



Altar Workers Manual



Pastor William E. Bryant

Altar Workers Manual

Contents

Introduction

- 1. The purpose of the Altar**
- 2. Preparing to minister at the altar**
- 3. How to approach people at the altar**
- 4. Facilitating what God is doing**
- 5. Guidelines and principles for altar ministry**
- 6. be physically ready to minister**
- 7. Needs you will minister too**
- 8. Speaking the word of God**
- 9. Understanding the Prophetic at altars**
- 10. Working in the Healing anointing at the altars**
- 11. Recognizing manifestations of the Spirit**
- 12. Discerning the condition of the Heart**
- 13. 10 Scriptures for altar ministry**
- 14. Praying for the upcoming altar service**

Conclusion

Training for Altar Ministry

Introduction

How important is the altar? In churches today all across the world there is a practice that is biblical in nature and life changing in its effect. It's called an altar call. The altar call is when a leader, pastor, evangelist, or speaker invites people to a place to repent, seek God, pray, surrender and much more. The altar is a very special place. Not because of the material or the carpet it is made of but because it is where lives are changed.

The altar in the Old Testament was a place of sacrifice. It was where they laid the offering that God required so that sin would be covered and a relationship with God could be maintained, regained or refreshed.

Today we know that the sacrifice for our sins is God's Son Jesus Christ. So when we go to the altar we can come into God's presence through the Blood of Jesus. This gives us access to the throne of God.

It is at the throne of God or at Jesus' feet where we can give things to God! The altar can be a place we rededicate our lives to His will and to His service. Also at the altar we can gain the victory for which Jesus secured for us. At the altar God can bestow all Jesus provided including healing, comfort, hope, peace, renewal, reconciliation, miracles and more. When someone comes to the altar God will meet them there and shower them with His love and blessings. The act of going to the altar indicates a heart that is turning towards God. Thanks for getting involved with this wonderful ministry. You can be a catalyst used by God to help people experience God more effectively in this sacred place called the altar.

What God can do in a life at the altar is unlimited in scope!

What God will do depends on our knowledge of God's will, people's willingness, and faith. Have faith for God to do wonderful things at the altar. He is good and the altar is one place He reveals Himself.

If you will be available God will use you in every service. Are you willing? Will you be prayed up? Will you be open to the Holy Spirit? Will you be His hands, feet and voice at this time in history? God bless you and your ministry!

The Local Church is very valuable to God's plan!

God called the local church to be a light in the community. As the word is preached and people are invited to the church He moves to draw them nigh unto Him. This brings people to see their sins, their shortcomings, and their need of God. The altar is one of the places

God ministers and shows

His glory. The Altar is a powerful point of contact.

As you prepare for ministry make sure you pray for the altar service during the week before the service.

Asking God to draw people to a place of repentance or deeper devotion to God.

***Recognize the
altar time is a
very important
time for
someone!***

God can put a supernatural draw to bring people to the life changing altar. There they can make a greater commitment and receive healing! The heartbeat of the local church is winning and ministering to souls. The souls of men, women, boys and girls are precious to God.

Training for Altar Ministry

Pray for the altar calls at your church! Believe God for sinners to come and be saved at the altars of your church. Believe God to do miracles of healings, restoring marriages, removing guilt, renewing marriages, renewing hopes, and much more. Believe God to show up and show off by touching lives. No greater joy than to see a father and teenager at the altar. There is no greater joy than to see a husband and wife, who were going to get divorced, come to the altar to pray together for God to heal their marriage. There is no greater joy when you see a 25 year old young lady coming to the altar and committing her life to mission work. No greater joy than to see that town drunk on his face before God giving his heart and addiction over to Jesus.

The altar is a very important time for someone. Their life can be changed forever in those few minutes at the altar. You get to be part of it. You may not preach the message but you can pray them through. Pray for them till they feel God! Then go home and pray for them. Pray for them during the week that God would remind them of His words and their commitment at the altar.

Write below what you want God to do at the altars at your church.

Lesson 1- The purpose of the Altar

Read Genesis 35:1-15 before continuing this study. What's the reason God called Jacob to build an altar unto Him?

The altar is a place where people can meet with God. God meets people at this place called the altar. Covenants are made. Purposes are given. God's heart is revealed.

The altar is a place where people can reconcile with God. When Jacob was on his way to meet God and build an altar he began cleaning up his life. He knew there were things that had strained his relationship. In Genesis 35 we see him instruct his family to get rid of all their idols. Why was this important? It seems that their worship had been misdirected. They had substituted their relationship with God for relationships with items and demons.

This decision of Jacob moved him towards reconciling with God. **The altar is a place to get it right with God, to reconcile with God.** As you minister to people God will utilize that place to be a place of reconciliation. The heart is more important than the place but sometimes we need a place as a point of reference.

The altar is a place where out of order things are brought back into order. Things that have gotten out of order are dealt with at the altar. Just look at Abraham's life. He needed God to move to fulfill His promise. What if Abraham had prayed before taking Hagar to bed? It may have changed a lot of the events we face today. **Encouraging prayer for decision making is a blessing of the altar as well.**

Training for Altar Ministry

The altar has changed in the New Testament. That does not mean it has been eradicated. God still moves mightily when we come and meet with Him at the altar. Jesus is now the main sacrifice on the altar for our sins. When people come to the altar we can offer our lives and devotion to the Lord. The altar is a place where we can maintenance our relationship with God!

