

PRAYING IN PUBLIC



Do you feel self-conscious praying in public? I do too, though I try to do it anyway. Sometimes it turns out the one receiving prayer is far less self-concerned!

I will never forget the time walking out a convenience store behind a young man with military insignia and a service dog. He had big visible scars on his head and his whole body twitched as he walked. He was limping and twitching so badly, I offered to help him get in his truck, but he said he could do it. As he was getting into his truck, I asked him if had served in Iraq. He said "Yes." I then asked if that was where he got his scars. "Oh, hell no," he said. "I never got a scratch over there. This happened after I got home. I got stupid drunk one night and drove head-on into a tree. Now I have a traumatic brain injury."

I was a little surprised. But right then I felt the inner nudge of the Spirit. So I said to him, "I am a Christian and I believe Jesus heals through prayer. I would be honored to pray for you. Would that be all right?" He said, "You mean right now?" I nodded and he said, "Well, hell yes! Let's do it. I go to church and I want all the prayer I can get!" Well, once again, I was surprised, but this time by his enthusiasm. So standing by his truck, I laid hands on his head and started to pray.

Keep in mind, his truck was parked right beside the door of the convenience store. A fair number of people were going in and out. I was starting to feel more than a little "self-aware." And that ill-at-ease feeling praying in public just got worse, for the guy began jumping up and down, shouting "Yes, Lord, heal me!" in a REALLY loud voice. I felt very self-conscious. He didn't seem concerned at all. Afterwards, he gave me a HUGE bear hug. Whether he experienced healing or not, I do not know. But he sure was grateful for my praying. And I was too.