

Holy Altar



DISCIPLE INDIA

***Raising 1 Million Holy Altars
to Establish Christ's Kingdom in India***

Disciple India

Vision of Raising 1 Million Holy Altars across the nation of India

Following a season of prayer, a vision was given to see the establishment of more than 1 million Holy Altars across the nation of India. These Holy Altars will equip the local Body of Christ to begin to take the Kingdom of Jesus Christ into every facet of society: Marriage and Family, Business and Financial Stewardship, Government, Education and Media. It is our desire to see a harvest of more than 10 million souls in India over the course of the next 5 years as a result of the establishment of these Holy Altars.

What is a “holy altar”?

A holy altar is a person or persons with a lifestyle that is radically consecrated to Jesus Christ, who has chosen to make God’s eternal purposes their sole reason for living, and therefore they live by Christ’s standard of love for God and for others.

With this as its foundation, a Holy Altar is:

- A Lifestyle of Deep intimacy with God (Through the Word, worship, prayer...)
- A Lifestyle of a Prayer Warrior – Daily Interceding for the purposes of God
- A Lifestyle of a Soul Winner – Constantly seeking opportunities to witness Jesus Christ to the lost, hurting and broken of society
- A Lifestyle of Discipleship – Which takes the time to teach and model what God has taught us in a depth of relationship with others
- A Lifestyle of Sending Disciples to go out and do the same by establishing Holy Altars in their personal lives, families, and sphere of influence

This is a proactive strategy to see the Church begin to disciple every facet of society. It begins with the already existent Body of Christ in any region of the world, and moves out to those God transforms through their lives. When we take even one soul who is living this type of lifestyle in their personal life, and encourage them to establish this way of life in their families, and in their sphere of influence, extraordinary fruit often results! This lifestyle helps to activate every member of the Body of Christ in the region to become a true ambassador of Jesus Christ to their sphere of influence (2 Cor. 5:20).

The implementation of establishing holy altars is already producing national level fruit in the nations of Uganda (up to 84% Christian), Taiwan (previously 2.6% Christian but in just 4 years they are now over 5% and growing), as well as in other parts of Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. A pastor of one of the largest congregations in the world recently asked for this strategy of altars to be shared at a pastors conference he was hosting due to the fact that he had heard about the fruit coming from the holy altars in Taiwan.

We believe it is time for India to raise up over 1 million Holy Altars to Jesus Christ across the nation. Over 1 million souls gripped with a deep and real intimacy with their Creator God. Over 1 million souls living as Prayer Warriors who daily call forth the will of heaven to come on the earth. Over 1 million Soul Winners who will take the love and Life of Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him. Over 1 million Disciple-makers who will raise up the next generation of souls given radically over to Jesus Christ and then send them to do the same. Will you partner with us?

The Whole Body of Christ Needed

We believe that this call is to the entire Body of Christ and not just one particular denomination. The heartbeat of a holy altar is not doctrinally within a single denomination, but it is based on foundational principals that are applicable for all followers of Jesus Christ. We invite everyone called by the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to participate in this work of raising holy altars in the nation of India.

Will you choose to become a “holy altar” in your personal life, family and sphere of influence?

Will you share this vision of Holy Altars with others in the nation of India?

You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you. Deuteronomy 6:13-14

“If you should say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?’ you shall not be afraid of them; you shall well remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt.” Deuteronomy 7:17-18

We believe that our God is jealous for India. We believe that He wants this nation to be turned wholeheartedly to Jesus. We believe that He is looking for a people who will step out in faith and believe Him for what is humanly impossible!

Is there a redemptive purpose why God has allowed India to flourish in such a way that there are Indians in virtually every nation of the earth? Is it possible that Jesus wants to bring such a revival to India that it touches the outermost parts of the earth? Is it possible that our God intends India to become one of the largest missionary sending nations on earth to impact the other nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

**Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins,
They will raise up the former devastations;
And they will repair the ruined cities,
The desolations of many generations.**
Isaiah 61:4

The remainder of this book will share a Biblical background behind what we mean by the discipleship of nations, and God's original intent in giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to mankind. We will hear testimonies of how Holy Altars are being used of God to help disciple other nations. We will then get hand's on and learn about the practical details of a Holy Altar and about how this can be implemented in our personal lives, families, sphere of influence, local congregation, and at a regional level.

It is our prayer that Jesus Christ will be the One raising His Holy Altars, and that He will receive all the glory, and honor that He deserves in the nation of India.

Contact Us:

Please contact us should God place it on your heart to be a part of raising Holy Altars in the nation of India.

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We are very open to the use of this publication in various forms but ask that we be contacted first in order to hear what your intentions are, as well as to see how we may be able to partner with you in seeing this message spread in your area. Contact us via email at steevenanil@rediffmail.com.

Holy Altar Testimonies (India)

(Pastor) – “Prior to coming to the conference I was about to leave ministry and go to take a job making much more money in the Gulf countries. During the two day conference God spoke to me about the Holy Altars. I was very encouraged to win the country for Christ through this lifestyle. I decided not to go to the Gulf and instead of looking at my financial needs I chose to build this lifestyle in my own life and in my sphere of influence. Though I have to trust God with my finances I am still standing in ministry.

I had no money to come to this follow-up conference but I had a strong desire to be here. A friend of mine told me he was traveling near to the conference so I came with him and then he gave me a gift that was enough for me to attend the conference.”

(Pastor) – “God brought motivation and change in my life and made me spiritually stable in Him when I began to implement this holy altar lifestyle. When they implemented this lifestyle in other nations things changed. God confirmed in me to start a holy altar and much has improved. To do the bold things for God we must have intimacy with Him. As I have a great relationship with the Lord, God has helped me to stand in ministry. I have since shared this testimony with many churches and the people have been blessed.”

(Pastor) - “I come from a Hindu background. I came to Christ and started to minister but I did not have clarity in how to minister in the community. I also was having family issues. When I started the family altar God healed my family. I am also now able to see much more clearly how to effectively minister to my community.”

(Pastor) - “God greatly blessed the ministry since we started the holy altar lifestyle. I have been personally revived and my wife and my marriage have been impacted by the family altar. We have reached more souls from Hindu and Muslim backgrounds in our congregation since starting this lifestyle. We have also started two other congregations since beginning the Holy Altar lifestyle. We only preach to those who come from non-Christian background in order to reach the lost.

My 50 year old mother attended the Holy Altar conference. We were doing evangelism for the last 3-4 years but seeing little fruit. Now that my mother accepted to become a holy altar she began to lift up the work in more prayer, unceasing prayer. Every day from 2pm-9pm she goes out with an evangelism team. Some 25-30 families have come to Christ in the last 6 months. The Lord has blessed us greatly in these 6 months!

As we have come into alignment with God He has been blessing us. After 7 years of a court case involving our orphanage land God supernaturally resolved the case. We have also been given \$15,000 to build onto our orphanage.”

(Pastor) “In the past God used to speak to me but I always used to neglect what God was speaking. When I went to pray during the Holy Altar conference I asked God to speak to me. God then spoke to me, “You have a good ministry but that does not mean that you are okay. I want you to do the holy altars” (in your personal life, family, and congregation.) I used to attend so many meetings but I had no prayer life. I am making a declaration that I don’t want more crusades or all night prayer services. I want a personal prayer life.”

(Pastor) “The message on family is very important! There are many pastors who work with their congregations but neglect their families.”

(Testimony at Holy Altar Conference) “I attended the last conference and I was representing a church of about 300-400 people. We were so stirred that we immediately began a season of 21 days of fasting and prayer to establish the holy altars and 50 participated. We are seeing good fruit from this lifestyle. Following this latest conference, though we had previously done this only within our local congregation we now have a vision to take this message out to the other churches in our area!

My daughter also started a holy altar at college with other medical students. They are now having a daily holy altar gathering among the medical professionals!”

(Testimony at Holy Altar Conference) “My husband encouraged me to become a holy altar. I started to see my workplace as my mission field. I started sharing the Gospel with my co-workers and I started sharing the Gospel with the wash boys, and with others I came in contact with. We have now started a workplace fellowship for those who are truly seeking to live for Christ.”

(Testimony at Holy Altar Conference) “Today I came to understand how much I should pray for lost souls. I have to build a holy altar in my life, my family, and my congregation. I have lost much time but I will use the remainder of my time to build holy altars and win souls to Christ!”

Chapter 1 - The Gospel Changes Everything

What is the intent of the Gospel? Some would say that it is to save lost souls from hell fire. Others proclaim it is the Good News of Jesus Christ to save you from your sins and give you a place in heaven. Still, others say that it is so you can be born again. All of these statements are true, but they are just an initial portion of God's much fuller intention in sending His Son to redeem and restore humanity.

When the great commission was given to the disciples before Jesus' departure, He said, ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."***
Matt 28:19-20

If we reduce Christ's command to simply, "go and help save people from hell" then we reduce this command to something far less than what He intended. The intent of the Gospel of the Kingdom is not merely to bring individuals into a conversion experience, but to cause entire nations to become Christ's disciples! We are called to bring His kingdom and His life through the power of the Holy Spirit into every area of society which will (by the nature of light) transform the darkness. From your personal life to your marriage, family, church, community, region, state, nation and the nations of the world, the Gospel's intent is to change everything.

However, many times we can become very familiar and used to the way things have always been. We become accustomed to our surroundings, our culture, and the way our nation thinks and does life. We come to a place where we just think this is how it is supposed to be. We have thoughts like, "this is just how we do things" or "this is the way life is meant to be". We grow so used to this thinking that we don't even challenge our thought processes or our belief system, and where it came from.

We can even get to the place where we accept things as being good or from God when it is actually our culture and traditions that have taught us to accept the values we hold and not the word of God.

Please read Mark 9:2-29 before proceeding.

We see in this passage that Jesus' magnificent glory is revealed to the three apostles. Heaven has come to earth and Jesus is transfigured into what He will look like when He is seated at the right hand of God the Father in glory. This is one of those moments that marks your life forever. If you had been there you would often go back to it and tell others what happened, how you felt and the indescribable beauty of the Lord Jesus. Your faith would be so enhanced by this encounter because, suddenly, the invisible glory of the kingdom of God has been revealed to you. Your faith would have become

sight and your ears would have heard the Father's voice declaring, *"This is my beloved Son; listen to him."*

Not only did the three apostles have the indescribable opportunity to experience this encounter, but Jesus Himself was encouraged, affirmed and deeply felt His true authority and heavenly place with the Father. There is no doubt that when they were coming down from the mount of transfiguration that they were all very heavenly minded. Their thoughts were on the glory, will and majesty of God. It would have been very easy to have forgotten the present condition of Israel and to have just stayed in the heavenly places with the Lord.

Into the Present Darkness

"O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?"
Mark 9:19

As Jesus and the apostles journeyed down the mountain into the darkness of Israel (a faithless generation), we are not told exactly what the scribes were arguing about. However, if it was an argument today, it could be a plethora of issues ranging anywhere from "God doesn't heal anymore" to "My theology is superior to yours." All of the present day church issues, like the ones mentioned above, do not lend to love, unity and good works, but to division, pride and doubt toward God. Doubt, pride and unbelief riddled this generation of Israelites and it kept the disciples from being able to cast the mute spirit out of the son.