The altar is a place where God will reveal His heart with those worshipping Him! Abraham found that God still had a wonderful purpose to fulfill through his life even after a bad decision.

The altar can change the course of someone's life!

When worship is right everything else will follow suit. What happens when someone meets God at the altar? Many things can occur. At the altar God can bless, correct, encourage, strengthen, give clarity, and more.

The altar is a place where surrender occurs. In our life's journey we often encounter tests and trials that get us depending on our own strength. We may run into times when the Holy Spirit's voice has become less important than other voices in our lives. At the altar people repent and commit to being more sensitive to God's voice.

The altar is a place where idols are demolished. If we have found out by conviction of the Holy Spirit that we are letting something else influence our heart we can repent and denounce the idol. There are times when the enemy's tactics have worked to get us off course. The enemy has succeeded in tricking us. When we recognize that we can come to the altar and be renewed in our commitment to God and we can lay down the idol.

We see in Genesis that all the patriarchs built an altar. The patriarchs include Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. When they meet with God their lives begin to change tremendously. We can look at Jacob's life to see the significant changes that occurred once he made the altar a priority in his life. Look at the results:

- Jacob left his idols.
- Jacob came to Bethel tired of His own way.
- Jacob came to Bethel because of an instruction from God.
- Jacob was reminded of God's covenant at the altar. Jacob was renewed in His commitment to God after meeting with God at the altar.
- Jacob's character was changed while meeting with God at the altar.

The altar where Jacob met God was a major transition point in his life. The same can happen to any person who chooses to go to an altar. This can be a personal altar such as beside their bed, in their office at a chair, or at church when an altar call is given. When it is at church or in a meeting where the Holy Spirit is moving we can participate for God's will to be accomplished.

Write a testimony of when God changed your life at the altar.

Training for Altar Ministry

Lesson 2 - Preparing to minister at the altars.

The altar worker must be in unity with those in authority over them. You are to be in unity with the speaker. You do not have your own agenda at the altar. You are a servant to the Lord, the speaker, and the person at the altar. You are to respond to the speaker or pastor who is giving the altar call. When that speaker gives the opportunity for people to come to the altar you can come up behind those who are coming to the altar. If possible, check with the speaker before service to see if they will need you to help at the altars. If you don't get to ask, make a move towards the altar when the altar call is given with your eyes on the speaker to make sure you are welcome to begin praying with people. Take something from the message or from the altar call and begin to pray for those at the altar. The altar call is not the place for you to start your own ministry. It's a place for you to serve the ministry of the speaker and the church.

The altar worker should be living a life above reproach. You need to be a clean vessel God can flow through. If you need to repent do it before service and definitely before the altar call is given. Ask God to give you the right words and the right heart for those at the altar.

The altar worker should be feeding personally on the word of God. While you're planning to assist at the altars in the upcoming service read scripture and get the heart of the Lord. Ask the Lord to make sure you're in tune with His Spirit.

The altar worker should be filled and led by the Holy Spirit. There is freedom in your ministering at the altars. Be led by the Holy Spirit and pray the word of God over their situation.

Praying scripture is a great tool to employ when dealing with issues. Help the person break the back of Satan's power off their lives or a situation they are experiencing. When we speak the word things will change. Sometimes your faith is what someone needs to get the breakthrough! The prayer of agreement is a powerful tool God uses.

Write out Matthew 18:19

The altar worker should never argue or debate with anyone in the altar area. If someone is not broken when they come to the altar, you will not be able to go very far with ministry. Sometimes I have had to back off and let the Holy Spirit work with them some more. Of course there is an expediency and urgency. But if we push them to go somewhere they're not ready to go it will only produce false repentance. Trust the Lord for the right timing to deal with certain issues. If you know they need to repent of smoking but they are asking God for help in their marriage wait until the Lord's timing to lead them to deal with the smoking issue. Work with them on what God is working with them on. Listen to what God is doing and follow the Holy Spirit's lead.

The altar worker should demonstrate respect for those in authority over them. If asked to do something, obey with expectation, knowing that there is a good reason for the request or the direction of the Leader. The Holy Ghost loves unity and obedience.

The altar worker will need to perceive the person's receptivity at the altar. You can only lead them as far as they are willing to go. If they are quick to pray and want to get away, urge them on towards the Lord but know they are only going to go as far as their faith or as much as they desire.

Training for Altar Ministry

Read the story in John Chapter 4. Then answer these questions.

1. Why do you think she was there at noon?

2. What was Jesus' request of her?

This could be a key to ministering at the altar to people. Ask them what God is speaking to them. Help them walk through the struggle and match God's word to their needs. Don't answer everything for them. Let them process it and get the revelation. That's when it becomes real to them. God wants to open their eyes by His Holy Spirit.

3. Do you think a lot of people get caught up in social issues such as race? _____ Do you think that can hinder people from receiving from others? _____

4. What did Jesus say He could give the woman?

5. Jesus's word of wisdom revealed the lady needed spiritual satisfaction. She was looking to fill that need through relationships with men. Do you think people try to fill a spiritual need with natural things?

