

Four Stations of the Holy Spirit/Prayer Training Session

Where: New Birth 1025 Lehman St; Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17046

When: June 2, arrival 8:30 start: 9 and finished by noon

Cost: \$15 for packet includes “Too Busy Not to Pray” book, anointing oil, baptismal water, and communion elements

Registration: Email Gordon Hendrickson:

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When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31

There is little if anything new under the sun, a saying that's true about the church and discipleship. We constantly go back to the Church of Acts to rediscover the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer is the key to unlocking the power of the Holy Spirit. Almost everyone believes in prayer, if only as a last resort, like atheists in foxholes. Wherever I travel in the world, there is a thirst for prayer to quench parched souls.

Many times our mission teams carry Bill Hybels' book *Too Busy Not to Pray*. People we encounter on flights or at mission sites will ask to borrow it. Prayer unlocks the door to other blessings of the Holy Spirit. It can activate healing through the oil of anointing. It can herald new beginnings for one who receives baptism through water. It can foster reconciliation through Christ's body (bread) and blood (wine or juice) during Holy Communion.

When I visit Africa, I see medical clinics where people gather in two lines hours before opening time. I asked once, "Why two lines?" One line was to see the medical experts, and the other was to receive oil for healing. When I asked why, they said they believed in both healings.

So I am curious: Why don't we have prayer for healing at our medical clinics and pharmacies? Why not have healing, anointed prayer at CVS, Rite-Aid or wherever? Here's another question: Why don't we offer prayer with healing oil every week during worship?

I have family members who went through some difficult times in their marriage. They wanted to have a blessing with water to signify a new beginning—baptism. They had been baptized as infants, but now they wanted full immersion. Should they be refused?

It was and is a powerful statement of their faith and their relationships to each other and to God. Millions of people experiencing transformation might want their new beginnings to be blessed with water. Can we offer this to others? How about making the mark of Christ's cross on a forehead with water? How about offering this service at locations in our community? How about offering it every week at our worship services?

There are many broken people in our churches and in our world. The blood of Christ represents repentance and forgiveness—reconciliation. Can we go out into our communities and give the blood and body of Christ to people who are looking for spiritual and relational healing? Can we offer this to one another at our weekly worship services?

Clearly, the starting point is prayer. We need to develop prayer teams who have the gifts and graces to offer healing, reconciliation and blessings for new beginnings. We will spend time in these areas:

- Prayer to release the Holy Spirit.
- Anointing with oil to foster healing.
- Baptism to signify new beginnings.
- Communion to invite reconciliation.

Pastor Mike Netznik will share how his church is turning loose the power of the Holy Spirit. He will share how his church went through a growing process to accomplish this ministry.