



Notes

**Ministry Techniques**

What do we do when a person comes forward for prayer?

**Four basic steps:**

- \* **Step 1 - Greet them**
  - Find out their needs and why they are there.
  - The first 30 seconds is very important because they will judge you and determine if they can trust you.
    - Tone of your voice
    - Body language – open or closed – smiling or frowning
  - Three basic rules for what God has asked us to do:
    - Listen to them
    - Love them
    - Pray for them
  - Begin to ask questions
    - What do you want Jesus to do for you? (why are they before you?)
    - Listen to what is said and also what is not said – Listen intently to Jesus for His wisdom and understanding in this situation.
    - Concentrate on immediate needs – no long term counseling.
    - For physical needs, some questions might be:
      - \* How long have you had this condition?
      - \* Do you remember when it started?
      - \* Do you know what the cause is?
      - \* Have you seen a doctor and if so, what did the doctor say?
    - For emotional needs, you might ask
      - \* What emotions you are feeling now?
      - \* When did you start feeling these emotions?
      - \* Who hurt you or disappointed you or is there something or someone who triggered these feelings?
      - \* Is there someone you need to forgive?
      - \* Have you ever said in your heart – “I will NEVER

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or I will ALWAYS ...”

\* **Step 2 - Receive the Mind of the Lord**

- You have asked questions and heard “their” answers.
- You have also been asking God what “their” problem is.
- Wait until you get a sense or an impression of what the problem(s) is and how to begin to pray for it.
  - o Sometimes a picture comes
  - o A Scripture verse comes
  - o Just begin to pray a general prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to guide it into a specific prayer for that person.
- Part of the “Receiving the Mind of the Lord” involves the type of prayer to use.
  - o Physical Healing
    - \* Command things to change
    - \* Take the authority that Jesus has given to us
    - \* Speak out loud and break the holds over a person’s life
  - o Emotional Healing
    - \* Use petitions to God.
    - \* Lead person in prayer for confession of sins, unforgiveness, and judgments.

\* **Step 3 - Praying for and with the person**

- Pray with your eyes open.
- Notice how tense or relaxed person is.
- Only one Ministry person prays at a time.
- If a person begins to pray with you and you haven’t asked them to pray, ask them to not pray with you so that they may concentrate on receiving from the Lord. They need to agree with your prayer.
- Always tell the person what you are going to do and then ask permission.
- If you lay hands on their forehead, DO NOT push them backward or push them over or rock them.
- Some people will need to sit down on a chair before you can pray for them
- When you pray, pray to God the Father in the name of Jesus.
- Pray words that they can understand. Please do not pray in tongues because we have people from other churches and other traditions and this can be a

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stumbling block to them.

- If you receive a Word of Knowledge, use that Word as a “question” back to them.
- As you pray look for changes – look for emotional responses in the person, look for changes in pain levels or movement of limbs – some healing is gradual.
- Continue to pray until you feel that it is time to stop but don’t just keep praying trying to make something happen. Jesus prayed very short prayers.
- Offer mercy and compassion and not advice or condemnation or judgment.
- Please do not chew gum or tuck a number of candies into your cheek.
- Please do not use strong perfume, cologne, scented hand lotions or scented anointing oil. Some people are very allergic to these smells or may develop a rash when anointed.
- Everything that is said to you is CONFIDENTIAL.
- If more extensive ministry is needed, have them make a Ministry appointment.