6. What did the lady leave behind when she got that Living Water? _____

7. When you minister to people they may not see clearly their needs. But you can lead them beyond the physical to the Spiritual with your words and prayers.

Are you willing to pray for God to help you give people wisdom such as Jesus when ministered to the Woman at the well?

Lesson 3 - How to approach people at the altar

After an appeal has been made, workers are needed to pray with those who respond to the call. This is your role. Come alongside someone who has responded to the altar call and minister to them.

1. When the altar call is made, be ready to move forward immediately when you see responding.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to the person to whom you should minister. Step out into the aisle, start moving towards the altar, and expect the Lord to guide you.
3. Men should pray with men, and women should pray with women. Exceptions would be in cases where the person responding is a relative (i.e., you are a woman and your brother responds to the salvation call) or when a husband and wife minister together to an individual of either sex.
4. If a person is crying or responding emotionally to an appeal, do not interrupt. If it becomes out of order you can just come up beside them and pray for them and lay your hand on their shoulder to let them know someone is there. God often deals with us first at the emotional level. When the emotion subsides, then you can talk with them. It is important to follow up with ministry even when strong emotions have been evident. For example-- crying because one is sorry for sin is not enough. The responder needs to be given an opportunity to repent and accept by faith God's provision through the cross of Jesus.
5. Serious problems should be referred to the pastoral staff. For example--if you pray with someone who is suicidal, a young lady planning an abortion, or someone whose home is about to break up--such situations are examples of serious problems that should be referred to the pastoral staff.

Training for Altar Ministry

6. If you encounter a problem at the altar and you do not know what to do, ask assistance from a member of the pastoral staff in your immediate area. Don't feel you are responsible to solve every problem. Don't be ashamed if you need help dealing with something out of your understanding.

7. Let the Holy Spirit minister through you. Bring encouraging words. Bring scriptures that apply to the person's situation. Bring affirmation that God sees them and is going to answer prayer.

Lesson 4 - Facilitating what God is doing

When you are helping at the altar there is a great opportunity to see God do awesome things in people's lives! As an altar worker your calling is to sense what God is doing and work with God. When we sense God is moving in someone's life we can come alongside to confirm and encourage them.

For instance the pastor is preaching about holiness. The pastor asked people to repent of their sins and ask God for His holiness and His Holy Spirit to give them power to live holy.

Then the pastor asks for people to come to the altar that would like to repent and leave idols behind. You can come up and support those at the altar with prayer and encouragement concerning their decision. A sample prayer would be like this: "Father in heaven. My friend here has just made a decision to give up things that have hindered his growth. God I pray he would see an immediate blessing for turning from these sins.

***I Samuel 23:6 –
Jonathan went
to David and
strengthened his
hand in
God's hand.***

I declare the Blood of Jesus over my friend and declare the enemy has no rights. All that was hindered, due to the sins my friend was participating in; I declare the enemy must let go of them. God pour your grace over this man. I believe for strength to be holy. I believe he can live above sin by being empowered by Your Holy Spirit. Let him see sin as You do Lord. Let him depart from sin and cling to what is good. Amen!

Training for Altar Ministry

While you are ministering to people at the altars let this scripture in I Samuel bring you purpose for what you are doing. You are strengthening that person's hand in God's hand. You are helping them depend and commit to God more effectively. God will prove Himself to them. You get to encourage them to look for God, respond to God, and fully commit to God.

Name a time in your life when someone has strengthened your hand in God's hand.

Now name a time when you feel you strengthened someone else's hand in God's hand.

Lesson 5 - Guidelines and principles for altar ministry.

1. Realize the serious nature of what is happening when someone responds to an altar call.
2. Realize that the enemy and human flesh are interested in subverting what the Holy Spirit is doing during an altar call.
3. Men minister to men. Women minister to women. This will be the normal way God works. Be wise and watchful. If there is a man that is all up in women's faces and only prays for women, be aware and address it with leadership. Same goes for women all up on men. Do **not** lay hands on anyone in an inappropriate way.
4. Don't give advice or counsel outside spiritual areas. You are a prayer team member not a lawyer or professional counselor. Don't tell them decisions are good or bad unless you have clear biblical support. Don't tell them which house to buy or which car to buy. Pray with them to get clarity on God's voice for themselves.
5. People have to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling. If you tell them it is God's will that they marry this person or that they buy this car or that they move to this neighborhood you can cause a lot of damage. You are not their answer. God is their answer. You can point out if there are indicators God is trying to speak to them. Such as they have been praying for a job and a friend shared with them about a job opportunity. You could say a prayer with them such as: God my friend is looking for a job. This job came to their attention. God confirms if it is you showing this to them. Help them make the wisest decision possible. Help them to get clarity on your next step. Amen.