When the father of the son who had a mute spirit finally spoke to Jesus, he was so full of doubt and unbelief that he nearly accused Jesus of having no power to change things. Think about the stark contrast between what had just happened on the mount of transfiguration and what occurred when they came down the mountain. If that father would have had half the experience the three apostles had, he would have never spoken to Jesus in this manner.

A Demonic Reality

"And Jesus asked his father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood.'"
Mark 9:21

The father of this child had been tormented by this mute spirit for years. Day in and day out this demon spirit tried to kill his child. Over and over again the father experienced this demonic reality. So much so that it would have been very easy for the father to believe it was just the way life was, the way it would always be; a life of torment and survival, a life of questioning, "Why God?" or "Can God really change anything?"

It would have been really easy to live in a hopeless state without even fully realizing it because of having grown so used to living that way; living in a demonic reality and believing it is the way life works.

Familiarity Breeds Deception and Doubt

“If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Mark 9:22

The constant bombardment of this demonic spirit, the doubt bred from the scribes, and the faithless culture around the father, caused him to get to a place where he questioned whether God was able to change anything. He had grown so accustomed to the world around him that he believed that God was either incapable or unwilling because that was what his culture promoted and embraced. With a theology that encouraged unbelief, combined with the lack of deliverance of his son, it was nearly impossible for him not to think and feel the way he did.

Confronted With God

“And Jesus said to him, ‘If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.’” Mark 9:23

The transfigured King confronted the unbelieving generation and said, *“All things are possible for one who believes.”* This father had to make a choice. Do I believe what I have seen and heard from this generation and experienced through my son, or do I believe what God says?

We must believe what HE says, not what we see!

This is a choice we must all make, friends. Will we believe the demonic reality that has been around for thousands of years, and think it will always be this way, or will we believe in what God says about the GOSPEL?

Will we believe that Jesus makes all things new or only that He affects individual people in a significant way? What was the Gospel’s intent? Was it merely to save individuals from hell, or was it to bring the kingdom of God into every facet of human society? Did Jesus not teach us to pray “Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”?

Can God not change entire cultures for His glory? Does He not say to go and disciple the nations? Are we limping along in unbelief, or do we really understand the desire of God to transform every area of society? Can we believe God to change the nation of India and transform it for His glory?

Have we been so soaked in the culture that we believe this is just the way it is? Has our training led us to believe that we are only supposed to plant churches and not disciple entire villages, cities and regions? Have we grown so used to living and ministering a certain way that we have limited God or believe things just won't get much better than what we are seeing?

The intent of the Gospel is to change everything! The intent is for entire cultures to fall under the sway of God's kingdom. Where Christ is spoken of freely, sharing the Gospel is easy and accepted, the nation's economy is boosted because God is honored, and people live in a morality cultivated by the Word of God.

My dear brother or sister, is there anything too hard for Him? His blood is enough to reach, save and disciple the nation of India.

We are excited to share with you what we believe is a road map to awakening and transforming India. As you read through this booklet please keep in mind that it requires application and a heart of obedience toward these godly principles to see the results described.

"All things are possible for one who believes."
(Mark 9:23)

Chapter 2 - Make Disciples of all Nations

What is God's Vision for Nations? What level of faith does He have for them?

Based on the story we heard in the last section of this book, we know that we have a choice to make. We will either believe what the culture and demonic forces around us would have us believe is possible, or we will believe what God Himself believes. In order to know what to have faith for, it is essential that we gain a deeper understanding of exactly what God's will is for nations.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ wants to manifest His Kingdom on the earth? Do you believe He has been given authority to do this? How much more authority does Jesus need before His Kingdom can be manifested on the earth?

Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:18-20

We see from Jesus' final words before His departure from the earth that He has the desire and the faith to believe that ENTIRE NATIONS will become His disciples. That entire nations will be taught all of His commandments and begin to walk in them. We must have a deep revelation that this is what God wants so that we will have the necessary faith to believe for what He believes.

If God has faith for nations, what constitutes a "nation"?

While there are many technical ways that we can describe a nation based on a common language, culture, ethnicity, history etc...but here we just want to mention 5 key institutions that are mentioned in the Word of God as having been created by God, and which help to form the foundation of any nation or territory:

5 Institutions of a Nation:

- **Marriage & Family** (Genesis 2:18-24, Deut. 6:6-9)
- **Business/Financial Stewardship/Resource Allocation** (Genesis 2:15, Deut. 8:18, 28:12)
- **Government** (Romans 13:1)
- **Belief System** – (Education, media, the arts...) (Deut. 4:14, Matthew 28:20, Exodus 31:3, Acts 19:23-27)
- **Priesthood/Spiritual elders** (Exodus 19:5-6, 1 Peter 2:4-9)

If we are serious about obeying Jesus' command to disciple our nation, then we must proactively believe God's Spirit to establish His Kingdom in each of these areas of society.

Has India been made a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Has this level of discipleship already been accomplished in our nation? Have we systematically broken down every facet of society and begun to make them a learner and student of the will and ways of Jesus Christ? Have our families, our government, our businesses, our educational system, our media & television, and our congregations been thoroughly instructed in all the commandment of Jesus to such a degree that they are implementing His way of life? If we have failed to see this take place up until this time, then there is still much work to be done.

We hope that this revelation of nations will show us that God's goal for His Body is for more than planting churches on the fringe of society. He desires to see every way in which our culture is living in rebellion against Him to be uprooted and removed, and to be replaced by the culture of His Kingdom. This may not always be seen in the physical realm, as His Kingdom often advances through the blood of the martyrs, but it is His desire for His Name to be made known throughout society.

**“For the earth will be filled
With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,
As the waters cover the sea.” Habakkuk 2:14**

How much does the water cover the ocean floor? Is there just a little water covering the bottom of the ocean or is the ocean floor absolutely submerged in a massive amount of water? (Scientists have stated that the average depth of the ocean is 3,682 meters (12,080 ft)!) The Word of God speaks of a time when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God's glory as the waters cover the sea. Let us join our faith with the faith of God and believe for this in our day.

What is God's heart towards the lost? Is He content that they are perishing and going to an eternal hell?

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Paul instructs us that it is God's desire for ALL MANKIND to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth about His Son Jesus Christ. Knowing this should give us great

boldness in our witness for Christ. As Christ's ambassadors we should live with great boldness as we step out in obedience to His command to make disciples of all nations.

Does God have the faith to see the nation of India become a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Testimonies from the nations

In order to take a step closer to the faith that God has for our nation it is helpful to hear testimonies of what God is doing in other parts of the world. Since He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35), we can believe that if He will do this there, He is willing to do this it here. If we simply align our lives with His Spirit in such a way that He is loosed to work in our midst we can see similar fruit in the nation of India.

Testimony of Uganda

The nation of Uganda has been through many difficulties over the years but as a result the Body of Christ in this nation is a real encouragement to any nation that if we will persist in the will and ways of God, there is no nation that He cannot begin to disciple.

Over a period of 24 years (1962-1986) they faced 10 dictatorships, and bloodshed after bloodshed. In 1971 Idi Amin came into power as an Islamic dictator determined to kill those who were in positions of influence. The Body of Christ was often arrested, tortured and ministers of the Gospel were even killed for their faith. After a while things got so bad that the only safe place to pray was in the jungles at night.

Time and time again, as the level of prayer in the Body of Christ rose high, their prayers gave birth to change in the physical realm. Finally after all these struggles, a new president came into power, and peace and freedom of worship were restored. Those who were there at this time say that each time peace would be restored, the Body of Christ would go back to sleep in their prayers, and then another judgment would hit the nation.

In 1986 when a more lasting peace took place, churches were growing numerically, and new ministries were coming up in many locations. But an unseen enemy of sexual compromise and disease was beginning to grow in the nation. By the early 1990's the World Health Organization declared Uganda to be the nation worst hit worldwide with HIV/AIDS (Estimates of 34-36% of their population).

The government actually came to the Christian pastors to let them know this bad news, and it is reported that they stated, "We need your Jesus to intervene, otherwise this nation will collapse." The report indicated that if things continued in this way that the entire economy would collapse and that the only ones remaining would be the very old and the very young. At first the mood of the pastors was one of great discouragement, "Why is it always Uganda? What have we done against God?" But at this time a young

pastor stood up and stated, “If we turn our backs on God what hope do we have? He has been faithful in the past, and if we will seek Him in this situation, He will be faithful again!” God used this statement to rekindle faith in the hearts of the pastors to seek God.

A Vision of Raising Holy Altars

It was during this season of seeking God in prayer and fasting that the Lord revealed a strategy to take the nation back for His Kingdom. It involved mobilizing “everyone called by the Name of the Lord” and challenging them to a lifestyle that was radically given over to Jesus Christ. They were instructed to raise holy altars of prayer for the nation in their personal lives, in their families, in the local congregations, and then out into society. The Lord spoke to them that if they would partner with Him in instituting a “net of prayer” across the nation in this way that He would fish their nation out of troubled waters.

God instructed them not to disregard any sector of His Church but to cast this vision for of raising up holy altars to everyone who claimed Jesus. At first it was not easy attempting to gather the Body of Christ as many were focused on what they were already doing and there were many divisions from the past to fight through. But in time God gave them the grace to reach out to Christ-followers in virtually every denomination across the nation and to cast this vision for uniting together on behalf of the nation.

Note: Later in this booklet we will discuss the type of lifestyle that constitutes a holy altar. For now we just want to see the good fruit that came about as the Body of Christ in Uganda obeyed God’s instructions to raise up Altars.

National Level Fruit

The testimonies that came out of Uganda following the efforts made to unite the Body of Christ and establish holy altars are nothing short of astounding! Individuals experienced the revival of God in their personal relationship with Jesus. Among the families who sought to establish this type of lifestyle in their families, there were many reports of marriages being restored and brought back from the brink of divorce. Love for husbands and wives deepened as it had never been before. Families began to truly take up the task of discipling their children in the home and seek God daily in His Word, worship and prayer. Eventually this lifestyle of radical abandonment to Christ spread throughout every sector of life: businesses, the educational system, media and the government.

Today it is stated that virtually every business in Kampala (Uganda’s capital city) there is a corporate gathering of Christ-followers who are proactively discipling their workplace. On just the radio alone a dramatic turn around took place. Where it had been illegal to

have any Christian broadcasting, the spiritual atmosphere has so changed that it is popular to listen to Gospel music and times of preaching. Today, virtually all of the 140 radio stations have some form of Gospel programming in order to keep their audience. Even Al Jazeera, the Islamic network, on Sunday mornings would put on Gospel programming because they knew that if they didn't they would not have an audience to watch their programs.

