

Ministry Team Training

Equipping the Church for Power Ministry

Thesis: We are a people who seek to join Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence. And, we want to be conformed to the image of Christ. As a part of our equipping, we desire to minister the good news of the kingdom of God in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit, like Jesus did.

Yesterday (2'3'24), we had Ministry Team Training (MTT). There were 13 churches participating, representing several different denominations and independent groups.

We have taught Ministry Team Training three times a year since 1989. Thousands of people from hundreds of churches have received training through MTT. Those people have come from all over Texas and many different places in the USA. And, we have done training in other churches, too, from Texas to Arkansas. MTT has also gone to other nations like Latvia, Ukraine, and Myanmar.

Why did we start doing Ministry Team Training? Why are we still doing MTT?

1. **God gives us the end-time parameters of the church in Scripture.** (Please see *The Last Great Revival* by Steve Meeks.)
 - a. How does the Lord describe the end-time church?
 - b. **Before Jesus comes again, the church will come to unity, intimacy, and maturity** (Ephesians 4:11-13).
 - i. *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).*
 - c. **Unity.**
 - i. *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" (John 17:20-23).*

- ii. Before Christ returns it is the plan and will of God to bring the church of Jesus Christ into unity (John 17:21-23).
 - 1. Unity is not uniformity. God loves diversity.
 - 2. We will come to a oneness with each other that stuns the world and leads to a harvest.
 - iii. The gifted people of Ephesians 4:11-13 are given to the church until the church comes to unity. It is talking about a visible, observable unity that is yet to become manifest in the church during human history. This has never been true of the church. But it will become true because it is the word of God.
- d. **Intimacy.**
- i. "Knowledge of the Son of God." The Greek word "epignosis" isn't talking about intellectual knowledge. Rather, it is referring to experiential knowledge, one which unites the subject with the object.
 - ii. The church is going to come into a deeper intimacy with, understanding of, and love for Jesus than it has ever known.
- e. **Maturity.**
- i. How mature does God's own word say the church is to become? As mature as Jesus.
 - ii. Most Christians are focused on managing sin or just trying to be good.
 - 1. Is that maturity according to Ephesians 4:13?
 - 2. Our standard of maturity is to the full measure of the stature of Christ.
 - iii. Some Christians want to be better than other church members or members of society. Is that our standard of measure according to the word of God?
 - iv. Before Christ returns, God will give gifted people to the church until that the body of Christ comes to the full maturity of the Lord Jesus.
- f. **Purity.**
- i. Jesus is coming back for a pure and holy bride.
 - 1. *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (Ephesians 5:25-27).*
 - ii. The church will respond to the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in pursuing this purity and in preparing her wedding garments.

1. *Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) (Revelation 19:7-8.)*

g. Prayer.

- i. Prayer will characterize the church both individually and corporately (Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 21:12-13).
- ii. Before Jesus returns, his church will be a house of prayer for all nations because it is the word of God.
- iii. When we read of Jesus cleansing the temple in John 2:17, it says of Jesus according to the Old Testament prophecy, "*Zeal for Thy house has consumed me.*" The church will ultimately become a house of prayer because of the zeal of the Lord. Whatever God is zealous toward will come to pass.

h. Power:

- i. In the end times, God promises to pour out his Spirit in power and revelation (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21).
 1. "*In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"* (Acts 2:17-21).
 2. **The same Spirit who anointed and empowered Jesus will be poured out in great measure upon the church.** There is at least one simple reason why we have not seen much of God's power: when he has released a little, we have abused it. When God begins to anoint someone with power, we often see them use it for self-aggrandizing or personal kingdom building. We simply have not had the apostolic character necessary to bear apostolic power. But that is about to change. As we move further into God's final purposes, we will begin to become the church that God has prophesied we will become. As we begin to enter into maturity, unity, purity, prayer, and intimacy with Jesus, God will find in

us a people with the character to bear his power. We are going to enter days when God will be able to trust us with incredible amounts of his power. (*The Last Great Revival*, Steve Meeks, p. 75-76).

- ii. What Jesus did in his first coming on a local and limited basis in Palestine, the body of Christ will express world-wide at the end of the age. Jesus prophesies such power in John 14:12.

1. *I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father (John 14:12).*
2. **Jesus fully intends for us to do the works that he has done. Just as the Father sent Jesus into the world, Jesus is also sending us** (John 20:21).

- i. **Harvest.**

- i. There is going to be a great harvest before Jesus comes again, preceded by many smaller outpourings of the Holy Spirit and times of harvest and revival (John 4:34-38; Isaiah 60:1-3; Revelation 7:9-14).

2. **God gives us a picture in the book of Acts of the church moving in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit so that the church looked and sounded like the Lord Jesus.**

- a. Jesus came proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel of the kingdom of God in word and deed (Matthew 4:23-25; 9:35-38).
 - i. *Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him (Matthew 4:23-25).*
 - ii. *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field (Matthew 9:35-38).*
- b. Jesus did what the Father was doing (John 5:19).

