

BETHEL MINISTRY GUIDELINES

(Courtesy of the Bethel Healing Rooms)

1. A Solid Foundation

Ministry Team Core Values

We have a passion for people, our city, and our world. Our culture and ministry teams are characterized by the following core values:

- It's always God's will to heal as demonstrated by the life of Jesus.
- God is always good and He is in a good mood.
- God's presence is our atmosphere for ministry.
- We focus on the answer, not the problem.
- In God's presence is fullness of joy.
- Nothing is impossible.
- The answer, Jesus, is always bigger than the problem or its cause.
- Jesus' blood paid for everything.
- It's impossible to pray and nothing happens.
- It's all about Jesus and the finished work of the cross.
- We pray from heaven to earth as sons and daughters.
- Ministry operates from personal intimacy with God.
- There is no formula. Take risks.
- Stay hungry for more breakthroughs.
- Always honor guests with love and respect.

Being on the Ministry Team is About:

- Bringing people into an experience with the Holy Spirit.
- Seeing people saved, healed, and delivered.
- Releasing God's love and the Father's heart.
- Encouraging, exhorting, and comforting others by speaking life into their lives.

Being on the Ministry Team is NOT:

- An opportunity to rebuke, counsel, correct, direct, or preach.
- Giving specific directional words like, "You're going to move to Canada in February."
- Finding and exposing people's sin.
- A counseling ministry. If needed, you can refer them to the Transformation Center for deeper ministry.
- An automatic lifetime membership. Your Ministry Team badge will be renewed on an annual basis.
- Promoting your own way of ministering. You must be willing to submit to leadership and follow their model for ministry as outlined in this booklet.

Performance Mentality

Knowing our identity is key to ministering to others. If we don't know who we are in Him and who He is in us, we will end up on the treadmill of performance. We often think it's about how much we've prayed, fasted, or read our Bible that determines how much power we walk in. That is simply not true. We don't want to work *for* love, but *from* love. 1 John 4:10 says, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." Perfect love is not how much we love Jesus, but how much He loves us! Whenever we try to work for love, no matter what we do, it will never be enough.

We want each person on our Ministry Team to be wildly in love with Jesus. When you realize how much He loves you, you cannot help but love Him in return. The cross was never a demonstration of our love for God, but a demonstration of His love for us. When our foundation for ministry is based on how much He loves people, we will begin to see them from His eyes and love them with His heart.

When we are in Him, in love, we produce good fruit (Matthew 7:17). Healing is a fruit of God's love. It's meant to be a physical manifestation of God's love through us. It is one of His love languages. Because it is a fruit, it should be a natural byproduct when we are flowing in love. Making healing the focus, instead of love is the quickest way to get into a performance mentality. When someone is healed it is actually God's love flowing through us.

In order to love others well however, we need to understand how much God loves us. The Apostle John wrote about a man leaning on Jesus whom Jesus loved (John 13:23-25). The funny thing is, John wrote that about himself! He knew the secret of walking in his identity as loved and highly favored. We must also see ourselves as beloved sons and daughters that can lean up against Jesus anytime and ask Him anything.

Ministering breakthrough and walking in power is easy when we realize it is not about us. It's about all of Him in and through all of us!

Action Points:

- Rest in His performance for you instead of trying to perform for God.
- Stop "trying" so hard. Striving only backfires. The sooner you quit trying, the easier it becomes.
- Pray from a place of victory, not for victory (Ephesians 2:6).
- Be careful you don't see the miracles working through your life as God's validation of you. He validates you simply because you are His.
- Remind yourself of who God says you are, so that even when you don't see breakthrough your identity will never be shaken.
- Spend time cultivating your relationship with God, *from* love, not *for* love.

How much do you trust Him?

Have fun co-laboring with Jesus.

Action Points:

- Remember Jesus is the author and finisher of faith (Hebrews 12:2).
- If you want more faith, go to the source of faith! You become like the One you spend time with.
- Don't become introspective.
- Learn to host His presence and hit the easy button. It is easier than you think!
- It is not about your correct wording when you pray. It is about what He did 2,000 years ago (Isaiah 53:5).
- Remind yourself that He wants the person in front of you set free more than you do.

- Believe He is who He says He is! Healer is one of God's names ("Jehovah Rapha" is the name used for God in Exodus 15:26).

Compassion vs. Sympathy

Jesus ministered out of compassion (Matthew 14:14 and Matthew 20:34). Compassion pulls an individual out of their problem by focusing on the answer. When Jesus saw someone bound by sickness or demons, He was moved by compassion to restore the person to wholeness.

When we devote the majority of our time and attention to the problem, we will begin to operate from sympathy. Sympathy will pull us into the person's atmosphere of sickness, discouragement, and fear. When we operate out of sympathy, our awareness is on the disease, sickness, and problem instead of God's promises, His Word, and who He says He is.

Often when people come to receive ministry they are carrying the burden of their problem. They are usually looking for someone to partner with it and carry their cross. We are not going to help them carry their cross. We are going to take it off of them and release the answer.