Amazingly, in time it is reported that the percentage of HIV/AIDS dropped from 34%-36% down to only 6%. Uganda is the only nation in Africa to see such a tremendous drop. During this season of national prayer, God gave them a strategy in which the Church partnered with the Government to go into the schools and encourage the students to a lifestyle of sexual purity. The combination of raising the level of prayer across the nation, alongside receiving a practical strategy from God produced much fruit. Many young people made a commitment to remain pure until their marriage. There were also supernatural healings of those who had been stricken with AIDS – in one congregation alone they have seen over 70 documented cases of AIDS being healed.

Some years later, the Lord led the Body of Christ to do a season of 14 days of National Repentance for the sins of the past. During this time, the First Lady, Janet Museveni, heard about what was going on and she broke down in tears and said, "This is God! Whatever I need to do in order to assist this I'm willing." She was used of the Lord to then share with the President about this.

At the national gathering there were representatives from Parliament, the military, police, church officials – all repenting on behalf of the ways in which they had sinned against God. Then the time came when the President showed up at one of the meetings. He heard how the previous presidents had covenanted the nation to other gods. Even before they had finished speaking, he arose from his seat, came forward and prophetically handed the flag of the nation over to the Body of Christ. Handing over the flag was like handing over the power to the Church to lead the nation. In a later national gathering the President and First Lady stood as the nation of Uganda was covenanted to Jesus Christ for the next one thousand years.

As you can see, our God is more than able to disciple nations, if He will simply find a people who are willing to join Him in His work.

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disciplining their children in the home and seek God daily in His Word, worship and prayer. Eventually these altars spread out to every sector of life: businesses, the educational system, media and the government.

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As you can see, our God is more than able to disciple nations, if He will simply find a people who are willing to join Him in His work.

Will you begin to believe God to move in a similar way in the nation of India?

Think about the obstacles that Uganda faced: An Islamic dictator closing down church buildings and arresting pastors, murdering hundreds of thousands of people. Other dictators following him, bloodshed after bloodshed, failing economy, failing educational system, and being declared the nation worst hit worldwide with HIV/AIDS. Today, Uganda is viewed as a model of AIDS prevention even among secular sources, and they presently have a Christian population of approx. 84%. While Uganda is not an earthly utopia, and they are not without difficulties, God has proven that as they set their hope in Him, He will overcome everything they face as He establishes His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Testimony of Taiwan:

Taiwan had a predominately Buddhist (35%), Taoist (33%) and non-religious (18%) population with only a small percentage of Christians (approx. 2.6%). **About 4 years ago, the Lord revealed Taiwan as a location where the Body of Christ would truly take up the call to establish Holy Altars.** Leadership in the Body of Christ in Taiwan had been requesting for this message to come into their nation for some time, and in God's perfect timing a trip was made to share about this vision with some of the influential church leadership in Taiwan. At first there were only a few congregations that fully committed to implement the altars in their personal lives, and in their families. As they persevered in this, dramatic personal and family testimonies began to arise and other ministries started to come onboard with this vision.

Over the next several years the work grew to over 1,000 congregations across the nation who are implementing the holy altars in their local ministries. At this point it was beginning to impact so many lives that they would have large regional meetings where most of the time was taken to share one encouraging testimony after another. The pastors across the nation also started to gather once a month for two days of fasting, prayer, and encouragement in the vision of seeing altars spread across the land. There are dramatic stories of marriages being restored, and prodigal sons and daughters returning to the Lord. Virtually everyone has a story of an unsaved family member, friend, or acquaintance who has come to Christ through the altars that had been established.

After the families were beginning to experience revival, they were then challenged to take these altars out into their society - Out into their places of work, into the government, & into the schools. In a relatively short period of time, there began to be regional meetings with hundreds of marketplace professionals who had started up these holy altars and were experiencing dramatic results. Many souls came to Christ, and the entire spiritual atmosphere began to shift in different workplaces. One of the national Christian television networks began to broadcast the meetings so that believers across the nation were made aware of what was happening. What had previously been

unheard of was now becoming a reality right before their eyes. (One of these specific testimonies is highlighted in the section of this booklet discussing “Societal Altars”)

Today between 1,000-2,000 congregations are working together towards a goal of seeing tens of thousands of holy altars established across the nation. Due to the change that these holy altars have already brought to the Body of Christ, ministers in the nation now believe that they are in a position to seek to unite 75%-100% of the 4,000 congregations in the nation and go for a harvest of 500,000 souls. Already in just these 4 years hundreds of thousands have come to Christ as the percentage of Christ-followers is reported to have nearly doubled from 2.6% to 5% and is still growing. As the Body of Christ began to take seriously their responsibility to disciple the nation in the will and ways of Jesus Christ, God moved across the land in answer to these prayers. This began in their personal lives by establishing holy altars, and then moved on to their families, and then out to the world around them.

Since God is moving this way all over the nations, let us believe Him to move so powerfully in the nation of India that His redemptive destiny for this nation begins to come to pass right before our eyes!

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.”
Matthew 5:13-15

Roadmap to Establish Christ's Kingdom in a Region

We have noticed a particular pattern in the nations in which we have been working. This is not necessarily a step by step plan but a general overview of some of the key elements we have found to be necessary if any city or nation is to begin to truly establish God's Kingdom in their territory. This goes beyond just a single ministry seeing a move of God's Spirit, or the planting of several local congregations, but discusses a pattern for seeing the Church in a region truly establish the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in every facet of society in their territory.

1. Gather

During this initial phase, we begin to gather the men and women who have been called by God in to our region. This will often begin by casting vision for the need to unite and work together to see God's Kingdom come into the territory. In the early phases of preparation it may begin with just a small handful of people who are hearing what the Spirit of the Lord is speaking to His Church. In time, this message and vision should be spreading to more and more people.

2. Awaken

A message is released to the Body of Christ in the nation to awaken the Church to the urgency of the hour, as well as to see the vast contradiction between the desires that are in God's heart for our region, in comparison to what is actually being manifested in the physical realm at this time. Seeing this vast contradiction should be a wake up call which causes us to be willing to make radical lifestyle adjustments in our personal lives, families and spheres of influence. This Awakening is not confined to just the early portion of the move of God's Spirit, but will often come in waves, as more and more parts of the Body of Christ in the region begin to see the need to join together for God's regional work.

3. Equip

Equipped in Raising Prayer in every sector of life

As the Body of Christ is awakened to the current state of their region and stirred to believe for something more, there is a need to begin to equip the region in a lifestyle of holy altars. These holy altars begin to raise the level of effective prayer in individual lives, families, congregations, communities and out into the marketplace. As the level of prayer in a territory is raised through establishing holy altars, many testimonies begin to

emerge to encourage the Body of Christ to keep moving forward. The spiritual atmosphere begins to shift and the things that had seemed impossible before start becoming possible. The more the altars are established, the greater the change that begins to infiltrate all aspects of society.

Equipped in being set free & restored

Once the Body of Christ has begun to be awakened, and raise the level of prayer in the territory, there is a deeper level of unity in the regional church that should emerge from this increased regional prayer. As a result of this shift in the spiritual atmosphere it becomes possible to identify the strongholds of the region, and bring repentance to them in such a way that they are literally pushed back and broken over the territory. As historical demonic strongholds are broken over the territory, it becomes possible to see reconciliation and healing spread across the land. Areas of spiritual bondage that have existed for centuries or millenniums can be uprooted and removed and replaced with the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Equipped in Evangelism (Prayer, Care, Share)

As the Body of Christ has been awakened, united, established altars, and entered into deep repentance and healing of the land, the way has now been paved for a massive ingathering of lost souls. The desire would be to equip every believer take up their role as a priest of God right where He has positioned them and together believe for a huge regional and national harvest of souls. Our desire is to see evangelism reach every sector of society.

Equipped in Discipleship

As many new souls are coming to Christ in the territory then there will be a tremendous need for equipping believers in what it means to live a lifestyle of discipleship. Emphasize the need to live in close community with those that we are pouring our lives into. Our desire is to disciple every sector of society in the will and ways of Jesus Christ.

4. Empower

As the Body of Christ in the nation has been awakened, united, established altars, entered into repentance and healing of the land, and seen a massive harvest of new souls coming to Christ and being disciplined, the region is now positioned to be released into their redemptive destiny. The Body of Christ in the nation will begin to watch as God fulfills the purposes that He had in His heart when He first brought the nation into existence.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the purpose of this book is to provide instruction on two of the most critical components of this pattern of seeing a movement of God's Spirit – Awakening and the Raising of Holy Altars. As these are established across the nation, further resources may be helpful to move forward at that point. We now want to move into the section of the book that discusses the heart of a Holy Altar and how this can be put into practice in our individual lives, families, and spheres of influence.

A Global Warning - Urgency to Implement a Holy Altar Lifestyle

While in the nation of Mongolia several years ago, God began to speak something to me while I was in prayer that He has subsequently shown me is a Word of urgent warning to His Church worldwide.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:15-17

In prayer I believe the Lord spoke to me that just like a Tsunami wave, materialism stands poised to sweep through the nations and destroy His purposes. During this season those who are claiming Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior must so detach themselves from any hope in materialism that they are on a high plane and are untouched by the Tsunami when it comes. Otherwise they will suffer the effects of materialism just like the others.

This call to come away from living for temporary pursuits is going out to every member of Christ's Body worldwide. It is a call to everyone who considers themselves a follower of Jesus Christ. God is calling His Church back to the true standard of the Christ-Life (Luke 7:24-28, 1 John 2:5-6, John 14:12).

A flood of darkness is sweeping across the nations of the earth. This flood is a flood of materialism, secularism, humanism, and hedonism that is threatening to simultaneously destroy the foundation of every nation on the planet. Destroy their marriages and families, their governments, businesses, educational systems, media content, and church leadership. What God is looking for is men, women and children who will allow His Holy Spirit to so separate them from the ways of the world that they are completely untouched by this worldwide flood and are therefore in a position to rescue other souls out of the flood.

I believe that there is a window of time for the Body of Christ to repent and be set apart from any and all attachment to the world's system – ungodly media, sexual immorality (pornography/adultery/abortion...), materialism in all its forms, anything or anyone we have placed our hope in outside of Jesus Christ.

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. Romans 8:29

This calls for radical lifestyle adjustments on behalf of those who have heard God's Spirit calling them to His true standard of the Christ-Life. This same call is coming through the

lips and tongues of many ministries and in every language globally. There are servants of God across the nations who have heard this same call directly from the Spirit of God and they are proclaiming it in their own language in the sphere of influence that God has entrusted to them.

There are many who will hear this call and learn to establish this Christ-like lifestyle. As they do, they will be conduits of God's blessing to the nations of the earth. No one is exempt from this call. Though we may seek to downplay the urgency of God's standard and current global intention, every believer has a choice to make as to whether or not we are going to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into this victorious lifestyle or whether we will not. It is our hope to see over 1 million believers in India respond with a resounding, "Yes" to this call, and in so doing be a part of bringing about the end-time revival described in the scriptures (Habbakkuk 2:14) and ultimately the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.

2 Peter 3:9-14

How are we to prepare for this global flood? What is at the Heart of a "Holy Altar" Lifestyle?

