



Lesson Eleven

“Altar Ministry Assistance”

Objective: *To train and equip students to assist in altar ministry with care and excellence.*

I. Altar Ministry

Altar Ministry: *is to invite, invoke and seek God’s presence, His promises, guidance, and answers, and ministering to those who have responded to the call for ministry at the altar; ministry at its core means to serve.*

The altar is a special, anointed place where people seek God and the supernatural takes place.

1. Throughout scripture we find God’s people _____ Him and finding Him at the altar.

Noah: Gen. 8:20 Noah built an altar and worshipped God when the flood was over

Abraham: Gen 22:5 & 9 Abraham built an altar to worship and obey God

Jacob: Gen. 35:7 Jacob built an altar after he wrestled with God – Changed his name to Israel

Isaac: Gen 26:25 Isaac built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord.

David: 2 Sam 24:25 David built an altar and stopped the plague

Elijah: 1 Kings 18:30-39 Elijah called down fire from heaven at the altar

Hannah: 1 Sam 1:9-11 Hannah prayed at the altar and reversed barrenness

Moses: Exodus 17:15 Moses built an altar after God brought water from the rock.

2. God told the children of Israel that they were never to allow the _____ to go out on the altar. We should never allow the fire of hope and possibility to go out on today’s altar.

Lev. 6:12-13 NKJV *And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it; and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. ¹³ A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.*

At the altar, ministry for and from the people takes place. People get saved at the altar, repentance, healing, marriage, baby dedication, offerings, rededication, testimony, the Word of the Lord, encouragement, and seeking the Lord all happens at the altar. We are facilitators of this ministry.

There will be times when either the senior pastor or a guest minister will minister to people at the altar. We will be assistants in these cases.

II. Assisting the Altar Minister

While the minister is ministering, we will need to be alert and sensitive to the needs of the minister as well as the people receiving ministry. We must be present but not in the way, ready to assist.

1. _____

Someone should stand close with the anointing oil and have it ready in case the minister calls for it. Hold the bottle and be ready to either pour it on their hands or hand it to them and then let them give it back to you. You have to watch closely and see how to best assist. Do not in any case close your eyes in prayer or worship, stay alert. Do not attempt to help the minister with your words or actions to minister to the person. Let them minister. Do not put your hands on the person unless you are asked to do so.

2. _____

Someone should have a box of tissue ready to assist a person who may be weeping. Do not try to hand them a tissue in cases of extreme ministry unless it is an embarrassing situation that could be a distraction for everyone. In most cases you could hand them a tissue after the minister has gone on to the next person.

3. _____

Sometimes people fall under the power of God. When they do, we place a cloth over them for while they are laying on the floor at the altar. This should be done quickly but effectively and then move on with the minister after making sure the person is situated in a safe and excellent manner.

4. _____

These are assistants for those falling under the power of God. This is also referred to as being "slain in the Spirit." While the minister is ministering, at least two men should stand behind the person being ministered to and be ready to catch them as they fall backwards. Be sensitive about where your hands touch the person. Try to place your hand on their back and arm to hold them steady and keep them from hitting their head. The Holy Spirit orchestrates this kind of ministry and it is beautiful and needs to be done decently and in order.

Watch the surrounding area for other people who may already be on the floor. Plan ahead in your mind where you will help to guide the next person so that they are not falling on each other. Be careful in extreme cases of weight or height.

Those who fall under the power of God should not be disturbed while on the floor. You can pray quietly in tongues during this time, but continue to follow the minister being very attentive to what is happening next.

Be ready to assist individuals back to their feet when they begin to sit/get up.