

Praying with Offenders

Many times, effectively praying with offenders is not much different than other sinners other than possibly the depth of sin that they have experienced which will have an impact on where they are and what it will take to pull them out.

Jude 22-23 King James Version (KJV)

²² And of some have compassion, making a difference:

²³ And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Be Spiritually Sensitive or Connected

One thing that we must be sensitive to is hunger.

The reason why it is so important to be able to be led of the Spirit and find those that are hungry is because most of the time you are on an allotted time to work in so we must be aware of the time and make full use of it.

With that being said, in order to be the most effective in our ministry we must focus on those that have a true hunger for God to transform their lives. Many times, in prison there are those of other religions that have no desire for what you have but they don't want you spreading this gospel to others so they will try to tie you up with foolish questions and debates. We don't have time for that.

If someone is not actively seeking and they are just standing there looking around, but they are not engaged in what is going on in the altar then there is a strong chance that they are not there to really receive but to only observe and many come to services just to have a change of scenery.

I have learned through the years that in every church service there are three types of people there:

The Crowd- They are not there to give anything, and they are not there to receive anything, they are there just to say they were apart of something.

The Curious- Many times the curious was once part of the crowd but they stayed around long enough to hear about what God was doing so they really don't have enough faith to receive anything yet, but they want to get close enough to what is happening to see for themselves if what they have heard is true.

The Committed- These are the people that we focus on the most. This group is where you find the woman with the issue of blood. She has a problem she is tired of living with. She has heard about what God can do for her, her heart is filled with faith and she came into the service with a made up mind that she was not going to leave the same way that she came.

This is where the Gift of Discernment is very useful.

You Must be Anointed and have authority in the Spirit.

There is no substitute for the anointing of the Holy Ghost! It does not matter who you are praying for you will not be effective without being sensitive and connected to the Spirit.

Zechariah 4:6 King James Version (KJV)

⁶Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

Isaiah 10:27 King James Version (KJV)

²⁷And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and **the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.**

Isaiah 10:27 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

²⁷And it shall be in that day that the burden of [the Assyrian] shall depart from your shoulders, and his yoke from your neck. **The yoke shall be destroyed because of fatness [which prevents it from going around your neck].**

I cannot stress the absolute necessity of operating under the anointing of the Spirit. In prison and jail ministry you are in a place and dealing with souls that many times has deep entrenchment of sin and even spirits of bondage and they will not be delivered by the flesh or a lay me down to sleep, pray the Lord my soul to keep prayer but it must be the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man (or a man or woman that is in right standing with God.)

Effectual- means producing a desired effect **Fervent-** glowing, very hot

When it come to the saving of souls and them being delivered from sin and the power of the enemy this is spiritual warfare.

Matthew 11:12 says from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force.

Ephesians 6:11-12 King James Version (KJV)

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 King James Version (KJV)

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

We must walk and operate in the power of the Spirit and Apostolic authority. Our lives and our ministry must be covered and saturated with prayer and fasting and we must be in submission to the Spiritual Authority in our lives, which is our Pastor and God and by submitting to the man of God in your life you are walking in submission to the word of God.

Hebrews 13:17 Amplified Bible (AMP)

¹⁷ Obey your [spiritual] leaders and submit to them [recognizing their authority over you], for they are keeping watch over your souls *and* continually guarding your spiritual welfare as those who will give an account [of their stewardship of you]. Let them do this with joy and not with grief *and* groans, for this would be of no benefit to you.

If there is one thing that the spirit realm understands it is order and chain of command. When Jesus asked the spirits in the man of the Gadarenes who they were, they replied we are Legion. Not only was that an indication of number but if you do research on the word legion it is a regimented, organized military unit. Each unit has commanding officers and subordinates that operate with order and precision.

In **Matthew 8** when Jesus was speaking to the centurion about healing his servant, he told Jesus not to come into his house because he was not worthy but just speak the word because I understand how authority works. The centurion said, I am a man under authority, so I have authority and I command others and they obey and Jesus said not so great of faith have I seen in all of Israel. The centurion understood that it was his submission to authority that gave him authority.

If you are going to pray effectively with people, especially offenders that are deeply entrenched in sin, you have anointing and authority in the Spirit. If you are not operating under a Spiritual covering and you are trying to deal with the spirits of the darkness of this world, they will recognize that you have no covering and you are in trouble.

Recognize that they have needs other than salvation.

Many of the people in prison may not be open to salvation yet. Don't just assume they are in the altar to repent or receive the Holy Ghost. Many of them are broken because of situations in their marriage or in their children or they need a physical healing. Allow the Gifts of the Spirit to flow and operate through you. Many of them don't think that Jesus loves them enough to be saved. They feel like they have done too much for him to forgive them but if God can answer their prayer in another area then it can build faith in them to receive something else from him.