

Lesson 7

Ministry Activation

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VIDEO OUTLINE

Note: All scriptures used in this lesson are quoted from the *New King James Version*.

- I. How do we apply what we've heard and actually start ministering to people?
 - A. The enemy tries to stop you before you even start. He will tell you that it's scary. He tries to get you to ask, "What if this or that happens?" So, we want to dispel some of those fears.
 - B. The enemy is no respecter of persons. He will try to intimidate you by the need, like someone in a wheelchair.
 - C. People always want to be someplace where they're not instead of just starting where they are, especially with healing.
 - D. Duane Sheriff often says, "Don't let what you don't know stop you from doing what you do know." The key is to just start.
 - E. A lot of people will let fear stop them from stepping out because they feel like they don't have any experience.
 - F. Everything you do for the first time is scary. But when we resolve in our hearts to really step on over that fear and do it anyway, God meets us in that place. It takes faith to step out and operate in spiritual gifts.
 - G. To step into something new, you make yourself vulnerable in front of people and risk embarrassment or rejection. That takes a step of faith and courage. But when we do, there's a great blessing in it.
 - H. Don't give people you; give them Jesus. Our confidence is not in our flesh. The apostle Paul said to have no confidence in the flesh. So, you're in a good place.

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Philippians 3:3

- II. What are some of the biggest doubts the enemy throws?
 - A. What if I pray for somebody and nothing happens?
 - B. What if I pray for somebody and they get worse?
- III. What are some of the dynamics of things that you have learned?
 - A. People often disqualify themselves before they've even stepped out. We're always thinking somebody else is greater, somebody else has more power, somebody else is better qualified, but really healing and healing ministry aren't based on our qualifications at all.
 - B. Anytime we make healing about us, we're in the process of exalting ourselves, and that place is where unbelief happens. So, once we understand that healing can only be received through Jesus, it puts us in a place where we don't have to try so hard. Jesus is the all-powerful one on the inside of us, so it gives us a place to rest in the finished works of Christ. We can realize that we aren't bringing healing to anyone; Jesus is the one who is bringing healing through us.
 - C. We aren't responsible for the results. The results are not our problem. We are called to lay hands on the sick, to preach the Word, to give them Jesus, to preach the truth in love, and then stand back and watch signs and wonders. The results are not within our realm of authority.
 - D. The Word says that if you're a believer, you can lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. Once we start to put what we've been receiving in the Word of God into action, the blessing of the Lord begins to manifest.

They will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Mark 16:18

- E. One big thing in ministry is that what we don't say is just as important as what we do say. We have to be careful what we verbalize.

That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:12

1. What are some of the things we need to be careful not to say?
 - a. "I guess it didn't work. We'll just wait and see. Maybe it didn't stick."
 - b. "You don't have enough faith."
 - c. "What kind of believer are you?"
 - d. "What is the matter with you?"
 - e. "I guess you just don't know enough to receive."

- IV. How much talking do you do versus laying hands and praying?
 - A. A lot of times, we want to counsel or convince people into healing. But we shouldn't do that; we should just minister healing and then encourage them.
 - B. We always want people to leave time of ministry better than before they came. As they leave, they need to be built up, they need to be encouraged, they need to be empowered.
 - C. People receive according to what they believe. God's not up in heaven deciding how people receive. But when it comes to ministry, there are those people who you'll pray for and it's just like picking ripe fruit. You can see this in the scriptures where it says that Jesus saw their faith.
 - D. Some people, you just lay hands and it's like anyone could lay hands on them, they're getting healed. But with other people, you might lay hands on them and nothing much changes. Especially for people who have been chronically sick, there is more mind renewal needed; in other words, more teaching is going to be necessary to break through their preconceived ideas and help them overcome the barriers that they're struggling with so that they can receive.

- V. What do you recommend for prayers: fast prayers, short prayers, long prayers?
 - A. There's no magic formula in prayer ministry. When you look at the example of Jesus, there wasn't a cookie cutter response to people, and He didn't minister the same way every time.

- B. Jesus's prayers weren't long. We don't need to have really long, religious prayers. "Be healed" is a great prayer.
 - C. More power isn't released when we say more words. Daniel Kolenda said, "The more words you have to use to pray for somebody, the more unbelief is really being made manifest because you're not even convinced." It's that preaching prayer, where you're trying to convince yourself while you're praying, as opposed to just commanding, "Be healed."
- VI. When someone is praying for another person, can they pray by themselves? Should they have someone alongside of them who can agree with them?
- A. You can do it by yourself. It depends the situation. Typically, when praying one on one, men should pray for men, and women should pray for women.
 - B. If you're in church and another person needs ministry, you as a believer have the power of God living on the inside of you, so it's not like you need 20 more people to make it more powerful.
 - C. When you start ministering to people and stepping out, sometimes there's real comfort in having somebody with you, having a buddy.
 - D. While you absolutely can pray for somebody by yourself, it's not a problem to have others alongside you, but there isn't more power in a multitude.
 - E. There's a fleshly confidence when you have somebody with you; you just feel more bold. When Jesus sent people out, He sent them out two by two. I think the reason why He sent them out two by two is because He knew they would go if they had someone else with them.
- VII. If someone is sick, where do I lay my hands? Are there inappropriate spots?
- A. Many people think they have to put their hand on the exact body part needing to be healed. That is not true.
 - B. You don't even have to lay hands on the sick. You could just speak the Word over them, and the power of God would do what the power of God does.
 - C. Our preference at Healing School is to have same-sex prayer minister and attendee, just for appropriateness. Also, sometimes people are going to share personal things and will feel more comfortable speaking to somebody of the same sex. When it comes to laying on hands, we just need to be appropriate.

