

Prayer Walking

Prayer Walking is simply praying as one walks through a community, village, town or city. It is praying with all of one's senses – sight, sound, smell, touch, etc. As one walks the streets, one asks God to reveal the needs of that particular community. How does one pray in such situations?

First, you should pray for **OPEN HEAVENS**. As believers, we want God to pour out a blessing on the people to whom He has called us. We are not in the business of pronouncing curses on people simply because they worship false gods or are blinded by the ruler of this world. We want to ask God to open the heavens and pour out His blessings on the people we see as we walk the streets. Obviously, it is our desire that these people come to know that Jesus is the truth, the life, and the way. As they come to know Him who is the truth, God will begin to pour out blessings from on high.

As you walk, you should be asking God to show you how He desires to bless the people. Perhaps God wants to transform them out of their poverty. Perhaps God wants to transform their political situation. Definitely, we know that God wants to see them released from the snare of false worship of false gods. Ask God to reveal to you ways that He desires to bless the people.

Isaiah 64:1 “Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before You!”

Second, you should pray for **OPEN HEARTS**. We want to ask God to release His Holy Spirit and touch the hearts of the people. We want to pray for a harvest among our target population group. Pray for the church to rightly discern and overcome barriers that separate your target group from the hope and healing of the gospel. Pray for the release of the Holy Spirit to soften and prepare the hearts of the people to receive the gospel.

Acts 2:17,21 “In the last days, God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit on all people’...an everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Thirdly, you should pray for **OPEN HOMES**. Pray for spiritual awakening among your target population group. Pray for supernatural encounters, resulting in a church planting movement. Ask God to redeem the target group's unique giftings for His Kingdom purpose where they live and beyond. Pray that whole families would come to Christ and that homes would be redeemed. Pray that homes would become places where the One, True, and Living God is worshipped. Pray for prayer cells and churches to be established in homes throughout communities where your target group resides.

Acts 2:46-47 “They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Fourthly, pray for **OPEN HIGHWAYS**. The overall goal is an indigenous church planting movement among your target group. Pray for the effective planting and multiplication of churches among your target group. Pray for creative access opportunities to reveal themselves to you and others seeking to reach the target group.

Isaiah 40:3-5 “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 and every mountain and hill made low, the ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind shall see it.”

Finally, pray for **OPEN HANDS**. Ask God to reveal to you and others working among the target group the acts of compassion and kindness that need to be carried out in communities where your target group reside in order that the love of Christ may be revealed.

Matthew 10: 7-8 “As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

As we prayer walk, it is important that we ask God to reveal the strongholds that exist in the communities where our target people reside. These strongholds keep the people from responding to the gospel positively and we need to pray down those strongholds so that the barriers are broken down and the people will respond to the gospel with open hearts and minds.

2 Corinthians 10: 3-6 “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.”

In every community, there are strongholds. These strongholds are often found in places of government, places of education, places of commerce, and places of religion and culture.

Places of Government – Often governments oppress their people. As we walk through communities where our target group reside we need to pray over those places that represent government. The Bible commands us to pray especially for those who are in authority. Therefore, we need to pray that these places of government would rule their people with justice and righteousness. We need to pray for the salvation of those in governmental positions.

Places of education – It has been said, “Whoever holds the hearts and minds of the children and youth, holds the hearts of the nation.” Often educational institutions are places where children and youth are taught things that are in opposition to God’s truth – such as atheism, communism, false religions. We need to pray over these educational institutions asking God to redeem these places and redeem the hearts of those who teach the children and youth. We need to pray that educational institutions would become places where God’s truth might be made manifest.

Places of commerce – It is known that most social injustice is the result of the rich who oppress the poor. Businesses and other places of commerce are often powerful strongholds that keep people from seeing the true light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We need to pray that God so redeem a society that social justice will prevail. We need to pray that the poor would no longer be oppressed by the rich.

Places of religion/culture – Religion and culture in South Asia are deeply intertwined. The worship of false, counterfeit gods keeps the people from seeing the truth that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. We need to pray that the target group would have their eyes and their hearts open to see that no one can come to salvation except through Jesus Christ. We need to pray that idolatry, which is abominable to God, would be demolished and destroyed so that people would return to the worship of the One, True and Living God.

A study of Isaiah 62:1-12 reveals how God desires to bring about political, social, economic, and spiritual transformation among the peoples of the earth:

vv. 1-3 Political transformation – “For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD’s hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.”

vv. 4-5 Social transformation – “No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married. As a young man marries a maiden, as will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.”

vv. 6-9 Economic transformation – “I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: ‘Never again will I give your grain as food for your enemies, and never again will foreigners drink the new wine for which you have toiled; but those who harvest it will eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my sanctuary.’”

vv. 10-12 *Spiritual transformation – “ Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: ‘Say to the daughter of Zion, See your Savior comes! See his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.’ They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.”*

Some Instructions about how to do Prayer Walking

An excellent resource is the book, Prayer Walking: Praying on Site with Insight by Stephen Hawthorne and Graham Kendrick

A. Before:

1. Look at a map and determine strategic areas
2. Memorize Scripture for meditation
3. Pray for wisdom and protection
4. Learn some of the significant spiritual history of the place
5. Determine your identity (i.e. walking/ getting exercise/tourist)
6. Pick a partner—go in groups of two or at the most three

Personal Spiritual Preparation:

- *Repentance and confession of sins*
- *Spiritual purification and preparedness, clean hands and a pure heart (James 4:8)*
- *Spending time to study the Bible*
- *Memorize Scripture and choruses/hymns*
- *Prayer for the opening of spiritual eyes, perception, discernment, seeing and hearing in the Spirit of intercession and a heart of compassion*
- *Overcome personal fear by intercession and putting on the armor of God (Eph 6:10-20)*
- *Recruit personal intercessors for you while you are out praying*

B. During:

1. Use all your senses (see, smell, hear, feel, sense, taste)
 2. Meditate on Scripture and claim appropriate promises
 3. Pray for what you see (schools, mosques, homes, toys, and beggars) to be redeemed for Kingdom's purposes
 4. Seek to identify strongholds and pray them down
 5. Pray for release of captives
 6. Seek a revelation of God's holiness and redemption through Jesus
1. Listen for the Spirit's voice and try to see what and how God sees
 2. Worship, praise, intercede, declare, proclaim and bless
 3. Magnify Christ's name and character
 10. God reveals and empowers His own goodness in people so that evil is overcome (Psalms 110:2)
 11. Fix your heart on what good things God is bringing forth

On-site suggestions:

- *Use your platform identity wherever you go or identify yourself as a tourist*
- *Always remember to use generic language instead of the usual spiritual terms*
- *Stay focused*
- *Be careful of distractions such as shopping; do not be amused or amazed by buildings or things*
- *Do not walk too fast; give yourself enough time to reflect and pray*
- *Pray in communicative postures and gestures like interacting with one another*
- *Do not be critical in your comments and remarks of the country or community*
- *Do not raise your hands during worship*
- *Smile and be friendly at all times*

- *If you greet people, say a blessing/prayer in your heart for that person*
- *Show respect for the local authorities*
- *Observe rules such as no photography or taking off ones shoes in temples or worship centers*

C. Avoid:

1. Talking to people or stopping for more than 5 minutes unless at a holy place
2. Having map out

D. Afterwards

Record your impressions, insights, redemptive keys, strongholds, map shrines, strategies or locations for church planting.