

FVChurch Prayer Team Manual

***Stay calm.**

On occasion, there will be moments of pressure; someone may be upset or something isn't working the way it's supposed to. In these moments never transfer the pressure to the person attending the weekend service. You are the leader and others view you as one. You absorb the pressure. Ask for help if you need it, but never make the issue their problem. You should help solve the problem.

***Follow the direction of your Leader.**

Good leaders are good learners. It is important that you follow leadership and ultimately the pastors. Remember you are there to be supportive and encouraging. We welcome your suggestions but do not be overly sensitive if your idea is not used.

Altar Worker Guidelines And Etiquette

1. Understand Why Altar Ministry Is Important.

According to the Bible, prayer eases others burdens. *Galatians 6:2*

Prayer is also ministry. *Hebrews 6:9-10*

Prayer brings deliverance according to the promises of God and the faith of His people. 2 *Corinthians 1:8-11*

Agreement in prayer is powerful and encouraged by scripture. *Matthew 18:19-20*

2. An Altar Worker Should Be Prepared Before Praying With Others.

Altar workers should be leaders who live a consistent life inside and outside of church. *Romans 12:1-2*

- Live with Purpose
 - An altar worker is representing God.
 - An altar worker is representing their church.
- Live Prepared. *2 Timothy 4:2-5*
- Be Presentable
 - Dress as though you were meeting someone important or for the first time, and representing the church well.
 - Use nametags.
 - Be aware of your breath.

3. The Altar Worker Should Take Initiative.

As you move toward the altar area do so with an urgency.

Take note of where other altar workers are standing.

Try to space yourself evenly across the altar area.

As the altar worker, be intentional to approach those moving toward the altar area.

Keep your eyes open and be alert.

Introduce yourself and learn what their need is.

As the leader realize that it can be so awkward (and cold) to immediately begin praying with someone as soon as they come forward or in a prayer room, etc.

Ministering at the altar is a leadership role. Take a minute to introduce yourself, ask what their name is and how you can pray with them.

4. Pray Using (and according to) Gods Word. 1 John 5:14-15

Effective altar ministry is based upon the Word of God and His promises. The prayers led should be scriptural and focused on God's clear and direct promises.

If you have the privilege of leading someone to Jesus through a prayer of faith, realize the prayer of salvation is (Romans 10:8-13) a profound truth that is presented in a basic way.

THE PRAYER OF SALVATION IS A CONFESSION OF BELIEF:

- It is a prayer of asking God for forgiveness of sins.
- It's an acknowledgement of who Jesus is. He is God's Son and the world's Savior.
- Here is A SAMPLE PRAYER
 - "Dear God, I know that I am sinner and that I have sinned against You. Please forgive me of my sins. I confess Your Son Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. I give my life to you. Amen."

5. Altar Ministers Should Provide Bibles And Helpful Discipleship Materials.

Please have the newly saved person fill out an "I'm in" card, available in the altar baskets around the front of the stage, and give it to a pastor before you leave, for follow up.

6. Altar Workers Should Know Their Limitations.

Altar ministry will present many unique circumstances to pray about and for. Sometimes people will seek counsel concerning specific areas of their life. Unless you have specialized expertise or professional training directly related to their issue please follow the follow altar ministry guidelines.

*Encourage the person in need to call the church office if you do not feel comfortable providing counsel in a certain area. You could also walk them over to a pastor, or call another altar worker over for help praying or guiding in the right direction.

*Realize you do not have to know all the answers. Remember, as an altar worker you are there to pray in agreement with people.

*If a person is contemplating suicide please make a pastor or appropriate staff member aware immediately.

7. A Few More Altar Ministry Guidelines

*Altar workers should pray in pairs if possible.

*To ensure accountability and safety, men should pray with men and women pray with women, especially if moving to another location than the altar area.

*Altar workers should never try to manipulate or force others to say or do anything. Effective altar ministry begins with people who are caring and obedient. Allow others to respond at their own pace and trust that God will direct them as He sees fit.

*You can ask questions about how they want you to pray, though. Don't assume you know how to pray for a person, or you know the outcome they are looking for. Ask questions!

*Prayer should take place in the altar area. Do not leave the altar area to continue praying with a person alone.

*If you feel led to use the anointing oil provided when praying, please do! Oil was used to anoint kings (1 Samuel 16:1), as an offering to God (Exodus 25:1-8), as commissioning someone into their calling (Leviticus 8:30, Isaiah 61:1-3), as a symbol of a blessing (Joel 1:10, Psalm 133), as sanctification (Matthew 6:17), in deliverance and healing (Mark 6:13, James 5:14), and in worship (Mark 14:3-9).