- D. Just ask permission. “Are you comfortable if I lay my hand here?” Obviously, we also want to be careful that we don’t cause injury to people.
 - E. There’s no reason that anyone should be laying hands on personal areas at all.
 - F. If someone did need hands laid on their eyes, and you really felt it was appropriate, even then, be really careful, because sometimes you can put your hand on someone’s eye and press it and actually hurt them.
- VIII. Do you recommend what some churches do where they’ll grab somebody in a great big hug, pull them in, and pray over them?
- A. No. We don’t want to be standoffish or removed, but on the other hand, when you invade someone’s personal space and make them feel uncomfortable, you’re not helping them receive their healing. We want to be user-friendly. We want to be able to help them receive what Jesus has already provided.
 - B. Use social awareness, like if you’re too close to someone when you’re praying for them. If you’re smelling their breath or cologne—you’re too close.
- IX. How do we deal with those moments when the Holy Spirit is asking you do something that seems radical or out of your comfort zone?
- A. There are going to be those unexpected times when we don’t have something planned out. The reason He’s our comforter is because He helps us get out of our comfort zones.
 - B. We’re talking about activation, and it’s always going to be uncomfortable, especially the first time you do it. But like anything, the more you walk in it and become familiar with it, the more you’re going to be able to flow with it. But the Holy Ghost will help you get out of your comfort zone if you’ll just let Him.
 - C. Be open to the Holy Spirit because He really wants to use you. Be moved with compassion.
- X. What about demonic activity?
- A. Sometimes people come up for prayer, thinking they need prayer for back pain, headaches, whatever, and they manifest demonically.
 - B. Demonic manifestations are not as commonplace as people might anticipate. You find that people who outwardly invite it will see it more often. That’s where you get

these deliverance ministries who are kind of inviting those things to manifest so they see more of it. But in the general population, those things are kind of rare.

- C. The answer is always Jesus, amen! We just need to understand that the enemy is indiscriminate about who he attacks and how he moves through people. He's just trying to get some attention. If something demonic manifests in a meeting, it's because it's on its way out. They really don't want to be exposed because they don't want to be cast out. So, if they're manifesting, they're on their way out. We just need to quickly deal with it in the name of Jesus: "Be quiet and leave in the name of Jesus."
- D. We don't need to have conversations and ask them their names. We just need to take our authority over them.
- E. When the enemy comes, he always comes to show off. He comes to steal, kill, and destroy what Jesus is doing. So, never be afraid of that in a meeting. You don't have to entertain it and make a big thing about it. You have the authority as the believer over every kind of demonic activity.

XI. What about praying for people and making bold declarations?

- A. We need to speak the Word of God with boldness. And that's the key. We're not speaking out of our flesh.
- B. We need to encourage people. We can be very bold about the promises of God.
- C. We declare what the Word of God says. We don't come up with some declaration that we've just dreamed up.
- D. We're meeting that person where they are. Jesus always met people where they were. And He said to them, "Be it unto you according to your faith." Now, Jesus didn't have a faith problem, but He met them where they were. That's really important for us. We need to be more bold in our declarations, but we need to be careful that we're saying what God is saying.

XII. How many times do you pray for somebody?

- A. When Jesus was praying for the blind man, the man wasn't fully receiving, so Jesus took a minute to pray again because He really wanted him to have what was already his. Sometimes we get in too much of a hurry when we're ministering to people in the healing area.

Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."

Mark 8:22-26

- B. Back in the day of healing rooms, people would actually go into a room with a "healing practitioner," two or three people together. John G. Lake said, "Don't come back until they're completely healed." And sometimes they would spend a long, long time in that room. So, it's not a formula.
 - C. Sometimes there's a group of people praying for somebody and they're not getting any results, but they just don't want to quit because it's almost a pride thing.
 - D. There are times when I pray for people again, but like Jesus, when He prayed for that man a second time, He was seeing some progress.
 - E. Think of it this way: with salvation, sometimes people need to hear the Gospel more than once before they respond to it.
 - F. Sometimes it's the next day. There are more seeds or more Word that needs to be sown and someone needs to meditate on it. We also need to know when to quit.
- XIII. Do you also ask people to do something, like if they have a bad back to do something they couldn't do before?
- A. There's faith in the moving. That's really important.
 - B. Faith without works is dead. But again, it's not the action that heals you. It's the believing.