

SOZO MINISTRY

What is Sozo?

Sozo is a ministry of seeing people freed from the influence and control of the enemy. This is accomplished through a prayer session with a team under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As the team prays, the Holy Spirit uncovers past and present lies that the enemy has caused the individual to believe (at least subconsciously) as well as points of entry or access. Points of entry tend to be past sin committed, sins against the individual, or wounding the individual has experienced causing present consequences. When the Sozo team under the guidance of the Holy Spirit removes the ground for this access, the lies lose their ability to influence and control lives. It is then freedom from ongoing unhealthy strongholds and issues can be released in the individual's life.

Where did Sozo come from?

Prayer and deliverance ministry have been around since Jesus demonstrated His power on earth as he healed (sozoed) many that came to Him. The term “Sozo” is a Greek word from the New Testament that means to save, make whole, heal, to be whole, rescue from danger, and deliver (basically, to save in every imaginable way). Matthew 18:11 says, “the Son of Man is come to save (sozo) that which was lost.” Jesus came to completely restore to us all that the lies of the enemy stole from us! This particular style or format for ministry has evolved from roots in the Argentine revivals, the understanding and writings of various practitioners of inner healing and deliverance, and from the experience of several churches and individuals and Bethel Church in Redding, California.

Is Sozo like professional counseling?

Sozo ministry is not “professional” in that Sozo ministers are not degreed counselors, but they are Christians with a desire to help each other overcome obstacles and strongholds in their lives. Sozo ministers are Christians from a variety of church affiliations and backgrounds and all of them have had training and experience as an observer and assistant before being in charge of a session. Sozo is not counseling, in that it may only consist of one or a few sessions, which tend to be up to three hours in length. Each session is designed to help remove roadblocks and hindrances to spiritual growth, relationships, and intimacy with Jesus. One of our favorite things about Sozo Ministry is that it helps one focus on an issue the Holy Spirit seems to be “highlighting” at the time, without prolonged self-examination. Each one of us has areas in which more freedom is needed, but it is our belief that freedom comes more easily when the Holy Spirit brings something to the surface and forefront in our lives. Even though we may come into a session feeling overwhelmed and desperate, Holy Spirit most often deals with the things in which He knows we will have the grace to maintain freedom. He knows the pace we can handle. He also knows and reveals the little keys from our past that opens big doors!

What is a session like? What is the approach?

Scripture is clear that the enemy takes advantage of our wounds and sin to hold us in bondage. He is able to gain access at specific points in time through “open doors.”

When we find those doors and close them, we remove his right of access. As a result, we are finally able to gain freedom. We can embrace this freedom from wounding through uncovering the lies we have believed and embracing the truth. We are then free to forgive and bless. We become free from sin's effects through recognizing our part in it: confessing, forgiving, renouncing, repenting, and/or breaking ties and past covenants. Sozo typically operates through the ministry of a two or three person team in one or more sessions. The team is typically comprised of at least one male and one female, unless special previous arrangements are made. Sessions are gentle, confidential, friendly, relaxed and informal. The session involves prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit to 1) identify past and present points of the enemy's access into a believer's life, 2) remove these grounds for access through confession, forgiveness, renouncing, repenting, etc., and 3) bless him or her through ongoing prayer and encouragement. Every Sozo ministry session is different because the Sozo team relies upon the leading and revelation of the Holy Spirit for guidance and direction. However, some general goals and approaches are in place to help provide breakthrough.

What do I do if I want to receive Sozo ministry?

1. Make sure you are ready! Are you really willing to be completely honest and transparent?
2. Fill out the on-line application for an appointment. You should hear back within two working days to confirm your appointment.
3. You may want to ask family members or friends to cover you in prayer prior to your session, during the actual appointment, and in the days to follow. Oftentimes, individuals experience anxiety or extra warfare, but be encouraged you are taking new ground in the spirit!
4. Please do everything possible not to cancel your appointment, and please be on time for your session. If you do need to cancel or are running late, please call the church office at 678-384-5200.