



Godmanchester Baptist Church

Prayer Team Principles and Guidelines

Principles for Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry is meeting the needs of others based on God's resources. This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit, not of us. Therefore, we aim for simplicity, relying utterly on Him, not on techniques of our own. The Holy Spirit and the written word of God never conflict. God never tells anyone to do something that is contradicted in his Word.

We believe God heals. Yet not everyone is healed completely this side of heaven. And not all healing is immediate – we need to persevere.

People in the Team need to be in good fellowship, and generally respected by the congregation for their good Christian character. Before you pray, start by confessing any of your own sin. Lack of unity, love and forgiveness hinders the work of the Spirit.

Never blame. It is the Holy Spirit's task to convict of sin – not yours. However, it may be appropriate to give an opportunity for someone to confess sin to God – perhaps silently.

We are not trained counsellors. Always know when to advise someone to seek further help. Refer any concerns to the Pastors or Leadership Team.

We work *with* medical practitioners. We never encourage anyone to ignore medical advice.

We practise discretion, but we cannot ever promise total confidentiality.

Team Guidelines

Prayer in twos is ideal; on your own is less preferable.

Ideally pray in mixed couples. It is always best to have one person of the same sex as the person being prayed for.

Be sensitive to the appropriateness of the location. Being in the full public gaze may not be helpful. You can make use of the Pastor's offices on Sunday mornings. If using another room, don't get locked away with someone – keep a door open, especially if praying 1 to 1.

Make sure you can hear and be heard by the person you are praying for.

Stay relaxed and non-threatening. Avoid intensity. Don't shout or raise your voice: preserve the person's dignity.

Take time to listen carefully to what the person is saying or asking for. Don't think you know what they need too quickly. This is a sign of respect. Prepare to be shocked. But try not to show it!

Ensure touch is appropriate, and not over-familiar. Ask permission before laying-on hands.

Pray with eyes open if you can, being aware of all that is happening.

Check how the person is feeling whilst praying. Don't be in a hurry.

Pray as appropriate in English, tongues or silently. Some may feel uncomfortable with tongues or silence. Consider what would be best for the person you are praying for, and those nearby.

Ask God to bring significant pictures or words (especially Scripture) to mind.

Use the promises of God in Scripture to bring encouragement and reassurance.

Encourage people to take steps of faith. Help them to respond to God's Word preached. Listen to the sermon carefully so you know what's going on!

Lead people to Christ. Give yet-to-be-Christians the opportunity to pray a simple prayer of repentance and trust in Christ e.g. Sorry, thank you, please.