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Praying/speaking in tongues is scriptural and encouraged. The following is a guideline for helping others to understand and praying over them for the baptism in the Holy Spirit as well!

Introduction

John, the forerunner of Jesus, says in all four Gospels that he is baptizing in water, but when the Messiah comes he will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

- Matthew 3:11
- Mark 1:8
- Luke 3:16
- John 1:33

Jesus

On several occasions, Jesus talks to His disciples about the Helper - the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit - that will come in His place after His death, resurrection, and ascension. The plan of Jesus was to multiply Himself and send out the disciples on the same mission. The Greek word for Helper, parakletos, means "someone that assists in stirring up an army."

- Luke 24:49

- John 15:26 16:13-15
- Acts 1:5, 8

Baptism of the Holy Spirit in The Book of Acts

Jesus wants to totally cover us with His Spirit. In the same way a person is covered by water at the time of baptism in water. This is what it means to become baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is possible to go to heaven just by faith in Jesus, but it is impossible to serve Him here on earth without being clothed with power from on high. The Book of Acts describes six occasions where people were baptized in, or filled with the Holy Spirit, mostly in connection to repentance and baptism in water.

- Jerusalem, Acts 2:1-18
- Jerusalem, Acts 4:31
- Samaria, Acts 8:14-21
- Damascus, Acts 9:17
- Caesarea, Acts 10:44-46
- Ephesus, Acts 19:6-7

Practical Questions

Let's study the examples of baptism in the Holy Spirit from the book of Acts.

When did the baptism in the Holy Spirit take place in the first church?

- Immediately in connection to repentance and water baptism (Acts 19:5-6)
- In response to eager and persevering prayer (Acts 2:1-4, 4:31, 8:14-16)
- In connection to preaching the Word (Acts 10:43-46)
- Through the apostle's hands, a transmission of power (Acts 8:17, 9:17-18)

What was the experience like?

- In the Book of Acts, no baptism in the Holy Spirit is like another. The Holy Spirit is sovereign!
- Everyone has an experience, but it is individual and unique for each one of the disciples.

Speaking in Tongues:

The gift of speaking in tongues is written in plural in the original text. There are at least 3 ways of speaking in tongues - one for personal edification, and two prophetic purposes.

Does everyone speak in tongues when they are baptized in the Holy Spirit?

- Most of the time, this specific spiritual gift was released at the time of baptism in the Holy Spirit. In Acts 19, the disciples were prophesying as well. Our experience is that 99% of people start speaking in tongues.
- You cannot speak in tongues without being baptized in the Holy Spirit, but it is possible to be baptized in the Holy Spirit without having started to speak in tongues yet. If you have not started speaking on tongues, or are unsure if you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, simply ask God for the gifts, receive it in faith, and begin to speak!

Can everyone speak in tongues?

- Yes, everyone can speak the type of tongues for personal edification (Mark 16:17).
- Not everyone speaks in prophetic tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10, 30).

Why should someone speak in tongues?

- It builds up our spiritual life and makes us strong in faith (1 Corinthians 14:2, 4, 18)
- It helps us in prayer when we do not know how to pray (Romans 8:26, Jude 20).

Advice when using the gift of speaking in tongues:

- Pray in tongues often (1 Corinthians 14:18, 39-40).
- Pray that you will get the gift of interpretation, so that you can build up others (1 Corinthians 14:5, 12-13, 19, 26)

Practical Steps to Lead Someone to Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

1. Teach the Word of God! Don't rush it, but share a few of the verses about to raise their faith and assure them this isn't scary—it's Biblical!
2. Trust Jesus—*He* will produce the baptism through you!
3. Lay hands on them and pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon them.
4. Reassure them with what has taken place.

DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

Introduction

Thirty percent of Jesus' documented ministry was spent delivering people from evil spirits.

Deliverance ministry of Jesus:

- Luke 4:32-27, 40-41
- Luke 6:18
- Luke 7:21
- Luke 8:2, 27-35
- Luke 11:14
- Luke 13:32

Deliverance ministry of the Apostles:

- Matthew 10:1
- Mark 6:7
- Mark 16:17
- Luke 9:1
- Mark 10:19-20

Deliverances in the Book of Acts:

- Jerusalem, Acts 5:15-16
- Samaria, Acts 8:6-7

- Paphos, Acts 13:6-12
- Philippi, Acts 16:16-18
- Ephesus, Acts 19:11-19

Word Study

Some people are attacked, tempted, or harassed but others are fully controlled or possessed by demons. The word “possessed” is not in the New Testament, instead the Greek word “daimonizomai” is used. Directly translated, it means: “demonized” or “to have a demon”.

