

NEW HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

ALTAR WORKERS TRAINING

LESSON 2 Part A: Ministering At the Altar ... Qualifications

Today's Study:

1. Approaching the Altar: The Spiritual Qualifications
2. Approaching the Altar: The Practical Qualifications

NOTE: *The facts that I am presenting are general in nature and **will vary from church to church**; but they will give you proven facts as to what are considered as essential by some major denominations. The New Hope Church of God has set its own guide lines and as noted before and I will periodically point out some of these differences. We have designed and implemented a system that is efficient and will accomplish the goals of effectively working the altar to the glory of God!!*

APPROACHING THE ALTAR: THE SPIRITUAL QUALIFICATIONS

Introductory Remarks.

1. Now that we have established that we can minister at the altar of God, we turn to the next question?
 - (a) God expects us to have certain qualification to serve as His altar workers just as He had certain qualifications to serve as His priests in both the Tabernacle and the Temple in Jerusalem.
 - (b) The good news here is that He has provided and will continue to provide all that we need to be in ministry.
 - (c) Our job is to accept these gifts and empowerments.
2. We will **first** look at three easily identified **Spiritual Qualifications**.

A. You Must Be Born Again.

1. This may be too obvious for some, but we have all heard of people who have worked for years as leaders in their churches—church councilmen, deacons, and elders—and suddenly realized that they do not have a personal relationship with God! (John 3:5-8).
2. God's requirements have not changed, why should ours?
 - (a) If you are thinking about ministering at the altar of God, you need to start asking yourself, "Am I really born again?"
 - (b) The answer will hopefully not disappoint you, but if it does, God is ready for you to enter into a real relationship with Him. As an altar worker, you can share your relationship with others.

B. You Must Be Sanctified.

1. Sanctification has always been a hallmark of Pentecostal churches.
2. But it has also been a source of dispute.
 - (a) Is it an event or a process?
 - (b) Does it mean giving up a lot of stuff?
 - (c) Do we follow a lot of rules to be sanctified?
 - (d) If we are saved, why do we need to be sanctified?
3. The word sanctification comes from the Latin root **“to make holy.”**
 - (a) In Hebrew, the word for holy is **“qodesh,”** which comes from a word meaning **“to be clean.”**
 - (b) In the Greek the word is **“hagios,”** related to the word meaning **“clean, innocent, modest, perfect, etc.”**
 - (c) In both cases one thing is evident: **“holiness is a state of being.”**
 - (1) **It is not based on what we do or do not do, but it is what we are and what we are determines what we do.**
 - (2) See Matthew 7:17-20.
4. Today we like to evade this fundamental relationship between being and doing.
 - (a) Putting doing first and defining what we are by what we do, or . . .
 - (b) . . . by making our identity and being some kind of fantasy where our actions and words have nothing to do with what we really are.
 - (c) In either case *“we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us”* (1 John 1:8).
5. **If we have not been set apart for God and are really clean as a result, then we cannot minister at the altar. One way or the other we will end up like Aaron’s sons (See Lev. 10:1-2).**
6. But God’s first desire is that we should live for Him and not die without Him: *“But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for our but also for the sins of the whole world”* (1 John 2:1-2 NIV).
7. **WE CAN BE CLEAN AND SET APART FOR GOD IF WE GIVE OURSELVES COMPLETELY TO HIM!!**
 - (a) If we do we will fulfill the purpose of God for our lives, both as altar worker and believers.
 - (b) See Eph. 1:4-8.