We will either set the temperature or take it. People who take the temperature don't change atmospheres. They say things like, "It feels depressing in here." Then they become depressed. We can go into a room with a person who is dying with cancer, and love them by releasing life and the answer over them and change the atmosphere. We will begin to see more people healed when we partner with the answer!

Whatever we focus on, think about, and give attention to, we will empower. The answer is always bigger than any problem. We must shift from sympathy to compassion. The authority we walk in is ALWAYS greater than the problems we will encounter.

Action Points:

- Steer the person's attention away from their past and present condition and direct it towards Jesus, His will for them, and their good future.
- Intentionally become aware of God's presence before you minister, so the person you minister to will come under your atmosphere of joy and presence.
- Remind yourself you are not there to partner with their problems. Sympathy will not produce positive results. It will discourage you.
- Refuse to allow the problem to be bigger than the answer. Don't deny the problem, however. Faith looks at the problem in the eye and then defeats it.
- Always give the burden to Jesus. Do not try to carry it yourself.
- Remind yourself, it's just as easy for God to heal cancer as it is for Him to heal a headache. There are no difficult miracles for Him!

Honor the Person

We honor people. We never honor their circumstances, sickness, or disease. Whether a person comes in a wheelchair or has their arm in a sling, we are going to speak life and treat each person with love. This includes not pulling them out of the wheelchair without their consent or forcing them to walk without their cane.

Jesus was the primary example of honoring others above Himself. Philippians 2:3-5 says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."

Action Points:

- Understand that people are coming from all sorts of backgrounds so give them plenty of love and acceptance.
- Treat everything shared with you as confidential. You will be exposed to extremely private information. Do not expose people's conditions.
- People who request prayer are being vulnerable, so be sensitive to them.
- Make sure you treat each person with respect (remember 85% of communication is nonverbal).
- Give the person your undivided attention. Choose not to be distracted with your phone or friends.
- Don't tell people they are healed. Let them tell you. Let the doctor tell them.
- Don't ever tell someone to stop taking their medication.
- Don't give excuses why people weren't healed by saying things like, "Well, it's all in God's timing."

Confidentiality and Responsibility

Everything a person shares with you during a time of ministry should be kept confidential unless it is an illegal activity. We are required by law to report illegal activity. If someone admits to child abuse, domestic violence, or any other illegal act, failure to report that activity is, by law, a crime. Child abuse is defined to include physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, or sexual molestation. If someone admits to illegal activity, the best course of action would be to report that information to your pastor and have him or her file the police report.

Hunger for More

When you see miracles happen on a regular basis, it is easy to become complacent and satisfied with your level of breakthrough. We know thankfulness is key to walking in miracles, signs, and wonders, but we also want to make sure that we never settle. Always stay hungry for more! Hunger and thanksgiving are two sides of the same coin.

Hunger says, "I've seen God do so many things, but I've got to have more!" The Bible is full of promises that should stir us to hunger.

Action Points:

- Dream of the things in which you want to see breakthrough.
- Remind yourself that God has called you to do greater things than Jesus! "Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12).
- Stay in a place of continually seeking God for more. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7).

2. Our Prayer Model: Praying from Heaven Prayer and Healing

We always encourage people to pray prayers as short as possible. If we think it's our prayers that heal, we'll probably pray for a long time. It's not actually our prayers that heal people. Jesus Christ is the Healer! So why do we

spend so long praying for someone? It's usually because we don't have the confidence that God is going to heal the person.

Often times, we'll start from a place of confidence praying, "God thank you that you are the Healer." We start with a faith-filled prayer, but because we don't have the confidence to stop and ask the person to test out their body, we keep praying, and more often than not, we pray past the miracle. So what started in a prayer of confidence turns into, "Oh God, please come! Please do something!" It's at that time that we are praying from earth to heaven, acting like an orphan rather than a son or a daughter of the King.

We are seated in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). We need to pray from heaven to earth. We must pray with the same confidence that Jesus had. He healed all that came to Him (Matthew 12:15). He got the job done. Don't ask God to come do something He has asked you to do (Matthew 10:8).

Sometimes people come for ministry who have already been prayed for 100 times. They think they know ahead of time exactly what you're going to pray, what Scriptures you will quote, and they believe they most likely will leave with the same condition they came with. Make sure you don't give in to their expectations and pray the same as the last 100 people. What they really want is to be healed, not prayed for, so let's forget default prayers and simply get them healed!

Action Points:

- Learn to live from a place of abundance by knowing the answer is inside you!
- Never operate out of an orphan spirit, begging God to do something He told you to do.
- Remember, you don't have to convince God to heal the person. He wants to convince you that He wants to use you.
- Always keep the answer bigger than the problem. It's no more difficult for someone to get a new eyeball than it is for a headache to be healed.
- Trust that Jesus is good at His job!
- Pray short prayers and have them test their body out. Do not pray past the miracle.
- Come with expectation and the attitude that today is a great day for a miracle!

The Example of Jesus

Hebrews 1:3 says that Jesus is the exact representation of the Father. If we want to know the heart of God for different situations, we simply have to look at Jesus. God chose to display who He is through the person of Jesus. He showed us exactly what love looks like. Did Jesus heal? Yes! Because of this, we never need to pray again, "If it's your will, God, we ask that you would heal this person." We know the heart and will of God is to heal. The Bible says that Jesus only did what He saw the Father do. Everything Jesus did was God's will. Not only are we to do everything that He did, but Jesus also said that we would do greater works (John 14:12)!

