

DFB&I Modular training Course

Values and Practices for Prayer Ministry

Jesus Christ has a high regard for the value and dignity of God's people. In the context of Dunamis, therefore, our ministry must always be conducted in ways that honour, respect and edify one another. In particular, we advocate the following practices:-

1 Ministry is always shared within the limits of those in spiritual authority. (Mt 21:23)

All ministry is to be conducted within the limits set by the Course Co-ordinator. We realise that some participants may have prior experience in other styles or streams of ministry. However, within the context of Dunamis we must insist that participants refrain from entering into forms of ministry until this has been introduced by the teaching team.

2 Ministry teams always respect the dignity of those receiving ministry.

This dignity is preserved most appropriately when men minister to men and women minister to women. Ministry within mixed gender groups may also be effective, but ministry to a person of the opposite gender is discouraged unless there is also a ministry team member of the same gender as the one receiving ministry.

3 Ministry is always to be done with permission. (Mk 10:51)

Always receive permission before moving into ministry, or before moving into a new form of ministry (eg: moving into healing or deliverance), as this builds an atmosphere of trust within appropriate boundaries. Always get permission before touching the person who is receiving ministry.

4 Ministry is best done in teams. (Lk 10:1ff)

This is clearly taught in Scripture, and experience also suggests that ministry teams of two to four persons are most effective in most circumstances. Teams that are too large can be fertile ground for confusion.

5 Ministry teams are to have one primary leader or 'Point' person. (Ex 7:1)

One of the ministry team will function as the Point person. This provides the best context for keeping the ministry on course and preserves spiritual and functional unity. The Holy Spirit is free to move through all members of the ministry team, but the Point person coordinates the ministry and makes final decisions concerning direction and focus.

6 Ministry may include the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. (Heb 6:1-2; Jas 5:14-15)

In accordance with Scripture, these practices are permitted but are not required. There are occasions when they may be undesired or even

inappropriate. When either of these practices accompanies prayer it should be done in a seemly manner and with the permission of the person receiving prayer and ministry.

7 Ministry is best learned in a context of mutual accountability. (Mk 6:30)

The best way to learn ministry is to do it! As a person participates in ministry one discovers both what is helpful and what is not. Learning involves both being effective and also freedom to make mistakes, and Dunamis is designed to be a context for learning. In this context we affirm a mutual accountability and the need to debrief (ie: opportunity to reflect and talk about what happened while ministering). Through this process we can affirm our growth and correct and learn from our errors in a way that is supportive and non-judgemental. This is why the debriefing sessions are an essential part of the effective learning experience.

Manifestations in Ministry

Ministry is effected by the Holy Spirit through prayer. Outward manifestations and signs neither enhance nor detract from its effectiveness, and should never be sought after or forced upon any person. If any occur they are entirely at the initiative of the Holy Spirit. We pray, obey and cooperate with the Spirit, but we do not *instruct* Him what to do!

Two common manifestations are:

Resting in the Spirit

Sometimes the Spirit comes upon an individual or group in prayer or worship and, as they yield to Him, they find themselves relaxed and unable to stand (2Chron 5:14; Dan 10:9; Acts 9:4; Rev 1:17). Do not be alarmed! Outwardly it may be unclear what is happening, but frequently the person's experience is that the Holy Spirit ministers to them in a deep, significant and highly personal way. The manifestation may defy mere logical analysis, but can be a profound and beneficial mystery.

If someone rests in the Spirit whilst receiving ministry, one or two should remain with the person and pray quietly until the time is completed. Others should withdraw and pray quietly or seek other opportunities for ministering. Physical contact with the person may be more distracting than helpful and is normally discouraged. The person who is resting in the Spirit should take ample time allowing the Spirit to accomplish His work. There is no hurry. Rest!

Praying In the Spirit

Sometimes people pray in words we do not understand. This is often a prayer language given by the Spirit (1Cor 12:10; 13:1; Rom 8:26). It is simply a way in which the Spirit leads us in prayer.

Dunamis model of Ministry

The different streams of Christian renewal develop practices and guidelines that arise from varying theological emphases. The Dunamis Project is no

exception. The information in this leaflet explains the model of ministry taught and used in Dunamis.

These guidelines help to establish a shared understanding of the ways in which we co-operate with the ministry of the Holy Spirit within the Dunamis Fellowship.

We believe that the principles here embody an understanding of the activity of the Holy Spirit that is rooted and grounded in the Scriptures and is in harmony with a reformed theological perspective. The Scriptures declare that knowledge is never purely abstract but is interpreted through the eyes of experience: the *theory* of ministry is always informed by the *practice* of ministry.

The theory and practice of ministry in Dunamis have characteristics that distinguish us from other streams of ministry in the Spirit. We recognise that some participants may be familiar with different models of ministry and may be persuaded that another approach is more effective. We gladly affirm the variety of ways in which the Holy Spirit accomplishes His work but, **while participating in Dunamis, these are the values and practices that are normative for ministry in the Spirit.**

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