

PRAYER WALKS AND ITS NEED

Prayer Walking Basics

“By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.” (Proverbs 11:11)

Prayer walking or “praying on site with insight” is about intercession. Those who practice it believe that God answers prayer and that prayer is one of the most powerful tools of evangelism that God has given us. Those who have participated in prayer walks can share some incredible stories of how God moved before, during, and after their prayer walks. God honors prayer because it focuses on Him and not on us. Prayer walking is not a program, a process, nor a prayer event. It is intercession that transforms the intercessor and his/her praying. Let me encourage you to begin where you are.

Why prayer walk?

It proclaims our reliance upon the Lord of the harvest, for a harvest.

It is a type of prayer-evangelism.

It bears fruit that lasts.

It opens the eyes and hearts of the intercessor.

It prepares hearts for the gospel.

It grants a vision and a burden for the target area.

Biblical Background for Prayer Walking

The Bible offers many models of effective ways to pray. Although prayer walking, as a term, is never mentioned in Scripture, Jesus prayerfully looked over the city of Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37-39). Also, the Apostle Paul’s “...spirit was being provoked within him as he was beholding the city [of Athens] full of idols” (Acts 17:16).

“Arise, walk about the land... for I will give it to you” (Genesis 13:17)

As we prayerfully look at our city, God will burden our hearts, provide discernment, and release strategies to bring the city of Jesus.

The Old Testament has many passages relating to walking an area for God’s glory. Three passages give us a spiritual picture connected with walking. The story of Joshua taking the city of Jericho (Josh. 6) is probably the most familiar Old Testament account of the powerful act of walking and praying. Walking around the city seven times before the walls fell flat is a model of extending God’s Kingdom through man’s humble availability and faith joined by God’s miraculous ability. Our prayers and obedience can be a means of releasing God’s power to cause the walls of unbelief, violence, strife and evil to come down.

God spoke to Abraham, **“Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.” (Gen. 13:17).**

Speaking to Joshua, God said, **“Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you...” (Josh. 1:3)**

These passages obviously refer to God’s promise of the Holy Land to the Jewish nation. Nevertheless, the physical act of walking was a prophetic statement of declaring God’s sovereignty over the earth. Today, our only desire for prayer walking a city is to claim the area for God’s glory and to pray for the spiritual freedom of those living there.

It is important to catch the spirit of prayer walking rather than simply adopt the method of prayer walking. Scripture clearly instructs us to pray for our city:
“And seek the peace of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its peace you will have peace” (Jer. 29:7)

Although this verse does not indicate walking and praying through our city, there is probably not a better way to systematically cover a community with prayer than to literally walk and pray through its neighborhoods.

7 POINTS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER WALKING

(Adapted from the principles found in Praise Walks by Donald R. Lovell)

1. Get yourself straight

Make sure that nothing stands between you and the Lord. Assure that your heart is clean before Him and that you are prepared to hear clearly.

2. Approach the throne with thanksgiving & praise

Come into His presence with thanksgiving and enter His gates with praise. Let the Lord know that you are elated to be His servant and that you are available to do His Will as He directs.

3. Ask the Lord to guide direct, lead and impress you with His agenda

As you begin to traverse an area, agree with the Lord that He is the Director of your efforts and you are only present to follow His lead.

4. Pray Accordingly

As you sense His guidance, affirm in prayer what He is saying. Become His partner in intercession for the area you have selected to pray over. Keep your spiritual eyes and ears open toward His guidance.

5. Engage in repentance

Repent of the sin that may have been committed in the place. Look for physical and spiritual signs of sin as you walk, asking for forgiveness and cleansing as you go. Expect the Father to alert you of special needs for repentance. Do not become self conscious in this area.

6. Seek the release of bondages placed

Command that all bondages established by sin committed be broken, be done away with – “in the Powerful Name of Jesus!” Command that all the spiritual chains on the people living there, fall off – that the people be set free, “in The Name of Jesus!”

7. Rejoice in the victory

As you near the end of your walk, enter into clamorous praise and worship – rejoicing over the cleansing of the ground from the effects of sin and the release of the prisoners that live there from the same effects. Be sure to beseech the Father to dispatch a Spirit of Adoption over the whole area so that the enemy will find it difficult to return and that the inhabitants will experience a positive disposition toward the Gospel.