

## Power of a Prayer Circle

Mission statement #10: Victory Life Church is ... A Praying church, interceding and fasting for nations, regions, cities, churches and individuals.



### What is a Prayer circle?

It is a 2 ½ to 4 minute span of time in the service where two to five people join hands and pray for individual needs, and any expressed special request from the leadership.

### Why Prayer Circles?

It is a very practical, personal and powerful method of praying for every expressed need in the congregation, whether it is two or 10,000.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for **all the saints** (Ephesians 6:18)

### Why not let Guest speakers or the pastors pray for others?

Scripture clearly says there is a place for five-fold ministry and elders to pray for others with special requests,

14 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. 15 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. (James 5:14-15)

But note the scripture goes on to include everybody in the body when it says,

16 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.

Some people think that prayer ministry is the preacher's responsibility. While we should recognize and utilize the gifts that God has placed in the body, the primary purpose for five-fold ministries is to equip others to minister! Paul shares why God gave us gift ministries:

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4: 11-12)

### **Prayer is a participant Sport**

Today in the American Church we need more participants than we do spectators. Some in the Body of Christ have become event orientated rather than ministry focused. Praying for others gets Believers out of the grandstands and into the arena.

Every believer can pray for the sick and see results. God does not need an auditorium or television equipment to bring miracles. He needs you to lay hands on the sick,

"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues ... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16: 17-18)



### **Releasing the gifts**

It has been my experience that the gifts of the Holy Spirit most often operate during a time of prayer (words of wisdom, knowledge, discerning of spirits, prophecy, healing, etc.)

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all (1 Corinthians 12:7)

### **My experience with prayer circles**

While I have experienced prayer circles or Prayer "Hot Seats" all my Christian experience, the most consistent exercise of this method I experienced was visiting Church on the Way in Van Nuys during a week long Pastors School of Ministry. During this week we attended various services in the church, from general church services to men's ministries. In every service they had a prayer circle, which is considered ministry time. At the end of the week I had experienced five prayer circles.

I shared personal, family and ministry concerns. Believers prayed in faith sincerely for each request, as I did theirs. I ran out of new things so I mentioned a couple of the previous ones as a continued point of intercession. I felt a release of burdens and an uplift of faith that entire week. I experienced in consistency what I already knew: prayer is not for the few, the Five-Fold ministry, but for the entire body.

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6: 2)

Prayer is involved in bearing one another's burdens. Remember that "bear" means to lift with the idea of removing. Prayer is one way we can lift with the idea of removing burdens people are carrying.

Two things hinder Christians in the race we are running: weights and sins. (What may be a weight to one may not be a weight to another.)

We can help fellow believers to run their races better by helping to lift these burdens through prayer. We don't need to criticize them; we need to pray for them.

When we take our places in prayer for each other, we are helping the entire body to come into maturity.

### **It gives an atmosphere of constant prayer**

A prophesy for the last days that was quoted by Jesus,

Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer . ... For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." (Isaiah 6: 7)

Before Peter was delivered from Prison and a sure death, scripture shares

"... constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church (Acts 12:5)

Some deliverances and break-throughs will not happen unless we allow our churches to be houses of prayer for others.



### **Special Guidelines in Prayer time:**

**1. Encourage other people to pray.** The greatest testimony I have heard from a participant in the prayer circle is that it was the first time they had prayed for another individual out loud. They were excited about praying for others and wanted to know when we were going to do it again. It may require overcoming shyness and learning to stretch your faith.

**2. Honor time frame.** The purpose of this prayer time is to bring requests before the Lord, not have a half an hour prayer meeting. Prayer does not have to be long to be effective.

In 1 Thessalonians 1:2 Paul said,

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making **mention** of you in our prayers"

The word mention means to bring to mind. These folks were on Paul's heart and mind and he made mention of them before God in prayer. As a conductor gives a signal for an actor to enter the stage or to remember a line forgotten, the Holy Spirit will bring someone or thing to mind as a cue for us to pray for them.

The good news is that praying for others is not limited to a prayer circle time. Whenever someone expresses a need or a burden, I have learned to stop right then and pray rather than promise to pray later.

**3. Avoid being too loud, preaching, or hogging the show.** I have met some people so good at praying and prophesying that it intimidated me from doing so. The goal is not to out perform others, but encouragement and power being released for others.

### **4. Pray in agreement**

"19 Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:19-20)

It is helpful to ask people to be specific with what they want prayer for and what results they desire. While we don't need to know every detail it is helpful to know which direction to go.

### **5. Pray in faith and blessing**

"Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. (Mark 11:24)

Things happen when we pray in faith: Angels are dispatched to solve problems and find resources. When praying for others, avoid wishing for or being double minded about it, but expect in confidence that the power of God is released.

### **6. What should be prayed for?**

A) Whatever is a need, concern or burden.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 6-7)

