

## **Prayer Walking 101** **(Taken from Steve Hawthorne's Book Prayer Walking)**

“Call to Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, fenced in and hidden, which you do not know- do not distinguish and recognize, or understand.”

**Jeremiah 33:3**

### **Context:**

Prayer Walking is simply “praying onsite with insight” (Steve Hawthorne) that we might join with God to see Matthew 6:10 accomplished. “your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

### **On Target Praying:**

Smart bombs allowed US troops to pinpoint specific targets so that greater impact could be made. Prayers such as, “God help the people of this city,” does not directly attack specific demonic forces. Prayer walking allows the pray team to see and be in the territorial domain of who and what is prayed for.

### **Circumstances:**

A war is being engaged. “Until we believe that life is war, we will not know what prayer is for.” John Piper

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes you may be able to stand our ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” Eph. 6:12-13

“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.” II Cor. 10:3-5

“to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:18

War changes the landscape of people and places.

- Humanity has rejected God and chosen idolatry. Romans 1:20-26 “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities –his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-who is forever

praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.”

Satan has taken dominion in this fallen world and left his mark.

- I John 5:19 “We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”
- Iceberg effect: What is seen on the surface is but an indication of deeper unseen spiritual dynamics and realities. The visible result of a gang marking its territory is seen as graffiti. In like manner, satanic strongholds are territories marked, claimed, and fortified by Satan to repel light and breed rebellion. Daniel 10 allows us to understand that strongholds can have a territorial nature.
- Satan has dominion of the “cosmos”, (systems, authorities, institutions, etc) but the Kingdom of God can invade Satan’s territory.  
Matthew 16:18-19 “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
- A goal in prayer walking is that God may remove the blinders from people’s eyes that they may acknowledge God. Thus evil spirits and principalities may be bound, but they also have the right to return when they are invited via idolatry, occultism and sin. Matthew 12:29 “Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.”

Luke 11:24-26 “When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first.”

#### **Catalytic:**

- Pray alertly - Col. 4:2-4 “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.”
- Be fruitful - John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I choose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”
- Physical – Prayer walking allows a platform for God to be present in this place, as the temple in which the Spirit of God dwells through prayer walking the temple is brought on-site and Satan cannot hold back the attack.  
I Cor. 3:16 “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”

Matt. 16:18 “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

- Plows and breaks up the hard ground for greater response to the Gospel.
- Points of Contact – Provides you with points of contact for you to see God at work in this place. Having prayed in this environment, you are now able to pray with greater understanding. Furthermore, the visual images become a memorial factor to recall in faith what has been committed to prayer. Having experienced the prayer walk you can now pray with greater specificity. Joshua 4:4-9
- Propels evil and promotes light.
- Personal responsibility is a way for your relationship with Christ to grow.

<p><b>Consecration:</b></p>
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- The way you see yourself is the way Satan will deal with you. As believers, we have been taken from the dominion of darkness and are complete in Christ yet can do nothing apart from Christ. In this life we are afforded the whole armor of God that we may serve and glorify Christ.

Col. 1:13-14 “For he has rescued us for the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Col. 2:6-15 “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over all power and authority. In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that were against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

- Prayer walking angers the enemy’s camp. It is important therefore to:
  - Abide in Christ – John 15:7 “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”
  - Adjust you motivation – James 4:3 “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”
  - According to His Will – I John 5:14-15 “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we ask of him.”

- Ask in Faith – Matthew 21:22 “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

### **Combat Zone – Open the enemy’s stronghold to the light of the gospel**

1. Organize the team:
  - a. in triplets
  - b. with roles
  - c. one group may concentrate their prayers on the team’s protection and insight.
  - d. Hold on to scripture – a verse for protection, and another verse for victory and vision Ps. 46:10-11 “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”
2. Plan and pace – not one long walk but several smaller walks lasting 30-40 minutes
  - a. 20 minutes team prayer and worship
  - b. 40 minutes prayer walk
  - c. 15 minutes report take notes and thanksgiving
  - d. 40 minute lunch break while observing the spiritual dynamics of the marketplace
  - e. 5 minute team prayer
  - f. 40 minute prayer walk (trade team tasks at this point)
  - g. 20 minute report and thanksgiving to God
3. Exploit the Enemy’s camp - 3 conditions of defilement to be alert to are:
  - b. Immoralities
  - c. Idolatry - idols, trinkets, charms
  - d. Identifying points of past/present bloodshed, oppression

“When Abraham came to the Promised Land, he built an altar to God and called on the name of the Lord. To build an altar was to include the land in the covenant between God and his chosen people. The land became covenanted to the Lord. The Canaan name for Jerusalem was Urushalim. Shalim was the local god representing Venus. When David finally conquered the city, he changed the name – and the city’s identity. What does this city’s name or landmarks stand for? Pray that God would change the name or the meaning of the names that identify with other gods or sin. Gen. 12:8 “From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.”

### **Neutralize the enemy with blessings and specific prayers**

- Give a blessing, bless people, places, tools, autos, and homes,
- Love even those that may turn away
- Pray
  - That place names referencing evil, gods, or tragedy will be renamed to honor God.
  - That streets and alleys that promote evil, will be a forum to widely proclaim Christ.

- Pray the Lord's prayer for this community
- Sing transformation songs for the community, Example: Shine Jesus Shine
- Pray scripture (Ps. 67 for the community)
- Pray out loud
- pray silently
- pray holding hands
- pray touching the object of your prayers
- Listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit that your efforts may be more fruitful