

Listening Team Guidelines:

Mid-Week Intercession Meetings at Christ Center Community Church ("C4")
Prepared by Pastor David Niquette

AVAILABLE RESOURCES: Copies of these tools are available for you in the cupboard.

- ✓ "Intercessory Prayer Values" – A explanation of the prayer environment
- ✓ "Hearing the Spirit: Five Questions" – A practical guide to listening prayer.
- ✓ "Intercessors and Pastors" – Understanding what goes right and wrong.

OVERVIEW: It is well to be familiar with the Intercessory Prayer Values sheet. To summarize . . .

WELCOME. Open to everyone. Come as you can. Leave when you must. Enter in as God leads.

PASSIONATE IN PRAYER! We share a heart hunger for God, for His manifest presence.

A LABORATORY: Unity brings anointing. (Psa. 133:1-3). We work together to heal the breach between *Evangelicals* and *Charismatics*, between generations, and between churches.

SPIRIT-LED! Discover the heart and mind of Christ through a Spirit-led, contending prayer.

- ✓ For the salvation of the lost, healing of the hurting, and deliverance of those bond (Isa.61:1-3).
- ✓ For the renewal of the Church, the Bride of Christ, to become beautiful, in love, and ready.
- ✓ For a major spiritual awakening in Northern Colorado and in America.
- ✓ For the Kingdom of Christ to come – to break into our broken world in glory, truth, and power.

UNITED: The ten values will be clarified below for those who are part of the "listening team."

SERVED BY A TRAINED LISTENING TEAM: 2 or 3 mature believers cooperate together.

CLARIFYING THE VALUES: Below are the values as stated, with a fuller explanation. Note: These are "values," not "rules." We don't control by legalism, but protect and guide into maturity by our intentional effort to walk in the Spirit, and to make no provisions for the flesh. Each value is stated positively, and yet, if we disregard it, there is a dark side that will inhibit intercessory prayer.

1. **GIFTS:** All true manifestations of the Spirit are supernatural, valuable and welcomed here.

THIS MEANS: The definition of a "spiritual gift" is in 1 Corinthians 12:7. Our focus is on letting God be God, doing what He wills through whomever He chooses. This is not primarily a place to advance nor to diminish any particular gifting. We must not separate the gift from the Giver. It's not about "it," but about "Him!" Here, gifts are "tools," not "toys." We put the gifts to work for the King.

2. **FRUIT:** The spiritual qualities of love, patience, and humility help us work together in unity.

THIS MEANS: The true common denominator of all Spirit-filled believers is the fruit of the Spirit, rather than a particular gift of the Spirit (1 Cor. 13:1-8). The Spirit works in us to create a godly, healthy relationship between very different members of Christ's Body, the Church. Humility will help us avoiding the error Paul sought to correct in 1 Corinthians 12. Love gives preference to others.

3. **LEARNING:** We're open to fresh experiences of God's Spirit in this practical laboratory of prayer.

THIS MEANS: The term "laboratory" starts with the word "labor." Our intercessory prayer sessions have a primary and a secondary function. First, we do the hard work of pleading with God for His Kingdom and glory to intervene in our broken world. Second, we have the unique opportunity to experience the supernatural leading of the Spirit, beyond our past experience or "comfort zone." As we walk together in the prophetic, we look for confirmation both from Scripture and fellow believers.

4. **ACCEPTING:** We love one another without judging, comparisons, or a religious spirit. You're safe!
THIS MEANS: The eyes of our hearts are to be focused on God, not others. We are learning to trust the Holy Spirit in one another. The Spirit can use imperfect, less than mature people, and yet will work in this "safe place" to bring them forward into greater Christ-likeness. This must be a safe place to grow, to try, even to fail. Failure is not final. That's when we do our greatest learning.
5. **SCRIPTURE:** It is both the foundation of prayer and the means of testing all prophetic ministry.
THIS MEANS: The Bible is God's self-disclosure. We cannot know Him truly nor intimately apart from Scripture. Our best prayer efforts are simply praying back God's own word to Him. He loves that! Also, the knowledge, wisdom, and discernment that biblically taught people offer is essential. So says 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22. "*Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.*"
6. **LISTENING:** We want to grow in our ability to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Churches.
THIS MEANS: Prayer is a two-way conversation, in which we are wise to let Jesus take the lead. He promised to come into our hearts and churches and have supper with us and us with Him. Rev. 3:20 Jesus called the Holy Spirit the "Spirit of Truth," Who would guide us into all the truth. John 16:13 We are open, and anticipate, that the Spirit will reveal truth to us prophetically during listening prayer.
7. **SILENCE:** It is always appropriate and encouraged. Let Jesus lead you to His secret place - alone.
THIS MEANS: We allow each praying saint here to participate at any given time as the Spirit leads them. The microphone is not the only place, nor necessarily the primary place, that effective intercession is going on. Silent folks must be encouraged as well as the vocal one. Sometimes, if we ask them at a free moment what they sense God is saying, they will tell us – with remarkable insight.
8. **SUBMISSION:** Mature people maintain control of their own spirits, allowing the Spirit to lead us.
THIS MEANS: The Spirit leads in an orderly way. There is a mistaken notion some folks have that when the Holy Spirit comes on them, they lose control, and that their ecstasy (raving) somehow validates their spirituality. It does not. "*For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted; and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*" 1 Corinthians 14:31-33
9. **RESPECT:** The microphone is open to all. Clarity and brevity will allow more of us to participate.
THIS MEANS: There is a fine balance between protecting the meeting and controlling the meeting. The Listening Team will from time to time reinforce that the microphone is open, encouraging shy people to step out and obey the prompting of the Spirit by leading in prayer or sharing an insight. At other times, the challenge will be to prevent someone dominating the meeting at the microphone. This will happen. The best remedy is usually just to pray. We should avoid embarrassing anyone publicly.
10. **FREEDOM:** Use the space to sit, stand, kneel, lay prostrate, dance, or move about as God leads you.
THIS MEANS: The prayer sessions are a place to be real with God, to relate to Him with the whole person. It is not stiff and formal. David danced before the Lord. When bringing up the Ark, . . . *David was dancing before the LORD with all his might.*" 2 Samuel 6:14 What we purpose to do with all our might is to worship "before the Lord." Body language is appropriate in talking with God.