



WHAT'S NEXT? – PRAYER MINISTRY....

The day after the day of Pentecost, what did the disciples do?

They went to the temple and met a man who couldn't walk from birth, who asked them for money. Peter's response to him is remarkable.

"Look at us!"

⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. (Acts 3:6-7)

Peter did what he had seen Jesus do. The man was physically healed.

We would like to offer prayer ministry every week for those who would receive it.

The first reason is that it's what Jesus did and it's what the early church did. It's what church should do.

But there is more in this story.

⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. (Acts 3:8)

He was amazed and filled with joy and this joy drew him into joyous worship of God.

This is the second reason, that offering prayer ministry brings peace and joy and builds faith in those prayed for and receiving ministry of the Holy Spirit.

And yet more.

⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. (Acts 3:9-10)

It was a sign to those around who saw and those who knew him. Filled with wonder and amazement because what they saw was a miracle – a supernatural

transformation for that man. In this case it was physical healing, other times it was different types of healing. But each made an impact not just on the person healed but also on those around. God was making his presence known and drawing others into faith.

This is the third reason, to witness to the miraculous power of God at work, so that others may see, and build their faith and draw them into the kingdom.

So, what is prayer ministry?

Well, the first thing to say is that it is not to do with us! It is prayer as the Holy Spirit ministers to another person. We are **standing with someone** as we ask Jesus to minister, by his Spirit.

The prayer aspect has three key features:

- a) Asking for the ministry – usually by using the ancient prayer “Come Holy Spirit” or “Come Lord Jesus” – “minister to X today...”
- b) Standing with the person praying – which has two elements:
 - i) Listening to what God might be saying and watching what He might be doing
 - ii) Speaking only words that He might give otherwise staying silent in the moment with them
- c) Looking for and asking about any sense of change in the person (which may not be what was asked for – e.g. may not be physical healing but a greater sense of peace).

Prayer Ministers do not have the gift of healing. They have the gift of waiting, watching and listening. And anyone can do this, if you try.

Come along to the prayer ministry training at 3pm on Sunday 30th August to find out more (no commitment to join team if you do the training but being on team will be a requirement to have done the training).

¹⁵ *“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. (Mark 1:15)*

The Greek here for “come near” means is at hand, within your grasp.

Any questions let me know.

Your brother in Christ,

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