

# THE ALTAR WORKER



## THE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD

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# THE ALTAR WORKER

Altar work is probably the most important work in the Church today. It is important to realise that serious damage can be done if souls are not handled properly.

Keep in mind that the preacher has to devote himself to prayer in order to deliver a serious message of the Lord - it is not easy to bring a soul into the prayer room. Like a baby needs diligent assistance during the birthing process so does the person who, gets born again. Many souls are crippled because they were not treated correctly at their rebirth. God will hold the worker responsible. Dr. Oswald Smith once said: *"If you can't help him through, leave him alone."*

## LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE ALTAR WORKER

1. The altar worker must be a person who is really dedicated to the Lord - someone who lives an exemplary life. You cannot help others if you yourself need spiritual help. It is therefore necessary to read the Bible faithfully, to pray a lot and to live a sanctified life.
2. The altar worker must be someone who treats every conversation in the prayer room with the greatest confidentiality. A person who opens up his heart to you would not like to hear about from other sources the next day.
3. The altar worker must always be neat and special attention should be paid to personal hygiene – that includes cleanliness, neat nails and a fresh breath. Poor hygiene habits should not prevent a seeking soul from coming to Christ.

## WHAT DO I HAVE TO KNOW AS ALTAR WORKER?

1. An altar worker always arrives prayerfully at the church.
2. Let all visitors feel at home by extending a warm and friendly welcome.
3. Do not look around when the altar call goes out, but keep praying for souls.
4. As soon as the pastor makes an altar call the altar worker should immediately get up and move forward with the person who responded to the invitation. By accompanying the person the altar worker encourages others to stand up and walk out to accept the Lord.
5. Brothers assist with males and sisters with females; choose a person and stand behind him/her.
6. While the Pastor leads the people in the sinner's prayer, the altar worker remains next to the person until the pastor is finished.

Introduce yourself and complete the decision card.

Pray a short prayer, thanking the Lord for what He has done for this person.

7. If the Pastor allows you to share with the person at the altar, introduce yourself and determine what the person's needs are by asking, "What do you need from the Lord?"

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8. Do not pray or speak too loudly as you may disturb others nearby. Ensure that you are not too close to the person's face when you pray or speak.

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9. Please do not rush it. Rather share with one person thoroughly than doing half a job.

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Let the person read the following scriptures from the Bible with you: John 1:12; 1 John 1:9 then leads him in the sinner's prayer.

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10. Always have your Bible with you when sharing with a soul. Mark the scriptures in your Bible to avoid fumbling around.

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11. Make sure you have an altar card and a pen with you to record the person's name and address.

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12. Do not put your arm around or even touch the person.

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### WHAT TO DO INSIDE THE PRAYER ROOM

1. First introduce yourself if you don't know the person. Wait until you have prayed together before you complete the decision card.

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2. Find out why the person came to the altar by asking: "*What do you need from the Lord?*"

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3. The answer will help you to determine how to proceed. You always need to be led by the Holy Spirit, as many people are shy and are not honest with themselves; therefore they might not tell you exactly what their needs are.

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### HOW TO HELP AN UNSAVED SOUL

1. The person must admit he is a sinner. (Romans 3:23). You will find that most people coming into the prayer room already are aware of their shortcomings and therefore want to give their lives to God.

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2. One thing the person must realize is that he cannot save himself (Eph. 2:8-9) but that through Jesus Christ, God has worked out a plan for his salvation (John 3:16). He may add his name in this text.

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3. Show him that God will forgive his sins. Let him read (1 John 1:7-9) and ask him several questions about it, for example. "*Which sins are cleansed by the blood of Jesus?*" The answer would be "*all sin*".

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4. Explain (John 1:12) and ask the following question: "*According to this text, what should you do to become a child of God?*"

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# HOW WE HELP PEOPLE WHO NEED HEALING

The first question is: what do we mean by divine healing? It is the grace of God that works through Jesus Christ when He supernaturally heals us of all manner of ailments and diseases.

1. **THE VERY FIRST THING THAT SICK PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW IS THAT IT IS GOD'S WILL TO HEAL THEM**

Exodus 15:26 "For I am the LORD who heals you." And as He had done for about 3 million Jews in the wilderness, He will surely do for us today. Study the following scriptures: (Isaiah 53:4, 5) (1 Peter 2:24), (Matthew 8:16), (Mark 1:40-41).

This divine healing has occurred from the earliest times. (Genesis 20:17) (Numbers 12:13-15), (1 Kings 13:6), (2 Kings 20:5). The entire New Testament is filled with signs and wonders. God is busy restoring the healing ministry in His Church today by the powerful healings and miracles taking place everywhere.

2. **DISEASE IS FROM THE DEVIL**

If God made us sick, why does He then heal us again? A kingdom divided against itself, will not last. Make a study of the following passages and you will clearly see that sickness is from the devil. (Matthew 17:14-21) (Luke 11:14-20) (Luke 13:10-17) (Acts 10:37, 38) (I John 3:8).

3. **THE FIRST DISCIPLES' MAIN TASK WAS TO HEAL AND TO SET PEOPLE FREE**

(Matthew 10:1); (Mark 3:13-15); (Mark 16:15-18); (Luke 9:1, 2).

**GOD WILL HEAL BECAUSE:**

Illness robs man of happiness and finances. We think about:

- The woman who was suffering from bleeding (Luke 8).
- Sickness turned the lame man (John 5) at the pool of Bethesda into a bedridden recluse for 38 years.
- Sickness turned the man with the withered hand into a burden to society.
- Sickness prevented Simon Peter's mother from serving Jesus and the disciples.
- Sickness kept a woman (Luke 13) in bondage for 18 years.