Jesus never told us to pray for the sick; He told us to heal the sick. We don't see anywhere in Scripture where Jesus prayed for someone for 15 minutes. We do see Him healing people by saying.

- "Take up your mat and walk" (Mark 2:11).
- "Go" (Matthew 8:32).
- "Come forth" (John 11:43).

Jesus spoke from a place of authority. He walked in absolute certainty that His prayers were always answered. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He took his time. He was in no hurry. Logic and faith don't work together. Lazarus' sister Martha said, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days" (John 11: 39).

Jesus didn't respond, "Oh no! I never thought of that. You'd better plug your nose!" No. When He raised Lazarus from the dead, He raised His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. And I know that you always hear me" (John 11: 41,42).

What would it look like if we had the same confidence when the broken, the sick, and the needy come and stand in front of us? How would we pray if we were aware of the absolute backing of heaven behind us? What would happen if the body of Christ had the same confidence that Jesus had? Jesus never told us how to address unanswered prayers because He walked in the absolute confidence that His prayers were always answered. That's the same confidence that we should have while ministering.

Action Points:

- Remind yourself to pray like a son or daughter, not like an orphan, begging God to do something. You are seated in heavenly places. (Ephesians 2:6).
- Pray short prayers. How long do you think it takes God to heal? We co-labor with God so it is unnecessary to pray long prayers.
- Remember, you have the backing of heaven! God hears your prayers.
- After you pray, ask them to check out their condition. Even if it's not physical, ask them what they are feeling. Then begin to focus on what is happening in their bodies.

No Formulas

Don't you love the fact that Jesus healed people in a variety of ways? We see Jesus using mud to heal a blind man (John 9:15), speaking to a paralyzed man to simply take up his mat and go home (Mark 2:11), and putting His fingers into a deaf man's ears and touching the same man's mute tongue (Mark 7:33). Sometimes He touched people, other times He simply spoke to them. There were no written prayers or formulas of how Jesus saw breakthrough. This causes us to cultivate our own relationship with God, to listen for His voice, and be sensitive to His prompting.

Action Points:

- Don't disregard your thoughts while ministering to a person. You have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). Jesus might have you minister two completely different ways to two people who have the same condition.
- Be sensitive to His voice.
- Don't let anything become a ritual. It is not in the technique. It is about Jesus!

A Heart of Thanksgiving

At what point are we going to give thanks? When the miracle is fully manifested or when there is a small amount of breakthrough? We have a choice. Matthew 14:19 says, "And taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people."

Jesus gave thanks before anything happened. He gave thanks from a place of faith, knowing the miracle would take place.

Thanksgiving is not only something we do, it is something that determines the position of our heart. Whatever we focus on will grow. While ministering, it's important to learn to focus on the small things God is doing and give

thanks for what is happening. Look for something that is happening and then release an increase.

Action Points:

- Always stay in a place of thanksgiving. Give thanks at every step.
- “In everything, give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- Get the person’s mind off what isn’t happening by having them focus on what God is doing, even if it seems small.
- When you see something happen, immediately shift your prayer to giving thanks to God.
- If nothing seems to be happening, encourage the person to give thanks for the miracles happening to other people around them.

No Blockages

Make sure you never excuse your lack of power by projecting a problem on the person you are praying for. While people’s issues can be a blockage for them receiving, they should never be a blockage for us to minister healing and to see results.

Jesus never confronted someone’s blockage before He healed them. He healed people first, then dealt with any issues. If we are not careful we can actually project something upon the person that is not there, especially when we pray for them and don’t see breakthrough.

Listen to the Holy Spirit and don’t automatically assume people have unforgiveness, demons, generational curses, or sin in their lives. Introspection is never the answer. Getting their eyes on Jesus is! He is larger than any problem.

There are definite times when unforgiveness and other issues need to be addressed. Just use wisdom when addressing them. If you feel there is something to be addressed, ask the Holy Spirit and then simply ask the person questions without projecting anything on them. Allow the person to tell you about their problem. Remember, when you’re asking questions, be careful never to imply that the issue can keep them from being healed.

Action Points:

- Don’t excuse your powerlessness by projecting issues on people.
- Don’t automatically assume the person has unforgiveness in their lives because they didn’t get healed. Don’t use the question, “Do you have unforgiveness?” as a default.
- When the sick come, they will hang on every word you say, so be careful what you say
- We do not try to always find the root cause. Point them to Jesus, who is the answer.

Releasing the Answer

When you live out of the abundance of heaven, you can release the opposite of every spirit you see. If you see someone who has insecurity, you don’t say, “Dude! You really struggle with insecurity, don’t you?” Instead, look into their eyes and speak confidence, boldness, and acceptance into their life.

Action Points:

- Remind the person of the promise found in the Bible that confronts the lie that you perceive that they believe. Speak truth over them.

