

Prayer Ministry Team Guidelines

The Power of Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry in our services is one of the biggest opportunities we have to impact lives with the power of God. Whenever we gather, people have the opportunity to be saved, healed, transformed, and set free by the work of the Holy Spirit. Because of the intimate and personal nature of prayer ministry, we have developed the protocol below as a way of protecting you and also allowing each responder to walk away with an encouraging word from God.

Your Main Goals

Your main goals as a member of our prayer team are to *practice the Presence of God* and to *Practice the Spiritual Gifts*.

Practice the Presence of God

Prayer ministry is less about the prayer you pray and more about the Presence you carry. The best thing you can do to grow in prayer ministry is to maintain a lifestyle of prayer and worship in pursuit of the presence of God.

Practice the Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 14:1 puts forth a wonderful vision for prayer ministry and the practice of the spiritual gifts in the church - *“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.”* This is an excellent vision for prayer ministry at the end of our services. We want to be loving, we want to practice the gifts of the Spirit, and we especially want to prophecy over people's lives by encouraging them and speaking hope and healing in Jesus's name.

Helpful Protocol Tips... Do's and Don'ts of Prayer Ministry

Exercise Gender Boundaries

- **Do....** Pull in another prayer team member if approached by a congregant of the opposite gender
- **Don't...** Pray alone with a member of the opposite gender

Safe Touch

- **Do...** Practice appropriate physical boundaries.
- **Don't...** Push people down, instead leave room for the Holy Spirit to touch people as He wills.

Stay Relational

- **Do...** Stay conversational. Use humble, familiar, and everyday language in your prayer. For example, “After praying, I feel like God might be saying...”
- **Don't...** Use hyper-spiritual “King James” English or extreme statements like “Thus saith the Lord.” For example, “God is telling you to...” Try to use your everyday speaking voice rather than an “affected” voice.

Stay Encouraging

- **Do...** Respect personal boundaries. This is not the time for counseling, medical advice, or to give personal direction.
- **Do...** Respect our prophetic protocol and
- **Don't...** Give correction (rebuking someone for sin) or direction (try to influence personal decision making)

Keep it Simple and Spirit-Led

- **Do...** Ask the person what they need prayer for
- **Do...** Ask God how to pray
- **Don't...** Get involved in lengthy histories. Finding out a ton about the person's problem rarely increases the results in prayer.

Believe in the Power of God

- **Do...** Encourage the baptism of the Holy Spirit as God leads.
- **Don't...** Speak loudly in tongues in a way that distracts the worship service.