Training for Altar Ministry

6. If the person is sharing and you sense God is speaking you can highlight that with a confirmation such as: It seems like the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this. How do you feel about that? This helps them locate truth for themselves. It also causes the responsibility to be on their shoulders not yours. You cannot solve their problems. You cannot be their answer. Lead them to God and assure them if they are hearing God. You can point out where you sense God is moving in their life.
7. Keep the focus on prayer. It is not a time to gossip or for them pouring out tons of garbage. Guide them to repent if they need too. Ask them how you can pray for them and keep it focused on allowing God to be their answer.
8. Always point them to Jesus. He is the Savior, Healer, and Deliverer.
9. Don't preach---pray! So many times people are praying loud and overwhelming everyone they are around. There is a time for excitement but if it is drawing attention to you and the person you're praying for, you need to check the motive. Pray so they can hear your prayer and gain faith from hearing the word. However, you don't want to spread their troubles to everyone.
10. Don't share your problems. If you are up there praying for someone you can relate a story to them of something you went through, but don't overburden them with your troubles. You are the guide for them. Don't become the liability. This adds more weight to their burden and draws their attention to you instead of Jesus.
11. You are to be the leader in the conversation. If a friend accompanies the person you are praying with, do not let them take over the situation. The person has come forward to be helped by God.

12. Your approach is positive. The gospel is a positive message. It brings people from darkness to light, from sin to salvation, from death to life. Therefore, you cannot afford to be anything but positive. You must be convinced that what you have to say will, through Christ, change the person's life as they follow God's Spirit and instructions through those ministering. You cannot have any doubts or reservations as to whether the salvation you are advocating through Christ is what the person needs. You also must believe and not doubt that he is going to receive his needs met while you counsel him. The Word declares it, you believe it, and the work is done! Jesus said, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).

13. Your prayer should not draw attention to you or to the one you're ministering too. Your prayer should focus attention on Christ and His ability to heal, deliver, save, and comfort. Don't pour out their problem loud so the whole church can hear. Cover them by praying softly when it is of sensitive nature. Let them know it is confidential and that you're not going to expose them to everyone. Let them know you have had struggles in your life too and that you are their prayer partner.

Name a time when you were at the altar and something hindered you from being ministered to by God.

Name a time when you were really helped at the altar.

Training for Altar Ministry

Lesson 6 – Be physically ready to minister

- Fresh breath and mints- nothing worse or more offensive than a person breathing in your face that needs a mint. This can get all the attention on the wrong thing and will cause people to miss the spiritual things you are saying. The human mind is amazing at what it focuses on. You can be surprised at the conversations going on after service. For example: A wife says to her husband. Honey, I saw you at the altar this morning. That is awesome. Did you get an answer? Husband says, Well I started praying but this guy came up and was so overbearing that I forgot my whole reason for being up there. His breath was horrible. I wish I could have given him a mint. Wife says. Honey, don't focus on that. But I couldn't shake it. I wanted to get away from him. I think he ate onions before service.
- Does this seem trivial or overly sensitive? Let me tell you it's exactly how the enemy works. Just get some mints it will save a lot of problems.
- No body odor. Make sure you are wearing deodorant and good smelling stuff so you're pleasant to be around.
- Be neat, clean and well groomed. Nothing is more disgusting than someone who won't shave that nasty Fu Manchu. I had people in a church I attended that wouldn't shave. It was so dingy. The guy did not care. It actually ran folks away. He was in everyone's business but he was so backward and people would shy away and sometimes leave because of it. Be neat, clean, and well groomed.

- Write out the scripture Genesis 41:14 here:

- Joseph shaved and washed up so he would be presentable to the king. We are doing work for the King of Kings. Put on your best. If you don't have decent clothing or a way to be neat don't be in everyone's face. Please shave or at least have your beard trimmed up neat. This can be a huge distraction for people. I know it shouldn't but it is the way the enemy distracts people. Do your best to present your best in ministering to others.
- Appropriate dress - This is another area I believe can go up a few notches in most churches. If people will ever realize that people respect you more if you dress professionally. It will change their destiny. I am not advocating clothes line preaching. However, I will say as a Pastor when I stand before people I usually have a lot more opportunity to minister to them if I am neat and appropriately dressed. I don't have to have suits on every service but I should be neat and better dressed than the congregation. People take you seriously when you are neatly dressed. When I see people loosely dressed and in play clothes they are not taken seriously. Keep this in mind. It will help you a lot. Even in other parts of life.
- Speak pleasantly and smile. The world is so harsh and judgmental. Do your part of confronting sin when needed, but be pleasant and smile at appropriate times. Remember the person is coming to the altar. So they

Training for Altar Ministry

have an inclination toward God. Don't kill that inclination with berating and judgment. Work with the Holy Spirit as He draws them to deeper experiences with God.

- The person needs to be assured that you care and are a safe place to land. Harshness and ruggedness is not considered by most to be Spirit guided activity. I remember a pastor when I was a teenager. He was so solemn and harsh that I always felt weird. I heard him preach and I couldn't get past his harshness. This is something that can sometimes build a wall between you and the person you're ministering too. So knock it down with a smile and it will change the whole atmosphere. Don't get me wrong there are times of harsh rebuke. However, that usually isn't the first encounter you have with a person. Those types of rebukes come after many admonitions.
- Sometimes people will fall out in the Spirit. If need be, cover them up with a jacket or a blanket. These times happen and people may have clothing that rides up or is short. Sometimes God's presence is really strong in a service. I have seen times when the altar was overtaken by people who had fallen out in the Spirit. Let the Lord move and try to support those who are out by covering their legs or chests with an altar cover.
- Also be ready to help people up when they are ready to get up. After being on your knees at the altar you can have a tough time getting up. When people get slain in the Spirit they are often laying all the way on their back. Be watchful and helpful when people are trying to get back up and back to their seat.

