

WALKING + TALKING

Prayer is powerful, it changes us, it changes situations. God listens. God answers.

Often in our journey of prayer it's tempting to do all the talking and to avoid those times of silence. As in a world that's always been on the go we are more comfortable with the background noise of busy than the wide open space of silence. Yet stillness and silence isn't a suggestion given to us by God but an instruction. He knows us, He created us and He writes the user manual, and this we see perfectly played out in the very life way of Jesus.

Be encouraged to wait on Him. To pray. To be still. To know that He is God.

Still and centre yourself as you come before God in prayer.

PRAY

Holy Spirit we invite you to come

You are so welcome

Open our ears to hear what it is you are saying and our eyes to see you at work,

To gaze upon your beauty and to know you more

Still our hearts to a rhythm of peace

That we will be still and know that you are God

In Jesus Name Amen

From this place of stillness, the pressing our pause button and simply listening we enter in to times of talking.

This beautiful rhythm of finding that pace from which we can listen to then taking time to speak is displayed throughout the Bible.

And we see this played out in the form of walking + talking with the Lord.

God is looking for a walking partner!

God created man for the enjoyment of a walking relationship that involved, companionship, dialogue, intimacy, joint decision making, mutual delight and shared kingdom.

God literally walks in the garden of Eden.

And He longs to walk with you. To walk and to talk together.

We see God who loves and longs to walk and talk with us in Jesus who covered a lot of miles with His disciples.

READ – DECLARE – THANK

Read the following verses, have fun imagining the garden so beautifully wild with life and ponder the nature of God, the one who walks. Your mind may wander and that's ok, just bring it back to these two simple truths.

God loves to walk with me

God loves to talk with me

Begin to thank Him

God thank you that you love to walk with me

God thank you that you love to talk to me

Genesis 2:8 New International Version (NIV)

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

Genesis 3:8 New International Version (NIV)

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day

A STORY

We all experience seasons where we feel like we get blindsided and life as we know it or dreamed it would be is no longer a reality. For me this season left me in I guess a sort of a lockdown, were illness limited every aspect of physical life. Yet this lockdown for me is when I discovered He wants to walk + He wants to talk. This may sound a little random but growing up with a colourful imagination one that illness seemed to dramatically discolour, I began to sense this nudge from God to 'come to the Garden, let's walk and let's talk'. Eyes closed I would lie there and I would get the most colourful picture of this garden, and there I would see Him, I would walk, I would talk, I would listen, I would laugh, I would weep and I would begin to see from new perspective, life as I knew it would be filtered by life as He knew it and I would see Him in it, His story not mine.

I tell you this story as an illustration of how the 'garden' or whatever that 'secret place' is for you is actually not the goal, but it is the catalyst for intimacy / nearness / friendship with God. A place we walk daily, a place we gain new perspective, a vantage point from which we see life differently, a home that we learn the nature of God, a place we get equipped.

The goal is not the garden it is the unbroken communion with the Lord.

A communion with Majesty

A communion with Mercy

The garden, the walk, the journey creates the condition for encounter.

SPEND SOME TIME TALKING WITH GOD AND CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING

In Genesis we not only read of God walking in the garden but we also read the story of a man called Enoch. A guy who is known for delighting in walking with the Lord. He discovered what it was to daily delight in God. The end of this story is unique where God 'takes him' escaping the process of death as we know, Enoch goes with God.

The point here isn't start walking and walk your way up to heaven but that God's delight is to walk with man.

When this delight ignites you, you too will passionately delight to walk with Him.

Enoch lived to 365 years and walking with God was like a daily exercise, I am sure they covered miles of conversation, of thanksgiving, of worship but also of fears, of frustrations, lament and life experiences, ones that they had to together walk and talk through not simply skip over.

God desires to reveal himself to us.

READ

Genesis 5:21-24 The Message (MSG)

When Enoch was sixty-five years old, he had Methuselah. Enoch walked steadily with God. After he had Methuselah, he lived another 300 years, having more sons and daughters. Enoch lived a total of 365 years.

Enoch walked steadily with God. And then one day he was simply gone: God took him.

We also see the walking + talking nature of God after Jesus resurrection where Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus where two disciples are walking. Jesus enters in at their pace, He walks and He listens. He listens to their grief, their disappointments... He cares and then He shares and in the end we see the disciples revelation as they see Jesus for who He really is – the saviour of the world.

BE HONEST IN PRAYER

READ - Genesis 5:21-24 The Message (MSG)

Consider Enoch, his faithfulness in steadily walking....

Tell God about your ways and rhythms, those times when walking and talking isn't convenient but requires sacrifice.

Ask Him to fill you with His faithfulness, His spirit and help in times when sacrifice is required.

Consider the road to Emmaus, the honesty of the disciples and the love of Jesus who walks at their pace....

READ - Luke 24:13-34 New International Version (NIV)

On the Road to Emmaus

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."

