

MINISTRY TIMES: PRACTICAL TRAINING

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

- A. In God’s sovereignty, we get to partner with Him to release supernatural power to others. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. 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)

But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. (Matthew 9:25)

Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. (Mark 6:5)

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

- D. Jesus said that believers would “lay hands” on the sick, demonized, etc and they would be healed. Jesus has commissioned us to demonstrate His power, and part of this is to lay our hands on people. The early church emphasized laying hands on people for healing, releasing the Holy Spirit, and blessing new leaders.

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)

Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. (Acts 19:11-12)

Whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them (deacons). (Acts 6:6)

Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them (Paul/Barnabas), they sent them away. (Acts 13:13)

- E. The “Do not lay hands too hastily” verse (1 Timothy 5:22) is in context to putting believers in leadership positions. Paul’s exhortation is to be slow and discerning with who is put into leadership, not slow to pray over people in general.

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 pray simple prayers like, “Jesus, release healing to their stomach right now, or I speak healing and life to this body in Jesus name.” I usually repeat the phrase, “Healing in Jesus name,” as I commune with the Spirit. Pay attention to any sensations you or the person may be experiencing (heat, electricity) and ask them how they are feeling after a couple minutes.
- C. Oppression prayer is when you’re rebuking a potentially demonic accusation or heaviness. Command the negative experience to go in Jesus name and speak simple prayers for the opposite to fill them, “Oppression lift in Jesus name. God, increase your peace and joy.” When something is shifting over a person, I usually feel something lift off of my head/shoulder, and then I feel God’s gentle presence rest on me. The person receiving prayer will sometimes feel the same sensation and feel peace, joy/hope, or relief in their emotions.
- D. Prophetic Prayer** - When appropriate, share prophetic impressions you’re receiving (thoughts, images, Bible verses, emotions).
- E. Presence Prayer** - Ask what they want prayer for, pray what you’re experiencing, or pay attention to the theme of the group ministry time (why did we invite people up for 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.

III. RECEIVING PRAYER

- A. 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.