

Healing Place Etiquette

Helping advance the holy conversation between the Lover and the loved.

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²⁹ Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. ³⁰ And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. ³¹ For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. ³² The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. ³³ For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. 1 Corinthians 14:29-33 NIV.

Overview: The Healing Place prayer meeting is a gathering of gifted people of God who serve Him in offering a context of healing prayer for wounded people. It is under the covering and careful supervision of the pastor and elders of Christ Center Community Church. It is shepherded by Robert and Lenny Miller. Robert is a licensed pastor and elder with a strong experience base and anointing to serve God's gracious "stop the bleeding" ministry. It is a privilege to serve you.

Also, this weekly meeting is a "laboratory" for God's saints to learn how to operate in their gifting in a mature way. Some of the things we have discovered we offer here as a kind of "etiquette" for praying people to function in humility, unity and grace. 1 Timothy 3:15

Etiquette: What are the principles that govern the way we relate to God, seekers and team members?

1. We are way-preparers. Our job is to draw the seeker close to Jesus, step back, and to let Him work.
2. We worship, then wait, then work. Suggestion: Wait a little longer. God is not in a hurry.
3. We seek for, and wait for, confirmation. We pray, "Lord, if you speak clearly, we will obey courageously." We must not rush the first part. The primary testing of a prophetic word will be sought in the Bible. The Holy Spirit, who inspired the Bible, will never lead contrary to it. Confer before "Conferring." If practical, consult with another discerning team member for confirmation.
4. We "offer and release" our prophetic word, rather than "impose and control." Courtesy requires that we ask permission, present, release the outcome to the seeker and God, and then step back.
5. We trust the Holy Spirit in the team. We wait and pray for others to use their spiritual gifting, too.
6. We let God work at His pace, in His way, even though the impact may be unseen at the moment. the conversation may be private between the seeker and God. We respect them, and will not pry. We understand that tears are often just liquid prayer. We will not be awkward with what we observe.
7. Our leaders often quietly ask: "Lord, what do You want me/us to know?" (I.e., a teaching moment.)
8. We support the seeker with sensitivity. That means, we need not – must not – push to "fix" them.
 - ✓ God may be speaking privately to their heart. Our best intentions might override His sweet voice.
 - ✓ We must take care NOT to insinuate ourselves between the loved and the Lover.
 - ✓ We let the seeker have space to breath spiritually. We seek to decrease so Christ may increase.
 - ✓ We graciously step back and wait patiently, listening deeper truth and biblical confirmation.
9. Be concise. Offer a word, picture, vision, sense, question as the Holy Spirit may prompt, then STOP.
 - ✓ Say only what God provides you, and limit your extended efforts to "massage" the truth deeper.
 - ✓ You need not always feel you must interpret everything for the seeker. Let God do that.
 - ✓ Leave plenty of room for God to speak, and God to speak through other prayer servants.

10. Healing is a journey managed by God. Celebrate progress without demanding immediate completion.
11. Caution is warranted to safeguard the process of advancing the seeker's conversation with the Father:
 - a. It is a common tendency to "profile" the seeker and miss the real issues. We must resist doing that.
 - b. It is also a misdirection to "Rorschach" from our own past injuries to explore our own "junk."
 - c. It is dangerous to offer prophetic words about "hatchings," "matching," and "dispatchings."
 - d. It is not about YOU. This ministry brings joy, but it is not about us getting a personal "high."
12. The Healing Place is a laboratory to learn how to walk in the prophetic gifts together. Consider:
 - a. All manifestations of the Spirit (gifts) are welcome, when appropriate and offered in maturity.
 - b. Gifts are tools, not toys. The gifts are never to be separate from the Giver.
 - c. It is about Him and them, not me.
 - d. Facilitators are "gatekeepers" who watch, discern, open. They are trustworthy people discernment.
 - e. We must "check our baggage at the door" – i.e., past experiences, good or hurtful. Whether we are Evangelical or Charismatic in background, we will not insist on recapturing the best of the experiences of the past, nor will we demand to avoid the painful, dysfunctional experiences of the past. We will simply follow the Holy Spirit into maturity in present time.
 - f. Confidentiality is essential. The healing place is a safe place to encounter God in brokenness and failure. We assure our seekers that they are loved and respected, and have the right to privacy.

