

ON YOUR WALLS, O JERUSALEM,
I HAVE SET WATCHMEN;
ALL THE DAY & ALL THE NIGHT.

ISAIAH 62:6 [ESV]

WATCHMAN ON THE WALL

Dear Watchman,

Parents know the value of their toddler taking his or her first step because they know the child is learning to walk. Of all the activities we do as Christians, the simple exercise of walking with Jesus cannot be trivialized. Once we learn to walk, we keep walking. The more we walk, the more natural the movement becomes.

As you already know and appreciate, a byproduct of spending this hour in prayer as a Watchman is that you are strengthening your own walk with the Lord as you intercede for the body of Christ. In fact, if you've never done a word study in the Bible, consider exploring the use of the word "walk" and its many uses in the Bible. For example, in the opening book of the Bible, we're told "*Adam and Eve walked with God in the cool of the day*" (Genesis 3:8). Can you imagine the intimate fellowship they shared with God? Can you imagine the likeness to God Adam and Eve must have morphed into as they actually walked with Him each day?

During this month's Watchman prayer times, I'd like us to consider how our walk is fashioning us to become more like Jesus. As we'll iterate throughout this spring sermon series, "Followers become like who they are following." 1 John 2:6 states: "*The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.*" While you are faithful to lift up the needs of Mobberly and the praises for God's blessings through Mobberly, let me encourage all of us to pray one additional specific request each week this month toward becoming more like Jesus as we walk with Jesus.

Week One: Pray we will rest as comfortably in God's sovereign control of our lives as Enoch did as he walked in close fellowship with God for over 300 years (Genesis 5:22-24).

Week Two: Pray we will exhibit the faith to follow Jesus like Peter did as he who walked on water to Jesus (Matthew 14:22-33).

Week Three: Pray for a prompt obedience that mirrors that of the lame man whom Jesus healed: "*Immediately the man became well and picked up his pallet and began to walk*" (John 5:1-11).

Week Four: Pray for the entire Mobberly family to walk by faith, believing God for the future inheritance that awaits us in Heaven, just as the Israelites who walked across the Red Sea on dry land believing God's deliverance of the Promised Land for their future inheritance (Exodus 14:13-31).

Following God is not intended to move us at a break-neck pace feeling like we're always trying to catch up to Him. In fact, God not only goes before us, He promises He will go through the valleys with us. "*I will be with you when you pass through the waters, and when you pass through the*

rivers, they will not overwhelm you. You will not be scorched when you walk through the fire, and the flame will not burn you” (Isaiah 43:2).

May we become more like Him the more we walk with Him!



Praise: Praising God for who He is and for what He is doing.

- God gives light and direction as we walk with Him.
 - Isaiah 2:5 (CSB), *“House of Jacob, come and let us walk in the Lord’s light.”*
 - Isaiah 30:21 (CSB), *“And whenever you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear this command behind you: “This is the way. Walk in it.”*
 - 2 John 1:6 (CSB), *“This is love: that we walk according to his commands. This is the command as you have heard it from the beginning: that you walk in love.”*

Praise the Lord:

- For people who are using our Engage wall to show how they are sharing the gospel with others. Our engaged households are now at 4,919.
- For over 45 youth who will be taking Engage classes on Wednesdays in February.
- For growth in the college ministry at the Marshall campus, and especially for our committed leaders.
- For new Connect Group option for young adults at 11 a.m. on the Marshall campus.
- Hope Road was able to conduct 303 hope-filled counseling sessions in January.
- For nine seriously dating or engaged couples who are participating in the Merge: Pre-marital Course, January 16-March 6.
- Thrive! For Kids has a strong volunteer team for the spring, thanks to LETU nursing students fulfilling their Global Service hours through Thrive! For Kids.
- For generous giving to the Hope Road designated account: \$141,041.06 through January 20, 2019.
- For new and developing leaders in Celebrate Recovery!
- For over 50 first-time youth ministry guests in January.
- For 29 salvations in the youth ministry in January. Give thanks for the students who are coming to Christ at Elevation.
- For Duffy Robbins being at Mobberly on January 27 to encourage and equip parents.
- For the new Preschool Building indoor playground equipment arriving. Pray over the installation.
- For three new babies born in January to families who attend the Marshall campus.
- For new connections with college students who desire to serve this spring at the Marshall campus.
- For doubling the attendance of preteens on Wednesday nights at the Marshall campus.
- For Engage 201 in Marsha - a good group of people are being trained to share Christ this semester.
- For the Gregg County jail ministry of Mobberly. Since September of 2018 there have been 37 professions of faith and 10 baptisms!
- For committed children’s ministry leaders who seek Jesus daily, follow faithfully and share their honest walk with our kids.
- For the faithful leaders of women’s bible studies and interest groups and the women who have chosen to read, study, meditate on and apply God’s Word to their lives.
- For the 458 women fellowshiping and focusing on Jesus at the Sister to Sister Rally on Jan. 24th.
 - o The women from 81 churches who attended the event.
 - o The body of Christ coming together in such a joyous way to bring glory to His name.

