Life In The Spirit Training
Session 2
June 23rd, 2004
St Stephen's Church

A Definition: "ministry" ("*service*") is used in the New Testament in several ways. The main way we use it here is to pray for God's Spirit to come and bring the life and help of Jesus Christ to someone. (John Wimber): "Meeting the needs of others on the basis of ***God's resources***."

Ministry Involves... Exodus 14.13,16,21,22
Facing our fears of asking the Spirit of God to come and minister…

- "What would happen if ***nothing happened***?"
- "What would happen if ***I failed***?"
- "What would happen if ***I lost control***?"
- "What would happen if ***I looked foolish***?"
- "What would happen if ***I was mislead***?"

Understanding the partnership between God and us…

Our Values in Ministry

1. Ministry of the Holy Spirit

a. When asked to come, the Holy Spirit comes (Luke 11.13; Eph 5.18)
b. Because it is His ministry, go for simplicity and truthfulness in all aspects of your prayers for people. Avoid ***eccentricities*** (shaking, trembling, fluttering of eyelids, change of color…)
c. The branch must look principally at the vine and not at the fruit (John 15.5-8). We are not to assess our own spirituality by how much we see happening around us Luke 10.17-20.
d. Your job is to simply help people make ***the connection with Jesus***…

2. Authority of the Bible

The Spirit of God and the Word of God never ***conflict***. Build up a library of biblical

promises and guidance that you can use. See *"Scripture to Help In Ministry"*.

3. The Dignity of the Individual

a. Keep confidences – healthy boundaries and backups!
b. Affirm the person, do not condemn. Make a distinction between what they do and who they are.
c. Choice – allow people the freedom to come back or not! Ask how they are, and invite them for more prayer if needed.
d. Avoid all intensity. Be "naturally supernatural and supernaturally natural"

4. Harmony of Relationships

a. Guard the ***unity*** of the body. Major in love. 1 Cor 12.31; 14.1
   With God's help, I will protect the peace and unity of my church
   ... by committing to love and truth in my relationships with others
   ... by pursuing reconciliation with other church family members when needed
   ... by refusing to gossip and instead speaking well of others
   ... by supporting and following godly leadership
   Romans 13:8; Romans 14:19; 1 Peter 1:22; Ephesians 4:29; Hebrews 13:17; John 17.23

b. Disunity, hatred, unforgiveness and ***pride*** hinder the work of the Spirit.

5. The Body of Christ

The Body of Christ is the place where long term healing and spiritual Growth take place under the protective umbrella of the ***authority*** of the church. This ministry is just a part of the whole, and finds its health and wholeness in the larger part. A "Life in the Spirit Seminar" or a place and moment of ministry are not the only place that God will work.

6. The Character of the Minister

God carries out his ministry in the world only through sinners. Remember that the ***gifts*** of the Spirit and the ***fruit*** of the Spirit are meant to go together.