TALK TO GOD ABOUT WHAT GETS IN THE WAY OF YOU WALKING + TALKING WITH HIM

Fears – unbelief - frustrations – guilt – shame – unforgiveness – busyness....

(These are just a few but allow the Holy Spirit to bring to you mind, what those things are for you)

Consider Jesus, after they had walked, after they had talked, their eyes became open to see who this man really was...

Ask Him to reveal to you who is, that He will open your eyes to see...(this may just be one aspect of His character He wants you to focus on today)

Ask Him how He is inviting you to share His story with other?

PRAY ALOUD

Abba, I surrender my will and my life to you today, without reservation and with humble confidence, for you are my loving Father. Set me free from self-consciousness, from anxiety about tomorrow, and from the tyranny of the approval and disapproval of others, that I may find joy and delight simply and solely in pleasing you. May my inner freedom be a compelling sign of your presence, your peace, your power, and your love. Let your plan for my life and the lives of all your children gracefully unfold one day at a time. I love you with all my heart, and I place all my confidence in you, for you are my Abba. Amen.

Often He walks before He works.

Jesus is the way and we can look to Him for the way of life. His way equips us for life. And we will be unpacking more of this and how we can enter in to the practices of Jesus using Equip a tool and resource that Stu will be guided us through in the next weeks.

Jesus walked with God and this is the perfect example. He was connected to God. He slipped away to spend time on His own with God. Together they walked + talked.

The secret place is where we learn to walk, and it's as we walk we learn to trust Him with the directions. We develop a history map of the journey He leads us

on, the conversations we have along the way. We delight in Him and He is us. We are equipped for a life rooted and grounded in His love.

WE WALK + WE TALK – IT IS THE WAY OF PRAYER

John 15:15-16 New International Version (NIV)

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

So we walk + we talk and it is in this process we experience what it is to see a garden wild in potential become a garden cultivated and crafted in beauty and fruitfulness. Fruit that will last.

PRAY ALOUD

Father we thank you that you delight in walking with me and in talking with me. You call me friend.

You chose me.

You appointed me.

I chose to trust you, knowing your love for me.

Lead me in your way of fruitfulness.

That I may learn in my walking and our talking the way of Jesus.

Amen

And finally we are going to touch on another story that required some amount of walking! And saw miraculous breakthrough. The fall of Jericho!
Joshua 6

The Israelites are commanded to walk, to worship and in the end they saw massive breakthrough. It was this journey of obedience, this act in the face of what seemed impossible that I imagine God worked in the Israelites hearts, stirred their faith and strengthened their courage.

Just like the story of the fall of Jericho we are called to Stay at our Post. Staying at the Post isn't just about the end goal of no more CV19, or that miracle we are holding out for. Staying at our Post is staying with Him, it's walking around walls that feel impossible, it's worshipping, its practicing the way of Jesus, it's requires surrendering our goal for His.

And often it's here that He even prepares us for the miracles so that we are in a place to receive and sustain them.

SOME IMPOSSIBLE WALLS WE ARE CALLING YOU TO JOIN WITH US AND 'WALK' AROUND + TALK TO GOD ABOUT THIS WEEK ARE;

Financial miracles

Family health – physical, emotional, relational, spiritual

Wisdom + courage for our government

We encourage you to take time throughout you week on each point, praying.

SPEND A FEW MINUTES PRAYING BOLD PRAYERS. ASK GOD AGAIN HAT DOES HE SEE AND WHAT DOES HE SAY AND LET THAT FRAME HOW YOU PRAY.

You will also have impossibility walls of your own, make a note of these and this week take a few minutes each day or use another hour slot in our LVV virtual prayer room to walk + talk with God around these too.

PRAY YOUR OWN WORDS, YOUR OWN HEART CRY, DECLARATIONS OF TRUTH THAT YOU KNOW FROM WHO GOD IS AND WHO HE SHOWS HIMSELF TO BE IN THE BIBLE.

Let these points help shape your prayers

Breakthrough

Provision

Healing

Restoration

Relationships to be renewed

Pain to leave bodies

Friends, family, community to begin to journey and know Jesus

Government to have wisdom, encounter God, and be filled with courage

Here are a few simple points that can guide you each time you pray this week;

Be still

Be Thankful - mercy + majesty

Be honest - make it a prayer

Take heart - Reflect on who He is

Look to the cross + worship

In your walking + talking you may like to;

Reflect on the stories noted above where God walks with His people.

Picture a garden, and simply invite Him to come and in that place of silence and stillness listen to Him, talk with Him and ask Him to reveal more of what He is saying and what He sees.

Get outside and walk + talk! Often this can help us in opening up in honesty to the Lord, we literally walk it out with Him!

Pray boldly into our three prayer areas

That God will breakthrough

God will Heal

Pain will leave

Relationships be restored

Government will encounter God and His wisdom and courage in this season