



Exploring Christian Healing

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NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Session 3

What is prayer ministry?

AIM OF THIS SESSION

To think about what ought to go into any time of prayer ministry.



A SPACE TO MEET WITH THE LIVING GOD FOR
RELATIONSHIP • HEALING • TRANSFORMATION

Three elements to bring to a time of prayer ministry

Prayer ministry is us creating the space for people to encounter the living God. It's not our prayers alone that make the difference, but the fact that out of his great love for us, Father God sent Jesus to be with us. In all the stories of Jesus healing people, the only ingredient in common seems to be that he was there.

So there are three elements to bring to any time of prayer ministry:

- The love of **Father God** for the person for whom we are praying
- The Presence of **Jesus** with them
- The power of the **Holy Spirit**, which brings the touch of Jesus to them.

Father



Who do you usually pray to?

Is it Almighty God? Jesus? Lord? Father?

There is no right or wrong answer, but it is interesting that in Matthew 6:6 & Matthew 6:9, Jesus tells us to address our prayers to 'Father'.

Read these passages:

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." **Colossians 1:15**

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word." **Hebrews 1:3**

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." **John 1:14**

- What do they say about the nature of Father God?
- If Jesus reflects God perfectly, does this affect your view of Father God's heart to heal?

Jesus

One of the central pillars of our faith is that Jesus is alive and with us -

Matthew 18:20 – “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Matthew 28:20 – “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Ephesians 4:10 – “He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens in order to fill the whole universe.”

At the Ascension, one of the great doctrines of the Church, Jesus had completed his earthly ministry and was about to ascend to heaven, and yet at that very moment of departure he promised that he would be with us always. How can this be?

Ephesians 4.10 tells us that he fills the whole universe, so what if heaven is not a distant place way above us but is all around us? Look again at this quote from Tom Wright’s book, *Surprised by Hope*:

Basically, heaven and earth, in biblical cosmology, are not two different locations within the same continuum of space or matter. They are two different dimensions of God’s good creation. And the point about heaven is twofold. First, heaven relates to earth tangentially, so that the one who is in heaven can be present simultaneously anywhere and everywhere on earth: the ascension therefore means that Jesus is available, accessible, without people having to travel to a particular spot on the earth to find him. Second, heaven is as it were the control room for earth; it is the CEO’s office, the place from which instructions are given. ‘All authority is given to me,’ said Jesus at the end of Matthew’s gospel, ‘in heaven and on earth.’

Surprised by Hope, N T Wright. Copyright ©Nicholas Thomas Wright 2007. Reproduced with permission of The Licensor through PLSclear.

The power of the Holy Spirit

Read **Ephesians 1:18–23**, and then give some thought to these questions about the power of God that the passage raises:

- Is it right to pray for more power?
- What is the nature of this power and how does it apply to the situations in your life?
- What sense do you have of power already with you?

Read **1 Corinthians 6:19** – One of the phrases Paul uses to describe us is ‘temples of the Holy Spirit’.

- How do you react to the sense that you are a ‘temple of the Holy Spirit’?
- What are the implications of this and what possibilities does it raise in the ministry of healing?

It seems that the power of the Holy Spirit is what enabled Jesus to perform his miracles – Romans 15.13 and 15.19 – so it makes sense that for an effective healing ministry we too need this power. Fortunately, it is not something unattainable but is well within our grasp as Ephesians 1.19 assures us that this same Holy Spirit is living in us.

When you pray for someone, remember that you are carrying something of the Holy Spirit to that person – and be encouraged!

It’s not just about us, it’s about WHO we carry within us.



Homework

As often as you can, sit quietly and repeat to yourself:

*The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in me. **Romans 8:11***