

Prayer Ministry at The Table Boston

General Guidelines for Prayer Team

1. Please discourage anyone not on the team from praying for those receiving ministry + make sure you have a prayer ministry badge on
2. Please make sure that you are receiving from God yourself (personal encounters with Jesus and attendance at pre-meeting prayer times will be vital in this regard).
3. Pray only for people of the same gender as you (or grab someone of the opposite gender to pray alongside you if you need to minister to someone of the opposite gender).
4. Be particularly sensitive to those who have had little or no exposure to the move of God, especially to those who are struggling to receive.
5. Start by introducing yourself + asking their name, + ask whether or not they are saved and whether they have received prayer like this previously. Also encourage them to receive.
6. Keep your eyes open, pray simply and clearly
7. Avoid “heaviness” or “intensity”. Don’t pressurize the person. Let the Holy Spirit do his work.
8. Please do not promise 100% confidentiality as you pray (but if someone’s asking about confidentiality, do reassure the person that what they share with you is not going to become the subject of general church gossip and will only be communicated with the pastoral care team if help or follow up is needed)
9. Avoid any sense of competition or arrogance in ministry. God is doing the work. Manifestations or a lack of them signify nothing about what we carry or the fruit of ministry. Don’t compete; otherwise it will lead to manipulation and other dangerous stuff.
10. Personal words of prophecy are to be spoken in the presence of another ministry team member for weighing and to protect you and the person receiving it. In general, it is better to ask a question e.g. "I feel God has given me X - does this mean anything to you?" rather than telling them that God has told you that their problem is X!
11. Don’t feel like you have to say a lot as you pray! A running commentary style of prayer is often not helpful and can interrupt what God is saying to the person directly.
12. Be appropriate when laying on hands - ask permission + please only put your hands on people’s shoulders (if there is an exceptional reason for you to place your hands elsewhere e.g somewhere for healing ask permission before laying hands or encourage the person you are praying for to lay hands on the area themselves). When you’re laying hands on people just do so lightly and do not rub, stroke, shake, pat, push, rock or pull (!!)
13. If a person looks as if they may fall, please get someone to come help catch!
14. If people do go down in the Spirit, continue to pray for them on the ground. Encourage them not to get up too quickly and to allow God to do all he intends to do.

15. For some, it may be the first time that they have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, and they may need a little explanation that what they are experiencing is both normal and from God
16. If you feel like you're getting out of your depth, refer to one of the pastoral care team + If there are issues arising during prayer, please chat to one of the pastoral care team and ensure follow-up takes place.
17. Enjoy! God is going to do a great work in the lives of many people. So...relax. We can trust him to do great things without us having to work anything up.
18. Last one... please use breath mints :)

Prayer for Salvation

Helpful Scriptures

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. Once you were darkness now you are light. Once you were aliens, strangers now brought into the family of God. Once you were dead now you have been made alive. Once you were unrighteous but now washed, sanctified, justified.

Romans 10:9-11 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.

Acts 2:37+38 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 23:42+43 And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

General Perspective

Getting to lead someone to Jesus is a wonderful joy-filled privilege - one that we want us all to be prepared for. You might find yourself praying with someone who is asking questions about following Jesus in prayer time after service on Sunday or it might be a less 'religious' context

where a friend or neighbor is asking those questions - regardless, we want to make sure you feel well equipped to confidently + clearly lead people to the Lord whatever context you're in.

There is no formula in the Bible for this other than people believing in their hearts and confessing with their mouths - so I want to encourage you not to get overly worried about a theological formula when leading people to the Lord. Essentially we are just introducing people to Jesus - both telling them about Him and inviting His presence to bring an experience of Him.

Some theology to be mindful of though! :) When people are responding to the gospel, we want to be clear with them so that -

1. They understand + acknowledge their own sin + need for a Savior
2. They believe that God exists - Father, Son + Spirit
3. They recognize Jesus as the Son of God + believe that He lived, died + was resurrected in order to create a way for us to know the Father + to be made alive in Christ
4. They repent of living in their own way
5. They are willing to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus
6. They are willing to invite Holy Spirit to live in them and to fill them with His life + power

Helpful tips

Share your testimony (briefly!) - it is the spirit of prophecy

Invite the Holy Spirit before you lead people into prayer + listen to what He's telling you!

