

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PRAYING WITH OTHERS

1. **PEOPLE MUST MEET GOD**, not the person praying. Praying with others is not the time to impress anyone with your Bible knowledge. Use whatever Scripture is necessary, but do not overdo it. Person will not grasp too much at once. Do not draw attention to yourself or your Bible knowledge. Be careful not to exalt yourself, even through use of the Bible. If people do not meet God, Bible truths alone will "kill." II Cor. 3:6.
2. **KNEEL AND PRAY SILENTLY** next to the person before saying anything. When the person comes to meet God, pray silently next to him. Do not say anything. He needs to meet God! Don't get in the way. When you sense he has talked to God, then ask questions. "What has God done for you?" "Did the Lord meet your need?" "What has God said to you?" If he is very clear, lead him into assurance or other Scriptural truths that relate. If vague, find specific need and deal accordingly. If a unique problem arises, deal with it specifically. Let God's Spirit lead you. In some cases, the person will have no idea how to talk to God. Let the Holy Spirit direct you to assist as soon as necessary. Some may necessitate use of Scripture **BEFORE** prayer. If for any reason a situation is too difficult to handle, ask others for assistance.
3. **TAKE TIME FOR GOD TO WORK**. Do not force a decision or "rush" God by not taking the time needed. Be a good listener. Listen to the Holy Spirit as well as to the person. Exercise **FAITH** that God will work a miracle. If **YOU DOUBT**, ask someone else to pray instead. **BELIEVE** for him and with him. Don't injure the person by being satisfied with "half" surrender. If you sense the person is not ready to completely yield to Christ, share from your own walk with God or have someone else share. Encourage the person to attend more services and enjoy Christian fellowship. **THIS IS GOD'S WORK** and **HE** must do it. Failure to bring a person into complete victory is **NOT ALWAYS** the fault of the worker. Continue to pray and keep personal contact if possible.
4. **DON'T LET A PERSON EVADE THE ISSUE . . .** of sin, self-centeredness, and the Spirit-filled life. Some try to work up emotions or talk "experiences" rather than deal with the basic need. Others get side-tracked on family or marital problems. Settle the main point before praying about anything else. When "straight-talk" is needed, ask probing questions as the Spirit of God leads — **IN LOVE**.
5. **SHARING AFTER PRAYER MUST NEVER BE MINIMIZED**. If possible, gather in group sharing after prayer so the person can relate his victory and others can add encouragement and suggestions. If they are vague in their testimony, ask several to join you and that person in separate room for further relating and prayer. If group sharing is impossible, gather a few individuals. This helps workers sense what has happened and stimulates the person involved. It also gives expres-

sion to the "corporate" Body of Christ as believers minister to each other. The person becomes part of a "group" sharing mutual needs and mutual victory. He sees Galatians 6:2 demonstrated in "burden bearing" and learns how to relate himself to other people's needs and experiences. Immediately this becomes a vital exercise in his own Christian life. When dealing with a group of people at once, keep reminding ANY to seek further help any time doubts or questions arise.

6. **ENCOURAGE THANKING GOD.** To keep seeker from becoming introspective as well as teaching him the thrill of "thanks to God," suggest prayer to be **ONLY THANKS** for several days. Don't ask God for anything. Just thank Him. Thanks is in the will of God for us. I Thess. 5:18.

7. **SHOW AND TELL!** Encourage seeker to **IMMEDIATELY** share with at least two Christians and one unconverted person daily if at all possible for several days about victory God has given. Immediate outreach . . . ! Jesus gave this advice to a man He touched. Mark 5:19.

8. **FOLLOW-THROUGH CONTACTS!** No one has a "riper" opportunity to assist in the spiritual development than the prayer partner. Some need a "personal" touch more than others. Where possible, exchange names and phone numbers. **YOU** take the initiative in calling and offering further assistance.

9. **FOLLOW-THROUGH LITERATURE!** It is essential to give proper literature. In special meetings, make proper use of the packet provided. Turn in the **DECISION CARD** before leaving. Have the person fill in everything, **INCLUDING** writing on the back side in his **OWN WORDS** what God has done. **YOU** add any other information about the person, family, church connections, or impressions helpful for further contact. **READ** what is written before the person leaves to be certain he clearly grasps what has happened. If an **IMMEDIATE** visit or attention is needed, indicate that on the decision card. As prayer partner, **BE SURE** your name and phone number are written on the seeker's material.

