

MINISTERING — IN THE — SPIRIT

— ◆ —
GUIDELINES FOR
SPIRIT-LED MINISTRY

— BY —
PASTOR VERN PELTZ
WORD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

— ◆ —

© 2023, 2026 Pastor Vern Peltz, Word of Life Ministries.

Reproduction of this material is granted only for non-commercial purposes provided the attribution to Pastor Vern Peltz and Word of Life Ministries is maintained in any reproduction.

Any modification of the material is strictly prohibited. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.

Word of Life Ministries
3640 County Rd 6 NW
Stanchfield, MN 55080



Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 4
Foundational Principles	Page 7
Basic Principles	Page 10
Etiquette	Page 14
Not Getting Weird	Page 16
Coming Under Authority	Page 19
Guidelines for Spirit-Led Ministry at Word of Life or TBO	Page 21

Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to lay out some practical guidelines for Ministering in the Spirit. The Gifts of the Spirit and all supernatural ministry is supposed to be done by the body / believers. (Mark 16:17; 1 Cor. 12:12-31) This booklet is not intended to teach us how to operate in the Gifts, but to establish guidelines that surround the operation of the Spirit as people endeavor to minister.

To minister in the Power of the Spirit is an awesome thing. It should always be done in the Fear of the Lord. When done correctly, it will literally change people's lives for Eternity. The Presence and Work of the Spirit is absolutely life-changing. People (esp. young believers) will take our word and input as though it were God himself speaking to them. We need to realize that we need to protect them from our imperfections. We are human and will err from time to time. So even though God is endeavoring to minister through us, it isn't literally God who is speaking to / ministering to the other person.

Always Remember: With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility

With the distribution of the Gifts and Power of the Spirit comes enormous, almost limitless ability for the Spirit to minister on the earth. However, it also opens the door for the increased imperfections of mankind to manifest. Here is where the problem enters. And that's the purpose for this book: to endeavor to lay out some basic principles that will help minimize the negative impact that can take place when the believers and church get involved with this type of ministry.

What do I mean by negative impact? Believers range in age and maturity from new born babes, to mature Fathers; from immaturity like a child to the maturity of a functional mature father in the faith (remember: not all elderly people are mature nor functional). This process of growth is what John is describing in 1 John 2:12-14. When people who are still very immature enter into ministry, they bring their immaturities with them. The typical types of things that manifest with immaturity are: scriptural error, mis-leading the person they are ministering to, pride, condemnation, a lack of empathy / compassion, self-righteous, unteachable, not willing to receive correction, unaccountable, refusal to submit to authority, gossip, making themselves look good at someone else's expense, or the expense of the ministry, etc.

The result of that is: people get hurt by the very person who claims to be ministering for God. We call that getting 'Weird'. Until there is some realm of maturity in a person, they tend to get Weird when the power of God begins to flow through them, and people are being touched by God.

That is absolutely counter-productive in building the Kingdom of God. That is why most churches and ministries that believe and flow in the Spirit and Gifts allow only

a few people to do so. Once it's open for everyone, there is quickly so much collateral damage in people's lives, it's not worth the damage being done to continue to allow the body to minister. As well as, the typical believer takes no responsibility for the damage they cause. In fact, from my experience — the believer who is ministering tends to blame the problem on the one they are ministering to. And rather than do everything they can to fix the problem, they will just wash their hands of it and walk away. So as a result, the freedom for the body to minister in the Spirit is shut down because the people ministering act like 'hirelings / hired hands' who don't really care for the sheep, and at the first sign of problems — it shows. Where someone with a true shepherd's heart will lay their lives down, before one of the sheep gets hurt. That's the attitude we need in order to minister to people — or it simply ends up getting Weird with a lot of damaged people. (John 10:11-15) I think the reason the Leadership would stop the freedom for people from the congregation in those situations is quite obvious.

But there is also something else that factors in. The Shepherd / Pastor / Elders will be held responsible for what happens in their flock / church. We will answer on the day of judgment to the Great Shepherd on how we handled his people. If we know damage is being done, and we allow it — that will not go well on the day of judgment when we answer for what we did with His Church. If we don't protect the sheep from things we know will damage them, we will be held accountable. In fact here is what God thinks about that type of Leadership:

Jer. 23:1-4 (NIV)

[1] "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. [2] Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the LORD. [3] "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. [4] I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD.