\* **Step 4 - What if nothing happens**

- First – never condemn the person or say that it is due to a lack of faith on their part.
- Do not assume that they aren’t healed because it is a demon.
- Begin to ask questions again looking for more areas where a stronghold(s) has been established:
  - Unforgiveness & anger towards others, towards God or self
  - Ignorance or lack of knowledge - Isa. 5:12-14; Hosea 4:7
  - No faith in God - rather unbelief and doubt
  - Looking to man rather than God - Jer. 17:5,7,9-10
  - Personal trauma - accidents, injury, physical &/or emotional abuse
  - Family - iniquity coming down generational lines
  - Occult involvement or Secrete Societies - even when they may seem innocent - Ouija board, Tarot Cards, Freemasonry
  - Dishonoring of parents
  - Judgments against others (including God) or self
  - Vows against others or self

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- Lack of accountability for their own thoughts and actions
- Flagrant or habitual sin
- Not releasing their rights and control over situations or how God will bring healing
- Robbing God of tithes and offerings
- Just giving up
- Ask them to keep coming back to receive prayer. The healing will manifest over time.
- **Refer to Addendum B** for additional information or items to consider when healing is delayed.

### Addendum A Guidelines for Altar Ministry Teams

#### *Before the Service*

- \* Prepare yourself by opening your heart to God – “Search me Oh God” – Ps. 139:23
- \* Bring to the Cross – Ask Holy Spirit to put to death:
  - Our natural abilities
  - Our expectations
  - Our fleshly desires
  - Our pride
  - Our unhealed wounds, hurts and personal issues
- \* Have with you your Nametag – nametags are required for people praying as a part of the Altar Ministry Team.

#### *During the Service*

- \* Enter into the worship and listen to the teaching. Be open to what God may want to do. Ministry will often flow from the worship and/or teaching time.
- \* When the Ministry Team is called -- be ready to go forward or do what was asked.
- \* We ask that you minister as a team with another Altar or Prayer Minister.
- \* As people come to you or as you go to them, ask them what their needs are.
- \* Listen to what they say and listen to what Jesus is saying about how to pray for them.
- \* Encourage the person receiving prayer to close their eyes and not to pray with you but just relax and receive what the Holy Spirit wants to do in their life.
- \* Tell the person what you are going to do and ask permission to touch them when you pray by holding their hand or placing your hand on their head or shoulder.
- \* If you place your hand on their forehead, use a light touch and don't push them over if they are standing.
- \* Pray with your eyes open so you can see what God is doing.
- \* Be quiet for a moment before you begin to pray -- allow the person time to relax and be ready to receive. Check for any tension in their arms or shoulders.
- \* Speak in a normal voice or a low voice depending on what is happening around you. Please be mindful of others around you and not pray so loud that it becomes a distraction to others.
- \* If person begins to sway or to fall, reassure them of your presence.
- \* If they rest on the floor, continue to pray for them and stay with them as long as you sense you should.
- \* Be mindful that others may need prayer too (especially if many came forward), so don't spend too long with one person and don't let them monopolize your time.
- \* Cloths are available to cover the person who is lying on the floor.
- \* Please don't be shocked by what someone might say to you but if you don't feel comfortable praying with that person, pass them off to another ministry team.
- \* When you pray:
  - Pray with words that the person will understand. Remember not everyone that comes has a Pentecostal background and may not understand “praying in tongues”. If you are helping and feel that you must pray in tongues, please do it very quietly.
  - Pray encouraging, edifying, life-giving words.

### Addendum A Guidelines for Altar Ministry Teams

- If you receive a Word of Knowledge or a Prophetic word, give only what you see or hear and not your interpretation or application of it. Ask questions – “This is what I believe the Lord is showing me. Does this word mean anything to you?”
- The person you are praying for should be your primary focus and concern. Focus on your prayer for them and not on what is happening around you. Remember their name if they tell you and use it in your prayer.
- No inappropriate touching.
- Do not make the person feel that something is wrong with them if they don’t seem to be receiving.
- No matter what you hear, always pray positive – edifying things to the person. Don’t lecture, preach, counsel or give advice. Please do not try to change their theology on healing or explain to them why they are wrong. Let God speak to them – You are not their Holy Spirit and they have come to you for prayer. Ask God – “How do I bless them in prayer?” If you really have an issue with them, have another team member pray for them.
- \* If you are sexually attracted to the person, stop and have another team member or someone else pray for them.
- \* Do not suggest that the person stop taking their medication rather encourage them to see a doctor to verify their healing.
- \* Keep confidential what you hear and see as you minister to others. They have opened their heart to you and have trusted you. Please don’t wound them by talking about it later.
- \* If they have confessed child abuse, adult elder abuse or that they are suicidal, please immediately tell the Pastor, Elder or Ministry Leader in charge. They will handle it appropriately.
- \* If you feel weak during the ministry time, sit down for a while and then return to ministry.
- \* If a person becomes disruptive during the prayer time, try to quiet them and if necessary move them to another room outside the sanctuary so they can receive ministry.
- \* If you realize that more in-depth ministry is required, refer the person to the appropriate provider – Pastor, Elder or medical doctor.
- \* Personal hygiene is critical during ministry. Be aware of body and breathe odor. Breathe mints, breathe sprays or drops, deodorant and clean clothes should be used. Do not use scented anointing oil because some people are allergic to that oil and it can cause strong reactions.
- \* Women should wear appropriate attire. Ministry may take place on the floor.

