



Ministry Visions

A Few Helpful Ways To Be A Better Altar Minister

Preparation.

1. Forgiveness should be the first order of preparation before ministry. It is important that an intercessor live a life free of offence. We need not be the reason why others are unable to receive.

2. All altar prayer ministry participants should spend time in prayer prior to the scheduled service. It is also recommended that prayer be lifted up on behalf of the one giving the message and that you have knowledge of the direction of the message.

3. Be sensitive to the message

The message will set the mood for the first invitation for special prayer. The works of God always follow in response to the message of the word of God. There are those who will be in need for other types of prayer. The first invitation should be in response to a commitment to the message.

4. Other invitations may include salvation, healing, commitment, dedications, a drawing close to God, to name a few.

5. Some host speakers will be accompanied by a ministry team. Protocols may differ at this time. It is the responsibility of your team leader to check with the senior pastor or senior staff member in attendance what the procedures will be prior to the beginning of service.

6. There should be one team leader for every 6 prayer teams. The team leader should be available to over see any special needs that may arise during the altar prayer ministry such as deliverance or other.

7. One will be assigned to direct ministry if problems arise during non ministry times. Others should be instructed to continue to pray quietly in the service.

The Be Careful Checklist.

1. Keep a strong breath freshener with you at all times. Use the freshener prior to altar ministry and before personal ministry. Don't allow one's breath to so distract as to create a situation that the Holy Spirit is unable to use you.
2. Be mindful with your actions and attitude. Don't let your ministry be drowned under the shock of your actions.
3. Avoid "extremes" Do not create a wall by unfamiliarity. One common abuse is to begin the conversation before asking any questions with, "the Lord shows me this about you." or "the Lord shows me you have been doing this." You may have already shut the door to their trust and missed their need. Understand one does not always have to say thus says the Lord. "you can say it and the Spirit of God can put an anointing on it".
4. When ministering to others be mindful of pointed condemning, judgmental or offensive remarks. Refrain from words, like "you", use the word " we" or " us". instead. When you find yourself in a difficult discussion, the word "you" may cause your words to be perceived negatively. We or us takes the edge off and still allows the Holy Spirit to do His work through you.
5. Appropriate touch is to the forehead, hands, shoulder or upper back. Those catching should keep hands 6 to 12 inches from the prayer recipient. When the need arises to pray for healing in other appropriate areas of the body, touch should be by those of whom the prayer recipient is familiar, a family member or friend of the same gender. Your hand can then make contact at their hand at the wrist.
6. Keep your prayer time within the scriptural perimeters of edification exhortation or comfort.
7. Remember, they have come to meet God.
Your words are important. they are to establish, impart grace to the heares, blessing and life. You have not been set as a judge or to judge.

When Ministering

1. Ask questions that will make your prayer time affective, Target your prayers. Don't start guessing, make assumptions or presumptions, Once they have told you what their asking prayer for, probe further for details surrounding their condition.
Draw a logical pattern for how to pray. Where are you going in prayer? You might ask,

“what is going on in your life”?

Practice not becoming mechanical in your approach. Show genuine concern.

2. Put those whom you are praying for at ease. This is their time to receive ministry. If you absolutely feel that the Holy Spirit has something to speak to an individual, work it in your prayer on their behalf at the appropriate time. Use a little wise discernment. Don't allow yourself to be the reason why others cannot receive from the Father. Keep balance to insure their trust and agreement. Asking the right question will help them break through to the throne.

3. Ask the Holy Spirit to come with His presence. Let the recipient know that the Holy Spirit is about to come with His presence to confirm that their petition has been heard and He is working out these matters on their behalf. He will come and this will lift them into believing God for their answer.

4. If you have initially asked the right questions, you will then be able to move into a second period of prayer. When one openly expresses that they are powerless in an area of sin. Ask them how their relationship is with Jesus and the Father. Ask, 'are you gathering in fellowship with other believers? Do you spend time reading the scriptures and in prayer?' Pray with them and encourage them through the scriptures.

The scriptures give hope, comfort and the Father's promise for His deliverance. see Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and of the scriptures might have hope. Use the scriptures to bring comfort in your prayer.

The Character of Mature Discernment

1. Discernment exercises good timing

Ecclesiastes 8:5 he who keeps his command will experience nothing harmful; And a wise man's heart discerns both time (timing) and judgment.

1Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

2. Discernment removes personal obstacles that hinder the Spirit of God.

1Corinthians 11:28-30 (v28) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. (v29) For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

3. Discernment disallows obstacles that hinder the Spirit of God in the Body

1Corinthians 2:11-15 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God (v12) Now we have received, not the spirit of this world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God (v13) These things we also speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. (v14) 'But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (v15) But he who is spiritual judges all things,

1Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement..

1Corinthians 11:16 But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

1Corinthians 12:25 that there should be no schisms in the body, but that the members should have the same care, for one another.

3. Discernment empowers Worship

1Corinthians 14:24-25 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person come in, he is convinced by all, he is judged by all. (v25) And thus the secrets of his heart are uncovered; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

4. Discernment empowers the body

1Corinthians 12:24-25 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, (v25) that there should be no schisms in the body, but that the members should have the same care, for one another.

5. Discernment searches out the word of God, exercising and growing in maturity

1 Kings 3:9 "Therefore give to your servant an understanding heart to judge this people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people .

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is powerfully alive and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart..

6. Discernment understands unseen realities 1Peter 1:10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you.

7. Discernment allows or disallows according to knowledge

1Corinthians 4:17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as It is everywhere in every church.

1 Corinthians 5:3 For I indeed as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged, as though I were present, concerning him who has so done this deed. (v4) In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, (v5) deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters. (v3) Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

1Corinthians 7:17 But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches.

1Corinthians 11:16 But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

1 Corinthians 14:29-31 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the other judge. (v30) But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. (v31) For you can all prophecy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

1Corinthians 14:32-33 And the spirit of the prophets are subject to the prophets. (v33) For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

1Corinthians 14:37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

1Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.