10. **DON'T BE OFFENSIVE IN ANY WAY!** Neat, clean, **MODEST** dress, perfume, after shave lotion, and **DEODORANT** are "necessary ambassadors" for Christ. Use **CERTS, CLORETS, MINTS,** or something else to avoid bad breath. Speak calmly and clearly. Don't become emotional in conversing. Don't argue. Time is too precious for that.

11. **MAKE SURE YOUR LIFE IS RIGHT WITH GOD!** Before praying with others, be certain **YOU** are living the Spirit-controlled life. If not, you are "killing" those you try to help. A person cannot pray with others properly if not filled with God himself. It matters not how qualified a person may be to explain Bible truths. There is no greater tragedy than to sow seeds of **DEATH** while handling the **WORD OF LIFE.** II Cor. 3:5-6, 17.

PRAYING WITH OTHERS

By Ralph Sutera

Failure to properly lead hungry-hearted people seeking spiritual help into full and dynamic victory **MUST BE** one of the biggest tragedies and gravest injustices to both God and Man.

The following excerpt from a letter expresses the "heart" of the problem so often found in prayer room experiences. Though sentences may not be grammatically correct, the truth is pungent.

"Dear Brother Sutera:

God has met me in a new way and I praise Him for this and for what He has done for so many.

There is a matter I would like to bring to your attention for you train counselors.

Sometimes when a person goes to the altar and the Holy Spirit is dealing with him and he is in earnest prayer, a counselor comes and starts to help. The person's attention is drawn to what the counselor is saying and that intimate communication with God is broken, and the deep conviction of the Holy Spirit is lifted.

I have had a very sad experience along this line. Once I dealt with a girl at the altar who had come for salvation. She had never heard the Gospel before and I felt she needed help. She was deep in earnest prayer and I broke in upon this. The Holy Spirit could no longer have His way and she left as she had come, unsaved. Later I realized what I had done. I got her address and visited her home, but she was no longer interested in becoming a Christian.

When God is dealing with a person, IF COUNSELORS WOULD ONLY WAIT PRAYERFULLY UNTIL THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS FINISHED HIS TRANSACTION WITH THAT PERSON, and then counsel, pray with them, or help them as the Lord leads. I am sure if this is brought to their attention they would NEVER INTERRUPT a person to whom God is speaking, and who in turn is speaking to God."

The Way to Live inside this folder discusses the Bible truth of victorious living! Study it prayerfully and use as a guide for sharing with others God's plan for their living. **PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PRAYING WITH OTHERS** is designed to give necessary pointers for successful ministry with those anxious to meet God. Though specifically written for prayer room work in revival meetings, the basic advice applies in most situations.

THE WAY TO LIVE

I. DEAL WITH SIN: FOR FORGIVENESS AND CLEANSING.

... It is the first requirement in meeting God. Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:8.

... The BLOOD OF CHRIST alone provides the remedy for sin. Romans 5:8-9; Hebrews 9:11-14, 22, 28.

... Reality in the Christian life is found ONLY when sin is honestly confessed and forgiveness is appropriated. Psalm 32:1-2.

FOR SALVATION

- A. Recognize your condition as a sinner being separated from God. Isa. 59:1-2; Jer. 17:9; Romans 3:23; 6:23.
- B. Ask forgiveness for sins, specifically the SIN OF REJECTION of Christ's control in your life. Eccl. 7:29; Isa. 53:6; John 3:36.
- C. Receive Christ and become a NEW CREATION by faith. John 1:12; II Cor. 5:17.
- D. THANK GOD for forgiveness, cleansing and salvation. "Thanking" is the first step of faith! Claim it. Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:9.
- E. Make things right with others in complete restitution in areas which the Holy Spirit reveals to you. As a new believer, consult with a spiritual advisor before acting in this direction. Acts 24:16.

Dealing with sin is NOT ENOUGH for spiritual victory. DON'T STOP THERE! Lead seeker into reality of "death-to-self" and "Spirit-controlled life" described in points II and III. DO NOT FAIL IN THIS!

FOR CHRISTIAN COMMITMENT

- A. Sin breaks fellowship. Psalm 66:18; Isa. 59:1-2.
- B. Claim forgiveness and cleansing when sin is confessed and forsaken. Psalm 19:12; 139:23-24; Prov. 28:13.
- C. Thank God for forgiveness, cleansing. "Thanking" is the first step of faith. CLAIM IT! I John 1:9.
- D. Complete restitution is necessary for a clear conscience. It evidences true confession. Matthew 5:23-24; 6:12; 18:21; Acts 24:16;

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II. DEAL WITH THE SELF-LIFE: FOR DELIVERANCE.

