



Using Scripture While Prayer Walking

Open Heaven, Prayer Walk Coventry, June 2021

Using the Bible to shape our prayers can help us find the words to pray. Romans 10:17 tells us that God's Word – particularly when we say it or pray it out loud – actually increases our faith: 'Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' The word of God is living and active and when we pray from the Bible, we pray the active word of God, which gives us confidence that we are praying in accordance with His will.

SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

Here are two examples of how you might take a verse or passage of scripture and pray it through:



Let Your Kingdom Come!

In the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), Jesus instructs His followers to pray:

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*

Of course, we can pray this whole prayer through, but we can also pray specifically for God's "Kingdom to come" here in Coventry as we prayer-walk.

'Thy Kingdom come' has been the heart-cry of the church for millennia. It is a simple invitation for God's Kingdom to be made manifest here on the earth.

God's kingdom means 'the King's domain' – where God's will (preference) actually happens.

What would it mean for God to answer this prayer?

Here are some of the signs or blessings we might expect when God's kingdom comes:

- **Freedom** – deliverance from captivity of any kind.
- **Righteousness and justice** – no inequality or oppression.
- **Peace** – resolved conflict, relationships restored and God's peace replacing anxiety.
- **Joy** – this is different from happiness. Happiness is about circumstances being good, whereas joy is a permanent, enduring gift regardless of circumstance.
- **God's presence** – an everyday nearness of the presence of God.
- **Healing** – emotional, physical and spiritual healing: 'shalom' wholeness.
- **Belonging** – that people have a sense of Christ-centred community and family.

So, as we prayer-walk, we can pray for God's Kingdom to come.

It could sound like:

"Lord, let Your kingdom come here in this street, over these households, bring Your freedom to any who are captive, or held in bondage or addictions; Lord bring Your kingdom here, bringing righteousness and justice in place of oppression or inequality..

Lord, let Your kingdom come! Bring peace in place of strife and conflict in homes and families, Lord bring peace in place of anxiety..

Lord, let Your kingdom come in this area - may it be an area filled with Your joy and filled with laughter, where hearts are filled with the love of God..

Lord, let Your kingdom come. Bring Your presence so all may know You are real and You are here... etc"



Psalm 23

You could use this beautiful psalm, taking each line or phrase and turning it into a declaration and then using it to pray.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

Coventry, the Lord is your shepherd, He will guide and lead you well because He cares about you. In Him there is no lack at all. Lord, may the people of this city know You as their shepherd. Amen.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul.

Coventry, there is rest in pleasant places for you, green pastures - a place of provision. He leads you beside still waters - he dams up the stream so you can drink from a still pool with peace. He restores your soul - healing you from hurt and damaged relationships, even from the old wounds of war, trauma and scapegoating. Lord, bring peace and restoration to this city. Amen.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Coventry, the Lord is leading and will continue to lead you in paths of righteousness for His own name's sake. We pray that righteousness would be established in our local government, in the government sectors, charities and businesses. Lord, would you guide those who lead and let righteousness be a hallmark of our city. Amen.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.

Coventry, though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, remember it is only a shadow and do not fear evil, for He is with you. His rod and His staff will comfort you - His rod keeps out the enemy and His staff keeps you on the path. Lord, be near to all who are sick, all who are in fear. May they know your comfort. Bring them through the valley. Amen

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Coventry, He prepares a table for you in the presence of your enemies. Sit down and eat, He says. He anoints your head with oil, as a sign of blessing and anointing and your cup overflows as a sign of abundance. Lord, thank you for your victory. May all who reside here know your victory and your overflowing provision. Amen.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Coventry, you can be confident that goodness and love will follow you all the days of your life and you will dwell in the house of the lord forever. Lord, don't give up on this city, but would you pursue every person with your goodness and love! Amen.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Here are some other scriptures which have been prayed for our city by many people over the years. You can use them to inspire and inform your prayers, or you can simply read or quote them as you prayer-walk, declaring them over the places where you step and pray:



Isaiah 60:1-3

'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises on you. See darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is upon the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.'



Isaiah 61:1-3

'The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'



Psalms 102:12-21

'But you, O Lord, sit enthroned forever, your renown endures through all generations. You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favour to her; the appointed time has come.

For her very stones are dear to your servants; her very dust moves them to pity. The nations will fear the name of the Lord, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory. For the Lord will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory. He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.

Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord; 'The Lord looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death'. So the name of the Lord will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the Lord.'



Isaiah 54:1-3

"Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labour; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband" says the Lord.

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left".'



Isaiah 43: 18-19

'Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.'



Isaiah 58: 11-12

'The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.'



You might also like to look at and use these scriptures:

- Isaiah 62:1-12
- Haggai 2:6-9
- Ezekiel 47
- Ephesians 3:20-21
- Malachi 3:10