

Prayer Ministry Requires WAITING

God wants our churches to become powerful centers of healing and spiritual breakthrough — He wants ALL His people to be equipped, ready and willing to pray and minister to the hurting and needy that come through our doors!

However, I believe the greatest obstacle in prayer ministry is to RUSH through, to NOT take enough time to adequately connect with the person's need and the affections of God... Oftentimes when ministering in prayer to individuals when others are also waiting to be prayed for, there is a subtle pressure to be led by our natural senses and to hurry and rush through a ministry time so we can get to the next person. This hurried approach usually leads to superficial and ineffective ministry.

Jesus' Ministry Method was to See, Feel and then Touch....

Jesus ALWAYS intentionally slowed down long enough to make a heartfelt connection with people He was ministering to. **He waited long enough to fully see and hear the needs of the people so He could minister in power.**

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd... Therefore pray.” **(Matthew 9:36-38)**

“And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.” **(Matthew 14:14)**

“And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.” **(Mark 6:34)**

Luke 7:12-14

Luke 7:12 And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

Luke 7:13 **When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her** and said to her, “Do not weep.”

Luke 7:14 **Then He came and touched** the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.”

Luke 7:15 So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

Luke 15:20 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father **saw** him and **had compassion**, and **ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.**

“Now as He drew near, **He saw the city and wept** over it,” **(Luke 19:41)**

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,” **(Hebrews 10:24)**

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The Promise to those who WAIT....

“But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.” **(Isaiah 40:31)**

“For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!” **(Isaiah 64:4)**

“Wait patiently in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” **(Luke 24:49 WEYMTH)**

“For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.” **(Isaiah 49:23)**

The call to wait on God demands that we look beyond the activity or ministry task and look at the heart and motive of how and why we are doing things.

Ministry to and for others involves waiting—slowing down to come close to their broken hearts... If we can NOT wait on God, we will NOT be willing to wait on others!

Waiting on God... Is slowing down long enough to SEE, FEEL and TOUCH His heart.

“And therefore the Lord [earnestly] waits [expecting, looking, and longing] to be gracious to you; and therefore He lifts Himself up, that He may have mercy on you and show loving-kindness to you. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are all those who [earnestly] wait for Him, who expect and look and long for Him [for His victory, His favor, His love, His peace, His joy, and His matchless, unbroken companionship]!”
(Isaiah 30:18 AMP)

-An Unwillingness to Wait cripples our ministry gifts!

Saul unwillingness to wait for Samuel— 1 Samuel 13:8-14

1Sam. 13:8 Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; **and the people were scattered from him.**

He technically waited but in his heart he was not really surrendered to God’s timing!

1Sam. 13:9 So Saul said, “Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me.” And he offered the burnt offering.

Saul presumptuously steps into another man’s office because of the fear of man!

1Sam. 13:10 Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.

1Sam. 13:11 And Samuel said, “What have you done?” Saul said, “**When I saw that the people were scattered from me**, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash,

1Sam. 13:12 then I said, “The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.’ Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.”

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1Sam. 13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

1Sam. 13:14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

Because Saul feared man more than God he hurried into another man’s office and calling and lost his own!

Waiting is how we listen for a babies cry... Waiting is how we listen to our own heart beat...

Why Wait — Sometimes you to take some time for the person to open up and sometimes its for us to be able to properly discern how to pray... Sometimes it takes time for us to reflect on the promises of God so our faith can be activated in power and authority! Usually it’s a little bit of all these things.

- The Acronym WAIT will help us know how to slow down and pray with more power and insight!

WAIT: Watch, Affection, Interview and Touch

1) Watch — Don’t make hasty judgments or conclusions about how or what you should pray

2) Affection — Minister from your heart...

Faith is activated and energized by compassion — Faith works by love. (Galatians 5:6)

—Singing Lessons — Minister from your core / spirit / heart not your head and intellect

The Holy Spirit will speak to you from where He lives —Dick Eastman

“Out of your heart (belly) will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:37–38)

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;”
(Proverbs 3:5)**

“Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)

Sometimes we unconsciously shift from from our heart to our mind and intellect while praying for others and lose the power of the Holy Spirit.

3) Interview

—Welcome the Holy Spirit into your prayer circle

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You have two ears... With one ear listen to the person and with the other ear listen to the Holy Spirit.

Beware of talking too much... It's usually easier to talk than pray. don't get distracted from ministering in prayer by counseling and giving advice.

—Bind & Loose

Close the BAD doors before you try to open the doors of Blessing

Don't try to light a fire in the front room if a back door is open!

4) Touch

Ask permission to anoint them with oil.

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and reminder that we need the Holy Spirit's help.

—Oil Scriptures for the touch section

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” **(James 5:14–16)**

“And they cast out many demons and healed many sick people, anointing them with olive oil.” **(Mark 6:13)**