Be realistic - we are not advising you to try to cover every theological idea as you lead people to Jesus - cover the foundations of the gospel + then offer them wisdom for follow up - both in books that we recommend to new believers (we will have Bibles + new believer's handbooks to give out on Sundays) and in terms of getting them connected for pastoral care (whether by you or someone else on the leadership team).

A Brief 'How To'

1. **Explain** to them what the following prayer means. They are coming to Christ for forgiveness and for a new beginning. They are surrendering to Him as Lord of their life. Are they ready for that?
2. **Pray** - the prayer here is not a formula so use it as an idea if it's helpful. Encourage them to pray a prayer after you so that you lead them but also encourage them to say anything else they want to to God in that moment.

Lord Jesus,

I come to You today for help, I know I have made mistakes but I know that You died for sinners
I believe You died on the cross for me, I believe that You rose from the dead, and I believe that
you are calling me

Please forgive me of my sins, please clean me and give me a new start and help me to live for
You all the days of my life

I invite you to be King over my life and I choose to step into the kingdom of God

I believe in Jesus Christ! Thank you for Your love for me. Amen

3. After they've prayed, pray for them again, confirming what they have done. Ask the Spirit to come and confirm His work in them. You might not have time to teach through the baptism of the Spirit at this point. It's OK! Most times in the NT (apart from 'sovereign outpourings' e.g., Acts 10) those converted were baptised in the Spirit at a later point.

4. Encourage the person to continue seeking God:

If you're in our church context when you pray:

- Connect them with one of the pastoral care team at church so they can be followed up
- Give them the books that we have for new believers (Bible + Handbook)
- Find out whom they came with and who the closest community group leader would be and make sure they know.
- If you feel you could disciple them make a plan to connect with them to help support them in faith.

If you're not in a church context when you pray:

- Encourage them to join church + maybe even offer to meet up with them before church on a Sunday so you can bring them along :)

Prayer for Holy Spirit Baptism

The Holy Spirit is God the Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. He is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ)(Acts 5:3-4, 13:2, 21:11)

The Bible shows us 4 different transformative experiences with Holy Spirit -

- 1. Functional Experience:** Holy Spirit coming upon someone for a specific task (this experience is limited to a specific time and for a specific purpose) e.g. Bezalel + Oholiab in Exodus 31:1-11 - The Spirit came upon them during the building of the tabernacle for skill + creativity in the task. King Saul in 1 Sam 10:10 prophesied for a moment as the Spirit came upon him.
- 2. Rebirth Experience:** Holy Spirit moving upon someone in the moment of them coming alive to God ie becoming born again by the Spirit - see John 3:5-8, Romans 8:9-15, 1 Cor 12:3.

Here we understand that EVERY believer has the Spirit permanently because it is impossible to be a believer without the birthing work of the Spirit.

3. **Baptism Experience:** Holy Spirit baptizing a believer. This is a one-time event and is not the same as becoming a christian (as we see clearly in Acts 2 + Acts 19 - those who are ALREADY believers are subsequently baptized in the Spirit in a separate event). It is a totally overwhelming moment of encounter where there is an increased reality of Holy Spirit's presence on the believer + results in a permanent transformation both in increased power and in increased boldness to follow and bear witness to Jesus. (More verses on this below)
4. **Filling Experience:** Holy Spirit filling a believer - see Eph 5. Following from baptism this is an unlimited reality where every believer is invited to keep on being filled - every moment + day - with the Spirit. This does not simply happen in a vacuum but we are invited to intentionally pursue the Spirit, steward His presence and invite Him to fill us.

