helping to build a church so that the Word of Christ will spread in the midst of Communist atheism. I know of people who have prayed for those in need in our community, and their feet took them to work with others at the *Weekend of the Cross* or to build a house with *Habitat for Humanity* or to work at the home of someone elderly or disabled. I know of people who pray for others, yet their physical feet don't work too good anymore, so they use the phone or send a card for these personal contacts - or they sponsor someone else's feet, enabling them to go do the work.

We join together to pray with others that our feet might bring an answer to prayer through our actions. One church directory I saw had pictures of member's feet as the front of their directory. Pray first, then put feet to your prayers – obey. Go where Jesus would go and do what Jesus would do.

Where will your feet take you in response to God's direction, as we follow the feet of Jesus? On the night before Jesus went to the Cross, He celebrated Passover with His disciples. He knew He was about to die, so every action, every word was

important. That's when Jesus knelt like a servant and washed the feet of His disciples. Then He said to His disciples in John 13:12-18:

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.

¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Your feet are clean, now pray with your feet - put feet to your prayers. "Go into all the world and make disciples..." Go! Go! Go!

"Christ has no hands but our hands
to do His work today
Christ has no feet but our feet
to lead others in His Way.
He has no lips, but our lips
To tell them how He died.
He has no self, but our selves
To bring them to His side"

"We say that we are His; we say that He is ours.
Deeds are the proof of this, not words,
These are the proving hours."

If Christ has no feet but your feet, then where will you go, for Christ's sake? When you put on your shoes each morning, pray - "Lead my feet where you would have me go for Christ's sake." Pray with your feet.