Lesson 7 – Needs you will minister too at the altar

When ministering at the altar you will need to take the lead from the speaker who is giving the altar call or who is encouraging people to make a decision.

If the preacher is preaching about surrendering your life to God in some area it is a good possibility that the person is coming up because of the sermon. If you sense they are not coming for what the speaker is saying it is fine to gently ask them what their prayer needs are.

The following items are not an exhaustive list of what someone could come to the altar for but will give you a good start to be prepared for your ministry opportunities. Write out some scriptures and ideas of how you will help people when they are dealing with these issues or seeking these things from the Lord.

Note: You can use a concordance and bible dictionary to find help for this assignment.

a) Salvation

b) Holy-Ghost baptism

Training for Altar Ministry

c) Healing

d) Depression

e) Marriage problems

f) Grief – death of loved one

g) Does God still love me I'm backslidden

h) Strength to do what's right

i) Praising God for a victory

j) Wisdom on a decision

k) Fear

l) Wanting to get closer to God

Training for Altar Ministry

m)Surrender

n) Addictions – Cigarettes, Drugs, Sex, etc.

o) Any others you think of.....

Understand that you may need to refer the person to a pastor for further ministry.

Don't be discouraged if someone doesn't receive their answer at the altar. You are a catalyst and praying and believing is your responsibility. Trust and obey the Lord and let Him be responsible for the results.

Lesson 8 - Speaking the word of God

When you minister to people your greatest tool and weapon is the Word of God. Practice speaking and praying the word of God. The word is powerful. It can accomplish a lot more than mere opinions of our own. The word will break down strongholds. The truth will set captives free. God's word is the catalyst for people's faith! God's word is the answer that will get to the root of the problem people are facing! God's word spoken by you into a person's situation will bring healing, deliverance, hope, restoration, and etc.

God's word is the most important tool in your toolbox. Remember and meditate on these points about God's word. God's word:

- Shows you God's will
- Reveals God's character
- Shows you how to gain God's favor
- Gives you the way of salvation
- Helps solve marriage problems
- Helps solve relationship problems
- Shows you how to be wise
- Shows you how to recognize a fool
- Gives you keys to succeed in life
- Shows you the Laws of life
- Shows you how to solve money problems
- Gives life
- Changes wrong mindsets
- Restores your soul
- Heals
- Gives light
- Gives guidance

Training for Altar Ministry

The Word is powerful and when used by an anointed vessel can bring tremendous results! You are that anointed vessel and God the Holy Spirit can bring life and hope. The Word pushes back our enemy. When you're ministering to people, recognize the enemy is trying to gain ground in their life. You can help them recognize the enemy's work. When someone comes for prayer, speak God's word over them and pray in agreement with God's word to see them get the answers needed.

How can you defeat strongholds? Many times the ground the enemy may have taken in someone's life will not be recognized by the person. You can recognize the stronghold by the words they speak. When they are depressed they will indicate that through their conversation. You can bring God's word and apply it to the need you perceive.

An Altar Worker must be a listener.

- Listen for pain.
- Listen for guilt.
- Listen for faith.
- Listen for where God is working in their life.
- Listen for doubt.
- Listen for fear.
- Listen for a repenting heart.
- Listen for hunger for God.
- Listen for hope in Christ.

When you hear these indicators in your conversation or in their prayer you can apply God's word to their needs. Our weapons are powerful. Remember II Corinthians 10:3-5.

When ministering and listening to people at the altars expect God to reveal to you things that may be keeping the person bound. Then with gentleness apply the word to those needs. Speak the word into their lives and into their situation.

Write out this scripture. Psalms 119:130

When you speak God's word the darkness is pierced by the light of God's word. That's when Satan's grip is broken. Then the stronghold is weakened. The person will then have a choice to live according to the new light that's been delivered to them. Encourage them to believe God has set them free! Encourage them to walk in that liberty.

Training for Altar Ministry

Lesson 9 – The Prophetic Ministry

When God is speaking prophetically to people or to a group it will challenge people's comfort zones. People will be urged by God to take a leap of faith or do something that seems very odd. Sometimes this will happen in services or at the altar. In these times you will be a catalyst of encouragement and wisdom for the people.

Remember when God told Joshua to march around the city of Jericho? In Joshua 3:1-17 we see a tremendous story of stepping out of the comfort zone. Man you know this was faith! To celebrate before the victory is a step of expectant faith! This gets God's attention! So, let the celebration begin!

Jericho was the strongest city in the land. Jericho had the most fortified walls the Israelites had ever seen. Taking this city was impossible in the natural. But with God it was possible. When you are praying for people it may seem impossible. They may think it is impossible for God to give them an answer or change a situation. But God will bring great victories to pass because of your faith in HIM! Just know according to scripture that God asks for a step of faith before He does miracles! When Jesus healed the leper in Matthew 8:1-4 He asked him to stretch forth His hand.

God will use pastors and guest speakers in the prophetic anointing at altar times. When this happens, obey immediately. The move of the spirit will follow our obedience. If we hesitate and get carnal we may miss what God is doing. Delay or disobedience will delay the flow of God's power.

You also may need to explain to people that God is getting ready to move and that they should obey what the Spirit is saying through the minister. As you encourage them to obey the Spirit of God they will experience His confirmation!