Chapter 3 - The Heart of a Holy Altar – Part 1

2 Foundation Stones

Most of what we have shared up to this point is like wonderful testimonies without discussing the very practical elements necessary to see such a great revival. We liken it to a farming illustration in which a farmer comes to tell other farmers of the glorious harvest he has just had (such as the Ugandan and Taiwanese testimonies). But if that farmer tells us his great testimony, yet fails to tell us how he plowed up the soil, what type of seed he used, where he bought the seed, how he tended for the plants, how he managed to keep the soil irrigated, how he harvested the large crop, and how he handled the distribution process, all of his stories about a large harvest do us little to no good. We are likely to remain with a similar harvest that we had before we heard his encouraging testimony.

It is very helpful to hear of these great harvests, but at this point we would like to begin sharing some of the spiritual principals that God led them to implement which produced such a large harvest. In this short book we will not have time to go fully in-depth but we will at least make mention of each key area that was utilized.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we believe that by learning and applying these Biblical principals, you too will see similar fruit that can impact an individual life, a family, a congregation and even an entire district, state or nation.

2 Foundation Stones

There are two foundational principals that are at the heart of what it means to deeply abide in the Spirit of God and they are for every true disciple of Jesus Christ. There are also spiritual keys that help us to remain on this foundation. These keys are really just essentials for Basic Christianity that in too many cases can be neglected. This lifestyle is the heart of what we mean when we refer to establishing a “Holy Altar”. These truths are applicable in our individual lives, in our families, in our local congregation and out into the sphere of influence that God has entrusted to us.

In this section we will begin by examining the 2 Foundations of our Relationship with Jesus Christ.

Foundation #1: A Heart of Full Surrender

Helpful prayer to remember in order to remain in this position:

“Father, all that I am and all that I have is Yours.”

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 16:25

Now Ben-hadad king of Aram gathered all his army, and there were thirty-two kings with him, and horses and chariots. And he went up and besieged Samaria and fought against it. Then he sent messengers to the city to Ahab king of Israel and said to him, “Thus says Ben-hadad, ‘Your silver and your gold are mine; your most beautiful wives and children are also mine.’” The king of Israel replied, “It is according to your word, my lord, O king; I am yours, and all that I have.” **1 Kings 20:1-4**

This scripture is an illustration of a King coming in to possess a territory, and what Ben-hadad asked for was a full surrender. And King Ahab responded to his request stating, “O King; I am yours, and all that I have.” In a very similar way, Jesus, the King of Kings is offering to come into our lives and take over, but what He is asking of us is a full surrender of every area of our lives.

This full surrender is a position of the heart, in which we completely abandon everything to the Lord Jesus Christ. “King Jesus, I am yours, and all that I have.” In this place, every single element of our lives is given completely over to Him. We are not holding onto our past, our present, or our future. We have given up on our self-led life in every respect and we are no longer attempting to live the Christian life in our own efforts. We have surrendered our family, our friends, our social or ministry status, our means of income, our material possessions, even the state of our physical bodies is entirely given over to Him. Everything that we could possibly withhold from God is given over into His care.

This heart level position of full surrender to God is absolutely essential if we are to be used as a vessel for His glory. Any area of our lives that is not fully given over to Him is an area in which we lack authority, and is an area where we are still in bondage. If we desire to enter more fully into the Christ-Life then we must begin here.

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. **Galatians 2:20**

Paul wrote that after coming to know Jesus, we are not to live our own lives anymore. He stated that the life that is lived through us is to be a life of faith in God’s Spirit. This speaks of a radical, supernatural Life that would look completely different than the lifestyle of anyone who does not personally know Jesus Christ.

There is a way that we can give mental assent to the fact that our lives are not our own and that Jesus is the Lord of our lives. Then there is a completely different level of understanding a full surrender to God in which we begin to seek the Holy Spirit on what it means to live in this place of being dead to ourselves as a literal reality. God wants us living in the reality of truth and not merely the head knowledge of it.

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

2 Cor. 5:14-15

This is a real crucifixion to every desire we ever had prior to coming under the Lordship of Jesus. This is a true giving up of our ways of handling life and a full surrender to Jesus Christ as the New Master of our lives. As we enter more deeply into the reality of being a bond-servant of Christ, we begin to experience a greater and greater manifestation of what Paul talked about in Galatians. We start to experience in reality what it means to have the literal God of the Universe living His Life in us and through us.

Not a One-Time Decision but a Lifetime Journey

Why are we also in danger every hour? I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 1 Cor. 15:30-31

A common misconception that many sincere believers fall into is that this decision to surrender the entirety of our lives to God is merely a one-time decision that we are to make at the beginning of our journey with Him. Yes, there is a definitive moment when we make this decision for the first time, but this surrender is also to be the daily and moment by moment reality of our lives.

As finite human beings, seeking to learn how to walk with an infinite God, it is inevitable that we will make some mistakes in this journey. One of the keys for us will be to constantly check the position of our hearts in order to see if we have strayed from the position of living in full surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. If we are lacking victory in any area of our relationship with God, then we should begin to examine ourselves to understand where we may be holding onto our lives.

Personal Testimony:

Before each day begins, I seek to pray through the full surrender of my will, my mind, my speech, my sight and what I will hear that day. I give my body over to Him to use however He sees fit. I also seek to surrender the human relationships that He has allowed me to have. I seek to give everything that I am and will be that day to God. I ask for Him to fill me completely and to live His Life in and through me for His glory. Though this is a relatively simple interaction with God, this daily practice has proven to be essential in keeping the fire on the altar of my heart burning brightly.

In this place of full surrender we should begin to live in these two realities:

- A. My life is not my own (Gal. 2:20)
- B. I live only for the eternal purposes of God (John 4:32-34, 6:27)

These two realities can serve as a means of checking our hearts to see if we are really living totally surrendered to God. As we die more fully to our fleshly desires, our hearts will begin to long for the eternal purposes that are on God's heart.

Foundation #2: A Heart of Complete Trust

Helpful prayer to remember in order to remain in this position:

"Father, I will trust You with everything."

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

We are called to not merely surrender everything to God, but to then trust in His character, His will and His ways. A lifestyle of faith lives with a deep assurance that the things God has promised, both present and future will take place. Hebrews 11 also lets us know that many of these things that we are trusting God for are "not seen" in the physical realm at the time we are exercising our faith. A life of complete trust is a life lived in total confidence in a Being who is greater than the physical realities that are in front of our eyes.

If we surrender everything to God, but fail to trust His faithfulness, our surrender will not last very long as we will quickly take things back into our own hands as soon as things do not go the way that we had hoped. We see that surrender and trust are two sides of a lifestyle that remains deeply connected to God. We won't surrender to God if we don't trust Him. If we trust Him, we will come to surrender more and more of our lives to Him.

Faith Is Based on God's Truth and Not Our Emotions

If we think of faith as something that must come from our emotions then our "faith" will fluctuate daily because our emotions are not stable but can change from moment to moment. Within the same day we can have emotions of excitement and emotions of great fear and anxiety. If we are relying on our emotions to be our guide then we are in for a difficult and unnecessary battle.

God does not want us to base our faith on our emotions. We do not need to "feel" like trusting God in order to trust Him. Faith is a choice that is based on God's character and the unchanging truth of His Word. The faithfulness of God is our certainty. Regardless of how we feel, we can always choose to trust God. He is perfectly loving, all powerful and He cares about every detail of our lives more than we can even understand.

As God's people, we are called to remain in a place of total assurance in the character and ways of God no matter what our circumstances may look like. Even when things may not make sense to our minds, Jesus Christ has liberated us to choose to "give thanks in all circumstances" for "this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess. 5:18). If we will simply begin to put the Word of God into practice in this one area of giving thanks in every circumstance, it will begin to break the grip of negativity off of our lives, and set us free to trust God in everything.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.
Ephesians 2:8

We see through Paul's writing in Ephesians that we cannot take credit for our faith, but even our faith is a gift from God. Every time we have the awareness in our hearts to choose to trust God this is His grace. Therefore we should never become self-righteous in thinking our own goodness caused us to have faith in God.

If we desire to remain in the reality of Christ's Life flowing through us, then we must combine a full surrender of our lives to Him, with an ongoing decision to trust completely in Him. This faith does not come about through our own efforts but it must come from the Spirit of God. We must learn to choose to trust God's Spirit for everything.

The Greatest Indication that we are standing in Full Surrender and Complete Trust is a Lifestyle of Unconditional Love – (Additional Scriptures: Luke 6:27-36, 1 John 3:16-19)

The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1 John 4:8

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:34-35

The Word of God tells us that God is love. Love is at the heart of who He is. Jesus stated that it is by our love for others that "all men will know" that we are His disciples. Clearly Jesus intended for love to be the primary distinctive that caused the people of God to stand out above every other people on the earth. It was by our love for God and our love for others that Kingdoms would be conquered and nations disciplined.

While there are many fruits of the Spirit, the scriptures are clear that none compare to love. Unconditional or "agape" love has no parallel. This type of love is the greatest measure of our depth of connection with God. God has revealed His loving character to us, and if we desire to properly represent Him to the world, we must tap deeply into His love for us and for others.

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Gal. 5:6 (NIV)

From this place of love, we have the Life of God necessary to impact every circumstance no matter how difficult. Love covers over a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8). Love breaths new life into places that were dead. A vast throng in heaven can testify that it was the love of another believer that won their heart over to Jesus.

If we wish to lay hold of more of the most precious commodity on earth, then we must abandon ourselves more completely to Jesus. We must allow His Life to so infill us, that it is no longer us living, but Him Living through us. We must allow Him to love us completely, and allow Him to remove the areas of our lives that are lived in contradiction to His Spirit, so that we are clean and pure vessels. As His Love consumes us, and as we find ourselves willingly melting into Him, our lives will appear as a blazing inferno of love to show the nations that Jesus Christ is alive.

Conclusion

If you can remember the two prayers that we mentioned at the beginning of this chapter this will help you to regularly check your heart to see if you are remaining on the foundation of a Holy Altar Lifestyle.

- ***“Father, all that I am and all that I have is Yours.”***

And

- ***“I will trust You with everything.”***

This heart-level position of surrender and faith is essential to our relationship with God. These elements go hand in hand to keep us in a place of great usefulness to God’s Spirit. They are both a position of the heart, and they are both humanly impossible apart from the Spirit of God. We should allow God’s Spirit to teach us to do a daily heart check to see where we are in regards to our surrender, faith and love.

- Is there anything in my life that I have not fully surrendered to God?
- Is there any way that I am not fully trusting God?
- Is the love that I have for others the same type of love that He has for them?

In time, as God’s Spirit teaches you to remain in a place of constant communion with Him, you will learn to keep watch over your heart position. If you ever sense that there is even the slightest break in communion, allow the questions mentioned here to be the first place you go in order to check to see what is wrong. Chances are that your break in communion has something to do with an area of your will that is no longer choosing to surrender and trust God. As you choose to return to a place of full surrender and full trust, you can be assured that God’s Spirit will fill and use you for His Glory.

