

Charismatic Prayer Ministry

8-13

The following is the outline of a workshop given at Holy Redeemer Center, Oakland, CA, by Mr. Pat Mullins in May 1982. This workshop was a part of a Charismatic workshop day sponsored by the Office of the Bishop's Liaison for Charismatic Catholics in the Diocese. The topic assigned was to address the particular difference between other forms of Holy Spirit led intercessory prayer, and what may be called the "Charismatic" form of intercessory prayer, wherein the Holy Spirit is expected to actually accomplish the ministry through the abandonment and obedient trust of the child of God that is in the prayer ministry.]

(Please take the time to read these Scripture verses, and reflect upon them before proceeding to read our sharing on "Charismatic Prayer Ministry" All scriptures are RSV.)

♥ 1 Cor. 15:53 For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

What we heard the Lord say in these verses about the topic is that we must immerse ourselves in Jesus Christ to minister in His name.

♥ Luke.8:26 Then they arrived at the country of the Ger'asenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 And as he stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." 29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) 30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. 32 Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

What the Lord said to our heart in these verses is that this event illustrates Jesus in absolute authority over all the forces and powers of the enemy.

♥ Ezek.28:1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your heart is proud, and you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas,' yet you are but a man, and no god, though you consider yourself as wise as a god 3 you are indeed wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you; 4 by your wisdom and your understanding you have gotten wealth for yourself, and have gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; 5 by your great wisdom in trade you have increased your wealth, and your heart has become proud in your wealth -- 6 therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you consider yourself as wise as a god, 7 therefore, behold, I will bring strangers upon you, the most terrible of the nations; and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendor. 8 They shall thrust you down into the Pit, and you shall die the death of the slain in the heart of the seas. 9 Will you still say, 'I am a god,' in the presence of those who slay you, though you are but a man, and no god, in the hands of those who wound you? 10 You shall die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners; for I have spoken, says the Lord GOD." 11 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me: 12 "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, carnelian, topaz, and jasper, chrysolite, beryl, and onyx, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald; and wrought in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. 14 With an anointed guardian cherub I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. 16 In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, vile in my name and speak in strange tongues; if they handle snakes or drink any deadly poison, they will come to no harm; and the sick on whom they lay hands will recover...and the Lord worked with them and confirmed their words by the miracles that followed, see

and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and the guardian cherub drove you out from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. 18 By the multitude of your iniquity in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought forth fire from the midst of you; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. 19 All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more for ever."

In these verses we seemed to hear the Holy Spirit saying that arrogance and self-sufficiency will separate us from God the Holy Spirit, and only as we remain in true humility, and obedient to the Holy Spirit, can Jesus Christ emerge as our life and continue to minister to His Body in our prayer.

After our prayerful reflection on these verses, the following is shared as an explanation of how we prepare ourselves to pray for one of God's children. These steps are guidelines to interior attitudes as well as our guidelines for prayer; but in our littleness the Holy Spirit will continue to teach us as we learn to pray.

Steps We Follow

As we share the following steps, we also refer to the Scripture that the Holy Spirit has used in our life that has helped us understand what we now share about this prayer ministry.

Step 1. Ask Holy Spirit to lead and guide words in prayer.

† ...do not worry beforehand about what to say. It will not be yourselves speaking but trust the Holy Spirit.

♥ Mark 13:11 And when they bring you to trial and deliver you up, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say; but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Step 2. Proclaim the effectiveness of the cross in our lives.

♥ While we live we are constantly being delivered to death for Jesus's sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. Death is at work in us, but life in you.

2Cor.4:11 For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Step 3. Take our place of emptiness and dependence upon God, and bind the enemy as you know how, clearing yourself as an "earthen vessel" of God's love.

♥ Your attitude must be that of Christ: Though he was in the form of God he did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself and took the form of a slave,...see

Phil.2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

♥ And now, brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,...see

Rom.12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Step 4. Act on your prayer of emptiness and need by praying in tongues and waiting.

♥ The Spirit too helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings, that cannot be expressed in speech.

Rom.8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not

know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Step 5. Thank our Father for Jesus as our life and wisdom.