4. **THE MINISTRY OF JESUS WAS A MINISTRY OF HEALING AND DELIVERANCE**

(Matthew 4:23); (Matthew 8:16-17); (Matthew 9:35); (Matthew 14:36); (Matthew 19:1-2); (Matthew 21:14); (Luke 7:21, 22)



**ANOTHER SIN IS UNBELIEF**

It was because of unbelief that Jesus could not perform many miracles in Nazareth. People did not believe Him. (James 1:6, 7), (Matthew 13:58) (Matthew 21:22), (Hebrews 11:6)

**NOWHERE IN THE BIBLE DID THE LORD REFUSE TO HEAL THOSE WHO CAME TO HIM IN FAITH**

Therefore cleanse your heart from doubt and unbelief, so that you may have faith. The blind man believed and acted on what he believed. (John 9:1-11)

8. **HOW CAN ONE PRESERVE HIS HEALING?**

- Give honour to the Lord for your healing (Psalm 50:1) (Psalm 103:1-3)
- Testify to others (John 9:25), (Acts 4:29-31)
- Do not allow doubt (Matthew 14:31)
- Sin no more (John 5:14)
- Devote your body to the service of the Lord (Romans 6:13)
- Take refuge in the Lord (Psalm 91)

**CONCLUSION**

In the past divine healing was God's method to widely open doors to the Gospel to save many. (Acts 3:9-10) (Acts 4:4) (Acts 8:6-8).

**GOD WANTS TO DO IT AGAIN IN THESE DAYS IN WHICH WE LIVE. ARE WE AT THAT PLACE WHERE GOD CAN WORK THROUGH US TO CONFIRM HIS WORD WITH SIGNS AND WONDERS?**

**HOW WE CAN HELP THOSE WHO WANT TO BE BAPTISED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. The first thing we must teach those who want to be baptised with the Holy Spirit is that baptism with the Holy Spirit is promised to every child of God.

**Luke 11:13** *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"*

Do you think that the Lord will forget you, His child? No, the promise of baptism with the Holy Spirit is for us who were far from Him. (Acts 2:38-39).

2. You must know by heart the instances in the Bible where people received the Holy Spirit: make a study of (Acts 2), (Acts 10), (Acts 19).

**Act 2:1** *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. :2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. :3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. :4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Those filled with the Spirit on Pentecost spoke in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them to speak out (Acts 2:4) and experienced strength and boldness. Let us look at Peter (Acts 2:14-18). At first he was shy and denied Jesus in the courtyard of the palace, but now he was not afraid of anything or anybody, because he was filled with the Holy Spirit!

The speaking in tongues served as a sign for the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 14:22). It was them who cried out (Acts 2:12): "*Whatever could this mean?*" Peter conveyed God's message in Aramaic, which was the spoken language at that time.

*Act 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. :45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. :46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, :47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"*

When Cornelius and his people were baptised with the Holy Spirit, they, like the disciples at Pentecost, spoke in tongues and magnified God. Throughout history it has always been the same experience.

**Act 19:1** *And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples :2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." :3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." :4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." :5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. :6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.*

The first sign that they were baptised with the Holy Spirit was that they spoke in tongues.

**IN ALL CASES, THOSE WHO ARE BAPTISED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT SPOKE IN TONGUES**

3. You may ask the question: How can I be baptised with the Holy Spirit?
  - You must believe that God will baptise you now with His Spirit. (Galatians 3:2, 5)
  - We will lay hands on you **Act 8:17** *Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*
  - Compare (Acts 19:6).
  - You must pray for it yourself *Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"*



4. You have to meet the following conditions:

- Make sure that you truly belong to the Lord. (Acts 2: 38-39; Mk 16:16-17)
- Have you repented of all your sins and are you forgiven? (1 John 1:9)
- Have you forgiven all those who harmed you? (Eph.4: 32)
- Pray with the person / persons to ensure that their sins are forgiven,
- That they belong to Christ and have forgiven others.
- You need to have a thirst to drink from the Living Water! (John 7:37-39)

5. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

- You received the Holy Spirit as a Person when you were converted / reborn. (John 14:17). The proof of receiving Him as a Person is the fruit of the Spirit in your life.
- You will receive the gift/power of the Holy Spirit when you are baptised with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38; Luke 24:49). The proof of receiving the gift/ power of the Holy Spirit is the speaking in tongues.

6. Jesus is the Baptiser with the Holy Spirit.

- It is confirmed in all four of the Gospels. (Matthew 3:11)

7. When you are baptised with the Holy Spirit:

- You speak mysteries to God. (1 Cor.14:2)
- Your mind is unfruitful. (1 Cor.14:14)
- You are edifying yourself. (1 Cor.14:4)
- You receive power. *Act 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

8. How to receive the gift/power of the Holy Spirit:

- Receive the Holy Spirit with expectation and faith. (Mark 16:17)
- You have to use your own mouth to speak in tongues. (Acts 2:4; Acts 19:6). The Holy Spirit will give the tongue to speak.
- Remember you have to open your mouth to speak. You cannot speak in two languages at the same time.
- You receive the gift/power of the Holy Spirit and not the Person.
- Your mind becomes unfruitful (1 Cor.14:14). You receive the tongue in your spirit.
- You do not need to beg for it. Come to Jesus, thank Him for the gift or power of the Holy Spirit and then receive.