#### *After the Service*

- \* Thank Jesus for all that He has done. Give all the praise and honor of man back to Him – humble yourself before Him and thank Him for the privilege of ministering and serving His people.
- \* Finish with a Cleansing Prayer - See Addendum C.

### Addendum B When Healing is Delayed Additional Items to Consider

Why is healing not accomplished when we are saved and what is the purpose of going through the different steps that were described for both physical and emotional healing?

The Bible shows us four principles that we must understand so that we can be properly reconciled to God and to one another.

- \* **Principle 1** - Christ has finished His work of reconciling with us, but we are still reconciling with Him (2 Cor. 5:18-20).
- \* **Principle 2** - True freedom requires recognizing that many of today's problems have their roots in our sinful responses to yesterday's wounds.
- \* **Principle 3** - These problems cannot be easily erased by fleshly efforts or good behavior.
- \* **Principle 4** - Many Christians have rightly celebrated salvation as a free gift, but have not understood that they are to grow up in it (i.e. - sanctification).
  - They have celebrated with Paul that *"by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified"* (Heb. 10:14), and **not noticing the second part of the verse.**
  - They have not understood that sanctification is a process, and have not acknowledged with Paul - *"Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus."* (Phil. 3:12)

So as Christians, we need to press-in to the Lord by renewing our mind and allowing the Holy Spirit to change our heart, which naturally brings changes to our behavior. We cannot focus on the past, rather we must let the Holy Spirit search the innermost parts of our being and reveal any deeply ingrained thoughts and attitudes that are not right or holy. As He reveals those things, we can now pray by confessing our sin(s) and receiving His forgiveness. By this we learn to place ourselves behind His cross so that our life is truly hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).

Our healing comes as we grow in Christ and thus in our sanctification to fully resemble Christ in everything that we do and say.

### **Addendum C** **Cleansing Prayer After Ministry**

“Lord Jesus, thank You for sharing with us Your wonderful ministry of healing and deliverance. Thank You for the healings we have seen and experienced today.

We realize that the sickness and evil we encounter is more than our humanity can bear, so cleanse us of any sadness, negativity or despair that we may have picked up. If our ministry has tempted us to anger, impatience or lust, cleanse us of those temptations and replace them with love, joy and peace.

If any evil spirits have attached themselves to us or oppressed us in any way, we command you, spirits to depart – now – and go straight to Jesus Christ for Him to deal with you as He will.

Come Holy Spirit: renew us – fill us anew with Your power, Your life and Your joy. Strengthen us where we have felt weak and clothe us with Your light. Fill us with life. Lord Jesus, please send Your holy angels to minister to us and our families—guard us and protect us from all sickness, harm and accidents. Stop any retaliation against my family or me. Give us a safe trip home and grant us a peaceful night’s rest.

Thank You for what You have done and will continue to do. Seal Your work in each life. Any praise or honor that man has given to me, I give to You for You alone are worthy to be praised.

We praise You now and forever, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we ask these things in Jesus’ Holy Name that He may be glorified.”

**Amen.**