- Don't tell people what they already know. If someone has cancer don't rebuke a spirit of fear. They already know they have fear.
- Don't partner with the problem.
- Release the opposite. Release peace.
- Don't make your whole prayer about the sickness. Pray life-giving prayers!

Burden and Glory

We know that we shouldn't take the credit and glory when a person gets healed because it is God and not us that healed them. Similarly, we should not take the burden when they are not healed. If we take the burden for each person that doesn't get healed, we will burn out quickly. It won't be too bad if we only pray for two people a year, but if we pray for people every week and take on the burden of each person that doesn't get healed, we won't last long in ministry.

We shouldn't be flippant when we don't see breakthrough. We should never be satisfied with less than 100% healing and breakthrough. But when breakthrough doesn't happen we must get before God in order to have a greater revelation of what He paid for, of His goodness, grace, and His heart for people. The shortfall is never on God's part, but neither should we beat ourselves up over it.

Our goal is to operate in power and love. It should never be one without the other. Continue to believe that it is impossible to pray and have nothing happen. Even if nothing physically visible happens, when our goal is for them to experience the love of the Father, we can't fail because love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8).

Action Points:

- Never blame the person for not getting his/her breakthrough.
- Don't blame God. The shortfall is never on His end.
- Never become satisfied with your level of breakthrough, but don't become introspective. Keep believing for 100%.
- Keep yourself filled with testimonies so you can feast on what God is doing.
- Remember, never take the person's burden because they weren't healed. Instead, allow that burden to push you closer into Jesus. Give Him both the glory of what took place and the burden for what didn't.

The Defeated Foe

Often people think of the devil as God's equal and opposite. If we believe that lie it will affect how we pray. All of a sudden we will feel the urge to fight, bind, yell, scream, and beat him. That's just an exhausting trip. The devil is a rebellious angel who was created by God and wanted to be worshipped like God. He is not an equal opposite to God or Jesus.

At the end of the Bible, it says we win! It's time to live like we believe that the devil is a defeated foe! Jesus Christ came to destroy the works of the devil and defeated him when He rose from the dead. We should live out of that truth.

Deliverance

Demons desire as much attention as they can get, often causing a scene, but they are not worthy of our attention. Since the person is our focus, if at all possible, take them to a private place where the demon doesn't have the opportunity to publicly embarrass them.

Talk to the person and find out his/her name. Don't talk to the demon. If the demon talks to you, simply tell it to be quiet and that you want to talk to the person. Get the person's attention and eye contact.

The goal of deliverance is to have the person completely set free. Acts 5:16 says, "Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed." It doesn't matter if the demon is in the person, on them, or simply afflicting them, the goal and outcome should always be the same: to genuinely love the person, to introduce him/her to the Father's heart and to Jesus, and to have him/her set free!

Points to Remember:

- Do not look for demons while ministering.
- Do not talk to the demons. They lie.
- The demon's name is not important; the person's dignity is.
- Always talk to the person. There is no need to raise your voice since you are speaking to the person and not the demon.
- How did Jesus cast out demons? With a word (Matthew 8:16).
- Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- Speak identity to the afflicted person. Tell them who they are.
- Love the person well. Learn to love the devil out of people.
- We're not in a fight with the devil. Simply turn on the light!
- The devil is defeated. Operate like you believe it.

Leading Someone to Jesus

Every believer is commissioned to lead people to Jesus. It's important that we feel confident in knowing how to lead people to Jesus when they want to give their lives to Him.

Sozo is a Greek word found over 100 times in the New Testament. The definition of *Sozo* is "to be saved from the power of the enemy by the Holy Spirit, to be restored into the wholeness of God's order and wellbeing." It means "to be saved, healed, and delivered." It encompasses all three at once and that is what we want to happen when we lead someone to Jesus.

Basic steps to leading someone to Jesus:

- Focus on Jesus as God's Son and our resurrected Savior. Explain the love of God and that Jesus was sent to restore us to the Father. (John 3:16, Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8)
- Explain the promise of complete forgiveness, full acceptance, a brand new creation, and eternal life when they come to Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:17, John 1:12, John 6:40)
- Invite them to pray to confess their sins and give their life to Jesus. (Matthew 10:32)
- Encourage them to begin to read their Bible, get plugged into a church, and tell someone about their decision.

Our Prayer Model

How to Begin Ministry Time:

- Have them give you a very brief description of what they need prayer for. Don't let them talk too long or you will have all the faith drained from you!
- Ask the Holy Spirit how He wants to minister to the individual. He is so creative and knows exactly what each person needs and how to minister to each individual.
- Have the person close his/her eyes.
- Keep your eyes open so you can see the Holy Spirit moving!
- Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and pray accordingly.
- Avoid using this time to counsel or give direction. The purpose is to connect the individual with the Holy Spirit.

What do I do if I don't see any change?

Our prayer model is to pray quickly and have them test it out. If nothing happens pray again by making healing declarations and have them test it out again. Begin to look for any change by asking, "Are you feeling anything at all?" Then celebrate and give thanks to God for the little changes with the person.

How long should I pray for someone without seeing something happen?