Baptism in the Spirit is prophesied throughout Scripture

In the OT the prophet Joel foretold about Holy Spirit baptism (Joel 2:28-29 + quoted in Acts 2:16-21)

'Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.' (Joel 2:29)

In the NT John the Baptist prophesied about baptism in the Spirit (Mt. 3:11, Lk. 3:16, Jn. 1:33)

'I baptize you with water (for repentance) but he (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' (Mk.1:8)

And Jesus foretold His disciples about the coming of the Spirit (Jn. 16:7, 13; Lk. 24:49)

"In a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 1:5)

Different examples of Baptism in the Spirit:

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

- Preceding baptism: Gathered in prayer, no hands laid on them
- Sign of baptism: Tongues and drunken behaviour

Acts 8:14-19 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had "accepted the word of God," they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they

might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

- Preceding baptism: Hands laid on them
- Sign of baptism: Unknown, but observable (so even Simon can see it's happened)

Acts 10:43-46 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

- Preceding baptism: Listening to Peter preaching, no hands laid on them
- Sign of baptism: Tongues and praising

Acts 19:1-6 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came "on them", and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

- Preceding baptism: Hands laid on them
- Sign of baptism: Tongues and prophesying

Note:

No formula here either!

Not all had hands laid on them

Not all got baptized following a specific prayer for it

We don't know if all these moments resulted in speaking in tongues (although this is often a sign) but with them all there is a recognizable moment of baptism

Key foundations when praying for Holy Spirit Baptism:

- a) We are children (make sure whoever you're praying for is a Christian!)
- b) Of a good Papa
- c) Who wants to give everyone of us His Holy Spirit

Luke 11:9-13 So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

What Happens When I Receive the Spirit in Baptism?

- A. You receive power
 - 1. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. (Ac. 1:8)
 - 2. The disciples, still hiding after the resurrection were transformed. They had new boldness, authority, and faith.
 - 3. Paul received power and was healed. (Ac. 9:17-18)
 - 4. Something visibly changed the Samaritans (Ac. 8:17-18). This should be our experience also.

- B. You receive joy (Ac. 2:13,15)
"These men are not drunk..."

- C. You receive revelation
 - 1. Jesus received confirmation of the father (Mt. 3:16,17)
 - 2. The disciples understood Jesus' purpose and message more than they ever did while with him (Ac. 2).

- D. Your receive gifts especially Tongues and Prophecy
 - 1. These normally come with the baptism in the Spirit (Ac. 2:4, Ac. 10:46; 19:6). There is no mention of other gifts coming at this time.
 - 2. Don't be afraid -- nothing God does is contrary to his character.
 - 3. Our present understanding is that one can be baptized in the Spirit and not speak to God in tongues. But if you are baptized in the Spirit you have the ability (Ac. 2:4) to speak to God in tongues and you should use it. Whether you choose to use it or not is your decision.

How to Receive Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Jn. 7:37-39)

- A. You must have a personal relationship with Jesus (vs. 38). The baptism in the Spirit is for believers (Ac. 11:17).
- B. You must be thirsty (vs. 37).
- C. You must come to Jesus (vs. 37)
- D. You must drink

You don't need to plead, try to earn, or "tarry". The reason the disciples had to tarry was that Jesus was not yet glorified.

Ask, expecting to receive (Lk. 11:9-13). It is a sure promise of the Father (Ac.2.33-39).

NOTE: Drinking is not passive. This requires faith.

- E. Allow the river to flow

When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, relax, thank God and receive.

Then start speaking - first praise Him in English and then if any random words that will no doubt sound made up drop in your brain, start saying them! God is not going to move your mouth for you so don't wait for it to "happen". God gives you the ability -- speak to him and not those around.

A Bit More on Tongues

Baptism in the Spirit is normally accompanied by speaking to God in tongues (Acts 1:46; 19:16).