C. You Must Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

NOTE: *New Hope Church of God* does not make this as a priority to be an altar worker especially taking in consideration the difference in which our altar workers minister in comparison to other churches. We do believe that each believer should seek to experience of *“The Baptism in the Holy Spirit”* Or *“Spirit Filled.”*

The following is a General Agreement especially where Altar Workers ministry involves praying for seekers:

1. Many altar calls are centered on people coming forward to be baptized in the Holy Spirit

- (a) For this reason, every altar worker must be Spirit filled.
- (b) But are these altar calls the primary reasons why this infilling is important?
- (c) The answer is NO; there are more compelling reasons why the infilling is necessary. NOTE a few examples:
 - (1) It empowers us to witness . . . Acts 1:8.
 - (2) It is the necessary prerequisite to the spiritual gifts . . . Acts 2:17-18
 - (3) It enables us to communicate with God in the most difficult of circumstances, when we need to express ourselves the most . . . Rom. 8:26-27.
 - (4) Etc.
- 2. It is for these reasons and more that we need the empowerment that comes with the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- 3. **In altar work the one thing that we will do consistently is spiritual warfare.**
 - (a) See Eph. 6:12-13. (Note also 2 Cor. 10:4).
 - (b) With the baptism in the Holy Spirit we can be successful in this struggle and continuous warfare.

Now that we have listed the “**top three**” spiritual qualifications, so to speak, you may respond, “If that’s the case, then any Christian can be an altar worker.” That is the whole point!! Listed below are some other things Christians must do if they expect to be successful altar workers.

D. You Must Love God

- 1. One of the most important encounters Jesus had with the Pharisees was the following: See Mark 12:28-34; also in Matt. 22:34-40.
- 2. Jesus taught us many things that were important to do in life.
 - (a) He told Nicodemus that he must be born again (John 3:1-11).
 - (b) But when Jesus was specially directed to the “**most important command,**” His answer came straight from Deut. 6:5 (*as noted in Mark 12:28-34 Matt. 22:34-40*)
 - (c) It was and is the central proclamation of the Jewish faith and Jesus made it the central proclamation of the Christian faith as well.
 - (d) It exceeds any sacrifice made at the altars of the Temple, and it exceeds what we will see and experience in the altar of God today also.
- 3. We as Pentecostals, as heirs (to some extent) of the Reformation, emphasize faith in God as the first step in our walk with God (Heb. 11:6).
- 4. **The importance of faith cannot be minimized.**
 - (a) But we should remember the following: “*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder*” (James 2:19).
 - (b) **What separates us from the demons and many other people is not that we believe in God but that we love Him. Jesus made it the first prerequisite for a right relationship with Him and we must do the same.**
- 5. We hear the phrase “*God loves you,*” and we speak it often.
 - (a) Ultimately though, God’s love is never in doubt; He does not change. His love is like everything else, is consistent.
 - (1) The problem is with us.

- (2) We must not spend time worrying about whether God loves us, but whether we love God.
- (b) God did not send Jesus to accomplish our salvation so that we could have an arm's length, business-type of relationship with Him, to call on Him when we need Him and set Him aside when we don't.
- (c) **God describes the relationship between Jesus Christ and His church as that of a husband and wife.**
- (1) Today with our self-centeredness and lack of consistency in our marriage relationships we have a hard time understanding that.
- (2) But Jesus Christ came down from heaven to live and die among us so that we could live with Him.
- (3) This is love! How can we not reciprocate (*give back in return*) sacrificially in real love?
4. We as Pentecostals are also heirs to the revivalistic tradition.
- (a) As a result, ours is a "performance-oriented" theology.
- (b) We expect God to do the work He said He would do; we expect our church people to perform as well.
- (1) Our first question on whether or not someone has fallen away (backslide) or not is ... "Is he (or she) still serving God?"
- (2) Service is important, but like faith it cannot be a substitute for loving God either.
- See 1 Cor. 13:1-2
 - Jesus said, "***If you love Me, you will obey what I command***" (John 14:15). He did not say, "***If you obey what I command, you will love Me.***"
5. There is no substitute for our love for God—not our faith, not our works, and not the miracles we work.
- (a) We cannot have a relationship with God if we do not love Him.
- (b) If we love Him, our relationship is secure, and our service is not a burden but a joy.
6. Louis XIII was king of France during the first part of the 1600s.
- (a) A neurotic man, could not bring himself to God.
- (b) His idea of approaching God was based strictly on fear of hell fire.
- (1) His first minister, Cardinal Richlieu, more politician than churchman, assured Louis that his fear of hell was enough to secure his salvation.
- (2) But those who knew better protested, and paid the price.
- One prominent protestor was exiled to the furthest part of the country; another prominent churchman was imprisoned for the same reason.
 - But out of adversity came rebirth. The controversy sparked the beginning of the Jansenist Movement that saw many conversions and miracles.
7. In the past, men were willing to face prison and disgrace to stand up for the love of God as the basis of their relationship with Him. **Can we do less?**

