

How to: Pray as you walk

Taken from Targeted Prayer by Roger Grassham

PREPERATION

The Aim:

The aim of this guide is to help to understand how to pray whilst walking on the streets of our community. This sort of prayer is about bringing the presence of God where we live, work, and go to church geographically.

The guide sets out a few strategic ways in which we can gain greater insight and understanding into the spiritual influences in place, and then find God's key to bring release and transformation.

What is needed:

Praying as you walk is helpful, especially when you can see, hear and feel the atmosphere. This allows God to bring revelation and understanding about our community, and the forces at work to disrupt and negatively control people's lives.

If you have a burden to pray for your neighbours, your village, town, or city, venturing out onto the streets and exploring is helpful in building a picture of the demographic makeup. The sort of things that will be needed to help you pray effectively are:

- Research the local area's history and go back 100 years or more to gather as much information as possible.
- Find out if there have been any significant events that have affected the area.
- Look at press records to find out whether there have been influential people who have impacted life.
- Discover if there have been any organisations that have brought philosophical or religious thought.
- See if there have been any accidents, disasters, events, or decisions effecting people's lives.
- Go to the library, search online or read books or articles about local history.

Engaging and Understanding:

God has a plan and destiny for every person, but also for every place. He is interested in the wellbeing of people, but also places. There are many examples in the Bible that speak about God's people moving into territory that He had ordained for them to occupy and possess as an inheritance.

This is commonly called 'spiritual mapping' throughout the church when looking at historical research into an area. Simply put, Spiritual mapping is the process of prayerfully building up a picture of a location based on the influences affecting it. Whatever we may call it, tracing the key factors that influences localities is important to help pray in an informed manner.

The Practicalities:

Preparation is essential. Ask God for insights. Spiritual alertness is more important than buildings and the landscape. Find out about local disputes, strikes, and/or protests. Look for motives for the founding of businesses or other institutions. Approach street praying with an open heart. Listen to promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Let God bring dreams, visions, scriptures, prophetic words, and strong impressions.

Be self-aware as you walk and behave wisely. Consider going out in pairs. Decide whether you want to stay silent and listen or pray quietly as you walk. If you are praying as part of a larger group, start together and finish together. Give feedback and take notes. Use maps and mark them up.

Keys to Effectiveness:

Some of the keys to effective praying about a place include the following examples of cause and effect.

- Empty shops, high unemployment and rough sleeping caused by inequalities and social exclusion.
- Slave trading, sex working, gambling because of - poverty, deprivation, and underachievement.
- Graffiti on walls caused by the need to express dissatisfaction with those who have power and influence.

Keys to Effectiveness *continued*:

- Poor health accompanied by poor educational achievement caused by low esteem and expectations.
- Anti-social behaviour with gangs caused by family breakdown and dysfunctional life styles.
- Addiction to substances caused by a mixture of all the above and a lack of purpose in life.
- Mental health, depression, disorders, and difficult behavioural patterns caused by traumatic experiences.

Note:

- *Larger towns and cities may have higher proportions of issues mentioned in this list.*
- *Research will help in your understanding.*
- *Spiritual discernment and prophetic prayer will help bring some of the answers.*

ACTIVATION

Biblical Perspective:

Numbers 13:1-3 (NIV): *1 The LORD said to Moses, 2 “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.” 3 So at the LORD’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran.*

Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV): *7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*

Isaiah 62:1-4 (NIV): *1 For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. 2 The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. 3 You will be a crown of splendour in the LORD’s hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.*

4 No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah,[a] and your land Beulah[b]; for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married.

Romans 12:16 (NIV): *16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.[a] Do not be conceited.*

Prayer Points:

Here are a number of ways to pray, and to respond to promptings as you walk.

- Pray before you go out, and ask a few people to pray for your protection and covering as you go.
- Pray in the spirit as you walk, and mentally, ask God to show you things you may not have seen before.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you sensitivity at road and rail junctions, special places and notable buildings or structures.
- Let the Holy Spirit reveal anything that might be hidden underground in foundations and at deeper levels (e.g. underground streams, etc).
- As you pray, if you sense turmoil, speak the peace of Jesus to that place, that it may impact people affected.
- If you sense grief or distress, consider pausing, and put some oil on a post or suitable place to declare an anointing as you pray for joy and peace to prevail.
- As you pray you may feel led to sprinkle water and/or salt. Here is why –
2 Kings 2:19-21 (NIV): *19 The people of the city said to Elisha, “Look, our lord, the water is bad and the land is unproductive.” 20 “Bring me a new bowl,” he said, “and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. 21 Then he threw the salt into it, saying, “This is what the LORD says: ‘I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive.’”*
- Prophetic acts with prayer are effective.
- Pray about the atmosphere, airwaves and positive and negative language used on the streets.
- Pray for a spirit of generosity, kindness, and patience to be poured out on your community.
- Because of your research you will uncover negative things. Pray in the opposite spirit declaring the peace of God to prevail.
- More than anything, as you pray, allow the Holy Spirit to bring revelation, inspiration, and insight everywhere.

Application:

Some of the keys to effective praying about a place include the following examples of cause and effect.

- It is **listening** to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and **acting** on what He says.
- It is **asking** God for revelation and watching Him **provide** the insights.
- It is **going** where He tells you to go and **discovering** why.
- It is **responding** to God's leading and **doing something** with the information, by faith.

Testimony:

In Canning Town in East London, the area around the church was very run down and deteriorating badly. The church prayer group and intercessors periodically left the building and walked the streets praying for God to radically transform the area. Demolition of old buildings and a lack of investment and maintenance had made the area unsafe.

After a few years, the church decided to put on a special 'Alive' weekend of evangelism, outreach, and community action. Dozens of church members cleared rubbish, cut grass, cleared graffiti and repainted walls with murals, planted new flowers generally tidied the area. The run-down park near the church nursery was transformed.

The local council took note and re-introduced regular maintenance. To this day the area is better kept than ever it was previously.

Prayer/Action:

Lord, as we go into the community to pray, please will You give us 'everywhere we put our feet', just like You did with Joshua and Caleb. Please reveal your strategies to pray and reclaim territory, in Jesus Name. Amen

Quote:

Prayer is the greatest of all forces because it honours God and brings Him into active aid.

E. M. Bounds

Source: <https://www.embounds.online/prayer-quotes>

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