

SOMO Prayer Network

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." — James 5:16 (NLT)

Serving on a Ministry Team — Ministry Team Protocol

Purpose

- To facilitate the moving of the Holy Spirit under the direction of the pastoral or other appointed team leadership
- To provide mature ministry direction through order, safety and cooperation
- To avoid confusion, offense and harm

Objectives

- To release God's love, healing, empowerment (agreement for petition) and deliverance to those who indicate a desire to receive prayer
- To edify, exhort and comfort

Qualifications for Service

The qualifications and requirements for ministry team members will be set by pastoral leadership.

Expectations of Ministry Team Members

Unity of team members and leadership is critical for any effective ministry team. As such, each team member will be expected to:

- Minister within the guidelines established by the pastoral leadership or meeting leadership
- Cheerfully submit to and be loyal to the pastoral leadership
- Lay aside his/her own ministry pattern and follow the pattern established for the meeting
- Attend scheduled prayer sessions prior to meetings
- Intercede for God's anointing on the worship team, preachers and speakers, and ministry time
- Intercede for the presence, direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Pray for convicting power to fall upon those who have not made a commitment to the Lord
- Be open to direction of the pastoral leadership. God works through authority and leadership.

Ministry team members should not:

- Rebuke, correct or give direction without involving leadership, other than laying out black and white Scripture
- Provide counseling or other in-depth ministry involvement

Desirable Qualities in a Ministry Team Member

None of us are perfect, but we are instructed by the Lord to strive for perfection (*Matt. 5:48*). Accordingly, a ministry team member should be making progress in overcoming sin and demonstrating desirable qualities in his/her personal life (*consciously allowing God to change and build his/her character*). Desirable qualities for ministry include:

- A servant's heart
- Humility (*Prov. 3:34, James 4:6, 1 Pet. 5:5*)
- Obedience (*John 14:23, 15:10*)

- Freedom from desire for recognition
- Faithfulness (*1Tim. 1:12-14*)
- A willingness to continue ministry to completion
- A teachable spirit
- A willingness to receive ministry as well as to give ministry
- A willingness to accept correction

Lifestyle Characteristics of Ministry Team Members

The most important single element in ministry is one's relationship with God. If your relationship with God is not free from rebellion, anger and intentional disobedience, you cannot effectively minister to others. Any issue areas should be addressed before joining a ministry team.

Characteristics of a person in close relationship with God include:

- Spending time daily with God in praise, worship and adoration
- Regularly reading and studying of the Scriptures
- Walking in forgiveness as a lifestyle (*Matt. 6:14-15, 18:21; 2 Cor. 2:10-11*)
- Walking in repentance as a lifestyle (*Matt. 3:2, Luke 13:3, Rev. 3:19*)
- Continually being refilled with the Holy Spirit (*Acts 4:31, 13:9; Eph. 5:18*)
- Increasingly demonstrating evidence of the Fruits of the Spirit in his/her life (*Gal. 5:22*)
- Practicing obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit (*Romans 8:14*)
- Being faithful in carrying out any ministry currently assigned by the Lord
- Being recognized as a godly person by peers
- Making extraordinary effort to avoid sin or the appearance of sin
- Avoiding prejudice in ministering
- Being called by God to serve in a ministry

Only you know if you exhibit these characteristics, but you should be able to hear from the Lord in these specific areas. A periodic, prayerful review of the above list may help you grow in your relationship with God.

Other Desirable Traits

- Reasonable Biblical knowledge (*1 Tim. 4:6-7, 2 Tim. 2:15, 3:16*)
- A person of prayer (*Eph. 6:18*)
- A stable person with good judgment
- Free from panic, fear and worry (*2 Tim. 1:7, Phil. 4:6-7*)
- Able to manage personal finances
- Able to withstand spiritual attacks that come with serving the Lord
- So aware of God's love for himself/herself that he/she can assure others of God's love for them

A ministry team member should know that how they live and what they do in their daily life is more important than what they say or do in ministry.

Ministry Guidelines

Things to avoid in praying for someone:

- Trying to make things happen. Just be a vessel and let the Holy Spirit work. See how He leads and what He does.
- Pushing or pulling someone
- Rubbing or touching in ways that might be annoying or misconstrued

Same-Gender Prayer Policy

Concerning ministry to persons of the opposite sex—follow the policy of the leadership of the meeting. Try to have women minister to women and men minister to men. Do not minister alone to someone of the opposite sex.

Laying on of Hands

The appropriate places to lay hands on someone for general prayer are the forehead and the hands. Apply a soft touch, being sensitive not to offend anyone.

When praying for healing, if the affected part of prayee's body is not a sensitive one—for example, the foot, ankle, elbow, back, neck, eyes, etc.—the ministry team member may touch the affected part. (*This sometimes seems to bring the power of the Holy Spirit in you closer to the area where healing is needed.*) If the area is a more sensitive one—such as the abdomen—the ministry team member may ask the prayee to put their hand on the area. If this is not appropriate, simply touch an arm or forehead lightly.

Personal Hygiene

Altar ministry is demanding and often physically taxing. Start fresh, apply deodorant, and make sure you have plenty of breath mints available.

Being Respectful in the Ministry Area

Always talk quietly in the ministry/altar area. When you finish praying, be aware that non-prayer fellowship and conversation may distract those still receiving ministry.

The Goal

The goal of ministry is for the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to be released through you in Jesus' name.

Ministry Team Prayer Needs

Pray daily for yourself and ministry team members as the Holy Spirit prompts you. Specific items to pray for include:

- The whole armor of God (*Eph. 6:12-17*)
- The blood of Jesus to cover family, homes and property
- A hedge of protection
- All things to come under God's authority and obedience (*2 Cor. 10:4-5*)
- Discernment to recognize our adversary, the devil, who comes to accuse and condemn (*unlike John 3:17*)
- God's favor and blessings (*Luke 2:52*)
- Unity in relationships in all areas of life, leaving no room for the enemy to bring division (*Ps. 133*)
- A free-flowing spirit of forgiveness
- The spread of life-giving words as seeds of righteousness and clear communication
- Grateful and humble hearts toward God and others
- Teachable, cooperative and flexible spirits
- God's grace for the task and for one another
- Peace—that everyone find his/her secret place at Jesus' feet daily
- A fresh anointing to flow during the day and throughout meetings
- God's personal work in each individual through his/her ministry to be made like Christ
- That God will be exalted—His kingdom come. His will be done. His glory filling each one.
- That the joy of the Lord will be their strength
- Wisdom from above and for "God thoughts" (*James 1:5*)
- Love described in 1 Cor. 13:2-3 and Romans 5:5

Bottom Line

Be friendly. Be flexible. Pray earnestly. Have good breath.