

PRAYERWALKING

Description

Prayerwalking is just what it sounds like — simply walking and talking to God. Prayerwalkers don't make a big production about what they're doing. In fact, you may have seen prayerwalkers in action. If you did, you probably thought they were just out walking and talking to each other. But actually, prayerwalkers are focused and praying for the specific area in which they are walking. Some of the elements of a prayerwalker's focus are:

- Praise and Worship – Praising for God's nature, character, attributes
- Warfare – Recognizing that there is spiritual warfare going on in the area in which you are praying and through prayer, come against the strongholds and other powers of darkness
- Blessing – releasing the blessings and purposes of God on the area in which you are praying
- Intercession – praying fervently for the people in the area who are in need of God's touch on their lives (these can be known needs or needs that you observe during your walking)

Prayerwalking is Useful For:

A Preparation for Future Ministry

As your team walks around their area, voice specific prayers for what we see — or don't see. Pray for those you hear arguing, for school children, or particular people you see in the area. They don't know you are praying for them, but God does. He knows the needs in their lives better than we do.

A few years ago, I went to a large city in the Middle East as part of a team that was the first to ever bring the gospel there. We spent the first three days walking in teams of three through the streets praying about what we saw and that God would prepare and soften the hearts of those to whom we would speak.

As your team prays for your area, ask God for opportunities for you to engage the area in future ministry.

Preparation for Evangelism

Prayerwalking can lead to evangelistic opportunities. As your prayer team walks and prays, smile and say hello to the people you pass. *Be attentive, because God may give you the opportunity to stop and talk to someone.* If so, explain what you are doing in the neighborhood. Ask them if you can pray for specific things in their lives or in their neighborhoods. Most will allow you to pray with them; if they don't, pray for them as you continue walking.

Preparation to Be Used by God

Now you may be wondering, "Why should I leave my comfortable home and walk when I can pray for from the comfort of my living room?" Prayerwalking allows God to use your eyes, ears, feet, and mouths. *When you make all of your senses available to God, He uses us in ways we couldn't imagine otherwise.*

I heard of a prayerwalk team once that while they were walking, they heard an ambulance. They started praying for the ambulance driver, for traffic, and for whoever was in need of help. Soon the ambulance stopped on the same street as the team. We continued to pray. Not wanting to intrude, the team continued to walk. They noted the address and returned to visit about two weeks after they had seen the ambulance. The house now had a teenage mother with a new baby. They shared the gospel and prayed with the teenager and her stepfather. They would have missed this opportunity if we had been praying from the comfort of our own homes.

As you are prayerwalking:

- Remember-this is not a race; take your time so that the Holy Spirit can show you whatever He wants to.
- If your route takes you past a church, school, police station, fire house, etc., please take the opportunity to pray over them.
- This is not a time to engage in social conversation with your team members, or to pray for needs in your own life. This is a time to pray your area and keep your spiritual eyes and ears open. God may give YOU a divine appointment. So listen...and pray as the Lord leads.
- Thank God that He loves your lost neighbors and pray that they would believe in Jesus. Ask him to bring them out of darkness. Pray for them to be released from whatever hinders their faith.
- Sing songs of praise and worship
- Pray Scripture—examples: Acts 26:18, Rom. 15:13, 2 Cor. 10:5, 2 Thess. 3:1, Jer. 29:11
- Pray specific, short, conversational prayers
- Walk slowly around buildings
- Stop to reflect & listen or discuss insights
- Look for clues as to how to pray for people's needs (handicapped ramp may reveal a special physical need, toys may show the presence of children, etc.)
- Being sensitive to divine appointments
- Follow God's leadership to pray with someone or witness to them.
- At the end of your walk, share your impressions, visions, etc. with each other
- Keep praying daily about the things the Lord has shown you.