

The Ministry of Loving, Listening, and Praying

Session 5: Prayer Model

Rockford Reformed Church, Rockford, MI

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Revised 9/8/2015

1. Listen

A. Listening to the person – “*What would you like Jesus to do for you today?*”

1. On the natural level: We interview the person to discern the specific need which is to be brought before Jesus for healing.
 - Begin by asking, “How can I pray for you?” or, “What would you like Jesus to do for you today?”
 - The need may be physical, emotional, spiritual, or relational.
 - Listening with sensitivity and love is a skill we must develop if we are to effectively pray for healing.
2. You may re-interview the person as you pray.
3. Occasionally an interview won’t be needed because prayer direction has been given by a pastor or leader, such as, “If you desire a greater fullness of the Holy Spirit in your life, come forward now for prayer.”

B. Listening to God – “*What is God saying about your need?*”

1. On the spiritual level: Listen to what Holy Spirit is saying.
 - We listen on both natural and spiritual levels.
 - Remember to “dial down”. We hear the Spirit by quieting our fleshly rumblings that interfere with God’s voice.
 - During interview and as you begin to pray, the Holy Spirit will direct you in your praying concerning what specific needs you need to bring before God. There are often other things God wants us to pray for beyond the “presenting problem” (the reason the person said they needed prayer).
2. Create time to hear God speak.
 - Often, as you begin praying, say something like, “Let’s begin by being still so we can hear what the Lord may be saying about your situation. The Lord may give you insight, you may sense something in your heart, or see something in your imagination.” After waiting you may ask the person if they sense anything, or you may share or pray what you sense.
3. Five Areas of Need
 - Spiritual Healing – Spiritual sickness caused by Personal Sin or Unforgiveness. Need Salvation and/or prayer for repentance and forgiveness.
 - Emotional Healing – Sickness of emotions caused by emotional hurts from the past, and lies from the world or Satan. Need Prayer for inner healing.
 - Physical healing – Sickness of body caused by injury or disease. Need prayer of faith for physical healing.
 - Deliverance – sickness in any of the above areas may at times be caused by demonic oppression. Need prayer for deliverance.
 - Pentecostal empowering
4. Possible causes of Brokenness in our body, mind or spirit include: World/Flesh/Devil • Lies • Unforgiveness • Sin • Demonic affliction • Effects of living in a fallen world (disease, suffering, opposition, relational strife).

2. Pray

A. Prayer Selection – *How does God want me to pray?*

We often think of prayer simply as “asking” God for something. Prayer can be that, but it can take many different forms. Below are the more common ways we can pray.

1. Prayer directed toward God
 - Being still (listen for God’s voice, and allow him to stir love and faith in you)
 - Prayer of Petition (ask for Spirit’s presence/healing/filling)
 - Intercessory prayer
2. Prayers from God
 - Spiritual language
 - Prophetic Prayer
 - Command of faith (“Be healed”)
 - Pronouncement of faith (“You are forgiven”)
 - Rebuke or binding of evil spirits
3. Prayers you may have person pray
 - Confession of Sin
 - Prayer of Forgiveness
 - Breaking of sinful bonds
 - Renouncing lies and Affirming truths.

B. Prayer Engagement – *Coming before the Father in expectant faith.*

1. Prayer ministry should be specifically directed toward the diagnosed problem while looking for indications of the Spirit’s presence.
 - Pray for presence and protection of Holy Spirit.
 - Pray with confident, expectant Faith and compassionate Love.
 - Usually, pray with your eyes open so that you can watch for signs of the Spirit’s work and clues to what is happening to the person (barriers, burdens, break throughs). Note that while outward clues are very helpful, we walk by faith, not by sight. You will often see something (peace, trembling, etc.), but the extent God’s work within a person cannot be judged solely by what we can see with our natural eyes.
 - Conviction of Sin, Righteousness & Judgment is always the work of the Holy Spirit. Understand that the Spirit’s presence can cause “Power Encounters”.
 - Listen to the Spirit’s voice in your heart.
 - Be Honest and Non-manipulative
2. Laying on of hands (Luke 4:40)
 - Touch communicates love.
 - God’s power goes forth through touch (Luke 8:46).
 - When touching, always be appropriate. Err towards purity. It is often appropriate to ask permission to lay hands on a person because of discomfort or abuse.
 - Touch is not always needed or desirable, be sensitive to the Spirit.
3. Anointing with Oil
 - Anointing with oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit & power/authority of God coming on a person.
 - In Old Testament anointing with oil was used for setting apart people and things to God for special service. Priests and Kings were anointed, as were holy articles such as the temple, the altar, the priestly garments, etc.
 - Jesus was anointed with the Spirit (Acts 10:38), and so are we! (2Cor 1:21-22, 1John 2:20 & 27)
 - Anointing with oil used when praying for the sick (Mark 6:13 and James 5:14).

- Be led of the Lord in using oil. It isn't always needed but is helpful. God can use oil to express the touch of his Holy Spirit on someone's life. Ask permission to use oil.
4. Physical manifestations during prayer
 - Jonathan Edwards: "It is a stumbling to some that religious affections should seem to be so powerful, so that they should be so violent (as they express it) in some persons: they are therefore ready to doubt whether it can be the Spirit of God, or whether this vehemence be not rather a sign of the operation of an evil spirit. But why should such a doubt arise from no other ground than this? What is represented in Scripture as more powerful in its effects than the Spirit of God... So the Spirit is represented by a mighty wind, and by fire [Acts 2:2-3], things most powerful in their operation."
 - People may fall by the power of the Holy Spirit (see Matt. 28:4, Rev. 1:17). Don't be surprised when God works in such ways. But always let it be God alone! Never manipulated by pushing or encouraging people to fall over.
 - People may tremble - sometimes greatly (Ps. 96:9, Ps. 119:120, Jer. 5:22). People may groan or travail (Romans 8:26).
 - Demons may manifest (Luke 4:33, Mark 9:25-27). If a demon manifests loudly or with distraction, quietly command the demon to be still, then take the person to another room with an experienced prayer team. Preserve the person's dignity! Often more in depth ministry is required than can be given in a few minutes.
 5. When you have questions, ask the person what they are experiencing or thinking.
 - God's work may be happening without visible sign.
 - Something may be blocking what God is doing such as fear, doubt, hurt, confusion, or oppression.
 - Feedback may lead to an adjusted approach to ministry that will be more effective.
 6. When to stop praying
 - The healing is complete.
 - You sense the Spirit is finished for now, or the person indicates they have received what they need.

3. Encourage

- A. **Post-prayer encouragement and direction – *How can I encourage this person in his or her journey towards wholeness? What should this person do next?***
- B. **Summarize the situation - Explain what has occurred**
- C. **Share any gifts of encouragement or exhortation given to you by the Holy Spirit**
 1. Direct the person to follow through on any repentance for sin that the Spirit has begun dealing with during ministry time (be practical).
 2. If healing has not occurred or is incomplete, affirm and encourage them to keep seeking because God is willing to heal. Based on God's Word we know that God always wants us to live in victory, and almost always desires our rapid physical healing.
 3. Avoid the following:
 - Don't give personal advice.
 - Don't do in depth counseling
 - Don't condemn a person for not receiving healing.