Tongues are a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit in which the believer speaks in a language previously unlearned. The Holy Spirit gives you the ability to speak to God in a new language. (Ac. 2:4; Mk. 16:17)

Tongues are to God (1 Cor 14:2) + motivated by love for God (1 Cor. 13:1)

Tongues are for the purpose of:

1. Building up the believer (1 Cor 14:4). Tongues build deep wells in you internally!
2. Helping the believer pray when we run out of words/do not know what to pray! (Rom 8:26)

Tongues come out of man's spirit and they bypass the mind (1 Cor 14:14)

Tongues can be interpreted (1 Cor 12:10) and we who speak in tongues should ask for the interpretation! (1 Cor 14:13)

Paul saw the importance of speaking to God in tongues.

"I want you all to speak in tongues" (1 Cor. 14:5). This is an amazing statement in view of how much they spoke in tongues.

"I thank God that I speak in tongues more than you all" (1 Cor. 14:18). Paul saw the importance and was zealous for it.

Paul does not argue against speaking in tongues -- only its abuse (1 Cor. 14:39). The cure for abuse is not disuse but proper use.

Prayer for Deliverance

Key Foundations:

- There are fewer demons than angels (2:1) - Revelation 12
- Demons are not omnipresent or omniscient but they are powerful
- The term demon possession is unhelpful as demons don't get to own anyone - everything in all of creation belongs to God even still. Just because the enemy is able to exercise power over something does not give him ownership.
- Demonic oppression is a much better term - the word used in scripture is 'daimonizomai' which implies harassment, infliction, influence - not possession.
- The enemy has been fully disarmed at the cross (Colossians 2:15) and authority has been given to every believer to cast out demons (Mark 16)
- Jesus has given us divine weaponry (2 Corinthians 10) (Ephesian 6) - The blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony (Revelation 12:11) - We testify to what the blood does!
- Christians can be oppressed by demons - see Jesus interaction with the Syrophenician woman in Mark 7 - Jesus says 'healing (which in this case requires deliverance) is the children's bread' + so we understand that deliverance might be bread that His children may need!).
- Some situations that can result in demonic oppression
 - a) Unrepentant or repeated sin (Ephesians 4:26+27)
 - b) Unforgiveness - which often is followed by judgement/inner vows (2 Corinthians 2:10)

- c) Occult activity (witchcraft, curses, tarot cards, even games played without realizing their potency e.g. horoscopes, tea leaves, fortune telling, ouija boards)
- d) Religious pride/Legalism (Galatians 4)
- e) Traumatic events (including sins committed against the person - assault etc)

Helpful hints for deliverance in a counselling setting:

- Make sure there are at least 2 people (i'd recommend no more than 3) ministering. Be sure you are working together as a team, with one taking the lead. In severe cases, it is advisable to have somebody experienced and with pastoral authority involved.

- Ask questions

Background environment (rejection/abandonment/abuse/manipulation/control)

Participation in occult/cult/religions

Sin issues

Forgiveness issues

- Make sure the person a) Wants to be free and b) is happy to repent and renounce past issues and forgive anyone they need to.
There is absolutely no point in trying to cast out demons from someone who is holding on to the issues that provide them with a home!
- Be motivated by compassion for the person and make sure you treat them with honour and dignity throughout
- Don't tell people they are demon possessed (because they're not!) and don't frighten them. Explain how the enemy can have access to oppression and what you're doing is closing all access and telling the enemy to leave. Explain their authority in Christ and how God is victorious so we don't need to be afraid.
- Spend time worshipping, speaking in tongues and declaring God's victory and lordship over the person's life - get them to do this too!! Remind yourself of your own authority in Christ (Revelation 12:11). We are commissioned by Christ to set people free.
- Tell demonic influence and oppression to go in Jesus Name. His name really does hold all authority and power! If you know from the person's history what the foothold for the enemy has been then feel free to name that area and break all ties with it.

