

MINISTRY TIMES: PRACTICAL TRAINING

JEFF MOOTZ 8/13/23

I. RELEASING GOD'S POWER THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

- A. Hebrews 6:2 - The Doctrine of the laying on of hands.
- B. If you are a believer, the Holy Spirit lives in you and wants to manifest through you as you pray over others. You are qualified and equipped to pray today, but discernment and skill only come through practice, experience, and growing in relationship with God.
- C. **Hindrances to laying hands on others and praying for them:** feel disqualified, don't know what to do, feel pressure to make something happen/fearful that nothing will happen.
- D. I encourage all of us to increase the frequency of praying over one another on Sundays, small groups, prayer room times, and hangouts as a way of increasing the activity of the Holy Spirit in our church.
- E. Jesus emphasized the power of laying hands on one another. When we do this, we become the hands of Jesus, and His power is released through us.

When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. (Luke 4:40)

They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. (Mark 16:18)

- F. The early church emphasized laying hands on people for healing, releasing the Holy Spirit, and blessing new leaders (Acts 19:11-12, 6:6, 13:13)

Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:17)

And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. (Acts 19:6)

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. (1 Timothy 4:14)

II. HEALING, PROPHECY, AND PRESENCE

- A. General guidelines for ministry times are: *ask what they want prayer for, only touch their head and shoulders, pray short prayers, and don't give counsel.* The goal of ministry times is to support the person as they connect to God, so be sensitive to what's going to make them focus on you or be distracted.
- B. **Healing/Oppression Prayer** - Picture Jesus and repeat simple prayers like, "Jesus, release healing to their stomach right now, or I speak healing and life to this body in Jesus name." When demonic oppression leaves, the person receiving prayer will sometimes feel a lifting sensation, feel relief in their emotions, and experience God's presence.
- C. **Presence Prayer** - Put your hand on them, commune with God quietly in tongues, and pray short phrases occasionally while waiting for God's discernable presence to increase.
- D. **Receiving Prayer** - Close your eyes and picture Jesus touching you, stay engaged with what He's saying over you. There is no pressure to "feel" anything or to experience what others are feeling. Resist comparing your experience to others, while still being open to what God is doing in you. You might experience more as people pray for you longer, so be patient.

III. PROPHETIC PRAYER

- A. When appropriate, share prophetic impressions you're receiving. Every Jesus follower can hear Jesus' voice. If you step out in faith more often, you'll hear His voice more clearly and more often. Our only job is to speak what is coming to our mind/heart, the other person's job is to evaluate whether it's God or not.
- B. Don't wait to "know if it's God 100%" before you speak it out loud because that's not a biblical idea. Even prophets have to have their words evaluated and tested (1 Cor. 14:29; 1 Thess. 5:19-21).
- C. Be content with God giving you small impressions because that is mostly how we sense God's voice. We see or hear "dimly" (2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Cor. 13:12).

D. Common ways that God speaks:

- a. Images

- b. Thoughts

- c. Emotions

- d. Gut Feelings - Intuition informed by the Holy Spirit

- e. Physical Sensations

E. We grow in prophecy by desiring it and pursuing it. God doesn't respond to the "I'm here when He needs me" mentality:) Ways to Grow in Hearing God's Voice:

- a. (Daily or Weekly) By yourself or with a friend, pray over a list of people and write down or record your prayers over them. You can share them or not, but practicing will exercise your prophetic muscle and help build confidence in hearing God. I suggest doing this after praying in tongues or worshipping for a while.

- b. Take every opportunity to lay hands on people and ask God for prophetic impressions. Feel free to ask if anything seemed accurate or not to them.

- c. Give your spiritual senses more fully to God. Try turning off every form of media/entertainment (books, phone, youtube, radio) for a season and you'll notice greater sensitivity to God's voice.