

Nebuchadnezzar's dream at the threat of death, went to his friends and fellow believers to pray with them¹, Paul and Silas prayed together and for each other in the Philippian jail², Paul and Timothy prayed together for the Colossians³. Praying together and for each other seems to have been the normal way of life in the New Testament church.

Prayer is such a great gift from God to us, we benefit from praying individually, in groups, as families and also by seeking someone to pray for and with us. Prayer Ministry exists to make it easy to find someone to pray with and for us.

IS THIS PASTORAL CARE OR COUNSELING?

Prayer Ministry provides an easily accessible opportunity to pray with someone about a prompting by the Holy Spirit in response to teaching and worship.

While we may seek Prayer Ministry for something that troubles us, there are some deep and long term issues that may be helped through the Pastoral Ministry in the church or Christian Counseling. Members of the Prayer Ministry team are trained to not attempt to provide counseling but to signpost people to Pastoral Care where such support is needed.

SO, WHAT DO I DO TO RECEIVE PRAYER MINISTRY?

Jesus taught us to pray, expects us to pray and showed us how to pray. Scripture is full of examples of God working in response to prayer

¹ Daniel 2; ² Acts 16; ³ Colossians 1

and examples of people praying for and with each other.

As you are prompted by God through the Holy Spirit to respond to His message through the sermon, worship or His word – make sure that you respond and seek out someone to pray with you to seal the Holy Spirit's work in your heart and also seek God's equipping to strengthen your walk with the Lord.

The Prayer Ministry team is easy to find (at the front of church after a service).

They are available to pray with you to commit and seal in what God has placed in your heart during the service.

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PRAYER MINISTRY



Front page image by Stuart Miles at freedigitalphotos.net

WHAT IS PRAYER MINISTRY?

Prayer Ministry is the opportunity in a church for you to pray with someone during a call for a response during a church service, after the service or at other events (such as a Christianity Explored or Alpha course).

It means that trained people are available to pray when the Holy Spirit prompts you to respond to God's word in the sermon, worship or something He has placed on your heart.

WHAT SORT OF THINGS DO PEOPLE PRAY FOR IN PRAYER MINISTRY?

In all our church services God works through the Holy Spirit to prompt us to respond to His word and what He wants to do in our lives. It is tragic when we don't take the opportunity to respond to God's call and pray for His help in dealing with the thing He has called us to respond to.

Prayer Ministry provides the opportunity to pray with someone who can help, through prayer, to seal what the Holy Spirit has convicted you of. When we bring things before God in prayer in this way, the Holy Spirit in some ways is like the salt that seals in the dye in the glorious colouring process that God is doing in our lives.

You can seek Prayer Ministry for anything that the Holy Spirit puts in your heart, such as:

- Giving your life to Jesus
- Encouragements for the week ahead as you seek to live out what you've heard in the sermon
- Committing to action or change prompted by the teaching
- A concern or worry in your life
- Turning from a sin or area that has been neglected in your walk with the Lord.

Really, anything that you are prompted to pray for and be prayed with for.

HOW DO WE FIND SOMEONE TO PRAY WITH?

After most services, members of the Prayer Ministry team will wait in the first two rows in front of the stage. The leader of the service will also point out the members of the team from time to time. Simply approach one of the team and ask to have a time in prayer. If you pray one to one in prayer ministry men should pray with men and women with women.

WHY A PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM? CAN'T I PRAY WITH ANYONE I CHOOSE?

Praying together with people in the church is great, and the Prayer Ministry team isn't the only group of people you can pray with. In fact, joining a prayer triplet or Small Group for regular prayer is an excellent thing to do.

When we bring things before God in prayer, the Holy Spirit is like the salt that seals in the dye in the glorious colouring process that God is doing in our lives.



The Prayer Ministry team is simply made up of people who are trained and available to pray with you during and after a church meeting in response to a prompting to seek prayer.

The team is just a group of ordinary followers of Jesus who fervently believe in the power of prayer and are committed to praying with people.

Prayers by the team have no special or extraordinary status, they are simply the prayers of believers, praying as Jesus taught and directed us all to do. Everyone in the team has training to ensure that the Prayer Ministry is conducted in line with scripture and with appropriate confidentiality.

ISN'T IT ODD TO GO TO SOMEONE ELSE TO PRAY ?

Far from it, it is common in scripture for people to seek others to pray for them and with them. Daniel when having to interpret