

MINISTRY TRAINING 5-STEP PRAYER MODEL

A PRACTICAL MODEL FOR PRAYER MINISTRY

Introduction

- A. A "prayer model" is just a way of praying. It is certainly not the only way to pray for people.
- B. We already use models when we pray (examples: head bowed, eyes closed, end with "in Jesus ' name, amen",etc.)
- C. Three key assumptions in this prayer model:
 - 1. Prayer is two-way (listening and talking)
 - 2. It is okay to ask God to work *now*, and leave it up to Him if He wants to wait or say "no".
 - 3. It is okay for God to work in physical world -now, versus only just in the spiritual world.
- D. Three important points:
 - 1. Emotional intensity does not heal people or cause God to work.
 - 2. No prayer model, including this one, is to be understood as a kind of formula for most effectively getting God to do what we want. Rather, it is a practical way for us to *listen* to Him so that we will do what He wants.
 - 3. We are always looking for God to be glorified *first*.
- E. 1. Try it-it is God who is doing it
 - listen
 - watch
 - impression
 - seeing
 - knowing
 - feelings
- 2. Don't worry if you don't see results.
 - They are no worse off than before you prayed.
 - At the very least know you care.
- 3. It is not so much a matter of gift as it is obedience to Christ.

4. We are called to obey (to pray) even if we don't see any results.
5. Practice - 50 to 100 times before you quit. The prayer will change your understanding of God's love and care for people.

I. STEP ONE - THE INTERVIEW

Ask the Questions: What's wrong? Where does it hurt?

A. Conducted on two planes:

1. Natural - what you see, hear, know from past experience, what you have learned
2. Supernatural - what the Holy Spirit tells you, or what you discern according to gifts of the Spirit.

B. This is not a medical interview (unless you are a physician) or even a "professional" interview.

C. Interview the person until you are satisfied you have enough information to move on to Step Two.

II. STEP TWO - DIAGNOSTIC DECISION: What is the ultimate cause of this person's condition?

Answers the question: Why does the person have this condition?

A. Three basic types of causes:

1. Physical only: they're just sick or hurt, contracted a disease or hurt themselves
2. Some other natural causes:
 - a. sin (either sins they have committed or sins committed against them)
 - b. emotional/mental (psychosomatic illness, estimated by physicians up to 80%)
 - c. social (sexually transmitted disease, harboring ill feelings like anger, jealousy, etc.)
 - d. familial/hereditary (family spirits, generation to generation)
 - e. combinations of above
3. Supernatural causes or realm:
 - a. demonic (oppression, afflictions)
 - b. demonization
 - c. curses (labeling)
 1. black magic

2. white magic
3. authority figures (doctor's diagnosis, parents, pastor's opinion, teacher's pronouncement, etc.)

III. STEP THREE - PRAYER SELECTION

Answers the questions: What kind of prayer will help this person or how should I pray about this need based on person's condition and how God directs?

A. Prayer directed toward God

1. Most common: Petition - ask for the Spirit's presence and ask for Spirit's healing (this done quietly)
2. Intercessory prayer - praying "through" the situation. Asking for the Spirit's help (this is done in the mind and in the Spirit) •
3. Thanksgiving
4. yielding, agreement
5. invocation
6. Praise

B. Prayer from God (based on authority given to us by Christ)

1. Command of faith
2. Pronouncement of faith
3. To devil/demons
 - a. rebuke (break their power)
 - b. bind (contain their power)
 - c. expulse (eliminate their presence)

IV. STEP FOUR - PRAYER ENGAGEMENT

Answers the question: What's happening or how are we doing?

A. Pray with your eyes open: look for effects

B. Keep your spiritual eyes and ears open as well: listen to God for the impressions He gives you

C. When in doubt, ask questions. (People are programmed for failure - they don't know themselves or their bodies.)

- you won't stop God from working
- sometimes need to stop and encourage someone
- may have to repeat the interview process

D. Stop praying when:

1. The person you are praying for indicates it is over.
2. The Spirit tells you it is over.
3. You can't think of anything else to say.
4. You have prayed for everything and it seems you have not gained any ground.

V. STEP FIVE: POST PRAYER DIRECTIONS

Answers the questions: What should the person do next?

- A. Counsel them concerning their next step, either in the healing process or in keeping the completed healing they have received.
- B. If healed, how do they keep their healing or complete their healing?
 - 1. "go and sin no more"
 - 2. Special directions from the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. General counsel: read scripture, pray, get into fellowship of the church, more counseling, be baptized, change to healthy lifestyle (diet).
- C. If not healed:
 - 1. Above all, don't blame them! Be encouraging, gracious and loving.
 - 2. Don't claim healing.
 - 3. Don't patronize.
 - 4. There may be other issues they need to work through first.
 - 5. It may just not be the right time. Try again next week. Encourage them not to give up.

Some concluding thoughts:

- 1. What really counts is their salvation. Do they believe in Jesus? That is the first order of business.
- 2. There are two conditions to be healed:
 - A. Confession/repentance - it is silent before God
 - B. The promise to clean-up things that they can take care of:
 - 1. do away with all forms of witchcraft or dealing with the occult (books, statues, beads, incense, ouiji boards, astrology charts, etc.)
 - 2. forgive others
 - 3. forgive self

* Remember the fools - these are the ones who are healed, and then go back to their old ways or didn't fulfill the conditions of repentance. Their last state is worse than the first. (Matthew 12:45)

3. Other general guidelines for prayer ministry:

- A. Jump around the five steps as necessary, but don't play a guessing game. It you're not getting anywhere, stop and try later.
- B. Create a conducive atmosphere if possible.
- C. Be sensitive to the fears, uncertainties, the person may have.
- D. Don't put unnecessary responsibility on the person to believe or receive.
- E. Obey the Lord, speak His word.
- F. Follow-up with the person as necessary - often they will need more prayer, encouragement, fellowship.
- G. Most importantly, love the person.