- c. Jesus said what the Father was saying (John 8:28).
 - d. Jesus said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father”* (John 14:12 ESV).
 - e. Jesus authorized, anointed, and empowered his disciples to go and say what he was saying and to do what he was doing (Luke 9:1-2; 10:1-2; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).
 - f. The work of Jesus continued in and through his followers in the book of Acts. The followers of Jesus looked and sounded so much like **Jesus that others recognized them as having been with Jesus** (Acts 4:13).
 - i. *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus* (Acts 4:13).
 - g. There were many outpourings and fillings of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts upon the people of God (Acts 2:1-4; 4:23-31; 8:4-25; 10:24-48; 19:1-20).
 - h. The early church advanced through signs, wonders, and miracles by the Spirit and for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Galatians 3:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5).
3. **God carved out time in our services at Calvary to touch people with his power and presence.**
- a. In 1987 the Lord began to show up at the end of our services in a very dramatic way. Even though the pastor would formally dismiss the meeting, no one would move to leave. The Spirit of the Lord had come. Any in the congregation would simply sit before the Lord in silence. A profound quiet would descend upon us. Each of us was basking in the presence of the Lord.
 - b. But a question kept coming to our minds: what was the Lord wanting to do or say? During the Spring of 1988, **our pastor discovered that the Lord was making room in our services for the Spirit's time.** The Holy Spirit desired to minister to us, to bring the kingdom of God near to us. The Lord desires to save the lost, release people from demonic bondage, heal the sick, and encourage the discouraged (Luke 4:18). We want to cooperate with and bless what the Lord is doing. Ministry Time has become a meaningful time at the end of our Sunday and Wednesday services, our conferences, and other meetings.
 - c. God's Spirit has been working mightily among us. We believe, however, that we have experienced is a mere trickle of what the Holy Spirit desires to do. The pastors simply cannot keep up with what God is doing, nor should they do all the ministry. We are committed to equipping the saints for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13). In order for us to cooperate with the ministry of the Father, God has led us

to begin training others to be priests, ambassadors, and servants. One avenue of ministry for each of us is Ministry Time in our services and small groups. We also make ourselves available to pray for others in our spheres of influence where we live, work, and play.

4. **God has used MTT to touch people and churches locally and globally.**
 - a. We have taught Ministry Team Training three times a year since 1989.
 - b. Thousands of people from hundreds of churches have received training through MTT. Those people have come from all over Texas and many different places in the USA.
 - c. And, we have done training in other churches Texas and in other states, too.
 - d. MTT has also gone to other nations like Latvia, Ukraine, and Myanmar.
5. **God has taught us to keep on doing the last thing he told us to do until he tells us to do something different.**
 - a. And, each year we ask if we are to continue hosting MTT.
 - b. God keeps saying, "Yes."
6. **God has sowed MTT to other congregations so that they could equip their people to move in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in step with Jesus.**
 - a. Over the years, churches and pastors have contacted us for information on how to use our MTT materials to equip their churches.
 - b. We work with these pastors and churches, giving our material away for free, with the stipulation that they acknowledge Calvary Community Church as the source for their training.

Summary:

That is a brief history of why we started doing Ministry Team Training and why we are still doing MTT.

MTT is about staying in step with the Holy Spirit and following the Lord Jesus in ministering to people.

We have a model that helps us keep in step with the Lord. We don't put our faith in a model; rather, we put our faith in God our healer.

The model is simply a tool that helps us stay in step with our living God.

Now, I want to briefly share with you our QRST ministry model.

QRST Ministry Model: Question, Reason, Solution, Teaching

Here is a model to help us in ministry, so that we might proclaim and demonstrate the good news of the Kingdom of God. (See Luke 4:18-19; Matthew 4:23-28, 9:35-38, 10:1-8; Luke 9:1-2, 10:1-2; Acts 1:5, 8; 10:38; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:5.) And, this model helps us stay in step with Jesus and rely upon the Spirit of God.

Q = Question:

- **What** is the need or problem? Physical, emotional, spiritual, relational
- **What** hurts?
- **What** do you want God to do?

Learn to listen both to the person and to the Holy Spirit.

R = Reason:

- **Why** is this person hurting?
- **Why** do they have this condition?
- **Why** do they have this need or problem?

S = Solution:

- **How** shall I pray?
- **How** do I help?
- **How** are we doing?

Pray humbly, graciously, and sensitively whatever the Holy Spirit leads.

Pray with your eyes open: Watch for physical effects.

Ask questions: "What is God doing?"

Ask for feedback: "Does this mean anything to you?"

Bless whatever God is doing.

Stop praying when the person you are praying for indicates it is over, when the Spirit tells you it's over, or when you cannot think of anything else to pray.

T = Teaching:

- **Where** do they go from here?
- **Where** does the Scripture address this need?

General counsel of Scripture may be given ("go and sin no more").

Be open to supernatural leading for special direction.

Always get them moving toward God. Encourage prayer, Bible study, Christian fellowship, worship, etc.

Always thank the person for letting you visit or pray with them.

Action:

1. Invite people to get trained.
2. Invite people to receive impartation.
3. Invite people to not settle for what they have had, but to hunger for more of God and for more of what the Lord wants to do in and through us.
4. Invite people to practice praying for someone near them in this service.