Practical Steps Concerning Deliverance:

1. Identify them, or tell them to be silent. *Mark 1:25, Mark 9:25, Luke 8:30, Acts 16:16*
2. Bind them. *Matthew 12:28-29, Luke 11:21-22*
3. Cast them out. *Luke 4:35*
4. Fill up the empty space (with salvation and Holy Spirit baptism). *Matthew 12:43-45, Luke 11:24-26*

Practical Questions:

Who can deliver?

The Great Commission concerns everyone. It includes driving out demons. *Mark 16:17*

What does it mean to “have covering”?

To know your position in Christ. *Ephesians 1:17-23, Colossians 1:27. Colossians 2:9-10*

Which weapons are available for effective deliverance ministry? (2 Corinthians 10:4-6)

- Purity and humility before God. *James 4:7-8, Proverbs 28:1*
- Prayer and fasting. *Mark 9:29*
- Insight into the Word. *Luke 4:4,8,12*

Do we need to be worried when we are delivering someone?

No, provided that we are:

- Pure and humble. *1 John 1:7, 4:4, Acts 19:13-17, Jude 9*
- Living in the Fire of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 28:3-5*

Robert McAlister, a Pentecostal leader from the spiritually influenced Brazil states: “If a missionary cannot cast out demons, he might as well just go home.”

HEALING MINISTRY

Introduction

One of God's covenant names is Jehovah-Rapha (translated: I am the Lord your healer). *Exodus 15:26*. When asked about healing, Jesus has said, "I am willing" *Matthew 8:1-3*, *2 Corinthians 1:20*

1. Healing in the Old Testament. *Genesis 1:31, 20:17, 25:21, 2 Kings 5:14, Psalms 103:3, 105:37, Song of Solomon 1:3, Isaiah 53:4-5, Malachi 4:2*
2. Healing Ministry of Jesus. *Luke 5:15, 6:18-19, 7:21-22, 8:2*
3. Healing Ministry of the Disciples. *Matthew 10:8, Mark 6:13, 16:18, Luke 10:9*

Healing in the Book of Acts

- Jerusalem. *Acts 3:1-16, 5:12-16, 6:8*
- Samaria. *Acts 8:6-7*
- Damascus. *Acts 9:17-18*
- Lydda. *Acts 9:32-35*
- Lystra. *Acts 14:8-10*
- Ephesus. *Acts 19:11-12*
- Malta. *Acts 28:8-9*

Definitions

Illness is a consequence of the fall of man.

- Physical or mental illness. *Matthew 4:23-24, 9:35, 1 Corinthians 12:9*
- Spirits of illness. *Matthew 12:22, Luke 13:10-13, 16*
- Illness because of sin. *Numbers 12:9-12, John 9:1-3, James 5:16*

Plan of Action Concerning Healing

1. Speak the Word of God. *Psalms 107:20, Proverbs 4:20-22, Mark 2:2, 16:20, John 1:1, 14, Acts 6:7, Romans 10:17, Colossians 1:16-17*
2. Receive faith. *Mark 5:34, 10:52, Acts 14:9-10, Romans 10:17*
3. Obey, act, heal. *Mark 16:18, James 5:14-16*
4. Heal in the name of Jesus. *John 16:24, Acts 3:16, 4:10, Philippians 2:5-11*

Practical Steps for Healing Ministry:

1. Introduce yourself and ask what to pray for. Pray specifically!
2. Heal them in the name of Jesus! Pray with faith, but don't pray long.
3. Step back and test the healing. Challenge them in faith to test it!
4. If healed, celebrate together! Document the healing—write down what happened, and let a pastor know.

Practical Questions:

Can everyone heal the sick?

- Yes! The Great Commission is for everyone and includes healing the sick. *Mark 16:18*
- The general and the specific ministry. *1 Corinthians 12:9*

Some helpful tips in order to have a more efficient healing ministry:

- Purity. *James 5:16*
- The Word. *Mark 16:20*
- The laying on of hands. *Mark 16:18*
- Anointing with oil. *Mark 6:13, James 5:14*
- Prayer cloths and clothes. *Matthew 14:36, Acts 19:11-12*
- Your level of faith - The Word, prayer and fasting, actions of obedience, and healing experiences will all cause your faith to rise.