



GUIDELINES FOR COUNSELLORS

Introduction

Being a counsellor does not allow you to rebuke, correct or give direction for someone's life, or in-depth ministry involvement, i.e. inner healing counselling or deliverance. The Holy Spirit frequently brings about these results.

1. When praying for individuals, watch closely what the Spirit is doing (John 5:19). If no manifestation of the Holy Spirit comes within a few minutes, it is often wise to simply allow that person to `soak' and come back later. It is even advisable to say something like this, "I want you to enjoy the presence of the Lord, to worship Him, and soak in the anointing for a little while. Someone will come and pray with you again in a little while."

NEVER MAKE A PERSON FEEL THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE OR ARE RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT OPENLY MANIFESTING SOMETHING. WE ARE CALLED TO ENCOURAGE AND LOVE, NOT SPEAK WORDS THAT WILL BRING REJECTION OR DISCOURAGEMENT.

Someone else will pray for them or you can when you have finished ministering to others.

IF THERE IS NO MANIFESTATION, IT DOES NOT MEAN A PERSON IS NOT BEING MINISTERED TO BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

2. Do not force ministry! If a person is not receiving, relax, and remember that there will always be another opportunity. Trusting the Word of Wisdom is essential, knowing when He is doing something personal within an individual and not interrupting that special `conversation'. Also, if you are `blank' as to how to pray for someone, get another ministry team member to take over for you and move on.
3. There is at times a 'backwash phenomena'. This can happen when the anointing upon you is not able to be received by the individual and it pours back onto you.
4. If the person continues to have a hard time in receiving you might help them in the following ways:
 - a. Help them deal with a tendency to rationalise; or calm their fears of loss of control.

- b. Let them know what to expect - that even when the Holy Spirit is blessing them, they will have a clear mind and can usually stop the process at any point if they want to.
 - c. The Holy Spirit often moves in 'waves' similar to the blowing wind.
 - d. Encourage them to 'be still and know that God is God' and stay focused on the Lord. He loves them intensely and longs for them to know Him intimately.
5. It is helpful to have people stand to receive ministry. This seems to allow the Holy Spirit more freedom to move at the beginning. Have a ministry assistant stand behind the person receiving to catch them if they fall in the Spirit.

Some people have a 'fear of falling'. Help them to sit down, kneel, or fall carefully, especially if they have back problems or are pregnant or elderly.

6. When people fall in the Spirit (called 'resting in the Spirit'), keep praying for them. It seems that everyone wants to get up far too quickly. God continues to work even when one is down on the floor. Sometimes it will be noticeable and other times it might be quiet and inward. Allowing people to get up too quickly seems to work against what the Lord wants to do.
7. It is best to pray and soak the person while they are on the floor for a couple of minutes, then go on to minister to others waiting, but occasionally return to the first one to see how they are doing. Many feel vulnerable while in this position and appreciate the loving care given by faithful team members. Also they need to be guarded from other bumping into them and/or making uncalled for comments within their hearing.
8. Be very careful not to push people over! This is offensive and will cause people to grow resistant to the real manifestation. Watch over-enthusiasm and a tendency to want to 'help God out', especially when you are sensing a strong anointing within you or if you are tired and getting a little impatient. If this happens withdraw your hand or fingers from the person immediately and let the Holy Spirit have His way.
9. Prophecy should be for encouragement, edification, exhortation or comfort. Remember, no 'direction, correction, dates or mates'.
10. Pray as follows:
- a. Come Holy Spirit.
 - b. Let Your Kingdom come, Lord, on earth as it is in Heaven.
 - c. A deeper revelation of the Father's love in Christ.
 - d. Anointing for service.
 - e. Release of the Gifts and callings.
 - f. Bring the light and expel the darkness.
 - g. "More, Lord." How much more will the Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.
 - h. Peace ... ruling and reigning in their hearts.

11. Do not project what God has been doing with you on to the person you are praying with. For example, if you have been laughing or weeping, don't pressure them to do the same. Find out what God is doing for them and bless it.
12. If your hand or body is shaking, pray with your hands slightly away from the person so as not to distract them. If a stronger manifestation begins to happen within you, then withdraw from ministry time for a while and let the Lord bless you.
13. Laying on of hands. Give a light touch only, so watch heavy pressure - generally on forehead, top of head, shoulder, or hands.

No inappropriate touching {i.e. do not touch a woman's chest, abdomen, legs etc.}, no back massages, rubbing or caressing.
14. Some recipients habitually pray aloud while they are being ministered to. Encourage them to be quiet and just receive - it is difficult to drink in and pour out at the same time.
15. The person you are praying with needs to be assured that he/she is the most important one for that moment so avoid the tendency to let your mind and eyes wander onto other things or other people or other situations in the room; don't become distracted with other issues.
16. Your own personal hygiene is essential (breath mints for frequent use, deodorant, clean hands, hair and clothes).

ADVICE TO CATCHERS

1. Please do not push or pull anyone over. This will ultimately backfire.
2. Do not hold anyone up by grabbing their shoulders or upper back.
3. When laying hands on people, do just that. Do not rub or do other things that might be annoying.
4. When preparing to catch someone, keep your elbows close to your sides and put your hands at the small of their back. This gives people confidence that you are behind them and does not interfere with the prayer process. Attempt to move back with the person as they fall rather than trying to take their whole weight upon yourself.
5. Assisting in this role is a vital part of ministry so please concentrate on being a helper, being right there when you are needed, not gazing around the room and/or visiting with others nearby. It is very disconcerting for the prayer minister when he/she realises that you are not there in a crucial moment.
If you become tired or it's time for your own ministry, then tell your leader so someone else can be recruited.

6. This time of being a ministry assistant can be a valuable one for you to listen and learn and quietly intercede for the individual being prayed for.

Compiled by Pat Subritzky and produced by Dove Ministries

More articles and resources are available at www.doveministries.com