

Our Declaration & Commitment To Submit to God's Authority Structure When Serving on a Redeemed Hope Ministry Team

Purpose:

To establish Godly order in the Spirit that will manifest in the natural with the fruit of peace, unity and security.

The spiritual climate at a Redeemed Hope Intensive Retreat is such that we are literally invading the Kingdom of darkness with the Kingdom of God. The spiritual forces at war with the Kingdom of God are real, fierce and dangerous. When we as a team operate under the authority and in unity with each other, then we have no cause to fear the enemy. We are covered by the Blood of the Lamb. But, we are also instructed to be wise, stay under authority and put on the full armor of God.

As a ministry team, we are all under the authority of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If you are married, then you are also under the authority and covering of your husband. If you are single, you are under the spiritual covering and authority of your church leadership.

When serving on the Redeemed Hope ministry team, it is important that each team member declare out loud their commitment to submit to the spiritual authority and leadership of the retreat Facilitators. Our commitment to submit to authority shows itself in our words, actions, attitudes and behaviors as we all serve together to bring God glory. When we make these declarations out loud it does three important things:

1. It declares and established the intent of our heart in the spiritual realm
2. It declares our accountability to the other team members
3. It strengthens the commitment of our own heart

We do this exercise as part of our team preparation the night before the retreat starts. The team gets in a circle and locks arms. As a facilitator, I would start by declaring something like this:

"I declare that I'm here to serve first under the authority and the blessing of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I'm also here under the authority and blessing of my husband. And I'm here under the authority and blessing of the Board of Directors of Hope Redefined. And my commitment to this team is to honor the Lord and each of you by being a servant leader."

The Co-Facilitator would make a similar declaration. Next we would go around the circle and each team member would make their declaration to the facilitation team. Following each of these declarations, the facilitator and co-facilitator will speak a blessing to each team member and release them to the minister with full authority in their gifts and service. When finished the whole team will sense God's peace, pleasure and protection as His order has been established.

One example of serving under authority means that if something out of the ordinary happens that would require extra time and attention be given to a participant, then the team members involved first need to check in with the facilitator or co-facilitator to get their sense of discernment and their blessing and release before engaging in “offline” ministry.

One dynamic to keep in mind is that the presence of the team, especially during large group teaching and ministry times, adds a tremendous spiritual strength to the room so we want to maintain that strong presence unless the situation calls for something different. If we break ranks with the authority structure, then that opens the door for a spirit of confusion, fear, or other schemes of the enemy to manifest in the room.

It's not likely that a team member would intentionally breach a line of authority. So the facilitators should never operate in condemnation. We all make mistakes and we're all learning together how to function as a unified team. But if a correction needs to be made the parties involved simply need to repent and realign themselves and then we all move forward.

During our team debrief on Sunday afternoon after the participants have left, we always pray a cleansing prayer over us and over the facility. The facilitators also pray a prayer of release over the team members to release them from their submission to authority commitment for this specific ministry assignment. The team is blessed to return back to their home and lives having faithfully fulfilled their Kingdom assignment.

Sample Declaration of Submission to Authority:

(Wording does not have to be exact. This is a sample. The Holy Spirit may give you more to add.)

For a married woman team member: “I _____ declare that I am first of all submitted to the authority of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am also here under the authority, covering and blessing of my husband. He has blessed and released me to minister on this team this weekend. I also declare that I submit to the authority and leadership of (insert names of facilitators) as I serve this weekend.”

For a single woman on the team: “I _____ declare that I am first of all submitted to the authority of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am also here under the covering and blessing of the leadership of my church home. I also declare that I submit to the authority and leadership of (insert names of facilitators) as I serve this weekend”.

Sample blessing from the facilitators:

“(Name of team member), thank you for your willingness to serve on this team this weekend and I receive your commitment to submit to my authority and leadership for this Kingdom assignment. I want you to know that I trust you and that I honor the gifts and calling of God on your life. It is my blessing to release you and authorize you to fully function in the ministry gifts that God has given you to powerfully minister to our participants this weekend.”