E. You Must Spend Time with God.

1. People who travel a lot almost always have those moments on the road, especially when things are quiet, when they think about how they miss the people they love.
 - (a) They long to be with those they love—spouse, children—and they have that empty feeling inside, that an important part of their life is missing.
 - (b) Their desire then is to get home soon.
2. **If we really love God, the first thing we want is to spend time with Him. We can do this in a number of ways:**
 - (a) **Bible Reading.**
 - (1) *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105 NIV)*
 - (2) *The alternative is stumbling and falling on our faces in the dark.*
 - (3) *If we plan to be effective altar workers, we must know the Word of God.*
 - To know it we must study it.
 - Knowledge of the Word of God is essential if we are to know what is true and what is false
 - *If you have access my lessons on the website (livingwaterstudies.com), you will observe each closes with: “Do Not Just Read the Bible Study and Obey it!” Along with I quote 2 Tim 2:15 and 3:16 (originally I simply quoted 2 Tim. 2:15 from two versions)*
 - (4) When people come to us at the altar, they are frequently confused and do not know the truth.
 - If we are armed with the Word, if we have committed it to memory, we can know the truth and lead others in the same direction.
 - Otherwise, we’ll stumble and fall in the dark.
 - (b) **Prayer**
 - (1) This is the place where we spend time directly with God.
 - (2) Usually, when we think of prayer, we think of asking things in faith (Mark 11:23-24):
 - In this light we often go to God with a “laundry list” of things that we need Him to do on our behalf.
 - God is certainly ready and able to come to our aid—this is something you need to remind people that you minister to at the altar—but there is more to prayer.
 - Consider the Lord’s Prayer (Matt.6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4). The following are included in that prayer:
 - Praise and proclamation of the greatness and holiness of God.
 - Expectancy of His return and declaration of His sovereignty.
 - Request for our daily sustenance.
 - Forgiveness for our sins, contingent on our forgiving others.
 - Request to be kept from the clutches of the enemy.

Does your prayer request contain all these?

 - (3) We also should remember that communication with God—which is what prayer is all about—must be a “two-way street.”
 - (4) We spend a lot of time when we pray, talking to God.

- How much time do we spend listening?
- Have you ever spent time with someone who expressed a slight interest but not really unbelief ... was just expressing himself sarcastically?
- Isn't it frustrating to be unable to respond to one statement because the person you are talking with starts another?
- That is what happens when we pray without stopping to give God a chance to respond. We need to listen to the voice of God when He is speaking to us!

(c) **Fasting**

- (1) Today we see a resurgence in interest and practice of fasting, but it was not always so.
- (2) In the reformer Zwingli's Zurich, one of the reasons the Reformation took hold was that people wanted to get out from under the Catholic Church fasting regimen.
 - But Jesus fully expected His disciples to fast: see Mark 2:18-20.
 - Fasting accompanied signal events in the New Testament: see Acts 13:2-3.

(d) **Repentance**

- (1) We don't usually think of repentance in the same way we do prayer and fasting, but unless we live a penitent life (Psa. 51:17, ... read the Psalm) the rest of these things are a waste of time.
For example, the same passage from Mark 11:20-26, on moving mountains with faith is immediately followed by: "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses." (Mark 11:25 NKJV).
- (2) Our entire relationship with God depends on both asking forgiveness for our sins and forgiving others for what they have done to us: **"... and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"** (Matt. 6:12 ESV)
 - Like love, forgiveness is not optional . . . we must love without dissimulation and we must freely forgive others (See Matt. 18, see Vv. 15-22 and 23-35 read both accounts prayerfully)
 - We are frequently too triumphalism to admit that we sin and made mistakes, but God knows better: **"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us"** (1 John 1:8 NIV...also v.9)
 - Just a note of caution the fact is God will forgive but it is a point of great danger when one **habitually sins** (Rom. 6; **1 John 3:1-10, NB Vv. 6-10**)
- (3) This I have noted before but allow me to briefly note it again: **Repentance includes both the act of "SORRY FOR SIN" (2 Cor. 7:10) and the compulsion of "STOP SINNING" (John 8:11) . . . WHILE THE POSSIBILITY REMAINS THE BELIEVER DOES NOT HAVE TO HABITUALLY SIN. Etc.**