The aspect that most believers rarely take into consideration when they minister to someone is the fact that if you mess up and don't fix it, you have damaged someone for life. They will very likely leave the church, they may back away from God, they will now approach most everything that has to do with the moving of the Spirit, or even church itself, in a very negative fashion. That will now influence everyone they know and will be passed on to their children, and possibly successive generations.

THIS IS NOT A GAME, BUT LITERALLY THE ETERNAL LIVES OF PEOPLE ARE BEING AFFECTED.

Immature people don't take those kinds of things into consideration. It tends to be more about them, than the person they're ministering to. And when it goes awry,

the blame often goes to the person they were ministering to, rather than on the person who was ministering. As a result, there is a trail of wreckage in the wake of most believers who try to minister to other people. This is a basic reason why the Christian Church is so pathetic in America.

- The mainline denominations don't believe in the Charisma.
- The denominations that do believe, are afraid to let the Spirit move.

Our goal is to move past this problem, but still allow and even encourage people to minister. It's the scriptural way. It should be happening in every church.

To do that, we are establishing some guidelines that will need to be adhered to in order to minister. If you are a parent, you already know the need for guidelines in the family. Children are very exuberant, and very immature. As a result, they can be very destructive with many things. They don't have the capability of thinking ahead and reason through cause and effect. That's why they get an idea and just do it, not thinking what the outcome of that will be. Typically a lot of things get damaged or broken needlessly. So parents establish guidelines for the family / children to live by in an effort to minimize the damage.

That's the picture of what we are trying to do here with this booklet and teaching. We want the body to minister, but we don't want the wreckage that often follows that.

We are going to cover 5 main areas as we look at Ministering in the Spirit, with practical guidelines at the end.

- 1) Foundational Principles.
- 2) Basic Principles.
- 3) Etiquette.
- 4) Not Getting Weird.
- 5) Coming Under Authority.

So let's begin by looking at some Foundational Principles.

Foundational Principles

This is what I mean by Foundational Principles:

These are things that are absolutely vital and imperative for us to understand in order to minister in the Spirit. Without these it's guaranteed the ministry will go badly in time.

1) The Ministry must be by the Holy Spirit, or it's not of God. (1 Cor. 12:7, 11)

a. This may seem like a redundant point, but let me explain a bit. To minister by the Spirit, it must be initiated by the Spirit, not us.

b. If the Holy Spirit has not given you anything, do not make something up that sounds reasonable / logical. The Holy Spirit will need to give us something before we can do some type of Spiritual ministry.

c. When the Spirit has given us something, only go as far as what the Spirit has given to you. (Don't add to it. Don't take away from it.)

d. Do not force ministering in the Spirit to happen. It is as he 'determines' or 'wills', not by our determination or will. (1 Cor. 12:7, 11) To say it another way: we don't choose when to work or move in the Spirit — He Chooses. If he's not moving, don't try to force something to happen.

When you force it, you will quickly find yourself in Divination or Witchcraft. There will be a spirit moving and giving you information, and sometimes even ability, but it won't be the Holy Spirit. That's not what we're looking for. We don't want any Divination or Witchcraft happening in the church.

e. When we don't follow and do what the Spirit is saying, people miss out on the best that God has for them, but typically they are not as damaged as when we try to force something to happen. That's why the Leadership will opt to simply stop all Spiritual Ministry. It's not the best, but it's less destructive.

2) "The Just shall live by Faith" principle. (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11 — KJV)

a. Our goal as believers is to learn how to live by Faith. The stronger we become in our Faith, the less we will need to receive from the Gifts of the Spirit to remain Victorious and Over-Coming. When we live by Faith, we are living in the Supernatural on a Daily basis.

b. In the church there will be all levels of growth in the people in attendance. It will range from Infants / Babies to Fully Mature Believers. So there will always be a need for Spiritual Gift Ministry in the Church. However, since as we mature we learn how to receive using our own Faith, we will find that the Spirit does not manifest with Spiritual Gifts near as often with the people as they gain maturity. He doesn't need to. They simply live their lives and receive what they need by Faith.

c. The application is: Don't expect the Spirit to Manifest in a Gift very often with more mature believers. The more mature they become, the less the gifts will manifest in ministry toward them. They are no longer needing it.