Another story that shows how God moves is when Joshua was taking the people of Israel across the Jordan. Read that story now and recognize the order of how things happened. Joshua chapter 3.

Also remember when Elisha told Naaman to dip seven times in Jordan. II Kings 5:1-19. Read that story now. And answer these questions.

Why didn't Naaman want to go to the Jordan to dip?

Why did he have to dip 7 times?

How did the young servant girl reason with Naaman to get him to do what the prophet said?

How can you be like this servant girl when you see someone struggling with God's request from them to give up something or do something?

Training for Altar Ministry

Lesson 10 - Healing and deliverance ministry

When you pray for those who are sick, remember the promises of healing.

Healing comes in many ways. Sometimes it comes by laying on of hands. Sometimes it comes from the person believing God by faith for their miracle. Sometimes it comes through the prayer of agreement. Sometimes it doesn't come immediately. Help the person keep holding on to the promises of God for their healing.

When you lay hands on people you are a conduit for God to minister what that person needs from God. Believe God to meet their needs.

Build your own faith for God to heal people. Read the accounts of Jesus doing miracles in the gospels.

Read and write a portion of the promise for healing in these scriptures. These are promises of healing from the old and new testaments.

Ps 91:9-10

Ps 103:1-5

Ps 107:19-20

Prov. 4:20- 23

Isa 53:4-5

Mal 4:2-3

Matt 8:16-17

Matt 9:35

Matt 15:30-31

Acts 10:38

James 5:13-16

Training for Altar Ministry

God will use you to help a person have faith in Christ's provision of healing. Sickness is in our world because of Satan and sin. It is a result of the curse according to **Deut. 28:60-62**.

He will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you. The LORD will also bring on you every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in this Book of the Law, until you are destroyed. You who were as numerous as the stars in the sky will be left but few in number, because you did not obey the LORD your God.

You also have a promise you can extend to each person who needs healing. That promise comes from Gal. 3:13

***Gal 3:13** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree:*

I like to declare the NAME of JESUS over those for whom I am praying. That name can make everything new, right, healed, whole and free. At the name of Jesus every demon flees, every sickness has to bow, every chain can break. Have faith in that name! It's like a policeman. He has authority because of what is backing him. He has the government of the city, state, and country behind him resisting evil and enforcing the law. When you declare the name of Jesus you have the God of the universe who has defeated Satan backing you up. Declare in the NAME OF JESUS and watch miracles happen.

The next focus for us is the deliverance ministry. Many times when the power of God shows up the devil will try to upset or resist the move of God. It is each person's responsibility to resist the devil and He will flee. James 4:7. Jesus also dealt with the devil by saying it is written. Read the story of the temptation in Matthew 4: 1-11. These are the ways God wants us to deal with the devil. Sometimes people don't resist the devil.

Sometimes they become his agent. If they are demonically possessed you must deal with the demon very authoritatively. You have authority to cast out the demon in the name of Jesus! Stand on God's word. Continue to use scripture to torment and God's presence will drive out the demon. Don't let the demon mess up the whole service. Don't let the devil get the glory. Send the demon out of the person by invoking the NAME OF JESUS!

If the person is dabbling in sin and allowing the devil to have an extremely strong presence in their life you still have authority over that devil and you can command the devil to cease talking. Also the person delivered from demons may need some deeper discipleship to maintain that deliverance. You may even have to deliver them more than once. If that is the case don't give the devil a platform, take authority and send him packing. Teach the person to stay in the word, think about the word, live according to the word.

Read these scripture accounts where Jesus cast devils

out. **Mark 1:23- 26**

Mark 1:32-39

Mark 5:10-19

Mark 7:26-30

Read these encouraging Scriptures for your ministry of casting out demons and healing people.

Mark 3:13-15

Mark 16:17

What would you do if you experienced a demon manifest when you were praying for someone? Outlines the steps here:

Training for Altar Ministry

Lesson 11 - Manifestations of the Spirit

When God's presence shows up there are often manifestations that occur! God's power and glory can show up wonderfully in a service. It's such a blessing to feel and experience the touch of God's hand. Some cry when God shows up. Some people shout. Some people dance. Some people fall out under the power. Some people shake. Some people jerk. Some people don't do anything. Some people laugh.

There are many different manifestations of the Spirit. They are not to be our focus but they do happen. Even in scripture we see God's presence overwhelm people. God will sometimes visit in a way that overwhelms us.

In the pursuit of seeking God the manifestation of the Spirit can occur. We want to always keep a healthy perspective about church and services. A good service is a service where the word of God is shared and where people worship God. The other things are icing on the cake. Many will want a move of the Spirit to occur so bad they will fabricate it. Others will grieve the Spirit when He is trying to show up and do wonderful things. So there must be a balance. As in life if you only eat ice cream you will be very unhealthy. The same for God's church. If people are always shouting and never getting sound teaching they can become very unhealthy. Also if a church only gets teaching and preaching and God is never allowed to show up and do the miraculous and bless according to His Spirit a church can be very unhealthy.

The Holy Spirit will impress upon the leader and leaders what He wants to do. Don't get judgmental and begin to say and think that everyone is grieving the Spirit or that everyone is faking. Be honorable in your dealings with leaders and with those you will influence. If you feel something is out of order or that something needs attention make that suggestion in a respectful way.

