Life in the Spirit Training
Session 3
June 30th, 2004
St Stephen's Church

A Model for Spirit-Led Prayer Ministry

It reflects our basic values; we ask people to move with this model here.

1) Pray for people quietly with a team of two or three.

- Protect the ***intimacy*** of the person. Men pray with men and women with women.
- Protect the ***privacy*** of the person.

2) One person should take the lead and be seen to do so with the prayerful help of others.

- Don't pray in opposite directions with ***your team***.
- Don't pray in opposite directions with ***the person*** asking for prayer. Start with the positive assumption that what they ask for in prayer is what the Spirit is actually doing in them.

3) Take *time* to sort out difficulties of understanding, belief and assurance.

- A gentle set of steps to Christ:
  "Have you ever given you life…?"
  "Sorry…" "Thank you…" "Please…"
- Have you renounced all other spirits?
- Obedient to Jesus (Acts 5.32)
- Ask for the fullness of the Spirit, more of the Spirit
  "Am I ready?" (we never are!)
  "I'm unworthy" (no one ever is!)
  "I could never speak in another language"
  (1 Corinthians 14.2,4,14; Matt 7.11)
- Take time (+-15 minutes). Pray until you are finished praying!

4) Explain how you are going to pray and encourage faith in a particular *promise* of God.

(One aspect of faith is finding a promise of God and daring to believe it; see *"Scripture to Help In Ministry".*)

5) Face the person you are praying for and ask the Holy Spirit to come. Welcome him when you see signs of his working and wait on God as you pray for further direction.

It is OK to be silent.

6) Silently ask God what He wants to do or say, how he wants to encourage, and what gifts he wants to impart.

You listen to the person, then you listen to God. Maybe there will be a verse that comes to memory. Maybe there will be words that God gives you. Test them:

- Are they encouraging, strengthening, or comforting (1 Cor 14.3)
- Offer them to the person as a possibility ("Some words came to my mind as we prayed and I thought they might be from God for you. May I share them with you?")

7) Encourage the person to take God at his word and expect the Holy Spirit to come.

Invite them to begin praising the Lord for everything. Praise him and praise him and praise him. If other languages (or sounds) come, use them.

8) Ask what is *happening*.

"Do you sense God saying something?"
"What do you feel is happening?"

9) Hold to God's promises, warn against possible increased *temptation*, and refuse to consider that "nothing has happened"!

There is never a time when God is not working! When we ask him to come, he comes. Satan will counterattack. It was only ***3 days*** and ***5 miles*** after the Red Sea that the people were grumbling!

10) Keep *in touch* between meetings.

Not for counseling or pastoring or oversight, but for friendship and encouragement and prayer.