Find the genuine manifestation of the Spirit, and when it happens, flow in the anointing. Just realize, it will likely be with a newer believer, or the person who is still working on their faith to be an Over-Comer.

d. The main purpose for ministry, including the Gifts of the Spirit and any kind of moving of the Spirit is to help people to find freedom, and live Victoriously. The Gifts and the Supernatural will manifest the most with those who need help doing that.

3) Learning how to hear the Spirit is EVERYTHING in ministering by the Spirit.

a. That point should be self-explanatory. We can't do spiritual ministry without the Holy Spirit, unless we tap into some other spirit.

b. Spiritual Ministry means we are ministering by a spirit, or the Spirit. (Which one?)

c. Learning to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit will only come and mature by us:

- Increasing our relationship with him.
- Pursuing: hearing his voice more clearly.
- It's that simple.

d. Just remember: all Spiritual Ministry depends totally upon how well we are able to hear the voice of the Spirit. If we struggle in that area, we should work on it before we try to do too much ministry by the Spirit. If we can't hear what he's telling us to do, we won't be able to minister under his direction and power.

e. He speaks in many ways. We are not going to make a teaching out of that here, but I will list many of the ways he will speak.

1. Knowings or the Inward Witness. (Like known facts)
2. Giving you the same sensation of the person you're ministering to. (Discomfort, pain, confusion, fear, depression, discouragement, etc.)
3. Speaking to you via thoughts in your head. (Like prophecy)
4. Pictures.
5. Dreams & Visions.
6. Reminding us / bringing up the Scripture regarding the situation.
7. A moving in your spirit to get our attention, or draw us to someone.

4) The working and operation of the Gifts are to bring Unity, not Division. (1 Cor. 12:7, 25)

a. However, from my experience, when the congregation is allowed to minister in the Spirit, the opposite is more true: It brings more Division than Unity.

b. Why does that happen? Here is a list of the most typical manifestations I've seen — most of them rooted in immaturity:

1. It's too much about them. (their desires, agenda, recognition)
2. They are easily offended.
3. They can't see the big picture.
4. They don't consider the other person.
5. Their feelings get hurt easily.
6. Lack of empathy / compassion.
7. Self-Righteous and Self-Defensive.
8. They are Unteachable.
9. They will not receive Correction.
10. Pride: they already know.
11. They don't understand Authority or how to come under it.
12. They can't keep their mouth shut. They Gossip.
13. They need to make themselves look good, even at others' / churches' expense.
14. They will not allow anyone to hold them accountable.

c. So the result of that is people get hurt, and leave the church, don't return for special meetings, etc.

That's what we don't want.

Basic Principles

1) The purpose is Love.

- a. The only Godly reason for Ministering in the Spirit is to help the other person. We want the best for them.
- b. Once other motives become involved, the anointing will lift, and it's no longer Ministering in the Spirit, but more accurately it's ministering by the soul or even the flesh.

2) Ministering in the Spirit will only work by Love.

***** According to Jesus: Everything Comes Back to Love. (Matt. 22:37-40)**

- a. If we are not being moved by Love / Empathy / Compassion toward the person we're ministering to, there won't be much Power.
- b. In Charismatic circles it can become something other than a ministry of Love. It can take on characteristics of:
 - Pride.
 - Wielding Power.
 - Gaining Recognition.
 - A numbers game.
 - Self-Approval.
 - Approval of Others.
 - Gaining Position.
 - Etc.

3) Minister out of Compassion / Empathy.

- a. This is the underlying motivation that draws you to the person. It's about our longing to do something to help them.
- b. Put yourself in their position as much as possible. It will not only help motivate you, but help guide you in how you handle yourself, and what you do with them.

4) Apologize when you're wrong (own it).