A Lifestyle That Can Transform Nations

Can you begin to see how raising this standard of life in every member of the Body of Christ in any nation will begin to produce a tremendous revival in the Church that begins to affect the whole of society? This is not just another program, but a call to return to the heart of what God's Word tells us it means to follow Jesus Christ.

While this lifestyle is amazingly powerful, and while it is the Biblical standard for all true followers of Jesus Christ, how do we learn to live in this place of full surrender and complete trust? It is one thing to know these truths in our minds but how do we remain in them in reality? All too often we can find ourselves living like Paul described in Romans 7, **"For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me...Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?"**
Romans 7:19-20, 24

Happily Paul the apostle goes on to say, **"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death....so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."**

(Romans 8:1-2,4) Paul the apostle states that there is a place in the Spirit of God where we no longer walk according to our flesh, but the Spirit of God fulfills the requirements of the law in and through our lives. In the next section of the book, we will discuss practical keys that God's Spirit has given us to help us to remain positioned in a place of victory. These essential elements to a Holy Altar will help us to abide deeply in Jesus Christ, and therefore bear much fruit for His Glory.

Questions:

- Are there any areas of your life that are not fully surrendered to God in this moment? Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any area of your heart that you are still holding onto:
 - Your Past
 - Your Present
 - Your Future
 - Marriage / family relationships
 - Friends
 - Job / ministry
 - Status / position in the eyes of man
 - Hurt/unforgiveness
 - Finances/provision/material possessions
 - Physical body/health
 - Sin habits (Anger, pride, lust, greed, jealousy, appetite/gluttony, laziness)

- How would God have you deal with the areas of your life that are unsundered to Him?

Prayer Focus:

Pray into the need to surrender yourself completely to God. Allow Him to show you any way that you have held onto your life and lived for anything other than His eternal purposes.

Father, I thank You for showing me the necessity of living in a position of total surrender and trust in Your Holy Spirit. I acknowledge that apart from You I can do nothing, but in You nothing is impossible. I ask You to reveal to me any way in which I have not truly surrendered the fullness of my life to You. I ask for Your mercy on me to reveal any way in which I am presently holding onto my life and living for anything other than Your eternal purposes. Teach me to make this a moment by moment practice of allowing my life to remain completely surrendered to You. (Pray as long as you need to in order to enter into a place of full surrender and trust in God.)

Chapter 4 - The Heart of a Holy Altar – Part 2

Essentials to a Life Given Over to God

The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it. It shall not go out, but the priest shall burn wood on it every morning; and he shall lay out the burnt offering on it, and offer up in smoke the fat portions of the peace offerings on it. Fire shall be kept burning continually on the altar; it is not to go out. Lev 6:12-13

If a fire in the physical realm is not tended to it will go out within a very short period of time. The priests here are instructed to daily tend the altar of the Lord, placing new wood on it and seeking to ensure that the fire never went out. In a similar way, as priests of God, we must be careful to tend to our spiritual lives so that our fire for God never goes out.

Essentials to a Life Given over to God

In the last section of this book we took time to lay out the heart of the Holy Altar Life. We said that this is a state of heart where we are totally surrendered to God and living in complete trust in His character, will and ways every moment of the day. In this section we will be discussing 10 “Essentials” that will help to ensure that we remain on this foundation of surrender and trust. These will help the fire on the altar to never go out. Each one of these can be pictured as a log placed on the holy altar. If we have one or two of these logs on the altar, we will have a small fire burning. If we allow God’s Spirit to show us how to place 4 or 5 of these on the altar we will have a good sized fire going. If we continue to pursue the Lord and allow Him to teach us how He wants us to put into practice all 10 of these essentials then we should be a blazing inferno that will not only remain on fire ourselves but begin to light anyone else on fire for Jesus who comes near to us.

We are not listing these essentials to produce any form of religious striving. From moment to moment, only the Spirit of the Living God has the right and ability to direct us into the Person of Truth. The moment we begin to set a form that God Himself has not asked of us, we begin to step away from the source of Life and create our own means of seeking to remain near to Him. We will notice the lack of freshness in our times with God whenever we allow a form that does not cause us to truly depend on Him to fill us with His Life.

If we desire to walk in a greater measure of the Life of God’s Spirit, then we must become increasingly sensitive to His guidance. Only He knows all the specifics of that particular moment in time, and only He knows the specific aspects of Jesus, the Person of Truth, that we need right then and there. Therefore, when you are seeking to engage with God, begin by simply going to Him as a child. Share your heart with Him and begin

to open yourself to the leading of His Spirit. He cannot fail to lead you into His Life and liberty.

Under the guidance of God's Spirit these essentials are important to the lifestyle of a holy altar because they help us to remain anchored to the foundation of our covenant relationship with God (full surrender and complete trust in Jesus). Without these essentials in place, the spiritual battle that takes place in life and ministry is far too great. In time, if these are not established in our lives, we will often find ourselves knocked off of the foundation of our faith. For some, this may not result in obvious outward rebellion, but our hearts may drift to thinking of our lives as our own, living for temporary things, and lacking the reality of Christ's love for others.

While there are many things that are critical to a lifestyle that honors God, we are going to focus on these 10 Essentials and ask God's Spirit how He desires for us to put them into practice:

1. A Lifestyle of being Filled with the Word of God

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers. Psalm 1:1-3

Clearly a life that is saturated in the Word of God is a key to keeping the fire on the holy altar burning brightly. While many have a routine of regularly reading God's Word, this essential is encouraging us to go much deeper than the normal routine. May we make it our daily habit to spend extended time in the Word of God. As God's Spirit leads we should allocate time for reading the Word of God in large segments, and make time to meditate on the Word of God, study the Word of God, and memorize the Word of God. In all this, our hearts and minds are being filled with the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16).

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

As this element of the Holy Altar was implemented in Uganda, the Lord spoke to them that a time would come when they were so saturated in the Word of God, that whenever they spoke, all that would come out would be His Word. May we make the saturation of the Word of God a daily priority so that we can be filled with God's perspective. As God's Word comes in it will expose what needs to be uprooted and removed, as well as raise up what needs to be built and strengthened.

Practical tips for a Lifestyle of being filled with the Word of God:

Read large blocks of scripture

- We would encourage seeking to read at least 5-10 chapters a day and/or at least 30 min. to 1 hour
- Read the Bible aloud to yourself
- Read the Bible internally
- Read the Bible aloud with someone else or in a group setting
- Use an audio Bible to listen to the Word of God

Meditate

- When reflecting on the scriptures you have read ask yourself some simple questions, "How did I see God in what I just read? Based on what I just read what is His character like? Based on what I just read, what lifestyle adjustments do I need to make in order for my life to be in alignment with the will and ways of God?"

Study

- Allow the Holy Spirit to direct you in how He wants you to study His Word. There may be times in which He has you study certain themes that will take weeks or months to study (For example: Studying the Lifestyle of Jesus Christ) As His Spirit leads you in the study of His Word, He will build a deep understanding of this theme in your heart.

Memorize

- As God leads you, take time to memorize the Word of God and allow it to fill your heart and mind.

*** QUESTION: Instead of trying to apply this essential on your own ask the Holy Spirit, "How do you want me to fill my life even more with Your Word?"**

2. A Lifestyle of Praise & Worship that truly Encounters God's Spirit

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship

the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 4:22-24

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Once we have begun to read and meditate on the character of our God a desire will begin to be birthed in our hearts to worship the God that was just revealed to us in the scriptures. Thanksgiving and praise will begin to bubble up out of our hearts as we think about who He is and what He has done for us. We don’t want to stop at the point of just singing a few songs with our lips, but we want to enter into a deep place of true heart-level worship of our King. We want to learn what it means to lose ourselves in His Presence and give ourselves unashamedly over to Him. It is out of these deep encounters with God’s Spirit in worship that we are molded and shaped more and more into the image of Jesus Christ.

Practical tips for a Lifestyle of Praise and Worship:

- Practice choosing to give thanks in every circumstance. Continue to choose to do this whether or not you understand the value in it at first. Ask the Holy Spirit to build this into you as part of your lifestyle.
- Practice looking at people and situations around you not as you see them, but ask God for how He sees them. Give Him thanks for what He is desiring to do in the people and circumstances around you.
- Play worship music to keep your mind focused on praising God.
- Use lyric sheets that have the words to songs you know and that help you to focus your heart on praising God.

*** QUESTION: Ask God, “How do you want me to live out a life of praise and worship?”**

3. A Lifestyle of Prayer and Intercession that flows from the heart of God

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

As the Word of God has pierced our hearts and we have caught a fresh glimpse of our great God, we are drawn into a place of thanksgiving and worship. As our worship draws us deeper into the mind of Christ, we begin to tap into His heart for our lives, our families and the world around us. As His heart begins to fill us, we begin to long to see what is in His heart become manifested on the earth. We long for His will to be made a reality in the physical realm.

This is where prayer begins to flow supernaturally in our hearts as we cry out for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. As we see the contrast between what is currently being experienced, and what God actually desires to see happen, we are led to really cry out from our hearts. It is this type of prayer that is born out of the heart of God which begins to give birth to the Kingdom of God on the earth.

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26-27

As the Holy Altar in our lives grows in intensity, the level of prayer in and through us ought to always be increasing. There should be a deeper hunger for souls which causes us to groan for them to enter the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. A deeper longing for God's purposes to take place in our territory that causes us to cry out. As this prayer life deepens, and as we begin to see more and more answers to prayer, intercessory prayer will begin to become our lifestyle and not just another religious duty.

Practical tips for a Lifestyle of Prayer and Intercession:

- Just as one of the disciples asked Jesus, you too can regularly ask God's Spirit, "Teach me how to pray." (Luke 11:1)
- Take time to wait before the Lord and ask Him, "What is Your will for this person/circumstance?" As you have heard from Him what His will is then you can pray with the utmost confidence that what you are asking for will come to pass because you know that it is God's will (1 John 5:14-15).
- Ask God's Spirit to help you to see that person/circumstance as He sees it. In this way we begin to take on a greater understanding of the heart of God for what we are praying for. As His heart becomes our heart, prayer will begin to flow towards that person/circumstance.

- Record specific prayer requests, as well as specific answers to prayer. Record any prayer direction in a journal so that you can regularly bring these targeted requests before the Lord, and so your faith can remain strong and immovable as you remember the victories that God has already brought to pass. (One of the ways that Satan seeks to deceive us into prayerlessness is to get us to believe that the character of our God is not really good and that our prayers will not make any real difference. When you have pages of answered prayers in front of you it is virtually impossible for this lie to stand for very long. Hold up these answers to prayer from the past, and then march forward in faith as you pray for current needs. Know that these prayers will make a difference and could be the difference between life and death.)