- The many volunteers, maintenance & food teams, media crew, worship leaders, etc. who helped lead these women to their next step with Jesus.
- For Alzad (Lift up your eyes), an amazing week of prayer Jan. 21-27, in the life of Mobberly en Español. We gathered to pray every morning and at night for our city, for the lost and for an awakening. We trust God will answer our prayers for the specific people we identified who are lost and in need of Christ.
- For Alzad- Night of Prayer and Worship, where seven Hispanic churches joined us for a time of worship and prayer that God continues to unify us, and as the unified church, use us to reach the lost.
- For the start of our third Spanish Engage 201 class, led by our new engage leaders, Romel and Lucy Cawich.
- For the college student who accepted Christ. Pray the student discipling her does well in helping her walk after Jesus.
- For two people now walking with Jesus through a saving relationship with Him during the Tuesday morning Family Services Ministry since our last Watchman report! Pray for these new believers as they begin their walk with Christ: Robert and Trisha.

Repent: Of sins committed and commands neglected.

Our ongoing sins disturb our fellowship with our heavenly Father. This is why we need to repent of our sins and confess them to God. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (I John 1:9, CSB)

As you pray, take some time to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal your sins. Think through various areas of your life: sins of thought, sins of attitude, sins of omission, sins of commission, sins of self-rule, sins of self-reliance or sins of relationships, and ask God for the grace to repent. Ask God to restore your fellowship. Then thank God your sins have already been paid for by Christ. Rest in His unending love.

Ask: When our hearts are God-oriented in praise, and purified through repentance, then we are ready to “Ask.” God encourages us to come boldly to Him and ask. *“Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.”* (Hebrews 4:16, CSB)

Ask God:

- To guide and provide for Mobberly in staff transitions that are in process. Pray for those that are transitioning to new roles, as well as for God’s leadership in identifying new members of the Mobberly staff team.
- To continue to lead in the details of calling His woman to lead the ministry to women here at Mobberly.
- To provide Spirit-led unity among the Mobberly staff with a singular priority of equipping people to lead people into a life-changing, ever growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- To give those currently taking engage classes boldness and excitement about sharing with those around them.
- To help engage coordinators as they encourage their Connect Groups to be involved with local mission opportunities.
- To continue to send us not only students to participate, but volunteers to coach, teach and referee during our Marshall Upward soccer season. Ask God to change lives immensely in our community as we strive to love all people unconditionally, despite the racial and moral divide in our country.
- To strengthen and challenge our students’ faith, in that they would firmly rely on God as their source of peace and joy, and they would be unashamed to live out their faith when it’s inconvenient.