- a. Too often I've seen the ones ministering make excuses for their inaccuracy by blaming the one they are ministering to.
 - They won't receive.
 - They're not in faith.
 - They're too wounded.
 - Etc.

If you have missed it, just own it. It's so much more Godly and just a lot easier. It will also help protect the one you ministered to.

5) Strive to hear the Holy Spirit more accurately.

- a. This is an on-going process.
- b. I don't think it's possible to hear him with 100% accuracy. We are living in a dark realm and we are still seeing through a glass, darkly. (1 Cor. 13:12b)
- c. But we must pursue hearing him clearly.

6) Be humble going in, be humble going out.

- a. This is necessary if we want to hear the Spirit. He will resist any pride.
- b. It's a good ministry posture. We are servants, not Lords.

Matt. 20:25-28 (NKJV)

[25] But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. [26] Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. [27] And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— [28] just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

- c. Don't come off like you are God. Leave room for a possible error. That way it's easier to own it if you do miss something.
 - Besides: it's Pride to act like you 'Know it All' and don't make mistakes.

7) It's not about us, or our agenda.

- a. See the verse above.
- b. We're flowing in the Spirit to minister to someone, for their benefit.
- c. It can never become a way that we use to:
 - correct them for something we think they're doing wrong;
 - give them a message;
 - take charge of a situation;
 - gain a position or advantage;
 - rebuke someone;
 - prove someone right or wrong;
 - etc.

8) We started in the Spirit — don't presume you know what he expects you to do with what he's given to you. Follow him all the way through, from the beginning of receiving something to the end of ministering it.

- a. Very often we are shown something, and we take the ball and run with it before we know how we're supposed to handle it.

b. Once he has given us something, stop and ask:

- WHAT should I do with this,
- HOW am I to deal with it,
- and WHEN should I do it?

9) Don't automatically say / do everything he shows to us.

a. Some things are for our knowledge to know how to handle the person. This is especially true in abusive situations, rape, incest, etc. God may show us things so we understand and can have empathy. But that doesn't mean we are to bring them up to the person, or bring them out into the open.

b. Some things need to wait a time. It may not be time to bring them out. God will show you when it's time to deal with them.

10) You can't take someone where you haven't gone, and you can't give them what you don't have.

a. If you are still living in an area of weakness of your flesh or soul, it's rare that God will use you to minister to and help set someone free who's struggling with the same things as you.

Matt. 10:7-8 (NKJV)

"[7] And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' [8] Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

b. The areas we have grown in and come to a place of living in victory, are almost always the areas he uses us to minister to others.

- The larger scope of ministry requires a larger scope of growth.
- Without the personal growth, the amount of ministry is hindered.

11) We must cultivate speaking in tongues — speaking in tongues is the doorway to the supernatural.

a. Your spirit language is not an ornament or decoration. It's a tool. Use it daily.

b. When you go into Supernatural Ministry or are in it, use your prayer language as much as possible — even if it's done very quietly.

- It will help you stay more clearly connected to the Spirit.

12) How do I learn how to operate in the Spirit?

a. Just do what the Holy Spirit is telling you.

b. Don't be too concerned about labeling or knowing what gift you are operating in. Just do what the Holy Spirit is telling you.

c. As you minister, you will get questions. Ask someone who can help guide you. It's good to be teachable and learn from others' experience.

13) The Pastors are the ones held accountable for what happens in the church. If we are at a different meeting, the Leader of the meeting is the one who will be held accountable. Therefore, they need to remain in charge of what happens and what doesn't happen. The Pastors / Leaders make the call on everything.

- a. They are the ones we are accountable to for any Spiritual Gift we operate in.
- b. They are the ones who have the authority to correct anything that seems off.

14) When touching a person or laying on hands — the only places that are permissible to touch are the hands, arms, shoulders, and head. And depending on the person, we should ask permission to do that.

- a. If more than that is going to be touched (stomach, back, knees, feet, etc.), we must absolutely ask permission. And often it's good to have someone of their sex, or a friend of theirs who they trust, lay hands on for you.

15) The three question principle:

- a. Does this person need to know this?
- b. Am I supposed to talk to them about this?
- c. Am I supposed to talk to them now?