The moment you feel yourself start striving, stop. If you begin to feel the burden to make something happen, it's best to stop. As long as you are releasing heaven with love and joy, keep going. Also, be sensitive to the person's desires as to whether or not he/she would like you to continue praying.

What's the best way to end individual ministry time?

- End it as soon as the person is healed. Don't pray past the miracle!
- Bless them.
- Thank them for allowing you to pray for them.
- Leave the person in a place of faith.
- Always leave them encouraged. You may tell them that miracles often happen on the way home or several days later.
- Encourage them to come back for more prayer another time.

Practical Tips When Praying

- Use breath mints. Be hygienic. Don't blow on people.
- Don't pray over people in loud tongues and draw attention to yourself.
- No pushing or heavy hands.
- Keep your eyes open when praying so you can look for how the Holy Spirit is moving.
- Do not tell anyone to stop taking medication or not to listen to the doctor's advice.
- Don't pray something over people that you would not want prayed over yourself.
- Don't let the person you're praying for pray. It's difficult to pray and receive at the same time. Tell them, "I'd like you to use this time to simply receive."
- Don't come to minister like you're ready to go to the beach (i.e. flip flops, shorts, and tank tops).

- Jeans and nice t-shirts are fine. Wear “revival style” clothing and be modest. Make sure everything is covered and held together, taking into consideration that you might be bending over or lying on the floor and manifesting.
- Ask for permission before you lay hands on others. People come from different backgrounds and some people are not comfortable being touched.
- Be aware of inappropriate bodily contact.
- Wear your Ministry Team badge to identify yourself.
- Come quickly to the front as soon as the service finishes when the Ministry Team is called forward.

Ministering to Children

As people of all ages and stages of life come for ministry, it is important to be able to tailor interactions to create a safe environment where people feel free to receive. Children can be one of the most delicate people groups to minister to, but also one of the easiest when their uniqueness is understood. As we value creating this safe and comfortable atmosphere for children to receive ministry, we encourage an approach where ministry is not an event but rather an interaction with them. This looks like meeting with children where they are at and not necessarily making them stand up while you lay hands on them, although at times that may happen. It is a ministry of power that flows through love and connection.

Here are some tips for ministering to children in their different stages of development:

0-6 months: Before six months of age, most infants have not developed what psychologists call “stranger anxiety.” This means, with parental permission, you should be able to hold them while ministering without them getting upset that you are a stranger to them.

6 months-3 years: They are naturally wary of strangers, so it may be easiest to minister to them while they are in their parent’s arms/lap. Playing simple games while ministering can also help to create a calm and fun environment for ministry time. Remember, releasing the reality of heaven doesn’t always have to look like the laying on of hands or even speaking.

3-7 years: They have the best imaginations and take things literally. This is great for when you get them to participate in prophetic acts that manifest breakthrough in the spiritual and physical realms. When we ask them to picture Jesus, they see Him! It’s also great because they take truth for what it is. When we say Jesus can heal them, they actually believe it! Engaging with a sanctified imagination is their language. However, this also means that they can interpret things in ways that may not be helpful. Here are two extreme examples for illustrative purposes.

To a kid who cannot walk: “I see you standing at the edge of a building like superman and God is giving you the ability to fly higher and higher.” Now could Jesus make a child fly? Absolutely! However, wisdom would say to be cautious about a statement like that as a young child may actually want to try to fly off a building.

To a kid who has a digestion issue: “Wow, I see fire on the inside of you. It’s inside your belly consuming all of the pain!” Although the intentions are good, the wording should be adjusted. For this age group, they may actually become afraid about real fire being inside of them (which they’ve always been taught will burn/hurt them). “Consuming” could also be a confusing word for them. Simple and sensitive explanations can go a long way as you explain what you are experiencing to the child.

7-11 years: This age group is typically more inquisitive and fascinated about how things work. They may really like to hear and be excited about the details of healing testimonies or about sharing their own when encouraged.

Affirmation and empowerment are good qualities to include when ministering to them because it increases their self-confidence.

11+ years: They can sometimes be more self conscious about receiving ministry, so initially breaking the ice and making a connection is important. They may or may not want to have their parents with them and may not even want to be there for prayer depending on whose idea it was to come for ministry. What they want prayer for may be completely different than what the parents want, so it's good to ask them how you can pray for them and not assume. Besides, even if the parents wrote down cancer and the child wants prayer to be better at basketball, isn't our God big enough to touch the former while we pray for the latter?

Action Points:

- Engage with the child where they are. If they are sitting on the floor, sit with them. If they are playing with a truck, ask to play alongside of them. If they are in a wheelchair, kneel at eye level. Always physically get down to their level, which fosters safety and trust for the child.
- Be sensitive and aware to where a child is at developmentally. Use simple and sensitive language, but with authority.
- Always have a parent present or nearby when ministering to a child, unless they are older and would rather be separate from them. In this case, it is important to minister alongside of another ministry team member to create accountability and safety.
- If a parent is anxious, upset, or striving for their child's breakthrough, encourage another team nearby to minister to them while your team ministers to the child.
- Focus on their strengths, not their illness. Pray the answer, not the problem.

