

Finding *Renewal* in the Love of God

Unit 6: Living Renewal as a Testimony to the Eternal Life

Prayer Prompts, Week 6

Every time a Come before Winter team arrives at its destination, the site of each renewal, our prayer team conducts a ritual. On Sunday afternoon, before the participants arrive on Monday, they meet, Bibles in hand, to stroll around the grounds. They walk the halls, pausing at each room where a participant will stay, they enter the meeting rooms and the restaurants; they walk by the pool and through the gardens, and they entreat the Lord to fill the space with His Presence, His love, and the working of His mighty hand. They read scripture as they walk, they pray, and they silently imagine each square foot of space as an area filled with the sweet fellowship that will soon occur there. They pray that God will bless those who come and that He will enhance our testimonies to one another, even our witness among the other guests and the staff. And He does. On each trip, we are amazed anew at the miracles He works among us, and we trust that these claim these victories as fruits reaped from the fields of prayer—not only those sown on the Prayer Walk, but every sweet moment of prayer uttered during the months that proceed the renewal and all those whispered during the days we spend together.

As we began this class, you may remember that I asked you some questions:

- 1. Are you feeling weary?*
- 2. What would it take to help you to feel renewed?*
- 3. Would it help if your **church** were renewed?*

Your answers to all three were affirmative.

Today, we want to spend our time praying for renewal at somewhere significant in our lives. We will complete a Prayer Walk. The goal of the Prayer Walk is to cover an area with prayer and scripture, to greet the Lord there and sanctify it for his purposes. It is helpful to “envision” these places, filled as they are when they are in use, and to lift these places (and the activities they represent) up to the Lord. You might stop occasionally to pray over certain parts of a building or at a specific door or office, but mostly you will walk. It is wonderful to do this in pairs or small groups, if it can be done discreetly. It would also be wonderful to do it individually, then meet with your group after it concludes to share about your experiences. If you are in a group, you can take turns reading scripture, praying—talking to God—as you go. If you are alone, or even in a group at a more public place—you might (each) select a scripture that you memorize in advance and that you consider continually and utter repeatedly as you walk, seeing this place as God sees it, considering how he might envision it, were it used for its highest and best purpose in his eyes.

Below, please see some example prayer prompts.

Group 1: Office area. Pray for each person who works in this area, for the job they do, for the communication that occurs there, for the Christians working there—that they might represent themselves to their peers and those they serve in a way that is distinctive and godly. That they *will be seen!* That they *will be heard!*

Group 2: The market. Pray over each section of the market or store; pray for those you see there; imagine their lives and what they might need—what blessing might they

receive that would prepare them to hear about the Lord? How might he delight them? How might they recognize his blessing? Who is it in their lives that might carry the grace and love of the Father, the presence of the Spirit, or the sacrificial love of the Word into their lives?

Group 3: A place of intended holiness. Pray for God to speak and be heard. Pray for all Christians who come near this place or touch the lives of those who do. Pray for God to make these people truly people of light. Pray for his light to shine brightly in their presence, for them to recognize it as his. Pray for him to use any and all means as a way into their consciousness—*whatever they might recognize!* I have heard recently that those of the Muslim faith are having dreams and visions of a man in white, coming to them. They report an unforgettable countenance, invitations and a yearning to follow. Evidently these visions are so common that a headline in a newspaper in Morocco read, “Pay no attention to visions about a man in white.” Pray that God will use any and all means and that the Christians who these people meet will be voices of grace and hope, welcoming others, rather than judging.

Group 4: For a children’s area. Pray for the children, their parents and those who work with them. Pray for the voices they hear, for the books they see/read, for their interactions with others. Pray that God will protect their innocence and cause events in their life to prepare them to meet him. Pray for the creativity and tenacity and wisdom of their teachers, especially those teaching them about God. Pray for spiritual growth toward the Father for everyone who comes in contact with them. Pray for the world they will grow up in and the one they find as adults. Pray for God’s grace and protection to protect them, for him to reign in their lives. Pray for them to walk in the Father’s light.