16) After you've ministered to someone, depending on what information was revealed, or what happened in the ministry time — the person may be very sensitive to how you feel about them / if you still like them / are they still OK with you.

- a. We must learn how to handle them like nothing ever happened. It's no different (or even better) than it was before we ministered to them.
- b. With the revelation of personal information, etc. — people become very sensitive to being rejected, or shamed. It's our job to take that concern away from them.

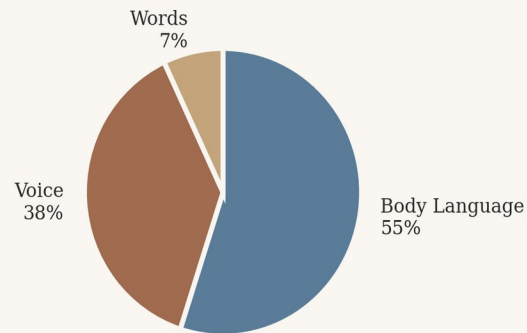
Etiquette

The Holy Spirit is a perfect Gentleman. He does not push on people, coerce them, or force them. He totally respects our will and does not move against it. If a person doesn't want prayer or ministry, the Spirit will not force it on them. He respects people's boundaries, and does not manipulate, control, or trick them into anything. He doesn't wear people down to get a 'No' to change to a 'Yes'. He is patient and kind, and will wait for them until they are ready.

We need to conform to those things when we minister.

- 1) Always Ask the person's permission to pray for them, lay hands on them, etc.
 - a. Never take for granted they want prayer.
 - b. Even in church settings, they don't always want ministry of any kind.
 - c. The only exception to that is once a person asks for prayer, is in a prayer line, etc. Then they should be expecting ministry. However, they may be unsaved, a new believer, or someone who is new to prayer lines. It's always good to ask their permission.
- 2) Be conscious of how you are coming across to the other person.
 - a. We can get excited, angry, frustrated, etc. and come across in a way that doesn't represent the Spirit.
 - b. Without realizing it, we can intimidate or cause fear in the other person.
 - c. Our goal is to come across in Love, Gentleness, Kindness, and Patience.
- 3) Learn to read body language. (Become 'Others Aware')
 - a. When we are ministering to someone, they most likely will not express the fact they are afraid, uncomfortable, anxious, confused, etc. We need to recognize it and handle them in a way that will remove what they are struggling with. The more uncomfortable, etc. a person is — the less they will receive.
 - b. When we sense they are having an issue, our job is to do everything we can to remove it before it becomes a blockage to ministry.
 - c. There is nothing wrong with talking to them about anything they are struggling with before we pray with them / minister to them.

The 3 Elements of Communication



4) Taking it a step deeper: learn to read voice tone.

a. The Bible says out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Very often the tone in a person's voice says exactly what they are feeling in their heart. (Fear, hesitancy, shame, etc.)

5) It's not about what we want to accomplish or see happen in or with them. It's about Walking in Love. Being Empathetic. Being Considerate. Showing Kindness.

a. Even if they leave the ministry time without having received anything supernatural,

- They should leave feeling Cared About and Loved.

Not Getting Weird

Some of these have already been touched above. However, they are important enough to list again here.

1) When believers try to operate in the Spirit going back and forth with their best friends like they're trading candy — it's typically not God.

2) Being pushy or forceful.

a. No matter what the source of the issue may be, we must guard against ever making a person feel forced or pushed.

b. Physical size, Voice strength, or Body Language can cause a person to be more intimidating.

3) Not asking if a person wants prayer or ministry before you do it. To simply take for granted it's OK, will almost guarantee offense.

4) Physically pushing them on the head, or doing things to make them fall down 'under the power'. (It's being Weird)

5) Not owning our mistakes when we miss it. (Don't make excuses)

6) Blaming others if nothing supernatural takes place, or if we miss it.

7) Don't Gossip.

a. Many times either the person will divulge, or the Spirit will share some very personal things about the person. That is no one else's business. The things that were revealed when ministering to the other person stay between you and them.