♥...God it is who has given you life in Christ Jesus. He has made him our wisdom...see 1Cor.1:29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption;

Step 6. Wait in quiet praise and worship for Holy Spirit prompting you.

a) You may receive a vision or a scripture.

† To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1Cor.12:7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

♥ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Heb.13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

Step 7. Speak in humility with trust in Holy Spirit to clarify the message to the hearer.

♥ But it is one and the same Spirit who produces all these gifts, distributing them to each as he wills.

1Cor.12:11 All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

a) Speak the words given with love and gentleness, especially if the word is a correction.

♥ The prophet speaks to men for their up-building, their encouragement, their consolation. see

Heb.4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

♥...if all are uttering prophecies, the visitor, when he enters, hears from everyone something that searches his conscience and bring conviction, and the secrets of his heart are laid bare...see

1Cor.14:24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, 25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

Step 8. Guard against guesswork and speculation on the word you give. Speak in simple trust in the Holy Spirit & remember God is not asking you to be their counselor. You are their sister/brother in His love, and simply His delivery person of any "word" or vision He wants you to share. Then He can love and bless one of His children.

♥ For the Word of God is alive and active...see

Heb.4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

♥ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ...So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth. It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. see

Isa.55:7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Step 9. Repeat steps 6, 7, and 8 above as often as needed. If you are leading a team in prayer ministry, ask the members of the team to speak at this point and wait.

Step 10. Close the prayer ministry by committing all the words spoken back to the Holy Spirit when you sense that all of the words of the Spirit are administered, and leave the results to God for His sovereign action. Place all your faith in God, not in your prayer, and not in your faith.

♥ Faith will bring with it these miracles: believers will cast out de-

Mark.16:17And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." 19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

Step 11. Now forget it all. Although you may have occasion to refer the person to someone else, or even be asked by the Holy Spirit to take additional action yourself, remember you are not their "savior", Jesus alone has that privilege. Finally, never discuss the details of the ministry with others as a topic "of interest". The privilege of praying with someone allows you to know information that is very private, and it must remain between them and God. It must not become a topic for gossip!!

♥ Timothy, keep safe that which has been entrusted to you. Turn a deaf ear to empty and worldly chatter, and the contradictions of so-called "knowledge", for many who lay claim to it have shot far wide of the faith. Grace be with you all!

1Tim. 6:20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid the godless chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge, 21 for by professing it some have missed the mark as regards the faith. Grace be with you.

✂✂ Practical reminders ✂✂

Focus on Jesus and avoid any "insider information" about any prospective recipient. You'll have to battle the well intentioned insight at the expense of the Lord's ministry. The less you know the safer you are.

Plead the blood of Jesus over yourself or prayer team prior to starting your ministry. Listen to the Spirit's prompting if he is quiet there is a reason, pray in the spirit and give it to Jesus.

After the ministries are completed gather your team and commend all your ministry, words, back to the Lord Jesus and let it rest at His feet. He is a gentle Savior move in love and trust in His mercy.

✂✂✂ Resting in the Spirit: ✂✂✂

As a leader of the prayer ministry an awareness of the person's physical stability and whether a "catcher" is needed is essential. Generally most profound miracles happen to those who remain standing. If the person rests in the spirit they are in the Lord's territory and adopt a "hands off" policy assign an intercessor to pray for them and go on to the next individual seeking prayer. When the person has completed the "resting" encourage them to get up by their own power, be gentle they may be very fragile. We thank you heavenly Father for allowing us to be used in the ministry of your son Jesus. To God Be The Glory

Team wrap up: Once your team has completed the ministries there needs to be a short time of prayer and reflection. We commend all of the ministry back to the Lord Jesus and trust that the Holy Spirit accomplished what he desired in the ministry provided. We ask that the Lord use every word for his purpose and any words not needed or not from him would be held in the sea of forgetfulness until the proper time in Christ Jesus. Once said commend the all words and ministry back to God thank him for allowing us to share in a portion of his ministry.



Exodus 3:4...And God called to him out of the bush.

Burning Bush Ministries

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC
RENEWAL OFFICE
DIOCESE OF OAKLAND
P.O.Box 2063
Dublin, CA 94568-1948