- To guide in ministry to Travis Elementary (Marshall) students and families with reward parties at the Marshall campus for goal-achieving students, Upward soccer and development of a 1-on-1 reading ministry.
- For six additional decision prayer partners for the Marshall campus.
- To lead the Marshall campus college ministry effort to start a new Bible study on Wiley College campus.
- For strength, wisdom and protection for the Hope Road staff as the counseling load increases each week.
- To continue providing resources for the Hope Hero Scholarship Fund (used to make affordable counseling available for single parents, first responders, and ministers across East Texas).
- For continued giving to the Hope Road general fund to offset final start-up costs and ongoing expenses.
- To provide and encourage Thrive! leaders who walk with those struggling with life's hurts, habits, hang-ups and taking steps to recovery.
- To bless and use youth, leaders and host homes involved in youth Spark Weekend (Feb 1-3), helping over 250 youth to know Christ as Savior and Lord.
- To encourage and disciple girls who will gather for the Youth Ministry Princess Weekend (Feb 22-23).
- To encourage parents to lead their students spiritually.
- To provide new Connect Groups to be started, and for a renewed energy to do a great job of welcoming guests.
- To provide for Brandon Watson, wife Claire and daughters, Alex and Allison, as they look for a house as they begin their ministry here at Mobberly.
- For leadership development and discipleship of believers at Mobberly.
- To provide a special needs buddy for a 4th grader on Wednesday evenings at our Marshall campus.
- To encourage Upward participants from Travis Elementary (Marshall) as a result of flyers sent home and conversations that will take place with parents as they wait in the pick-up line after school on January 30.
- To provide in the completion of the renovations in the preschool building. Pray everything will remain on schedule.
- For safety for the construction workers that continue to be in our building and on our campus, and we would have the opportunity to share God's love and the gospel message to them.
- To intercede for the health of our kids and families during this cold and flu season. Pray for our volunteer children's and preschool leaders on Sundays and Wednesdays that they would remain healthy.
- To lead our families to have strong relationships between husbands and wives and parents and kids. Pray broken marriages will be healed, and relationships with parents and kids would be restored and healthy. Pray for strong marriages among families in our church and community.
- To bless the Bill Glass Prison Ministry. A group of Mobberly people will be going to the Bradshaw Unit in Henderson to share the gospel with inmates March 2, 2019. Pray the inmates will be open to hearing the Good News and our people will be ready to share.
- To use Engage 201 in Marshall. Pray the people of the Marshall campus will be intentional about reaching the Marshall area with the gospel.
- To bless the Power Team as they come to the Mobberly campus April 30 – May 5. This will be one of the largest outreach efforts Mobberly has done in years. Pray for Mobberly people to be heavily involved as we strive to work through the schools to reach children, youth and their parents with the gospel.
- To provide for local mission partners. The Serve Team has been working hard to be more involved in the ten local ministries our church supports financially. Pray, as our people are presented with volunteer needs of these ministries, they will step up with the mindset to make a difference.
- For a hedge of protection, especially around our leaders' marriages. May each spouse seek to be more like Jesus and delight in honoring the vows they made to God concerning their marriage.

- To lead those who attended the Sister to Sister Rally, who are not connected to a local church and support system, to plug into one of the 81 churches present at the event because of connections made and new friendships formed.
- To continue to prepare the hearts of other women whom He will call to also serve on the Ministry to Women's Team in the near future.
- To guide every women's ministry leader to become more and more like Jesus and to lead other women to become more and more like Jesus as they seek and follow hard after Him.
- To guide new leaders who have recently taken on leadership roles in senior adult Connect Groups.
- To bless Mobberly's ongoing ministries to homebound members and the CareFriends who help them stay vitally connected to the Mobberly family. We praise God for the story of one of our homebound members that is actively engaging the young man that serves as his sitter
- To help sustain the commitments we made through the week of ALZAD to pray all year for the lost and put feet to our prayers through ENGAGE.
- To give wisdom for Calixto as he prepares to meet with Español leaders to assess the effectiveness of the ministry and adjust as the Lord leads for a more effective, productive future of the ministry.
- To allow Calixto to be able to carve out considerable time with the Lord this month to hear from Him about the future of the ministry for the rest of this year.
- To strengthen and encourage men involved in the Wednesday and Thursday Bible studies, asking that they would delight in God's Word and continue to become the leaders God is calling them to be.
- To lead people to the Book Nooks in The Bridge and the Johnson Building so they can take advantage of discipling opportunities through good books and media.
- For practical application of His word for those walking through the book of Hebrews on Wednesday nights – may it move beyond head knowledge to life-changing application.

Yield: to what God says to me. Yield my will to the will of God. Yield my agenda to the plan God has for my life. We must be willing to yield our desires and our thoughts to God's sovereign wisdom. As Jesus faced the cross, He prayed in Matthew 26:39, CSB *"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."* We must pray with that same spirit, humbly yielding our will to God's will. To close our prayer by "yielding" to God is a way where we submit our desires to Him. In the end, it is our way of acknowledging His will is what will truly satisfy us anyway. God's will and plan is better than ours. He knows the end from the beginning and He loves us more than we can ever imagine.

"The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked."

1 John 2:6 (CSB)