*** QUESTION: Ask God, "How do you want me to live out a life of intercessory prayer?"**

4. A Lifestyle of Hearing Clearly from God

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me John 10:27

"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

John 16:12-14

Out of this deep place of being filled with the Word of God, and after entering into a place of heart-level worship and prayer, we begin to empty ourselves of our human understandings. As our human desires and ways are laid down, we can begin to be enabled by God's Spirit to hear the wisdom and ways of God. As we wait before the Lord with a surrendered will, we are prepared to hear clearly what the Spirit of God is speaking to His Church. In this place we receive clear direction from God regarding His character, His purposes, and His ways.

"I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world." John 8:26

Jesus stated that He only spoke as He first heard from His Father. In a very similar way, hearing clearly from the Spirit of God is absolutely essential attire for every Christ-follower. This is not relegated to the responsibility of a pastor. All the children of God must learn to be attuned to the voice of God so that they can walk in the confidence that comes from knowing that our thoughts, words, and actions are led by God's Spirit.

Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

Isaiah 40:31

Taking the time to wait on God and hear His will is very critical in the work of God. Knowing His will is what gives us the strength to stand. Knowing the will of God causes us to be able to keep going and not get weary even when those around us may be falling down and failing to persevere.

Only as we know that we have heard from God will we have the supernatural faith that we need in order to step out and continue to trust God's instructions, even when there may be times that nothing in the natural world around us is showing that obedience to God will work. As we persist in obedience to the specific direction God has given us, victory will result. Many testify that it was only as they heard clearly from God's Spirit, and persevered in His instructions, that they saw breakthroughs take place that had not come in any other way.

Practical tips for a Lifestyle of receiving Prophetic Insight from God:

- Take the time necessary to quiet yourself before the Lord.
- Take time to surrender your own will in regards to anything that you may be seeking God's wisdom on. (Until our will is truly surrendered, hearing from God will be difficult as we are prone to insert our own desires into the process of seeking to hear from Him.)
- Once you have come into a surrendered state of heart, ask God to speak to you and wait long enough to hear from Him with clarity. Don't pull away too soon as the revelation of God often takes time to unfold. The longer we wait, the fuller the picture He will be able to give to us.
- Write down anything that you believe that you have heard from Him. This will help to solidify what God has spoken to you. Use this written record of what He has spoken as a way to pray into what God has said.
- Allow God the liberty to expand on any revelation that He has already given to you, through the Word, prayer, circumstances, and the rest of the Body of Christ, recognizing that each of us only sees in part (1 Cor. 13:12).
- On critical decisions it is helpful to involve at least 1-2 other spiritually sensitive believers who do not have a vested interest in the outcome to join you in seeking God's will.

*** QUESTION: Ask God, "How do You want me to learn to listen to You more?"**

5. A Lifestyle of Spying on the enemy (Recognizing Satan's schemes)

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

1 Peter 5:8-9

We must be aware of the schemes that the enemy of our souls is bringing against us if we are going to be effective in taking back our region for Jesus Christ. Just as in a physical war, if a military unit is unaware of the strategy that the enemy forces are planning against them then they are very vulnerable to being attacked and defeated. Like a blind man in a fight they are an easy target because they do not know which way their enemy is coming against them to strike.

The term "spying the enemy" comes from the Biblical timeframe when the Israelites were on the brink of moving into the promised land and the Lord spoke to Moses to have them send out spies to view where the enemy encampments were located.

"Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, "Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers tribes, every one a leader among them."

Numbers 13:1-2

"When Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, he said to them, "Go up there into the Negev; then go up into the hill country. See what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many. How is the land in which they live, is it good or bad? And how are the cities in which they live, are they like open camps or with fortifications? How is the land fat or lean? Are there trees in it or not? Make an effort then to get some of the fruit of the land."

Numbers 13:17-20

Here we see a detailed analysis of the territory that God had instructed them to take over. They identified strongholds in the land, areas of vulnerability where the enemy could be easily overtaken, and examined the fruit of the land which was supposed to strengthen their faith to believe God for this good land flowing with milk and honey.

In the same way, in our personal lives, families, congregations, sphere of influence, as well as in our cities & region, we should have a detailed understanding of the schemes that Satan has set against us and the people of the land so that we will be able to see more clearly the spiritual weapons that God would have us utilize in order to overcome. As God's Spirit reveals each area that Satan is seeking to come against us, we should

write these down, and begin to take them to the Lord in prayer. We can believe God to give us clear wisdom and understanding in how He would have us overcome.

“To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations.”
Revelation 2:26

Practical tips for a Lifestyle of Spying on the enemy:

- Since the spiritual battlefield is largely unseen, we must rely upon the Holy Spirit to reveal the tactics that the enemy is using against us. Take the time to allow God’s Spirit to reveal Satan’s tactics.
- Once God has exposed Satan’s schemes, record them in a prayer journal, and then begin to focus regular targeted prayer against his schemes. Jesus stated that He has been given all authority. Exercise the delegated authority of Jesus Christ over every power and scheme that the enemy has set against you.
- Have faith that the Holy Spirit is more than able to uproot and remove every scheme that the enemy has been planning against you. We are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ!

*** QUESTION: Ask God, “How can I begin to identify Satan’s schemes?”**

6. A Lifestyle of Subduing the Flesh

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Galatians 5:16-17

The flesh and the Spirit of God “are in opposition to one another”. For obvious reasons, if we are to truly walk in the Christ-Life, then our flesh must be brought into submission to the Spirit of God. The essence of our flesh is PRIDE in our own estimation of our character, our will and our ways, and UNBELIEF in God’s character, will and ways. The flesh is our human understanding and ways being exalted above God’s understanding and ways. Is it any wonder that the scriptures tell us that the flesh “sets its desire against the Spirit”.

Subduing our “Worldly” Flesh

There are two ways in which our flesh will seek to manifest itself. One manifestation of our human pride and unbelief is openly against God. It is a life that has cast off moral restraints and is living for the pleasures of this temporary of life. We will call this the “worldly” flesh, and it is highlighted in the following scriptures:

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. 1 Cor. 9:24-27

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 1 Peter 2:11

When we speak of our “worldly” flesh we are referring to a lifestyle that is living for our primary human appetites. As children of God, we must believe God’s Spirit to teach us how these worldly desires are to be brought into submission to His Spirit. While these human appetites have in fact been given to us from God, and it is not wrong to enjoy what God has blessed us with, the problem comes when we start seeking to fulfill these desires in a way that is contrary to the will and ways of God. (Example: Having sex outside of marriage is one way that the flesh seeks to pervert God’s good desires, and fulfill them in a way that is outside of His will and ways).

We have stepped into sin whenever we seek to meet our need for hope, peace, and life in human desires, instead of seeking to find our fulfillment solely and only in the Person of Jesus Christ. At that point they have become an idol to us and a stumbling block. A good balanced understanding of these human desires is expressed by Paul in Philippians:

I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:12-13

Some of our human appetites include:

- Our desire for Food (1 Cor. 10:30-31, Mark 7:18-19, Phil.3:19)
- Our desire for financial provision / security (Deut. 8:18)
- Our desire for Self-worth / self recognition (2 Cor. 5:17)
- Our desire for sexual & physical pleasure/enjoyment/entertainment (Genesis 1:28, Matthew 5:27-30, 1 Cor. 7:3-5)

Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of

God. For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1 Peter 4:1-5

Subduing our “Religious” Flesh

This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Galatians 3:2-3

As Paul the apostle mentions here in Galatians, the flesh is not merely the obvious “bad things” done in our human lusts, but we can even fall into attempting to do the work of God in our own pride and unbelief. We will call this the “religious” flesh. It is just as detestable to God as the worldly flesh, because it has the same root of pride in our ways, and unbelief in God’s ways.

In fact, in a way the religious flesh is even more dangerous than the worldly flesh, because it holds up a mask of godliness and causes us to think that this is how we are to live as followers of Christ. When pastors and ministers have fallen into living in their religious flesh, they poison the hearts and souls of many others. They model with their lifestyles that it is acceptable to be a follower of Christ, yet live in our flesh. They may have all the right words of religion, but like the Pharisees of old, they miss the heart of God, and live by their own power and not the power of God’s Spirit.

The religious flesh is our human will power and understanding, seeking to live a “Christian” life apart from God. This subtle form of our sin nature is prevalent in vast portions of the global Body of Christ. So many souls are striving in all their human energies to seek to live out a life that is pleasing to God. Therefore, in order to subdue our religious flesh, we must take the time to seek to enter more deeply into a place of real surrender to Jesus Christ. We must learn to die to our religious flesh by no longer attempting to live the Christ-Life in our own strength and efforts, but instead to learn what it means to trust God’s Spirit to live all on our behalf.

Practical tips for a Lifestyle of Subduing the Flesh:

If we do not subdue both our “worldly” flesh and our “religious” flesh, then they will become a stumbling block to us, even when we so desire to serve the Lord. Ask God’s Spirit to lead you in how He would have you subdue both elements of your flesh.

- Ask God how He wants your human appetites to be brought into submission to His Spirit in such a way that they are not ruling your life in any way. If we find

any of our human appetites attempting to rule us, then we should consider fasting. Fasting food is one way to see all of our fleshly desires brought back into submission to the Spirit of God. As we fast from food (whether it be half a day, a full day, or multiple days) the power of our flesh is broken and put into subjection. You may even ask the Lord for a regular pattern of fasting that He would have you undertake which will keep your flesh in subjection to the Spirit as a lifestyle (Ex: Half day fast every Monday or Wed).

- Reject meaningless entertainment such as television or movies that have no eternal value. This is another way to shut the door to the enemy and keep our flesh in subjection to the Spirit of God.
- Take time and allow God's Spirit to show you any way that you are still seeking to live the Christ-Life in your own efforts or ability.
- When God reveals something, or gives you specific steps to take, write these down and turn them into prayer targets. As you take time to pray through God's revelation, He will give you the victory every time. God's Spirit will show you how to subdue your human desires and human ways of living. As He leads you in this you will find that more and more of the Christ-Life is flowing in and through you.

*** QUESTION: Ask God, "How do You want me to subdue my flesh?"**

7. A Lifestyle of Assigning Purpose to Time

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

Since our lives are no longer our own, our time is not ours but God's, therefore we do not want to waste even one minute of His time on that which will burn up on the last day. In seeking to assign purpose to our time we are purposefully looking at the allocation of our time. This is not just time management principals that are applied in much of the western world where people are on time to appointments and their calendars are filled every minute of the day with some activities. This goes beyond just avoiding being late to an appointment, but it refers to looking at what activities we are investing time in. This refers to looking at everything through an eternal lens and asking the Holy Spirit to teach us what it means to number our days.

As we begin to remove those activities from our lives that are not eternally valuable, we will find that our lives are filled with the things of God. More and more of the time God has given us is redeemed for that which is of eternal value rather than that which is temporal. On the final Day of Judgment we will be so grateful that we made the lifestyle adjustments to ensure that we do not waste even one moment of the time God has given us.

