

Prayerwalking

Prayerwalking is talking to Jesus while walking. The focus is on neighborhoods, homes and people encountered while walking. On-site praying allows sights of people and objects to flood our prayers with significance. Ordinary scenes of life change significance as if one was wearing filtering lenses; seeing through the eyes and compassion of Jesus.

THREE COMPONENTS that work together while prayerwalking:

- 1. Worship.** Emphasis on bringing pleasure to God's heart; proclaiming the excellencies of His name.
- 2. Warfare.** Aim to expose, limit or displace the power of evil forces. Evil powers are restrained so that good things may come forth. Prayerwalking is spiritual battle. You may experience an indirect onslaught from the enemy, pestering your mind, causing your thoughts to wander or telling you this isn't doing any good.
- 3. Welcome.** Pronounce blessings upon the community, announcing God's coming kindness. Pray for salvation, healing and spiritual freedom over each block and each house.

Integrate the three of these "W's" in a good balance, though at times one or another may seem to dominate.

IN PREPARATION . . . It is important that we prepare our mind, body and spirit.

You are about to become a bridge of blessing between heaven and earth. Don't allow any feelings of inadequacy to plague you. You have indicated your willingness by your presence and God is always faithful to take us where we are and lead us. In prayer, there is no failure.

The book *Prayerwalking* by Steve Hawthorne and Graham Kendrick (Charisma, 1993) offers the following tips to prepare for a prayerwalk:

- 1. Open your mouth as you open your heart.** Whether you sing, shout or whisper, warm up your vocal cords with praise before setting out. Put the name of Jesus on your lips. Seek to position your heart before God in fresh gratitude and blessing.
- 2. Take charge of the directions your mind will go.** Fix your attention on the purposes and ways and thoughts of God before you launch out. If you find your mind wandering, read Scripture out loud.
- 3. Seek God for guidance at intervals; then trust that He is guiding you!**
- 4. Receive each other; take a few minutes to get to know the ones you are walking with to make sure there is a connection.**

5. Take your stance before the Father, enthroned in highest heaven through the blood and priestly excellence of Jesus.

WHAT TO DO DURING THE PRAYERWALK . . .

- 1. Open your eyes;** ask God to help you see with His eyes. What do clues like a “for Sale” sign or kids toys in the yard tell you?
- 2. Open your ears;** listen for God's whispered cues--expect Him to highlight truths you have hidden in your heart and apply them to what is around you. Practise silence as you listen to the Spirit; listen to each other to hear the Spirit.
- 3. Pray together.** Seek to consciously follow and reinforce prayers lifted by others on the prayer team.
- 4. Pray with Scripture.** You can be confident of praying the will of God when you are praying His Word. God has breathed life into it and loves to bless it. He loves to hear His Word. Pray it over and over again.
- 5. Pray with relevance.** Pray with sensitivity to the people and places you are actually encountering. Don't try to feel equally for every person and place you pass. Extend your empathy unevenly, perhaps praying for only a few of the families or children you may meet.
- 6. Pray physically.** God's Spirit may prompt you with ideas about gestures with prophetic significance--it is best to be obedient even though you may at first feel self-conscious.

WHAT TO PRAY . . . based upon Luke 11:2-4

- 1. Pray for God's glory.** Pray that God would work so that He would be honored, adored, lifted up, revealed and praised by name among the people.
- 2. Pray for God's kingdom.** Pray with expectance for the coming of some measure of heaven's liberating dominion amidst the families here upon the earth.
- 3. Pray for reconciliation** between God and man, and man and man.
- 4. Pray for God to release and to lead.** Pray that God would lead people, families, neighborhoods into the light of His truth, rescuing them from darkness and destruction.

SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYERWALKING

“Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, ‘How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. All the earth bows down to you, they sing praise to your name’” (Psalm 66:1-4).

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3).

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you” (Psalm 67:1-3).

“A voice of one calling: ‘In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken’” (Isaiah 40:3-5).

“”Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD: ‘The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and released those condemned to death’” (Psalm 102:18-20).

“Rather, as it is written: ‘Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand’” (Romans 15:21).

“Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O LORD my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave” (Psalm 86:11-13).

“Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation” (Luke 11:2-4).

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Luke 10:2).