When God does grace us with His presence to do the greater manifestations of the Spirit we are truly blessed! God's presence will bring refreshing, renewal, revival, and more! You may need to explain the manifestation of the Spirit to some people. Let them know it is God's presence that is overwhelming people's lives. Let them know God is close and He wants to touch them too.

What are some manifestations you have seen in Church or any other time?

Look up these scriptures and tell the manifestations that happened.

- ***Acts 2:1-4***
- ***John 18: 6***
- ***Acts 9:4-8***
- ***Revelations 1:17***
- ***Ezekiel 1:28***
- ***II Chronicles 5:13-14***
- ***Acts 2:15***
- ***Acts 4:31***
- ***Acts 10:10***

Training for Altar Ministry

Lesson 12 Perceiving - The condition of the heart

The heart of the problem with humanity is the problem of the human heart.

Helping people at the altar will bring you into contact with many different heart attitudes. Some who fear God tremendously and some who know little about God. This is when your discernment kicks in concerning where they are with God. How serious and how much do they actually believe God's word. Regardless of what they believe you can stand on the fact that God's power is available for their needs and for their salvation, healing, etc. Trust in the gospels saving power even if they are not fully convinced yet.

Write out this scripture. Romans 1: 16 – 17

Some people have a heart after God; some people have a hard heart. Some have an erring heart. Some have an evil heart of unbelief. These are the things God wants to heal. God also is training people's hearts. Some people need discernment. Some people need strength. Some people need love. Some people don't know what they need.

You are working the altar to help people submit to Jesus! So they can receive from Him. When you walk them through prayer and repentance, understand they are ready to receive from God. Now the struggle is to find out how much they are ready to receive from God. How much they are ready to apply His word. How much they are ready to change after their experience with God. You can secure their hand in God's hand. Then you can give them understanding that they are free and encourage them to walk out that freedom. Encourage them to take action to follow and obey Christ!

Read and write the things you learn from these scriptures that will help you minister to others. You will see how some people's heart is at different levels of sensitivity to God.

• **Acts 13:22**

• **Matthew 7:1-5**

• **Hebrews 3:7-13**

• **Hebrews 10:24-25**

•

As you minister at the altars you are a catalyst God will use to bring people's hearts back to Him.

Take a few minutes now to ask God to help you work with Him to bring people's hearts back to Him! Ask God to help you understand how to minister to people.

You can also be used greatly by God as you share your victories over sin and Satan in your life. Keep it brief and keep it focused on getting them to walk in victory! Your testimony can give someone faith that they can be victorious too!

Write out a testimony you have below. Share something other than your salvation experience that happened at an altar. Something God helped you through or helped you get victory over. It may be an addiction, depression, a problem at work, etc.

Training for Altar Ministry

Lesson 13 -- 10 Scriptures for altar ministry

You are in a battle for souls when you are helping at the altar. I encourage every Christian to memorize these verses, but especially those who are going to do ministry. You can use these not necessarily to quote over the person you are helping but to do warfare against Satan's tactics to resist God's work through you for others. Have them ready to use in any instance when the devil tempts or oppresses. Stand on the truth of Scripture, just as Jesus did during the temptation of the devil, when He declared, "It is written!" You can have the same victory over evil that Christ did. Just as "the devil left him" (Matthew 4:11), Satan will also flee from you as you trust in the truth of God's Word.

1. Luke 10: 19: *"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."*

Satan hates this Scripture because of its assurance that nothing is to be feared when advancing against the enemy. The disciples of Christ had just returned from their first evangelism expedition. During this time of training, the disciples cast out devils. Luke 10:17 tells us they rejoiced that demons were subject to them when they used the name of Jesus Christ. Even today, Satan tries to keep God's people in ignorance of the authority Christ extended to His disciples and to every born again believer. When we walk in faith and dare to deal with demons, nothing the enemy can do will hurt us. When we shrink back in fear and fail to boldly confront the forces of darkness, we are more susceptible to Satan's attacks. Use this verse to enforce your authority over Satan.

2. Romans 8:1: *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."*

Satan hates this Scripture because it liberates God's people from guilt, shame, and condemnation. When you are praying for others Satan is sure to bring up every failure you have ever had. Satan will attempt to say you aren't worthy to call on Jesus' name. Intimidation by false guilt is one of the devil's most frequent tactics. When we ask Christ to forgive our sins, His mercy blots out every transgression. Satan, who is the "accuser of our brethren" (Revelation 12:10) delights in heaping false guilt on forgiven Christians. Those who heed Satan's word of condemnation can't fight effectively against satanic forces because they feel unworthy. But a forgiven Christian cannot be spiritually indicted for any evil he has committed. Romans 8:1 is our response and it will defeat Satan and we can get back to business for God.

3. Philippians 2:9-10: *"Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth."*

Satan hates this Scripture because it explains how effectively Christians can enforce the authority invested in the name of Jesus. This passage establishes the supremacy of Christ's name. Angels in heaven, men on earth, and every demon in Hell, all are obligated, by choice or by compulsion, to acknowledge Jesus Christ is Lord. The sovereign power of God is all-encompassing. His dominion over all forces the demons to flee. Use this verse to demonstrate the might in Christ's name. Every sickness, disease, battle, attack against a person can be overcome in Jesus name. As you work with people, call on the name of the Lord and claim victory over every tactic, attack and scheme of the enemy.