F. You Must love Your Neighbor

1. When Jesus made loving God the first and greatest commandment, He made loving our neighbor second (Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31). **John took it one step further . . . see 1 John 4:20-21.**
2. This is one place where we sometimes come up short.
So many of our desires get funnel into our church life—our desire for power, spiritual and secular, our desire to: “be a somebody,” our desire for material prosperity, and our desire to be holy—and we expect others to live up to these desire also.
3. All of these are possible if we do them while loving the people around us.
 - (a) Without that love our churches are a disaster that no one else wants to be a part (See John 13:34-35).
 - (b) Loving one another is the mark that makes us Christ’s church, the called out ones!! The “ekklesia”... “the called out ones” (Acts 7:22; 2 Cor. 6:17; etc.)
 - (c) **If we love one another our altar work will have more results and those results will last!!**

G. You Must Have Passion for Ministry

1. Jacques Benigne Bossuet was the greatest preacher France ever knew, so much so that even the people who didn’t like his church imitated him.
In one sermon on the agony and death of Jesus Christ on the cross, and on the sins He took on our behalf, he stated: “Ah! Ah let us give Him our tears, at least let us give Him our sighs! Ah let us at least be moved by a move by a love that blesses so! You are going to hear the story, and may it please God, my brothers, that the story be interrupted by our tears, that it be broken up by our sobs!”
2. **Ministry—be it altar work or anything else—is hard work.**
 - (a) It’s easy to get discouraged by many things, most of all by people—both those to whom we minister and those with whom we labor.
 - (b) **Without passion for ministry the abiding realization that God gave it all so we could have eternal life, we would soon lose interest in what we are doing and also in the people who need what we offer** (2 Cor. 5:14-15).
 - (c) Root passion for ministry and our love for God and the work He has set before us will carry us when those around us fail and when circumstances look the bleakest.

We’ve gone through a lot of qualifications, that for many seem to have nothing to do with the common image of successful altar work, especially that quality from God called “**the anointing.**” Our point is this: If we are prepared to humble ourselves before God, to be His children and disciples to the fullest extent, to love Him and spend time with Him, and to love those around us, God will give us what we need to be effective altar workers: “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ...” (1 Peter 5:6 NKJV). Then and only then will we know what Jesus meant when He said: “Verily I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you as my

name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it” (John 14:12-14 NIV).

APPROACHING THE ALTAR: THE PRACTICAL QUALIFICATIONS

Since we have laid the groundwork of spiritual qualifications for altar work, we can take a look at the practical qualifications. Like any other kind of ministry, altar work is more than just getting “zapped” by God and “passing” the “Zap” on to others. It requires knowledge, wisdom and spiritual empowerment. Without all of these we either become dry and ineffective and unbridled fanatics. Both of these will kill effective ministry.