In Romans 6:6 the "old man" is translated "self" (Weymouth, Williams and Amplified Translations). The "self-life" expresses a contaminated, proud, selfish nature that prevents the reality of the "Christ-life" in the personality of the believer. It does not mean destroying personality. It deals with the old nature which distorts and destroys God's fulfillment in life. John 12:24-25 teaches that the SAME corn of wheat brings forth fruit AFTER DEATH. God uses personalities and abilities for HIS GLORY when "self" is dealt with at the Cross of Christ.

- A. Agree with God's verdict and repent. The entire self-life deserves DEATH — not dedication. Job 42:6; Luke 9:24; Romans 7:17-24; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:1-10; Eph. 4:20-24.
- B. Bring entire self-life willingly to the cross by faith. Self no longer is to be monarch. Deal with "self" itself. It is not enough to deal with "traits" only. Romans 6:11-12.
- C. Thank God for deliverance from self-centeredness. "Thanking" is the first step of faith. Settle it!

Dealing with sin and self is NOT ENOUGH for spiritual victory. DON'T STOP THERE! Lead seeker into the reality of the "Spirit-controlled life" described in step III. DO NOT FAIL IN THIS!

III. DEAL WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT: FOR VICTORY.

... The Holy Spirit enters when a person is converted. Romans 8:9; I John 3:24.

... As INNER helper (Comforter), He must CONTROL your life for victory. John 14:26; John 16:13.

... The Holy Spirit alone controlling the believer, enables Christ to be enthroned LORD, KING OF LIFE. HE exalts Christ. John 16:13-14.

... ONLY the Spirit-controlled believer is able to express the true qualities of the indwelling Christ through his personality in his daily life. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. II Cor 3:17; Gal. 5:22-23; Col. 3:12-17.

... Note the words "HOLY", "FILLED" and "FULNESS." God's Spirit is pure and clean — "holy" Spirit. A vessel must be cleansed and purged for the Holy Spirit to fill. II Tim. 2:20-21. To be "filled" of one thing means to be COMPLETELY EMPTIED of everything else. Eph. 3:19; 5:18.

... Only when sin and self are placed on the Cross can the believer be FILLED, and CONTROLLED by the Holy Spirit. There can be NO CONTROLLING by the Holy Spirit UNTIL sin is cleansed and self is emptied.

HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A. Receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit by faith through asking. Luke 11:9-13; Gal. 3:14; Col. 2:6.
- B. Thank God for the Spirit's filling and controlling. "Thanking" is the first step of faith. Settle it! Romans 14:23; Col. 3:17.

DON'T STOP HERE! Lead seeker into the truth of the DAILY WALK mentioned in the conclusion below. DO NOT FAIL IN THIS. IMPORTANT!

CONTINUING DAILY

... BY DAILY THANKING, DAILY CLEANSING, DAILY COMMITTING, DAILY BEING CONTROLLED, AND DAILY SHARING!

Continue by **DAILY THANKING** God in prayer for victory. For several days, do not ask God for anything, but just **THANK HIM**. Immediately begin to share daily with other believers, unconverted friends and relatives. Never get over what **GOD HAS DONE**. Also, learn that personal victory is only possible through **DAILY** cleansing, committing and controlling. Only as we "walk in the light" through daily confession of sin will the **BLOOD OF CHRIST** continue to cleanse. Keep "short accounts" with God. I John 1:7-9.

Only as we **DAILY** commit the self-life to the Cross by "reckoning" it "dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" will we know deliverance from its power. Romans 6:11; Gal. 2:20; 5:16; 6:14. When sins of the self-life appear, bring them anew to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, allowing the "self" no room to operate. Only as we **DAILY** claim victory through the fulness and control of the Holy Spirit by faith can **THE WAY TO LIVE** be a **LIVING REALITY!** Acts 5:32; Romans 8:13.

Andrew Murray: "Your great difficulty is self-occupation. Your only cure will be self-oblivion, forgetting yourself. Remember that however much you abhor what is revealed of self within, and however much you long to be delivered from it, no effort of your own, no self-abhorrence, or self-crucifixion will bring you the slightest relief. **IT IS GOD WHO MUST DO IT.** Put yourself very quietly — without needless self-reproach or struggling before Him in perfect impotence. Just rest in entire dependence upon Him. Neither man, nor self, nor devil can harass you if you give up all to Him. Let Christ Himself, in the power of His living **SPIRIT**, be the One to live; although the cost was our taking the place of death."

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS