

Altar Ministry Training Manual

IMPORTANCE OF ALTAR MINISTRY

1. PRAYER EASES OTHERS BURDENS.

Galatians 6:2

²*Bear one another's burdens*, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

2. PRAYER BRINGS THE POWER OF AGREEMENT

Matthew 18:19-20

¹⁹“Again I say to you that *if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.* ²⁰For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

3. PRAYER IS MINISTRY

Hebrews 6:9-10

⁹But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. ¹⁰For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

4. PRAYER BRINGS DELIVERANCE

2 Corinthians 1:8-11

⁸For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, ¹⁰who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver *us*, ¹¹*you also helping together in prayer for us*, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift *granted* to us through many.

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BEFORE YOU PRAY WITH OTHERS

1. LIVE THE LIFE

Romans 12:1-2

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

LIVE PURE

LIVE WITH PURPOSE

- You are representing God.
- You are representing the church.

LIVE PREPARED - Prepare your hearts and minds before you get to church.

2 Timothy 4:2-5

²Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2. BE PRESENTABLE

DRESS APROPRIATELY

- Dress as though you were meeting someone important or for the first time
- Guys wear nice pants/jeans and a nice shirt (polo/button up, no sandals)
- Woman if you are wondering if your clothing is too low or too short... it probably is. Dress sandals are appropriate
- Nametags

BE AWARE OF YOUR BREATH

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WHEN YOU PRAY WITH OTHERS

1. MOVE IMMEDIATELY AND QUICKY TO THE ALTAR

BE READY AT ALL TIMES

MAKE AN EFFORT TO BE THE FIRST ONES TO THE ALTAR

SPACE YOURSELF EVENLY ACROSS THE ALTAR

2. BE INTENTIONAL BY APPROACHING THOSE WHO ARE COMING TOWARDS YOU

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN

GREET THE PERSON AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF

ASK THEM WHAT THEIR REASON OR NEED FOR PRAYER IS

3. PRAY ACCORDING TO GODS WILL

1 John 5:14-15

¹⁴Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

PRAY USING GODS WORD

- God cannot break a promise

WEIGH YOUR WORDS

- Use Godly discernment and wisdom concerning what you speak as direction/advice/encouragement to a person
- People identify you with the voice of God
 - o Be sure what you speak is from God
 - o If you have any doubt be slow to speak

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4. THE PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Romans 10:8-13

⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

THE PRAYER IS A CONFESSION OF BELIEF

- Forgiveness of sin
- Acknowledgement of who Jesus is

A SAMPLE PRAYER

“Dear God, I know that I am sinner and that I have sinned against You. Please forgive me of my sins. I confess Your Son Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. I give my life to you. Amen.”

POLITELY ASK PERSON TO FILL OUT “SALVATION CARD”

- It provides a means for follow up to encourage the new convert
- Inform the person about other ministries that will help them.
- Be responsible for getting the card and for returning it to the appropriate person.

PROVIDE PERSON WITH “UNDESTANDING GOD” BOOKLET.

5. KNOW YOUR LIMITATIONS

USE THE RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU

- Many people will seek counsel concerning many areas of their life
 - o Encourage them to call the church office if you do not feel comfortable providing counsel in a certain area.
 - o The altar time is not a counseling session

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- You do not have to know all the answers – remember you are there to pray in agreement with the person.
- If a person is contemplating suicide please make a pastor aware immediately.

GUIDELINES FOR ALTAR MINISTRY

1. PRAY IN PAIRS IF POSSIBLE

- Provides Accountability

2. MEN PRAY WITH MEN WOMEN PRAY WITH WOMEN

- It is appropriate at times to ask that the person waits with you until another altar worker is available to pray together with you.

3. DO NOT MANIPULATE

- Do not push or try to force anyone to do anything.

4. DO NOT LEAVE THE ALTAR AREA TO CONTINUE PRAYING WITH A PERSON ALONE

5. PRAYING IN TONGUES

If you pray in tongues an interpretation should follow. Praying for others should be a time of agreement and edification. Because of this, praying in tongues will not be productive unless an interpretation is shared.

A good “rule of thumb” to use before praying in tongues with another person is:

(1) Do you personally know them? (2) Do they pray/believe in tongues themselves?

1 Corinthians 14:2

²For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands *him*; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

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1 Corinthians 14:13-14

¹³Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

1 Corinthians 14:16-17

¹⁶Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? ¹⁷For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.

1 Corinthians 14:27-28

²⁷If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be* two or at the most three, *each* in turn, and let one interpret. ²⁸But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.