A. Sharing the Gospel

1. One thing that distinguishes Pentecostal altar calls from those in nominal churches is their purpose.
 - (a) In nominal churches, altar calls frequently are restricted too those who want to be born again; this leads to the infamous “walk-down, shake-preacher’s hand, join the church sequence.”
 - (b) In the full gospel churches, people come to the altar for a wide variety of reasons: salvation, baptism in the Holy Spirit, deliverance, and so forth.
 - (c) This diversity is strength of our calls, but it should not obscure the fact that the most important thing in a human being can do in this life is to become a new creation in Jesus Christ.
 - (d) That process is well facilitated at the altar where God lives and people become the sacrifice by taking on Jesus’ own sacrifice for themselves.
2. For this to happen, altar workers must know how to share the gospel, and how to do so in a directive way that will lead a soul to Christ.
 - (a) It is the most important thing an altar worker can do, not for other reasons; only to find the lost.
 - (b) Many miracles in this life are good, but if a person dies and goes to hell at the end of it all, all of the miracles are for nothing.
3. **The altar is both an excellent and difficult place to share the gospel.**
 - (a) People who come have open hearts and are generally ready to be born again; God’s spirit is moving.
 - (b) The difficult part is that it can be a distracting place; loud music is playing and the preacher frequently speaks through part of the altar call.
 - (c) In a crowded altar, people bump into each other and sometimes fall out, overwhelmed by the power of God.
 - (d) **This means that the altar worker must not only get to the point quickly, but also have the Scriptures memorized and “be prepared in season and out of season” (2 Tim. 4:2 NIV).**
4. There are many excellent methods of presenting the gospel available today.
 - (a) However, most of them are designed to be used in a setting where the distractions and time constrains of the altar do not exist.

(b) Although space does not permit a complete reproduction of one method presented in **Communicating the Gospel** . . . this are study courses; here is a brief outline from that presentation:

(1) **Opening Question(s).**

- A direct approach: *“Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?”* This works better in altar work than in one-on one evangelism outside of the church.
- A diagnostic approach: The classic approach to get people to realize where they are spiritually. The two diagnostic approach questions are:
 - *“If you were to die tonight, where would you go?”*
 - *“If you were standing before the gate of heaven and God asked, ‘Why should I let you into heaven?’ what would you say?”*

(2) **The Gospel Presentation** (Assuming the answers to the questions are unsatisfactory).

- God’s position: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16 NKJV).
- Man’s condition: *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* (Rom. 3:23 NKJV).
- God’s provision: *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2 Cor. 5:21 NKJV)
- Man’s Decision: *“But as many as receive Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: . . .”* (John 1:12 NKJV).

(3) **The Commitment.** (You need to review what you have presented by asking a few qualifying questions.

- *“Do you want forgiveness for your sins?”*
- *“Does this make sense to you?”*
- *“Are you willing to believe God?”*
- *“Do you believe that you have sinned?”*
- *Does your getting to heaven seem impossible if it’s all up to you and your good deeds?”*
- *“What do you think you need to do to get ready for heaven?”*

(4) **The Prayer of Salvation.** (. . . **should consist of the following points):**

- Pray for them: “faith to believe”
- Pray for them: “confidence”
- Pray with them: “pray for salvation”

(5) **The Assurance: Two Great Scriptures.**

- *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment but has passed from death into life”* (John 5:24 NKJV).

- *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life” (John 6:47 NKJV).*

Becoming acquainted with a well presented Gospel Course or documented materials which can be adapted to your specific needs will strengthen you as an Altar Worker and in general any believer.

5. There are two important **“side benefits”** learning how to share the gospel.
 - (a) **It forces you to learn the basics of your faith in Christ, both the concepts and Bible verses which set them forth. This will make you a stronger Christian.**
 - (b) **It enables you to witness to people outside the altar setting which will increase the harvest of souls.**