Children with special needs: We hold as a core value that all children are gifts from God. However, we do not believe that their disabilities or illnesses are a gift. We also believe and have witnessed children maintaining their gifting even when they are healed of a disability. For example, a boy with autism didn't want to be healed because he was afraid he would no longer be good in art. Isn't our God big enough to heal his social anxiety and learning disabilities while keeping his artistic gifts? Yes, and this is what happened!

In addition to the above tips for ministering to children, here are some others we have found helpful in ministering to children with special needs:

- Address and connect with the child directly by name. Even if the child is non-verbal and you ask them a question, the parent will often respond in their place and be appreciative that you addressed their child as a person and not a project.
- Although there may be spiritual oppression that has caused this illness or disability, it may not always be the case and we are never on a devil hunt. However, if this reality becomes evident, we know that the light inside of us through Holy Spirit is greater than any darkness! When we minister from that place of authority, darkness cannot stay!
- Like mentioned before, releasing the reality of heaven doesn't always have to look like the laying on of hands. Some children may have tactile sensitivities, may be running around and not able to focus long enough for you to lay hands, or may get afraid if you touch them. Know your authority and follow Holy Spirit's prompting in how to minister.
- If you are having a separate service just to minister to these children, create safety by eliminating distractions such as excess sound equipment. Also, have people monitoring the doors so the kids can run around freely and safely. Often parents feel very relieved and at peace when they are told that in these special services they do not have to try to control or restrain their children.

- Release shalom peace! Although there is no formula to healing, we have seen a common principal of the power of releasing shalom peace into children with special needs and later seeing breakthrough.
- Minister to parents and leave them in a place of hope. Have one team member watch the child while the parents receive ministry. It is difficult for a parent to focus on receiving if they are wondering if their child is safe. In 2014-2015, we have seen eighteen children with autism have significant breakthrough or receive complete healing. However, for all of them, it was a process. Encourage the family to focus on what God IS doing and to celebrate any and all breakthrough, no matter how big or small!

Ministering to People with Disabilities

Some people with disabilities may have been born with a disability and for others it may be a new condition. Some may come with the expectancy and hope for healing. Others have been prayed for time and time again and they may be coming up for ministry to us greatly discouraged.

It is a privilege and a great opportunity for us to have this time with people who society often overlooks and ignores. While we encourage you to pray short prayers, it is also important that you are able to take the time needed so that people feel valued and not rushed. These are some tools that will help you build connection with the person and will make your ministry time more successful.

Be sensitive to what Holy Spirit is doing, how long to pray, and what to pray. This is an opportunity to be life-giving, to encourage people to see that God is involved in their lives, that He is moving, and He is healing whenever we invite Him! Thank God that He is at work, He is healing, and He is partnering with them.

Here are some truths you can encourage people with:

- Our body may have a disability but our spirit does not.
- Each and every one of us is an important part of the body of Christ.
- We all have been given spiritual gifts and abilities.
- Nothing disqualifies us from God's promises and His truths.

If they leave without the healing that they had hoped for and expected, encourage them to leave in a place of gratitude, thanking God for every milestone, putting praise on their lips. Reassure them of God's plan and design for every life. Pour out God's love and thank them for the privilege of praying with them. Remain in the place of being hope-filled and encouraged because it's contagious!

Lastly, caregivers may come in with a heavy burden of having a family member with a disability. God does not want any caregiver to feel burdened. You may want to take time to bless the caregiver or get a different team to bless them. Encourage the caregiver that God will provide everything that they need to take care of the person, whether it is physical, spiritual, or emotional.

Action Points:

- Make eye contact and jump right into a conversation. At times, when you are meeting someone with a severe disability or a condition that you have not seen before, it can feel very awkward. Tell them that you are so glad to meet them. Ask a parent, "Is this your beautiful little girl?" They are so hungry to hear these words!
- Be sure to ask someone their name and use it. This is especially important for someone with a disability because it lets them know that you are viewing them as a person and not a project.

- Always ask how you can pray for them. Do not assume that because you see a disability, you know their prayer request.
- If someone comes for prayer in a wheelchair, kneel down to be on eye level rather than talking down to them while you stand. If you are with them for more than a few minutes, sit down on a chair facing them.
- Talk to the person who has a disability whenever possible. Do not assume because of someone's appearance that they cannot speak or that they do not understand. If they do not respond, then turn to the caregiver or parent for information.
- Speak slowly and carefully when needed and be patient when they are speaking.
- If you do not understand, ask the person to repeat what they said. Taking time shows that you care.
- Acknowledge the person and do not refer to them by their disability. They are not disabled; they have a disability. For example ask, "Does your son have Down Syndrome?" Do not ask, "Is your son Downs?" Ask, "Does your daughter have autism?" Do not ask, "Is your daughter autistic?" This is an important principle in general. In our Healing Rooms, it's not the diagnosis that matters; it's honoring the person and praying for their need.
- Do not ask the person's friend or family member, "What is his problem?" or "What is wrong with her?" Instead ask the person directly, "How can I pray for you?"
- Please do not say to a person in a wheelchair, "I see you dancing!" For some reason, this is the most common thing said to a person with a disability who cannot walk. All too often, people say this because it is something that seems encouraging to them but it is not to someone living in a wheelchair when it is said time after time. It doesn't feel genuine.