4. 1 John 3:8: *"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."*

Training for Altar Ministry

Satan hates this Scripture because it proclaims the eternal victory of Christ over Satan. Jesus Christ, by His crucifixion and resurrection, conquered death. Thus, Satan, the angel of death and darkness, was defeated. 1 John 3:8 gives every Christian the right to declare a victory which has already been won through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, and His rising from the dead. Though the devil's works may appear devastating we can declare and live by faith in the victory Jesus has accomplished! Declare this verse to proclaim demons and Satan's power over Christians has been shattered.

5. James 4:7: *"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*

Satan hates this scripture because he knows if we continue to resist him he will eventually have to give up. Some Christians wrongly assume that this passage of Scripture is enforceable by a single declaration of resistance. The meaning of the verb "resist" is to continue to enforce the authority of God's Word even when it initially appears that Satan may not obey the command. Christians need to tell the devil where to go and what to do, and then walk in faith believing he has complied despite appearances to the contrary. Persistent resistance to Satan brings about the eventual surrender of the devil. Use this verse to demand that Satan leave you and those you minister to alone.

6. Hebrews 4:12: *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

This scripture is powerful because Satan's evil agenda is defeated when we quote God's Word in spiritual warfare. The truth will pierce the darkness of wrong thoughts, wrong intentions, wrong belief systems even destroying the hold Satan has on people's minds and lives.

God's Word can be to cut through error and establish the truth. The Word can divide soul and spirit, it is able to reach the heart of unbelievers by separating the condition of their spirit from the lies their soul/mind nature has believed. Use this verse as an offensive weapon to turn back Satan's attacks.

7. John 8:32: *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

This Scripture brings true freedom in contrast to the "freedom" of sin that leads to spiritual slavery. Satan is a liar and is referred to in the Bible as the father of lies. Just as Adam and Eve were first tempted with a lie, we too are spiritually misled when we succumb to the falsehood of the enemy. Spiritual freedom comes when you make the enemy accountable to God's truth.

8. John 16:13: *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."*

Christians can be easily deceived when they are not Spirit led. Knowing truth is a consequence of reading, meditating on, and understanding God's Word. It also depends on the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. The ability to discern demonic deception is a spiritual gift that sovereignly comes from God. Constantly depend on the Holy Spirit's empowerment when battling for souls and for someone's victory at the altar. Use this verse to seek more of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life.

9. Isaiah 14:12: *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground. You who weakened the nations!"*

Training for Altar Ministry

Satan hates this scripture. This scripture tells us that the enemy has been defeated. When you pray for people you can stand in the truth that Satan is defeated. Chapter fourteen of Isaiah tells us that Satan is a “fallen” being. Though he appears pompous and powerful, the devil forfeited his first estate and now only mimics the glory he had in heaven. Jesus as Christ was foreordained to trample the devil under his feet (Genesis 3:15). We too can conquer Satan through Christ’s power (“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.” – Romans 16:20). Use this verse to keep a proper perspective.

10. Ephesians 6:11: *“Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*

Satan hates this Scripture because he knows the armor of God cannot be penetrated and every tactic of his warfare is useless against it. Satan has no offense against the defense of God’s armor. Just as every vital part of the physical body is protected by the accouterments of armor described in Ephesians chapter six, we are also spiritually protected in every aspect of our relationship with Christ when we appropriate this protection.

Lesson 14 Praying for the upcoming altar services and ministry times.

Pray these things before services:

- God's power would be released during the altar call.
- Hearts would be drawn to the altar to encounter God.
- People would hear God's voice at the altar times.
- Hearts would be broken and contrite about their sin.
- Idols would be forsaken and destroyed.
- Clear understanding of the need to repent would be granted to people.
- Marriages healed. Relationships healed. Reconciliations of all sorts would occur at the altars.
- God's power to heal would be present at the altars.
- Sickness and disease would be removed when we pray.
- Guilt would be dealt with and refreshing would come after repentance.
- That God would draw people to Himself.
- That the altar workers would speak truth that transforms.
- Remove stumbling blocks keeping people from meeting with God at the altars.
- People would be drawn to the altars for salvations.
- People would seek God for sanctification.
- People would seek God for baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- Wrong understandings about God would be removed.
- People encounter God's awesome love, power, kindness, strength, and more while they are at the altars.

Training for Altar Ministry

Conclusion

Altar work is an important part of a church's ministry. It can result in changed lives! The altar is a place where souls are saved! The altar is a place where people commit to deeper devotion to their Lord! Some people may have an Isaiah chapter 6 experience, a burning bush experience, or a road to Damascus experience like Paul. Some are called into ministry at the altars. Some are delivered from addictions. Some are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Some surrender years of guilt, anger, and shame. The altar is where a husband and wife can find grace for their struggling marriage. The altar is where a grieving mother can find God's comfort. The altar is where someone who has had an abortion can be forgiven and healed. God is ready to meet people at the altar. You can be part of God's ministry and see lives change in tremendous ways. Thanks for being a willing vessel! Only in eternity will we find out what God has truly done at the altars. I believe with you that God's power to bless people will be released each time you help at the altar! Remember, the greatest miracles are ahead!

Pastor William E. Bryant