- Don't get into conversation with the demonic - they're liars so that's a waste of time. You don't need to ask specific names etc - there is no need and you have no guarantee that they're speaking truthfully anyway.
- The eyes are the window to the soul, so maintain eye contact and speak directly
- The enemy is not deaf. Do not shout. Authority does not need volume to be felt. Don't overstep your authority with the words you use - you don't need to bind the devil, send him to hell or anything like that. Jesus has already disarmed the devil - in our words we lean on Jesus actions alone and declare His victory. We speak with authority because He lives in us - not because of any power we possess in and of ourselves.
- If the person is manifesting wildly, encourage them to not give into what the enemy is doing and feel free to command the enemy to stop it in Jesus name. Distinguish between manifestations of ejection and manifestations for 'show'. If the latter occur, tell the demon to stop.
- Don't worry if there is no manifestation - the person will feel freedom from oppression when the enemy is gone - external manifestations are not the proof
- Release the person in Jesus' name from curses and family control, if appropriate.
- Encourage the person you are praying with to command the demon to go as well.
- Do not have a long drawn out deliverance session. If after 10 minutes you're getting nowhere, i'd stop the session and start asking questions again - you're likely dealing with unconfessed sin or unforgiveness
- Once freedom has come, ask Holy Spirit to fill the person + teach the person how to stay free (talk about strongholds, foothold to the enemy through sin etc)

Helpful hints for deliverance in a congregational meeting setting:

- If someone starts manifesting in your meeting you need to be asking yourself:

a) Why now?

What was happening in the meeting just before the person kicked off? You can bet it was significant and that God was doing something important! Often manifestations come in a

group setting not only because of the level of power in the room, but also because the enemy is trying to dictate the agenda - don't let him do that.

b) What is the kindest thing to do to this person to maintain their dignity?

We want to love the person well so doing deliverance on them while they roll on the floor like a snake is not kind at all. Remember - our primary motivation must be love, it's not about 'winning the argument' in that moment.

c) What do we need to explain from the front to lead our people well?

Whilst a few of your people will deal with the manifestation well (see below!), there needs to be a leader at the front who moves the meeting on smoothly, giving explanation of the power and authority of God in the room and how that brings freedom to people and what just happened is a sign of that. Draw people back to what God is doing, don't allow everyone to get fixated on the enemy.

- When someone manifests in the congregation, 2 people should go and restore peace to them - tell the enemy to be quiet and speak gently to the person, speaking peace over them. You want to bring them to freedom - but not in front of a full crowd!
- Stop people from praying or crowding round - people speaking different things to the enemy is just going to cause increase in manifestation and chaos
- Once the person has calmed down, see if they would like to come outside with you and 2 people go with them to lead them into freedom as i described above.

Prayer for Healing

Key Foundations:

- We must settle in our heads whether God is a healer/wants to heal or not, if not we will always be double minded in our prayers (James 1:6-8 the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.)
- Evidence that sickness is from the enemy:
 - a) John 10:10 - stealing/killing/destroying is his idea - Jesus on the other hand brings abundant life

b) Acts 10:38 You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Sickness is an oppression of the devil, Jesus went about healing all from this!

- Evidence that God wants to heal:
 - a) His name is Healer - He cannot help but be himself
 - b) He commissions His disciples to heal the sick with no restrictions! (Mark 16, Luke 10:9)
 - c) He defeated sickness on the cross (Isaiah 53). He doesn't fight against His own victory! (NB Luke 11 - Jesus says a Kingdom divided against itself will not stand)
 - d) Jesus response to the leper in Matthew 8 - He wills to heal
 - e) Matthew 6:10 - Jesus taught His disciples to pray heaven onto earth - in heaven there is no sickness!
 - f) Matthew 7:11 Jesus states God to be a kinder Father than human fathers - 'If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him.' If even those who are evil won't give bad things to their children, why would we accuse God of doing this (or accuse Him of wanting to withhold good)?

Some helpful steps to see the sick healed:

- Get convinced that God = good, Devil = bad and that God wants to heal
- Be moved by compassion (Matthew 14:14)
- Don't pray, command - Jesus taught us to heal the sick NOT pray for the sick!
- Don't be embarrassed to be persistent (Luke 18)
- Know that many miracles happen when the person walks away - don't sabotage your own words of life by later saying 'nothing happened'. Something always happens when we pray! So when you communicate with people you pray for, tell them that you are in faith that the potency of prayers will continue long past the Amen is said!