

# EFFECTIVE ALTAR MINISTRY

There is a great expectancy of people who will respond to the Gospel. The Altar Worker should ensure the needs of person responding or addressed. Altar Workers are a valuable asset to the Pastor when properly trained. These workers may include Elders, Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconess, Leaders and Laymen.

The Altar Worker will minister Salvation and The Holy Spirit, the laying of hands for healing and deliverance. They will pray for those who have a special request before the Lord.

The Fruit of the Righteous is a tree of life; he that winneth souls is wise. Proverbs 11: 30. The person going forth in this area needs to know this is a very large responsibility and needs to have a clear understanding of the importance of this job. The person needs to develop the character and have the prerequisites necessary for this blessed work.

The Altar Workers are to Minister directly to those in their moments of decision so that they may accept Christ, be reassured of Salvation receive the Holy Spirit, receive healing or deliverance. As they pray for special needs, they should emanate love, reflecting assurance and confidence in God.

## Prerequisites for a Good Altar Worker

1. You must be born again (St. John 3:7), know that you know God, Holy Ghost filled and walking with Jesus.
  - A. Understand and have a working knowledge of the Holy Spirit and the Word.
  - B. Know your aim, "The goals of our instruction are love from a pure heart, a good conscience and have sincere faith."
2. Victory in Manifestation over Habits.
  - A. Smoking, Drinking, Narcotics, Illegitimate Sexual Habits.
  - B. Cleanliness, fresh breathe, neatness in personal appearance, good body hygiene; attire should not be a distraction to the ministry.

Remember to be a good Altar Worker is to be invoked in a ministry in the body of Christ. Therefore, you should govern your life accordingly, with a life of Holiness. The Altar Worker is to be spiritually alert in order to meet the needs of an individual.

Individual: If the pastor is conducting mass altar call, you are his staff person and your responsibilities entail:

- A. You come prayerful, and stand beside or behind the perspective convert. Connect with Pastors' language, to go with the flow of the spirit. Do not go ahead of the Pastor when he is conducting the Altar Call.
- B. During a selected point, begin to quietly minister the love of Jesus his mercy, and forgiveness of sins, encourage them to make choice.
- C. Ask them to put his or her faith and confidence in the blood of Jesus. Make mention of God's peace, grace and love.
- D. Speak softly, and prayerfully, be alert.

The primary function of the Altar Worker is helping the individual with immediate spiritual problems. If an individual wants to explain his spiritual problem, the Altar Worker must listen to what is being said. In addition, Altar Workers must ask God to give them Spiritual discernment, so that they may be able to address any problem. Also Altar Workers need not feel that they have to have an answer for everything. God will use others too; he is the one with the answer.

An Altar Worker must not forget to seal the discussion with prayer. This will help to teach the person he is laboring with to deal directly with God. Consequently, Altar Workers must learn to identify the witness of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will be sensitive to the Altar Workers spirit thereby causing them to discern the difference between right and wrong.

To reiterate, Altar Workers should listen carefully to individuals with whom they are working. They must never assume that they know the reason why the individuals have come to the Altar. Altar Workers should begin their session with those at the Altar by finding out why the individuals responded to the Altar call. As the Worker talks to the individual, she may feel that there needs to be an additional Altar Worker working with her; she should not hesitate to ask another worker to join her. Sometimes an additional person may need to come and help the Altar Worker if she feels inadequate at that point two or three workers may work with the inquirer to bring about a solution to the problem. The Altar Worker should ask the person to put his or her faith or confidence in the blood of Jesus, speak of God's Grace, Love and Peace.

The inquirer needs to know that God is concerned about him/her and can heal and deliver. Since God's main purpose is to draw the inquirer to himself, He will utilize the situation and the need at hand to catch the inquirer's attention. The Altar helper's positive attitude is vital in the work of the Lord.

### **Do's and Don'ts For Altar Workers**

#### **DO'S**

- 1) Altar worker must show encouragement to the individual.
- 2) Altar worker needs to be occupied with hearing rather than having the answer.
- 3) Altar worker must lean unto spiritual understanding.
- 4) Speak wisely, some phrases cause additional problems.
- 5) Approach the altar with a positive attitude.

#### **DON'TS**

- 1) Do not leave the Altar until the call is over. (Worker will then escort the individuals who receive salvation or desire church membership to the prayer room for proper follow up.) optional
- 2) Do not put emphasis on church membership during Altar work.
- 3) Do not lay hands on private parts of the body.
- 4) Do not pull off bandages or casts etc.
- 5) Avoid patting or rubbing your hands all over their back to comfort them.
- 6) Avoid telling them to crush their glasses, to stop taking medication, to get out of the wheelchair etc. You do not throw away glasses to convince God to heal the eyes.
- 7) Do not tell them to stop medication, if the individual dies you may find yourself in criminal court.
- 8) Remember, God is the one with real answers and the power to undertake.

#### **PLAN OF SALVATION (scriptures)**

ROMANS 3:23

ROMANS 6:23

JOHN 3:16

JOHN 14:6

EPH 2: 8, 9

JOHN 1: 12

ROMANS 10:9

1 JOHN 5: 11-13

HEB 13:5