Each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

1 Cor. 3:13

Practical tips for a Lifestyle of Assigning Purpose to our time:

- Take time to allow God to set your daily schedule (Allow Him to show you how much time you are to spend with Him on a daily basis, how you are to allocate your time with family, friends, work etc...) The truth is that from the moment we gave our lives to Jesus, our time is no longer our own, it is His. We should regularly take the time to stop and ask Him if we are using His time wisely and if there are any time adjustments He would like for us to make.
- Record any specific direction that God gives you regarding the proper use of time in a journal. This will allow you to re-evaluate and put into practice the things that God shares with you. If we hear from the Lord but we do not record it this is not good. We should be sure to write down what He speaks to us.
- Regularly reassess where you are at with the utilization of your time. Are you living in the reality of the fact that only time spent on things of eternal value will stand on the Judgment Day or are there still areas of your life where you waste time?

*** QUESTION: Ask God, "How do You want me to assign purpose to my time?"**

8. A Lifestyle of Spiritual Accountability

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

No matter how mature we are in our faith in Christ we should have at least 1-2 others that we are open and honest with and who we allow to hold us accountable. While we should seek to be in fellowship with all other believers in a general way, it is vitally important to have several other Christ-followers that we are deeply real with and who are aware of our faults, and who can support us in prayer and admonishment. These close companions in the faith should be those who challenge us to go even deeper in our walk with Jesus. When we fellowship with them there should be such a strong stirring that we hunger for more of Jesus in our lives.

Practical tips for a Lifestyle of Spiritual Accountability:

- Ask God's Spirit to reveal to you at least 1 or 2 people within your sphere of influence that you can begin to view as an accountability partner.
- As God reveals to you who you should entrust yourself to in this way, take the step of faith to ask them about establishing a relationship of this depth if that is not yet already in place.
- Make a decision to be the one to get vulnerable first, even if they have not yet gotten vulnerable with the difficulties that they are facing. In this way, you are modeling the depth of relationship that will be critical for you to have in the days ahead. In time, God can cause them to trust you as well as they may share struggles and prayer requests with you too.
- If you have a spouse who is a believer in Jesus, they should be one of the people that you view as an accountability partner. If you do not yet have this level of relationship with your spouse, begin asking God's Spirit to go before you and establish this level of love and trust in your marriage.
- Persevere in these relationships until a depth of trust is built between you, where you can share anything that you may be facing, and receive encouragement from the Word of God, and prayer support.

*** QUESTION: Ask God, "How do You want me to have greater spiritual accountability?"**

9. A Lifestyle of Fearlessly Proclaiming the Gospel

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

1 Timothy 4:2

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 3:15-16

While not everyone is called to be an evangelist, as Peter mentions here, we are all called to "be prepared to give an answer" to those who ask us about the hope that we have. Paul speaks of a fearless readiness, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in every situation at any time (Eph 6:19-20). This lifestyle of evangelism is more than simply going on a specific mission to declare Christ to an unreached village, but it speaks of a faith that flourishes in every situation from morning until night. This lifestyle of

evangelism is always looking for opportunities to share the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus.

Living in this way, keeps us from becoming apathetic in our faith, and encourages us to walk in a vibrant intimacy with Jesus that is contagious to those that God brings into our path. We should always be looking to make the most of every opportunity – whether that be in the area where we live, a business, a school, while we are walking along the way, or whether we are among family and friends at home.

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Ephesians 6:19-20

He who is wise wins souls.” Proverbs 11:30

Practical tips for a Lifestyle of Fearlessly Proclaiming the Gospel:

- Ask God’s Spirit to give you at least 5-10 names of unsaved family, friends and acquaintances that you can be praying for regularly for their salvation. Write these names down and keep them in your Bible or in a place where you will regularly see them. Pray for them as regularly as God’s Spirit leads you to.
- Daily make yourself available to be used of the Holy Spirit by letting Him know each day that you are willing and desiring to be used of Him to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people. As you make yourself available to Him, He will open the door of opportunity for you to share His message with others. If you pray this way regularly, you will find amazing doors to share your faith opening before you around every corner.
- Record answers to prayer. These big and small victories will serve as an encouragement to keep believing God to use your life as a vessel of His Good News to others.

*** QUESTION: Ask God, “How do You want me to grow in a lifestyle of fearlessly proclaiming Your Good News?”**

10. A Lifestyle of Discipleship

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Holy Spirit to grow and mature each Essential to such a degree that it is consumed with the fire of God. Allow God's Spirit to begin this work in your individual life, and then out to your family, and your sphere of influence.

Practical Tips

- Ask the Holy Spirit for His Guidance in this process. He is your leader and He will guide you into all Truth (John 16:13). If you don't rely on Him you will be prone to go into your own human efforts to try to quickly get all 10 Essentials up and going immediately, or you may be so overwhelmed by the thought of doing this that you don't even begin with one. Instead, rest yourself in God's Spirit and allow Him to lead you in the process. He is a Faithful Guide. He has never failed even once to produce the fruit of perfection.
- Some of us have various elements of a Holy Altar already in place in our lives. Others of us have few if any of these Essentials in place. For those who have already begun this journey, rather than assuming we are already good in the areas where something is already happening, let us bring every one of these Essentials to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to take us deeper. For each Essential there is always a deeper place that God can take us to no matter how long we have walked with Him.
- Similar to a real fire, consider taking just 1 Essential at a time and allowing the Holy Spirit to take you deep in it until it is consumed by His fire. Once that one Essential is on fire (for example: once your life is truly in a pattern of being filled with the Word of God) begin to move on to the next Essential, and then the next. In this way, you are allowing the Holy Spirit to build a fire in you that will last the rest of your life. That is the goal. The goal is not to quickly set about trying to create a huge blazing inferno that is not constructed properly and will go out in a matter of days, weeks or months. Our hope is that we will allow the Holy Spirit to build a pattern of walking with Him that will remain on fire and continue to deepen for the rest of our lives.

The Fruit of Raising Holy Altars

At this point in the booklet, we have not just shared about the large harvests that were seen in Uganda, Taiwan and in other parts of the world. We have taken the time to get down into the soil and discuss the types of seeds that were used, where to purchase the seeds, how the soil was plowed, how to keep the soil irrigated, how to take care of the plants, how to harvest and distribute the crops when they come in. We hope that you will continue to pour over these Foundational Principals and Essentials until they become a part of your lifestyle with the Lord. We hope that this lifestyle will remain at the heart of your holy altar as long as you live. May our attitude be, "Lord, whatever it takes for this to become a reality in my life I am willing."

Throughout Church history, as this standard of lifestyle has been held up as the normal way we are to walk with Christ, this standard has been used of the Lord to bear much fruit. The fruit of this type of lifestyle in Uganda has resulted in a national level impact as the Gospel of Jesus Christ has infiltrated virtually every sector of life. Years later, as Taiwan took up a similar challenge to raise this standard of holy altars across their nation they have begun to reap similar national level fruit. In just 4 years time they have seen the number of Christ-followers nearly double with hundred's of thousands coming to Christ in a nation that had been resistant to prayer and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Could something similar take place in India should we put this same standard in place across the Body of Christ in every sector of life? We believe it is not only possible, but that it is in fact the desire of God to see this take place. If He is for us, who can be against us? If we will pay the price to erect holy altars across India, we can believe God to respond with His fire.

Then the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite...Then David said to Ornan, "Give me the site of this threshing floor, that I may build on it an altar to the Lord; for the full price you shall give it to me, that the plague may be restrained from the people." Ornan said to David, "Take it for yourself; and let my lord the king do what is good in his sight. See, I will give the oxen for burnt offerings and the threshing sledges for wood and the wheat for the grain offering; I will give it all." But King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price; for I will not take what is yours for the Lord, or offer a burnt offering which costs me nothing" ...Then David built an altar to the Lord there and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. And he called to the Lord and He answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering. The Lord commanded the angel, and he put his sword back in its sheath."

1 Chronicles 21:18, 22-24, 26-27

Chapter 5 - Raising Holy Altars in our Marriages and Families

God is the creator of the institution of marriage and family. Therefore, it should be no surprise that today there is a global assault by Satan against the Biblical standards of marriage and family. It is flowing into every nation on the planet. Satan is using the media as a primary means of seeking to dismantle the family unit. Satan is seeking to bring in adultery, fornication, divorce, homosexuality and the like. He is pushing this in many overt and subtle ways but the media has become one of his primary means to distort the mindset of the nations.

Throughout human history the family unit has been the bedrock of any nation, and its stability or instability has been the cause of the rise and fall of many empires. Therefore it should not surprise us that Satan has leveled a heavy attack on marriage, and on the raising of children in the will and ways of God. Satan knows that if our homes are intact then we are spiritually prepared to take authority over the nation in which we live. He also knows that if we fail at home, we are ill-equipped and without real authority to bring the Kingdom of God to anyone else (1 Tim. 3:1-2, 12, Titus 1:6-7).

It is essential to first see God's intention when He first established marriage and family, in order for us to see where we are currently at in relationship to His original intention. As we raise up the standard that God had in His heart for marriage and parenting, we should be humbled us in such a way that we begin to seek His Holy Spirit for a deeper breakthrough so that our marriages and families begin to fulfill His purposes in our day.

What was God's Intention for marriage?

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:26-28

God's desire for marriage was that our relationship as husbands and wives would be an earthly representation of the same love and unity that exists in the Trinity! Wow! That's a high standard for marriage.

- What kind of love and unity exists in the Trinity?
- Do they ever care about their own rights?
- Do they ever care about themselves more than the other?

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

Ephesians 5:22-31

What does God's Word say about the role of a Husband?

- The husband is to be the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church.
- The husband's love for his wife is to be an earthly representation of Christ's Love for the Church
- Husbands are to love their wives as they love themselves

- How much does Jesus Christ love His bride the Church?
- How much is Jesus willing to sacrifice Himself on behalf of His Church?
- What would Jesus not do to express His love and devotion to His Church?
- Has this level of love been the reality in your relationship with your wife?
- In what ways have you not walked in the fullness of God's love towards your wife? (Example: Critical, harsh, lack of service, lack of self-sacrifice etc...)
- What would God have you change so that your love for your wife is at the level He is asking of you?

Husbands, we would encourage you to really take time to pray through these questions, and begin a journey to allow God's Spirit to build His level of love within your heart towards your wife. Often humility is a large step of repentance that many husbands need to take in order to enter more deeply into the love that Jesus wants for us to have towards our wives. If we will humble ourselves, He will lift us up (1 Peter 5:6).

What does God's Word say about the role of a Wife?

- Wives are to be subject to their husbands as to the Lord
- The husband is head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church
- Wives are to be subject to their husbands in everything
- Wives are to respect their husbands

In the Word of God we see the power of this true heart-level submission to win over our husbands to Christ if they are not yet following Him:

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously...In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

1 Peter 2:21-23, 3:1-2

- Have you acted as though your husband is the head in your house?
- Have you been subject to your husband in everything as to the Lord Jesus Himself?
- Have you remained submissive to your husband “even if any of them are disobedient to the word”?
- Have you thought, spoken, and acted with true respect for your husband both when he is there and when he is not around?
- Has this level of submission and respect been the reality in your relationship with your husband?
- If not, what would God have you change so that your submission and respect for your husband is at the level He requires of you?

