

Lesson 5

PRAYING FOR THE SICK

Guidelines



1. TALK TO THE PERSON

When it is possible, before praying, ask the person some questions:

- What is your name?
- How can I pray for you?
- How long have you had this problem?
- Do you know why this has happened? Did someone cause this?

As you ask questions listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit in your heart. You want to see if you can find the root cause of their sickness – is it emotional, caused by an accident or a spirit, or from a disease? If there is un-forgiveness this needs to be dealt with as it can hinder healing. Sometimes a traumatic event in a person's life can cause sickness 6 months to a year later, and in this case you may need to help the person deal with fear, shame, rejection or un-forgiveness.

2. WAYS TO PRAY

There are two types of prayer:

- Petition prayer – “Father in the name of Jesus I ask you to heal ...”
- Command – “In the name of Jesus I command ...”

Use commands when you are led by the Holy Spirit to do so. This may be when you are breaking a curse or casting out a spirit.

3. PRAY FOR THE PERSON

- Ask the Holy Spirit to be present
- Ask the person not to pray but to focus on receiving
- Ask him to tell you if he feels anything
- If there is any sin in the person's life ask him to confess
- Pray for any emotional healing that may be needed before praying for physical healing

4. PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

- It is good to keep your eyes open to see what God is doing
- Use short specific prayer
- Try different kinds of prayer
- Be loving and compassionate

- Don't give up quickly
- Don't preach or give advice
- Pray in the name of Jesus
- Ask the person what is happening to them as you pray
- Pray for the symptoms and cause if it is known
- Trust the Holy Spirit, not a method
- Thank God for whatever he does

5. TALK TO THE PERSON AGAIN

If the pain the person has moves around or increases during prayer, or has been present for a long time, then you may need to cast out an afflicting spirit. When there are no changes consider asking more questions. Here are some possible questions:

- Are you sure there is no significant event in your life that could be related to this?
- Have any of your family members had this sickness?
- Do you have a strong fear of anything?
- Has anyone cursed you or your family?
- Is anyone angry at you?
- Have you been involved in witchcraft?
- Have you had any other accidents?

Stop praying when they are healed, or when there is no progress and you sense it is time to stop.

6. FOLLOW UP SUGGESTIONS

After praying it may be helpful to give some instructions or encouragement.

- Encourage from Scripture
- Share any changes they may need to make so the sickness does not come back
- If someone is not healed do not accuse them of lack of faith or that they have sin in their life
- Prepare the person to resist doubts and fears from the enemy