Fire Tunnels

We love fire tunnels. We love wild fire tunnels. But we want them to be Spirit-wild and not flesh-wild.

Action Points:

- Please respect people. Don't startle or frighten them when they are closing their eyes. Their reaction will not be the manifestation of the Spirit, but rather a manifestation of being startled.
- Do not mess up people's hair.
- Do not tackle people. This is not a football game. It is a fire tunnel.
- Don't slap or poke people in their stomach or push them over.
- Always demonstrate love and respect.
- Have fun! Be full of joy. Be wild, but make sure it is Holy Spirit wild.
- Use common sense.
- Be careful where you put your hands! The best place to lay your hands is on their head or shoulders.
- Only speak encouraging words. Do not break things off people out loud as they walk by you.

3. Testimonies

The Power of the Testimony

Revelation 19:10 says, "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Everything we know of Jesus, everything that people recorded, spoke, saw, and wrote down is prophetically released to happen again! His whole story and the testimony of His life is prophetic of how God will work through men.

Remembering what God has done in the past is a powerful tool when ministering. When someone comes to us with a specific issue and we briefly share a testimony of that same condition being healed in the past, it will boost their faith. They can then posture themselves to receive the same thing. Also, as we recall that testimony, it will build our expectation as we pray.

We share the miracles and acts of God in our midst primarily to partner with and stay consistently conscious of the One who invades and transforms impossible situations. Keeping the testimony also gives Him glory and helps us to maintain a heart of thankfulness. Moreover, sharing a testimony releases the power of God to reproduce a similar miracle. A testimony is like a seed that bears much fruit. When we testify, we get a harvest.

Action Points:

- Remind yourself of what God has done. This will cause you to pray from abundance instead of lack.
- If you don't have breakthrough in a specific area, tell a testimony you heard from someone else or recall one from the Bible.
- Record every testimony of breakthrough you have. Not only will it encourage your faith, but also other people's faith when you share the testimonies.

Practical Tips for Keeping the Testimony

We want to steward the testimonies of what God is doing in our midst and elsewhere. Our heart is to do so with the utmost integrity and accuracy. Everywhere people are catching the vision of the value of the testimony and working to steward their own stories.

Accuracy and Specifics

- Only say what you know is accurate and currently verifiable.
- Mention previous medical help in the testimony.
- Be specific with details you have without filling in "the blanks" you don't have.

Permission

- Only mention the name of a person you ministered to when you have his or her permission to openly share the testimony.
- Do not mention the name of a business where a testimony took place.
- Do not mention the name, position, or title of a person whose job could be adversely affected as a result of your ministry and testimony.
- Written testimonies can be shared on social media without the person's name or identifying details.

Honor and Wisdom

- Share all testimonies in such a way that they glorify Jesus and not yourself.
- Share the testimony as if the person were in the room.
- Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit about when to share a testimony and with whom.
- The testimony of what has happened in someone's life should never be held in higher regard than the person to whom it happened.

4. How to Steward Your Healing

We all love to see people healed, but more than that we want to see people stay healed. We find it one of the most heartbreaking things in our lives when we see people healed and not retain it. God's want us healthy, whole,

restored and walking in divine health. It's important that we understand and can teach people how to steward their healing. Here are six important points to remember:

Grace

Law is deserved favor. It means that only when we obey the commandments perfectly, we are blessed. Grace is undeserved favor. It means that Jesus obeyed God perfectly and by believing in Him, we are blessed. It's important to understand that everything changed at the cross. When Jesus hung on the cross He cried out with a loud voice, "It is finished" (John 19:30). So how does this connect to keeping our healing?

When we don't understand that healing is 100% by God's grace then we will always refer back to our works (law) to determine whether we feel we are worthy to be healed. Even on our very best day of faith, we still need to remember that it is by His grace. Chris Gore's definition of grace used to be, "Getting what we don't deserve," but he changed his definition. Now his definition of grace is, "Getting what Jesus deserves."

The enemy often mixes truth with error by misapplying truth or overplaying his hand. He will come along and whisper in your ear, "You didn't deserve to be healed because what you did this morning was not very righteous." If you listen to the enemy's voice and shift your eyes from God's grace to your own righteousness, you won't keep your healing very

long. But when you understand that healing is 100% by God's grace and not your works then you can tell the enemy that you know you don't deserve it, but you are receiving what Jesus deserved, which is God's grace. The power of grace lies in the very fact that we don't deserve it.

In Matthew 15, the Canaanite woman addressed Jesus as "Son of David," giving the appearance that she was a Jew, when, in fact, she was actually a Gentile. We can't come to Jesus acting like we deserve grace or deserve His healing. This woman came pretending she was a Jew to get what she wanted and had an attitude of entitlement. Jesus simply wants us to come as we are, not on our own merits, but on His merits. When we come as we are, we will leave as He is.