B. Gifts and Wisdom

1. One of the common misconceptions people have about altar work is that it is necessary first to operate **“in the gifts”** when working at the altar.
 - (a) Specifically, this means the sign gifts (1 Cor. 12:8-10).
 - (b) For many who accept this idea, this means that no training is necessary to do altar work.
 - (c) Many who know they are missing some or all these gifts feel they can’t work in the altar, so they leave it to someone else to do—in many cases to no one else because no one else around has these particular gifts either.
2. If you have one or more of these gifts, that is good.
 - (a) **Use them to the glory of God and to the advancement of the body of Christ.**
 - (b) **With a gift comes responsibility to use it properly, and not just to advance your ministry . . . it is all about God!!**
 - (c) If you don’t have a sign gift, you can seek them . . . see 1 Cor. 12:8-10.
 - (1) However, not having one or more of the sign gifts is not a bar to ministering in the altar.
 - (2) The priesthood of believers extends to all the body of Christ. This applies to the priesthood of the altar in your church.
 - (3) Jesus never made having the sign gifts a prerequisite to the prayer of faith. To performing miracles, or the like.
3. On the other hand, we should note that the sign gifts are not the only gifts that are available to believers and certainly not only the ones that can be exercised at the altar.
 - (a) The New Testament has several lists of gifts, some of which are manifestation gifts (such as the sign gifts noted above and others that are ministry gifts, such as those listed in Eph. 4:11-16).
 - (b) **If we look at altar work in its totality, we will see that altar work requires a wide variety of spiritual gifts, which God has distributed throughout the body of Christ.**
 - (c) **Moreover, ministry gifts are usually related to natural endowments, and in this light we need to take a good look at another quality that altar workers need to have (“WISDOM” as briefly discussed below)**

4. Look at your Bible. Two entire Books—Proverbs and Ecclesiastes—are “**Wisdom Books,**” full of wisdom for daily living.
 - (a) Job has a lot of this; so do the Psalms.
 - (b) Yet Paul deals with the subject of sign gifts in a few chapters.
 - (c) “*Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her*” (Prov. 8:10-11 NIV).
 - (d) Jesus Christ Himself is described as “*the power of God and the wisdom of God*” (1 Cor.1:24b NIV).
 - (e) **Many believers want instant revelation and power, but few are willing to sit at Jesus’ feet and learn wisdom from Him. This is a process that takes time, a heart opens to God and a mind willing to learn.**
5. For the altar worker, wisdom consist of two things: *the wisdom of experience*, meditation through the Word, which informs them of people’s need at the altar, and *the wisdom to know how to respond to these needs*.
The process of obtaining wisdom takes time, experience, and sometimes failure, but God’s word is important enough that we should take the time to do it.
6. See Heb. 5:12-14
 - (a) Many of our churches have established nurseries for babies. In reality many churches have two nurseries: one for little babies and the other in the sanctuary for adult babies.
 - (b) If we cultivate God’s wisdom in our lives, we can know good from evil when we see it in the altar, and we can also be mature members (and leaders) of our church and the body of Christ that God intended us to be.

In closing off, let us briefly discuss something that a lot of churches along with their ministers and laypeople have not considered.

C. Set Forth in The Ministry

1. We’ve all known people who are called by God, who are then ordained by a church and “set forth in the ministry” with official credentials.
 - (a) Most of the time, people who are “set forth in ministry” don’t just get hands laid on them on impulse, or even on their testimony.
 - (b) The church examines their lives, and they usually have to undergo some kind of training to ensure that they not only uphold the apostles’ teaching, but also actually know what it is.
 - (1) Only after this process will a church set him forth, both for the good of the minister and for the good of the church.
 - (2) The ability of the church to carry out the mission that Christ Himself entrusted to it is determined in part by the ability of its ministers.
2. Since altar workers are priests at the place where God lives, it makes sense for the church to require some prerequisites from those who minister there.

- (a) **Although they do not have to be on the same level as an ordained minister, a local church needs to recognize that those who minister in the altar not only minister in Jesus name, but are representatives of the church.**
- (b) This means that a local church with an effective altar workers' program needs to:
- (1) Train its altar workers and . . .
 - (2) . . . ensure that those who minister in the altar are stable people, both doctrinally and emotionally.
3. The task of **"prequalifying"** altar workers is one that each local church—and each pastor—needs to work out.
- (a) Churches that have long, stable histories and generally mature membership can afford to be more casual about who ministers in the altar and who does not.
- (b) Churches that are growing rapidly and taking in new members from the world need to be more selective.
- (1) They do not need to be putting people into altar work (or any other kind of ministry) before they are well grounded in the faith (1 Tim. 3:6). **However, as it is today this decision has met with various responses and that decision STRICTLY dependent on the leadership of each church.**
 - (2) Some churches link altar work to being obtainable by an elder, deacon, or deaconess in the church.
 - (3) Churches that are in revival mode must be careful, because the move of God inevitably brings the devil's "counter-move."
 - (4) A good example of this point (#3 above) is the Brownsville Assembly of God (Florida), which rigidly prequalifies their Altar Workers and does not let others ministers in the altar.
 - (5) In any case, it is not a difficult matter for a church to:
 - Establish a program of training and prequalifying altar workers.
 - Setting them forth, perhaps in front of the congregation.