8) You don't have to announce what we're doing for it to be God. (esp. outside the church) — It's Weird.

a. We don't need to say: you're going to give a Prophecy before we give one. (Or: Thus saith the Lord; The Lord would say; etc.)

b. We don't need to say: we're using Discerning of spirits to do it.

c. We don't need to say: God is showing me...

d. When I pray, God heals people. I have that power.

e. Esp. when you're dealing with new believers, unsaved, or we're not in the church setting — these statements can be prideful, or bring fear to the person.

9) There are more Gifts than just the 'Revelation Gifts'.

a. Why do so few of us endeavor to work in Miracles, Messages in Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, or Prophecy in church settings? These are also Gifts of the Spirit.

Why is the most popular thing: to have 'Words of Knowledge' or 'Personal Prophecies' for each other?

I think it's because they are easier to not be accountable to. If we pray for a Miracle, it's pretty obvious whether it happens or not. If we give an Interpretation or Prophecy in a group setting, there may be 100 people judging the message (which is scriptural and needs to be done — 1 Cor. 14). If we talk to one person and give them some general word — it's much easier, and we won't have to be so accountable for it.

b. There are many Gifts. They are all Supernatural Gifts. We should and can operate in any of them. Here is a list:

1 Cor. 12:8-9		
Revelation Gifts	Power Gifts	Speaking Gifts
Word of Knowledge	Gifts of Healings	Prophecy
Word of Wisdom	Working of Miracles	Tongues
Discerning of Spirits	(Special / Jesus') Faith	Interpretation of Tongues
Rom. 12:6-7		
Prophesying	Service (Serving)	Teaching
Financial Giving	Encouragement	Administration / Leadership
Showing Mercy		

10) If we are given the mic in a public setting, say only what we agreed to say. It's not our time to take over and shine. If we feel we have more to say, get permission from the person in charge before you do it.

11) Offending or scaring people with our spirituality or zeal. (Being too over-bearing / dramatic) — is Weird.

12) Not watching body language / voice tone / or body proximity — can get Weird.

a. If someone is intimidated or scared, and we are not paying attention, or we simply run over their feelings.

b. Pushing your body up against the opposite sex for any reason in church. (Mistakes happen, I'm talking about the intentional stuff)

13) The previous point goes along with not being Self-Aware. (People who are not Self-Aware can get Weird.)

- a. Self-Aware means we are paying attention to what we are doing and how it affects other people. How we are coming across. It's not all about us, and what we think we can or should be doing.
 - b. It's the immature that think everything is for them and about them. (The 2 year old thinks the entire world revolves around them)
 - c. It takes maturity to take other people into consideration and Love them enough to restrain ourselves.
 - d. There's a time to Work Miracles, and a time not to.
- There's a time to Speak in Tongues, and a time not to.
- There's a time to Operate in the Gifts, and a time not to.

Ministering under the Power of the Spirit to a person is an extremely delicate time. Depending on what kind of ministry is taking place, the Spirit will always touch wounded or sensitive areas in the person because that's the area that is most likely holding them back in their life. They are taking a chance by allowing themselves to become extremely vulnerable.

Here is where we really need to guard against doing Weird things. The problem is we usually don't see ourselves the way others view us. Therefore a good close friend, or a spouse should always be allowed to speak into our lives to help us improve how we minister and come across to people.

Coming Under Authority

The Leader is the one in charge of what happens in a meeting, setting, service. All other ministries come under that authority. God will hold that leader accountable for what happens first, then he'll look at the rest of us who are ministering.

To minister in the Spirit is to be under authority. It's how the system is set up in scripture. Even the Spirit is under Authority, he only does what he receives from Jesus. And guess what: the things Jesus passes on to the Spirit, come from the Father. (John 16:13-15) There is a flow of Authority in the Spiritual things we are ministering: The Spirit is under the authority of Jesus, and Jesus is under the authority of the Father.

Under Authority means the person(s) in charge is the primary one who will judge the things going on in the meeting or service. They have the last say on how it will go, and if it's correct or not. If they are leading correctly, they too are under the flow of Authority listed above (John 7:24; 8:15-16). The Leader is under the Authority of the Holy Spirit.