Discussion Starters:

1. Godly fear is the beginning of wisdom. This is an essential facilitating prayer with humility.
2. "It's not how high you jump, but how straight you walk." That means spirituality trumps emotionality.
3. Ministry is a blessing. We must not become addicted to the blessing of ministry and lose our focus.
4. Assuming we have become more "mature," we must intentionally "... put away childish things."
5. We operate in the prophetic, yet we humbly concede that today "we see through a glass darkly."
6. We are building Christ's Kingdom, not OUR kingdom. Freely we receive, we freely give.
7. The Holy Spirit manages the spiritual "take-aways." All that is not from Him "falls on the cutting room floor." So, this is a safe place to try, to come up short, to laugh, and to learn with humility.
8. The outcome we seek is an encounter with God that is genuine, deep, transformative, and eternal.

Glossary: Here is what we mean by the terms we use in prayer ministry. They are in logical order:

1. **Seeker** – Anyone coming to inquire of the Lord – whether desperate, hungry, broken, confused, angry. "You will seek Me, and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." Jer. 29:13
2. **Conversation:** God is the ultimate communicator, and for those who open the door to Jesus, He will come in and have a continuing dinner-table conversation with them. Revelation 3:20. We on the prayer team serve the Lord in advancing this private, on-going conversation between the seeker and Seerer. Prophetic words can break through the pain and confusion to restart that conversation.
3. **Prayer Partner** – One who joins the team effort to listen to the Lord together on behalf of seekers.
4. **Prayer Team** – Trained, anointed, gifted, and experienced intercessors who function in unity.
5. **Prayer Facilitator** – One selected for evident gifting and anointing to function as a servant leader.
6. **Listening Team:** Gatekeepers who are trusted to watch, discern, open and protect. Usually two or three in number, that are coordinated by the ministry leader or pastor.
7. **Prayer Covering** – Spiritual protection for prayer partners provided by biblically identified authority. 1 Thess.. 5:12-14, Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4. The Pastor and elders support this ministry. The

context of prayer ministry requires a submission of team members to godly leadership. And companion to this requirement is that godly leaders protected, train, encourage, and released every believer to achieve his or her highest potential in Christ. There will be no authority abuse here.

8. **Confirmation:** 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 requires us to test or prove a prophetic word and to hold that part which can be confirmed. Confirmation must always start with the Word of God, the Bible. Further confirmation comes from other discerning believers, from the “peace” which umpires in your heart, and a number of unique ways God will confirm if we wait on Him with a listening ear. Confirmation may be required as to timing. “Lord, is this the right time to release this word?”
9. **Prayer Laboratory** – a secondary, but valuable, dividend of the prayer room, which allows us all to build from practical experience under the guidance of pastors and mature prayer leaders.
10. **Intercessor** – One who obeys Ephesians 6:18 with Spirit-led passion and focus. God calls all of us to intercede. While “intercessor” is not an office, intercession is a valuable ministry open to all.
11. **Intercession – a definition. in·ter·cede:** To plead or make a request in behalf of another or others. For example, to intercede with the authorities for the prisoner, to intervene for the purpose of producing agreement; mediate. Etymology: *intercedere* = between + *cedere* = to go.
Spiritually, then, we intercede when we reach out to God on behalf of others, and reach out to others to bring them into the presence, into agreement, with God. We bring together the God of grace and power and hurting, needy hearts of people.
12. **Pleromic Unity:** Value and integrate both the Word of the Lord and “a word from the Lord.” Our Pleromic church seeks the fullness (*Grk: pleroma*) of Christ through the fullness of the Word and the fullness of the Spirit. [Ask for other monographs which explain our Pleromic distinctive.]

Addendum: Christ Center offers an range of contexts for healing prayer. Each is unique, yet integrated. While the etiquette above is fashioned for the Healing Place prayer environment, its principles apply broadly to the other contexts of healing prayer as well.