D. KNOW THE WORD!!

1. See Hebrews 4:12-13.
 - (a) **The Word of God is our most effective weapon to fight the devil and get the victory, both for ourselves and for those to whom we minister.**
 - (b) **It is necessary for us to know His Word both in general and for the situations we will face in the altar.**
 - (c) **There is nothing worse than to give someone unscriptural counsel in the altar!!**
2. In the past many churches had Bible study memorization courses.
 - (a) People knew the Word and quoted it from memory.
 - (b) Today we have Bibles with all kinds of indexing schemes to help us find passages we are looking for and with technology the matter has become even more simplified.
 - (c) The problem in altar work is that unless you're able (or feel the compulsion) to take someone aside, most altar calls do not allow enough time for the worker to stop and thumb through the Bible finding passages of Scripture.

Eph. 6:7 NKJV

“ . . . with goodwill doing service as to the Lord, and not to men, . . . ”

LESSON 2 Part A: Review Questions

1. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer.

“As noted in our lesson, God does not require any qualification of those who serve as altar workers.”

2. Briefly explain why an altar worker needs to be “born again.”

3. (a) What has always been the hallmark of Pentecostal churches? (b) Briefly explain what the term means.

4. As noted in our lesson, briefly explain: **“holiness is a state of being.”**

5. Complete the following:

“If we have not been (a) _____ (b) _____ for (c) _____ and are really (d) _____ as a result, then we (e) _____ minister at the (f) _____. One (g) _____ or the other we will (h) _____ up like (i) _____ sons (see Lev. 10:1-2).”

6. In churches where altar workers who pray for seekers at the altar or otherwise; what are some reasons why the baptism in the Holy Spirit is compulsory? *(As a reminder: at New Hope C. O. G. praying for seekers are done by the pastor or ordained ministers . . . however, please answer the question).*

7. What are classified as the “**top three**” Spiritual Qualifications for altar workers?

8. Briefly explain: “**There is no substitute for our love for God.**”

9. (a) Why is it important to spend time with God? (b) Note four ways that we can spend quality time with God . . . **briefly** comment on each.

10. Several very important factors are included in what we refer to as **“The Lord’s Prayer”** (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4). Note five factors noted in our lesson.

11. **Briefly** explain what is prayer and what is entailed.

12. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

Our entire relationship with God depends on both asking forgiveness for our sins and _____ (Matt. 6:12).

- (a) forget about overlooking what others have done to us.
- (b) forgiving others for what they have done to us.
- (c) forgive but taking firm action against all our transgressors.
- (d) always remember what those who wronged us have done.

13. There are many fundamental reasons for us to have love for others. List three reasons highlighted in our lesson.

14. Complete the following:

“Without (a) _____ for ministry the (b) _____ (c) _____ that God (d) _____ it all so we could have (e) _____ life, we would soon (f) _____ interest in what we are (g) _____ and also in the (h) _____ who need what we (i) _____.”

15. What are some factors that are necessary to carry us through in our spiritual service when those around us fail and when circumstances look the bleakest?

16. Like any other kind of ministry, altar work is more than just getting “zapped” by God and “passing” the “zap” on to others. What is essentially required?

17. Briefly list at least two reasons why knowing how to share the gospel is important.

18. Complete by supplying an appropriate Scripture reference, for this format of presenting the gospel (*one reference is OK*).

LESSON 2 Part A: Answers for Review Questions

1. **Answer:**

- (a) False
- (b) God expects us to have certain qualifications to serve as His altar workers, just as He had certain qualifications to serve as His priests in both the Tabernacle and the Temple in Jerusalem.