1) Just bear in mind: unless we're the leader / pastor, guard against thinking we don't have to answer to anyone, or get anyone's permission to do our thing.

2) We must be teachable.

a. There is almost always something we can learn or do better. Be open to being shown new things and ways of doing things. Guard against being offended.

3) We must be able to receive correction.

a. If we are doing something wrong, it's the Leader's job to bring that up to us. Again, guard against picking up an offense. Simply learn and grow.

4) We must be accountable.

a. Since we are under authority, we are accountable to that authority. Everything is done in conjunction with the person who is in authority over us.

b. Don't resist the authority.

- If you can't handle what they are asking of you, or you think they're wrong — you need to speak to them about it and present your case.
- If in the end, no resolution can be found, simply remove yourself from under that authority / person.

c. Some areas in our Christian life are 'Mandatory Authority' realms.

- Us and the Holy Spirit, Jesus, the Father.
- Anyone we are assigned to by God.
- Certain relationship settings like young children to parents.

In these areas, we need to grow, change, and learn to follow / submit. It's not our choice if we're going to come under the other's authority or not.

d. Some areas are 'Voluntary Authority' realms.

- Areas we've decided to help in ministry, but it's not something God commanded us to do.
- Most secular jobs fall into this category.

In these areas, we have the choice to submit to the person in charge and grow, change, and learn to follow / submit, or we can simply remove ourselves from under their authority.

However, even in these settings, we should be led by the Holy Spirit.

5) There must be accountability.

a. We are accountable for what we say and do. We must be able to answer for our words and actions, not only to God, but to the Pastor and Leaders.

b. To operate in the Spirit in a church setting is to put ourselves under another's Authority. We are not an Authority to ourselves, and we can't feel or think that no one else has the right to hold us accountable, because we're accountable only to God. (Those beliefs are not scriptural)

c. I've found, as long as everything is going good, it's easy to minister. It's when something goes wrong and we need to be willing to be accountable to those over us with what was said and done, that's when we find out who is really accountable and under authority and who isn't.

We must be willing to Receive Instruction and Correction if needed. And be willing to go back to the person and fix anything that has been broken.

Guidelines for Spirit-Led Ministry at Word of Life or TBO

1) If it is a public ministry like giving a Prophecy or Interpretation, Praying over the body of believers, Releasing an impartation to the body of believers, etc.

a. Check with Pastor Vern or Pastor Mary before you do it. (If they are not available, Pastor Dave is the next one in line)

b. As long as they aren't on the platform leading, walk up to them in the service and speak to them about it.

- This way everyone is on the same page, and hopefully in agreement.

c. If you take it upon yourself to simply speak out, you are also putting yourself in the position, you may be corrected if it's out of order, or incorrect.

2) If it's a private ministry you feel led to do with someone one-on-one, if it's possible to run it past Pastor Vern or Pastor Mary before you do it, please do that. The reason is they may know something about what you are about to address that can either confirm what you are about to do is correct, or let you know you're missing it. They can also give you some quick insight on how to approach the person / situation.

If you can't touch base with them before you minister to them, please fill them in after the fact, so if there's something that comes out of it that needs to be attended to, they have some insight into what is happening.

Realize: the Pastors may check in with the person you ministered to, so they can know how it went.

If there are misunderstandings, confusion, or issues — they may bring you into a discussion with the person to help clear it up.

3) If you are receiving something for someone during a service, but you're not sure who it is for, write down what you are receiving and get it to Pastor Vern or Pastor Mary. They can make it known to the people so the person can be located. They will also choose the time for the ministry to take place. It may take place during the service, or it may be held until the end of the service.

If what you received is accurate, it will be accurate at the end of the service also. I regularly receive things for people days, and even weeks before they are released to the person. When the time comes to give it to the person, if it's of God, the anointing will be there to give it.

Ministry opportunity: TBO

If you sincerely Love people, and want to minister, TBO is a harvest field that needs ministry. There are many unsaved, newly saved, and young Christians there whom the Spirit wants to minister to.

Check with Pastor Mary, and let her qualify you, and then guide you into what and how you can plug in.