

Biblical Background on Prayer Walking

The Bible offers many models of effective ways to pray. Although prayer walking, as a term, is never mentioned in Scripture, Jesus prayerfully looked over the city of Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37-39). Also, the Apostle Paul's "...spirit was being provoked within him as he was beholding the city [of Athens] full of idols" (Acts 17:16).

***"Arise, walk about the land...
for I will give it to you" (Genesis 13:17)***

As we prayerfully look at our city, God will burden our hearts, provide discernment, and release strategies to bring the city of Jesus.

The Old Testament has many passages relating to walking an area for God's glory. Three passages give us a spiritual picture connected with walking. The story of Joshua taking the city of Jerico (Josh. 6) is probably the most familiar Old Testament account of the powerful act of walking and praying. Walking around the city seven times before the walls fell flat is a model of extending God's Kingdom through man's humble availability and faith joined by God's miraculous ability. Our prayers and obedience can be a means of releasing God's power to cause the walls of unbelief, violence, strife and evil to come down.

God spoke to Abraham, "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you." (Gen. 13:17). Speaking to Joshua, God said, "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you..." (Josh. 1:3)

These passages obviously refer to God's promise of the Holy Land to the Jewish nation. Nevertheless, the physical act of walking was a prophetic statement of declaring God's sovereignty over the earth. Today, our only desire for prayer walking a city is to claim the area for God's glory and to pray for the spiritual freedom of those living there.

It is important to catch the spirit of prayer walking rather than simply adopt the method of prayer walking. Scripture clearly instructs us to pray for our city:

"And seek the peace of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its peace you will have peace" (Jer. 29:7)

Although this verse does not indicate walking and praying through our city, there is probably not a better way to systematically cover a community with prayer than to literally walk and pray through its neighborhoods. May we, the Church of the Pikes Peak region, pray like never before for a spiritual awakening in our midst.