Page 1

2. **Answer:**

We have all heard of people who have worked for years as leaders in their churches—church council men, deacons, and elders—and suddenly realized that they do not have a personal relationship with God! (John 3:5-8)
For more information, see Page 1

3. **Answer:**

- (a) Sanctification has always been a hallmark of Pentecostal churches.
- (b) The word sanctification comes from the Latin root *“to make holy.”*

For more information, see Page 2, as well as Lessons 2 Parts B and C (synopsis on the subject). See also some of my other studies for example: “The Righteous Pursues Holiness” . . . this is available on our website ... livingwaterstudies.com

4. **Answer:**

Holiness is a state of being. It is not based on what we do or do not do, but it what we are and what we are determines what we do.
For more information, see Page 2 as well as the resources mentioned above . . . see *comments on answer for #3.*

5. **Answer:**

(a) set (b) apart (c) God (d) clean (e) cannot (f) altar (g) way (h) end (h) end (i) Aaron’s
Page 2

6. **Answer:**

Some reasons why altar workers need the baptism in the Holy Spirit are:
(a) Many altar calls are centered on people coming forward to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
(b) Other reasons for going to that altar or seeking help otherwise are; getting saved seeking healing, etc. workers are involved in continued spiritual warfare, etc.
See Pages 2-3

7. **Answer:**

The “**top three**” Spiritual Qualifications that have been thus classified are: (a) You Must Be Born Again (b) You Must Be Sanctified (c) You Must Be Filled with The Holy Spirit.
Pages 1-3

8. **Answer:**

There is no substitute for our love for God—not our faith, not our works and not the miracles we work. We cannot have a relationship with God if we do not love Him.
See Page 4

9. **Answer:**

- (a) If we really love God, the first thing we want is to spend time with Him.
- (b) Some ways that we spend time with God are:
 - (1) **Bible Reading:** The Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our pathway.
 - (2) **Prayer:** This is where we spend time directly with God.
 - (3) Etc.

For more information, see Pages 4-6.

10. **Answer:**

- (a) Praise and proclamation of the greatness and holiness of God.
- (b) Expectancy of His return and declaration of His sovereignty.
- (c) Etc.

For more information, see Page 5

11. **Answer:**

Prayer is communicating with God—which is a two-way communication. As it has been referred to in a hymn: “Sweet Hour of Prayer.”

12. **Answer:**

Item (b) . . . forgiving others for what they have done to us.

Page 6

13. **Answer:**

- (a) Without that love our churches are a disaster that no one wants to be a part. (John 13:34-35).
- (b) Etc.

For more information, see Page 7.

14. **Answer:**

- (a) passion (b) abiding (c) realization (d) gave (e) eternal (f) lose (g) doing (h) people (i) offer.

Page 7

15. Answer:

Root passion for ministry and our love for God and the work He set before us will carry us when those around fail and when circumstances look the bleakest. Page 7

16. Answer:

As we minister what is essentially required is: knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual empowerment. Without all of these we either become dry and ineffective and unbridled fanatics. Both of these will kill effective ministry. Page 8

17. Answer:

- (a) It is the most important thing an altar worker can do, not for other reasons; only to find the lost.
- (b) Many miracles in this life are good, but if a person dies and goes to hell at the end of it all, all of the miracles are for nothing. Page 8

18. Answer:

- (a) John 3:16 (b) Rom. 3:23 (c) 2 Cor. 5:21 (d) John 1:12. *(Or any relevant references).*

19. Answer:

- (a) instant (b) power (c) willing (d) learn (e) wisdom (f) process (g) time (h) heart (i) willing. Page 11

20. Answer:

- (a) The Word of God is our most effective weapon to fight the devil and get the victory, both for ourselves and for those to whom we minister.
 - (b) Etc.
- For more information, see Page 12.

These lessons are compiled exclusively ONLY FOR USE AT THE NEW HOPE CHURCH OF GOD for the sole purpose of Altar Workers Training.