



Altar & Prayer Team Training

Prayer Partners:

Definition

An altar worker is someone whom God has chosen to minister personally to individuals responding to an invitation—whether for salvation or a specific need. The altar worker is a vessel through whom the Holy Spirit operates. It is, therefore, their responsibility to keep that channel open and unobstructed.

Experiences and Qualifications Expected of an Altar Worker:

Living a Spirit-filled life, baptized and continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

Sensitivity to and readiness for the operation of the gifts of the Spirit.

A clear sense of calling to altar ministry

A genuine concern for others

A passion for helping and a caring attitude

Commitment to a strong personal prayer life

Consistent study of God's Word, as well as fasting and church attendance

Willing submission to God, the senior pastor, and church leadership

The ability to maintain confidentiality

A pleasant and professional appearance

A default demeanor that is friendly, calm, light-spirited, and full of faith

Goals of Altar Ministry

Create a welcoming, comfortable, and secure environment for those responding to the altar call.

Gently and respectfully discern the needs of each individual, without pressing for unnecessary details.

Minister through focused and specific prayer, with sincere intercession.

Techniques for Altar Workers

Focus on prayer—avoid giving counsel unless clearly directed. Time is limited, and most individuals are seeking prayer, not advice. If deeper guidance is needed, refer them to the pastor or a designated counselor.



Follow directions—always stay attentive to the instructions of the minister or service director.

Be prepared—expect people to receive the Holy Ghost.

Helping Seekers Receive the Holy Ghost:

A. Repentance

Receiving the Holy Ghost requires genuine repentance.

Repentance is turning away from sin, choosing God's will, and walking toward Jesus.

Help the seeker understand the need to confess and forsake their sins (Proverbs 8:13).

Pray with them. Encourage a posture of humility (kneeling if possible).

Cultivate godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Reassure them of God's love and His promise of forgiveness—He is faithful and just.

B. Faith

The seeker must believe that God will give them the Holy Ghost, just as He promised.

Encourage faith continually.

Lay your hand on the seeker as a point of contact—faith can be transmitted this way. If you don't have faith for the seeker to receive, do not pray with them.

C. Praise

After repentance, lead the seeker into praise and worship. They must move beyond repentance into worship to receive the Holy Ghost.

Praise invites God's presence (Psalm 22:3).

Encourage audible praise:

"Hallelujah" – the highest form of praise, meaning "Praise the Lord"

"I praise you, Lord"

"I magnify you, Lord"

"I exalt you, Lord"

"Thank you, Jesus, for the Holy Ghost"

Additional Prayer Needs

Physical Healing – Pray boldly, affirming God's power and goodness.

Emotional Healing – Emphasize that God heals the mind and heart, as well as the body.

Gifts of the Spirit – Stay yielded to the Holy Spirit's leading.



Follow-Up Process

If someone receives the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in tongues, fill out the altar card and give it to Bro. Tony.

If someone repents, fill out a card so we can follow up and offer a Bible study.

The Do's & Don'ts of Altar Work.

Do:

Smile as people come forward

Use breath mints or mouth spray

Get consent before laying hands on anyone

Stay focused and spiritually sensitive

Be positive and encouraging

Be clean and mindful of hygiene

Be gentle and respectful of personal space

Listen and observe with empathy

Understand proper boundaries for physical touch (see section below)

Pray aloud and be an example in worship and prayer

Don't:

Slap, shake, or forcefully touch seekers

Become overly emotional or distracted

Neglect hygiene—avoid bad breath or body odor

Spit, shout, or get too close to the face

Yell in ears—speak in a low voice and adjust volume as needed

Disrupt hair or clothing

Try to “force” someone to speak in tongues (never use phrases like “repeat after me”)

Crowd personal space—respect today’s sensitivity to health and comfort

Lose focus on the seeker's needs

Guidelines for Laying on of Hands

Ministry (men) may lay hands on the head, shoulder, back, or arms of another **man**

Men may lay hands on the shoulder, back, or arms of another **man**

Ministry (men) may only lay hands on the **head** of a **woman**

Ministry wives may lay hands on the head, shoulder, back, or arms of another **woman**

Women may only lay hands on the shoulder, back, or arms of another **woman**

The laying on of hands should be done with reverence, and only for the purpose of transmitting faith.



Final Encouragement.

Always tell the seeker they're doing well. Your affirmation helps them feel at ease.

Encourage perseverance. Some receive the Holy Ghost on the second or third attempt.

Be ready to answer questions. If there are obstacles, gently address them and encourage another attempt at prayer.

Let them hear you worship—this models how to yield to the Holy Spirit.