

Prayer walking

It starts with you; your walk and talk with God.

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

- Effectual Prayer starts with an accurate assessment of who we are. *Unrighteous.*
- Effectual Prayer ascends from who we are to consideration of who God is and what He has done for us. *We receive the righteousness of Christ. We have fellowship with God. He is our Father, our Redeemer, our Friend.*
- Effectual Prayer accomplishes (availeth) much when it is fervent. *Impassioned – with great intensity. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.*
Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." **37** And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. **38** Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." **39** He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."
- It is through this type of prayer, offered in this humble posture that we experience the peace, hope and assurance that leads to the boldness that allows us to stand in the throne room of God in supplication. It is here, through prayer, that we discover the *great power* of subjecting our own will to that of God's will. This process allows us to gain the confidence we need to carry out the work of God... in spite of our great weakness, in spite of great obstacles, and in spite of great hardship.

PERSONAL PRAYER WALKING

Personal prayer walking can be a very special time with God.

- Just as Jesus withdrew to lonely places to pray (Luke 5:16, 6:12-13, Mark 1:35) we can often find a unity with God in the beauty of His creation. Out in open spaces the senses can be caught by fresh new elements of God's creation, focusing our minds on God and inclining our hearts in reverence and prayer.
- Developing the habit of prayer walking around the area we live enables us to see our neighborhoods as Christ sees them, and allows us to offer up prayers for the things we see.

Prayer walking does not have to be complicated.

- Simply walk and begin to clear your mind. Some strategies that work are to begin reflecting on scripture (particularly a Psalm about God's creation) or meditating on a praise song or hymn. Now begin to quiet your heart and listen. Once you have your thoughts cleared begin to invoke your senses, take in and enjoy God's creation.
- Allow your mind to focus on God in prayer, allowing the thoughts that intrude into your mind into your conversation with God.

ORGANIZED PRAYER WALKING

The bible links walking with God's promises on several occasions:

- Noah is described as "walking with God" (*Genesis 6:9*)
- Abraham was told to walk the land, for "*I am giving it to you.*" (*Genesis 13:7*)
- Joshua was told "*I will give every place where you set your foot as I promised Moses*" (*Joshua 1:3*)
- The prophet Micah declared "*All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.*" (*Micah 4:5*)

Prayer walking has been a powerful spiritual tool in the Christian toolkit and a part of our Christian heritage for many centuries, particularly in Britain and America during the great awakening and the evangelical movement in the 19th century.

- Many British churches had a tradition of "beating the bounds", during which they would lay claim to their parish (town) for God.
- In America the tradition of the circuit riders was to pray as they traveled.
- The revival services of the 19th century were at times accompanied by prayer teams that walked the neighborhoods in which the revival was taking place.

Prayer walking today is one way that we claim territory for Christ. Prayer walking has the effect and power of taking our prayers out of our churches and into the community. Prayer walking gives us insights on the spiritual climate of the area we are targeting. The Holy Spirit provides insight as we walk the streets. Such insight can have a powerful effect on our heart for the lost, our mission to the community and ministry strategies.

Organized prayer walking does not have to be complicated.

- Establish a target prayer list for your walk
- Encourage the participants to humbly approach the throne in anticipation of experiencing God's working through their prayers
- Let the focus of your prayers be led by what is seen and experienced. Remember, one of the primary benefits of walking the area that you are praying for is to afford you the opportunity to *see*, and *respond* to what you see in prayer. Lower your inhibitions and listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and respond in faith.

Hebrews 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

Pointers for Prayer

Be prepared	Have faith in God
Be filled with the Holy Spirit	Walk to see something about God, more than you walk to say something about evil
Listen for God's leading	Be cautious about seeking out evil powers
Obey God's voice	Pray using Jesus name
Follow God wholeheartedly	Pray bigger than yourselves
Remember that God's ways are not ours	Pray for big things