Responsibility

In Acts 3:6, Peter and John were at the gate of the temple and they said to a crippled man, "Rise up and walk." When we are healed there is a responsibility to rise up and walk out our healing. There have been times when we have prayed for people who would rather stay sick. Why? Because sickness had become their identity. When someone gets healed, it comes with responsibility. They might be required to change their lifestyle, to get a job, or to give up financial benefits of being sick. For some people, they are more comfortable with their disease than with the responsibility of living a healthy lifestyle.

If you minister to someone like this, it is important that you explain to them that sickness can no longer identify them. Our identity should be in Christ alone and what He paid for on the cross. Jesus redeemed us from the curse by becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3:13). Our identity is in Him.

Health

Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). Many people that we have prayed for with bad backs, knees, and feet are very overweight. When they get healed, the pain usually leaves for a while, but with the

excess weight on their body, often the pain returns. Many people eat a diet of little to zero nutrition. It's estimated that 98% of the U.S. population eats an "impoverished diet" which means people primarily eat large amounts of nutrient-poor refined carbohydrates (like pasta, white bread, white rice, baked goods, and processed snacks and sweets) and very few fresh fruits, vegetables, or whole grains. Eating healthy unto the Lord and taking care of our bodies well is a form of worship. It is an important part of stewarding our healing.

Chris Gore once prayed for a woman who had chronic Type 2 Diabetes and was healed. Unfortunately, she was overweight and never changed her diet. In fact, after she got healed, her diet became worse, as she felt the liberty to eat lots of sweets. Six months later her diabetes came back.

Our trust is not in what we eat or drink, our trust is in our Redeemer. But we want to make sure that we are taking care of the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, which is our bodies.

To maintain health we need to educate ourselves on healthy eating and begin to make healthy choices. We are called to co-labor with Him. Our health cannot simply be put on His sovereignty. He has given us free will and left it up to us to make healthy decisions for our lives. We have choices to make and our decisions will determine the fullness of life that we will experience.

Jesus was sent to redeem us from every curse that came upon creation with the fall of Adam (Galatians 3:13). He redeemed us from sickness, pain, sorrow, depression, poverty, and even death. When we go to Jesus, the One who redeemed us with the price of His blood, and we rest in His finished work, we will receive the miracle that we need. You will have greater health when you trust Him as the Redeemer than if you only trust in fitness and healthy eating.

Faith

There's nothing more that the enemy would like to do but to take away the manifestation of our healing, kill our faith, and destroy our testimony. The enemy comes to steal, kill and to destroy (John 10:10).

We must maintain our healing by faith. We can't help but wonder why Jesus told the blind man not to go back into the unbelieving situation after he got healed. People often come into the atmosphere we have created and get healed. Then they go back into the atmosphere of an unbelieving church and submit themselves to that atmosphere. People will question whether or not they actually got healed, some will tell them that healing isn't for today, and if they agree with it, they may lose their healing. Then they wonder what happened to their miracle.

When you are healed it's important to surround yourself with people that will build you up and encourage your faith. If you are going back into an unbelieving atmosphere, don't share your testimony until the healing has taken a deep root. Also feed yourself on the Word of God and especially verses regarding healing.

If you lose your healing, it is important to remember that it wasn't God who took the healing away or put sickness back on you. He is the Healer! He is not the un-healer. Never partner with shame if you don't retain your healing. Simply come back to the source of your healing: Jesus.

Thanksgiving

In Luke 17 ten lepers came to Jesus. He healed them all, but only one came back to give thanks. The other nine still received their physical healing, but the one that came back received full healing (*Sozo*) in his body, soul, and spirit (Luke 17:19).

Thanksgiving will always increase the Kingdom. We need to keep our attention on what has happened and give thanks. Healing is often a process, and the best way to keep receiving is to continue to give thanks and keep our attention on what has happened.

Live a lifestyle of thanksgiving. Always give thanks for breakthroughs even when they are small. That's how we will maintain and gain more breakthroughs. Every miracle that we receive is spectacular. Learn to walk in thanksgiving and watch the miracles increase.

Peace

An important element to keeping our healing is knowing what to do if the symptom returns. Many people don't know how to respond if their symptoms come back. Often times, the minute the first symptom shows up, they will shut down in fear and say, "I thought the Lord healed me, but I guess He didn't." As soon as we agree with that lie, we open the door to fear, allowing the symptom to stay. Instead, rise up and meet the enemy with truth. Say, "Devil, you can't put that back on me! The Lord has healed me. I won't accept it back." We must learn to stand in faith and keep our faith switch turned on. Being established in God's Word is key to maintaining our healing so that if the pain tries to return we are full of the truth and not fear.

In Mark 5:30 the woman with the issue of blood touched Jesus' garment and was healed. At the end of the story Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has made you whole, go in peace" (Mark 5:34). The word "in" there actually means "into" so He told her, "go *into* peace" not just "go in peace."

Jesus told her to go into peace, to step into peace like you would step into a house, the realm of Shalom/peace. Not only did the woman receive healing, she received wholeness. What Jesus was really saying was "go into peace and be healed," yet we see in Mark 5:29 that she was already healed. In the original language, the phrase "go in peace and be healed" actually means to "go into peace and continue to be well" or "go into peace and continue to maintain your health." Right here Jesus is giving us a key to divine health.