Wives, we would encourage you to really take time to pray through these questions, and begin a journey to allow God’s Spirit to build His level of submission and respect within your heart towards your husband. If there is any woundedness in your heart due to the way that he has treated you in the past, we encourage you to take this woundedness to the Lord Jesus Christ and trust Him to heal you (Matt. 6:14-15, Phil. 3:13). Make the choice to forgive him of any past wounds and ask God’s Spirit to teach you how He can love your husband through you.

Raising God’s Standard for Marriage

It is very helpful to raise up God’s original intention for a husband and a wife. His standard ought to humble us and show us how far we are from His original intention. This should cause us to cry out to God to see His standard established in our marriage.

What was God’s Intention in creating Family?

To begin by seeing God’s intention for the creation of the institution of family it is helpful to look at the life of Abraham. We know Abraham as a man who had a great call from God upon his life. In fact, he is viewed as the father of our faith. It would be

incredibly important to see what God's instructions were to this man to see how we can fulfill the purposes He desires to work through us.

Then the men rose up from there, and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off. The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."
Genesis 18:16-19

Why did God choose Abraham? For such a great calling it must have been a large request that God would ask of him, yet as we examine the scriptures God's reason for choosing him is simply so that he would "command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord". It is as though God is saying, "If you will properly instruct your spouse and your children in My ways, I will fulfill every other good thing that I have purposed for you." Could it be that we have a similar call on our marriages and families today? That if we would simply treat our spouse and our children as our first mission field – our first area of discipleship, that not only will our children truly walk in the ways of God when we have left this earth, but they will be faithful to fulfill the purposes of God in their generation.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.
Deuteronomy 6:6-9

In this passage, Moses is shown the depth of discipleship that God desired within the family. We were to be continuously training our children in the will and the ways of God. While we sit at home, when we walk along the road, when we go to bed and when we arise in the morning. Even the doorframes and the gates of our homes were to instruct our families in the will and ways of God. He was to be the centerpiece of everything going on in our family life. His will and His ways impressed upon our children continuously.

As we see in the teachings of Jesus, our instruction of others was not to merely be with our lips and tongue (Mark 7:6-8) but as our lives model the love and life of God our children will be drawn to love God as we love Him. This is not a religious exercise of going through the motions but a vibrant relationship with the Living God that we are modeling for our children. Our children should see our passion for God. They should see that we are deeply in love with Him. They should see their father, as the spiritual head of the home, setting the example of what it means to love and pursue Jesus Christ above anything else.

They should see their father loving their mother as Christ loves the Church. They should see their mother submitting & respecting her husband as if she were submitted and respecting Jesus Christ Himself. They should see a deeply pure and consistent faith in God in their mother that causes them to draw strength from God themselves. In this way the home is the perfect discipleship tool to ensure that the next generation follows wholeheartedly after God. This was God's intention.

Raising a Holy Altar in our Marriage & Family

We just want to mention the Foundations and Essentials of a Holy Altar and encourage you to begin to ask God's Spirit to show you how He would have you implement these in your marriage and family:

Foundation Stones of our Marriage & Family Holy Altar:

- **Foundation #1:** A Heart of Full Surrender
 - **My life is not my own**
 - **I live only for the eternal purposes of God**
- **Foundation #2:** A Heart of Complete Trust

Practical Elements of a Holy Altar in a Family:

While this section is primarily for those who have children, these same essentials can be applied within a marriage relationship that does not have children. For those with children, depending on their age, there will be different levels that they will be able to participate in the Family Altar. As soon as they are able to begin to participate we would encourage you to give them a role doing some aspect of the altar time. If you are just beginning this in your family, it is often better to start small and gradually increase your time, rather than attempting to force everyone to go a long time when they have not been used to it. In time you can believe God to build this family altar to be one of your greatest joys as a family and something that everyone in the house looks forward to.

1. Saturate in the Word of God

- Depending on the age of your children you may start by simply reading 1 chapter of the Bible in the morning and at night. Take time to ask them interactive questions as you are reading through the scriptures to keep their minds engaged with what is being read.
- Avoid making this time feel like a "have to" but ask God's Spirit to show you how this can be a time that the children "Want to" be filled with the Word of God.

- For children who are old enough to read, consider giving them opportunities to read the scriptures and even comment on how what was read touched their hearts.
- With smaller children, get creative and have times where you act out the story in the Bible that you just read.
- For those who have access to an audio Bible you may use this to go through larger sections of scripture (5-10 chapters)
- Help the children to consider how they saw God's character in what you just read. You may consider having them write down aspects of God's character that they heard as you read. These attributes of God can then be used as you enter into worship.

Testimony – By saturating in the Word of God in this way it produced a hunger in the heart of our children to read the Word of God on their own. Our two oldest sons learned to read by reading the Bible, with the first one reading through the entire Bible at the age of 7. He could be found reading 10, 20 or more chapters a day as God placed it on his heart to be filled with the Word of God. This was not something we told him that he “had to do” but it was something that God's Spirit placed in his heart to do on his own. Now as our third son is learning to read, he also is learning to read the Bible.

2. Lifestyle of Praise and Worship that Truly Encounters God's Spirit

This should be a fun time of worshipping the Lord together as a family. The Holy Spirit is very creative so let Him lead you into how to make this a meaningful time for your family to truly connect with the Spirit of God. Don't settle for just going through the motions, but really seek to enter into a deep place of real worship.

- Take time to thank God for any specific answers to prayer that your family has recently witnessed
- Allow the children to select some of their favorite songs and participate in helping to lead some of the singing
- Use a song book, or an audio CD to provide some direction in the songs
- Consider using musical instruments that the children can play (even if it is just taking some household items and turning them into a drum or a shaker)

3. Lifestyle of Prayer and Intercession

- Children are very hands on – they want to touch and feel everything. When it comes to prayer and intercession, give them practical prayer points that they can understand. (Example: You may explain a story of a friend who is in need and then give them the opportunity to pray for them)
- Your goal is not to be the one who prays for everything but to activate your children in praying for others.

- Using a prayer guide or prayer list can be helpful, especially for helping to keep the attention of smaller children. This can be a great opportunity to begin to give them a heart for other tribes and nations as the children learn about them and then get an opportunity to pray for them.

4. Prophetic Insight

- Take time to teach your children that they can hear from God's Spirit through His Word, through prayer, through circumstances and through other members of the Body of Christ.
- Teach them to be still before the Lord and listen to God. At first they may be waiting to hear something in their physical ears but in time trust the Holy Spirit to show you how they can hear from Him with clarity.

5. Spying on the Enemy

- Take time to teach your children about the battle that they are in. Help them to understand how the enemy seeks to come against us in order to get us to give into His schemes. Even children can learn to discern ways in which Satan is seeking to come against them and your family. Believe God to create a sensitive heart in them that is able to know when they are under attack from the enemy.

6. Subdue the flesh

- As a family you may make the decision to turn off the television. Depending on the age of the children you may even engage in some form of family fasting & prayer. If you notice that any of the human appetites are beginning to take control of your family life, be quick to humble yourselves before the Lord and ask Him for wisdom in overcoming.
- Teach the children that following Jesus is not about trying harder in our human effort (our religious flesh) but it is about surrender ourselves more fully to God, so that He will live His life through them.

7. Assign Purpose to Time

Allow the Holy Spirit to show your family how He desires for you to use the time that He has given to you. Don't waste the time that God has given to your family.

- As a family, take time to ask God's Spirit how He wants you to use time in the most productive way.
- Write down anything that He speaks to you so that your entire family has a record of what the Lord showed you.

Example: You have two hours before bedtime. This time could be used to watch a movie. It could be used to read a book that has little to no eternal value. Or it could be used to read through 10 chapters in the Bible, discuss key elements of God's character, and end the night with a missionary story of man or woman of God who was used mightily to establish God's Kingdom on the earth. As your children go to bed – think of the different images they would have running through their minds. One choice would have them thinking all night of meaningless images from the television. The other choice would have them considering if they are willing to lay their lives down so they can know Christ the way they heard from the Bible and the missionary testimony. By assigning purpose to our time, it makes a big difference in our families!

8. Lifestyle of spiritual accountability

It is very important to have a real relationship with our children. This is especially true as they enter into their young adult years. By establishing a depth of trust in your relationship, this opens the door for them to share the real struggles that they are facing. We should not minimize these struggles, but we should ask the Holy Spirit for how He would have us come alongside our children and support them in overcoming the daily battles that Satan is waging against their hearts and minds. In this lifestyle of accountability, trust is built and our children are deeply supported in entering into their God-given destinies.

9. Lifestyle of Witnessing

- Read the children books about missionaries from past Church history who were greatly used of God to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ out to others. In this way, you will seed their lives with a desire to be used of God to make the name of Jesus known to others.
- Train your children in how to share their faith with others. Through sharing their testimony as well as by sharing about the necessity of Jesus Christ from the scriptures.
- Consider prayer walking your neighborhood or sharing your faith as a family out in the marketplace.

Testimony – As a result of having been read many missionary stories over the course of the last few years our 3 boys, ages 9, 8 and 6, have started a ministry entitled “Reach the World” in which they have a vision of reaching the lost with the Good News of Jesus Christ. They are looking to raise money to be able to help those who do not know Jesus.

10. Lifestyle of Discipleship

- To disciple someone involves a life on life relationship that is deep and real. In order to disciple our children we must be willing to take the time to get to know them and get down at their level. We must recognize that our lives speak louder than our words.

What our lives are modeling in front of them is the largest part of what we are teaching them about the commandments of Jesus Christ. May we seek God's Spirit to hear from Him how we are to make any adjustments in order to more effectively disciple our children in His will and in His ways.

The Fruit of Establishing Holy Altars in Marriage and Family

A Family story from Taiwan

A man who claimed to be a Christian was in the habit of beating his wife. As a result she had vowed that if this was Christianity, she wanted nothing to do with it. Their daughter became a Christian and heard about the teaching of establishing a family altar. She was instructed that if even just one member of the family is born again, they can shift the spiritual atmosphere of the entire family.

As a result she began to establish a holy altar for the family. Within a short period of time, God so shifted the heart of her mother that she began asking her daughter questions about Jesus. Soon after this, her mother gave her life to Jesus. She then forgave her husband, and began to love him unconditionally in spite of his past sins against her.

The man was so touched by this undeserved love that he surrendered his life to Christ. The whole family then began participating in the family altar! Praise God!

This is just one of hundreds and thousands of family testimonies across the nation of Taiwan as they have instituted holy altars in their families.

A Testimony of a Single Congregation that instituted Holy Altars

(Timeframe: Approx. 6 months – 1 year)

- **Marriages Restored**

Marriages brought back from the brink of divorce. Couples testify that there is a depth of spiritual union that never existed prior to the development of a family altar. One couple in England that started a holy altar in their home (admittedly nominal in their faith at that time) has been so transformed as individuals and in their marriage that doors have now opened for them to share their testimony in cities across the nation. Many are hungry to experience what God has accomplished in them.

- **Children/Youth Encountering God**

- Small children passionately worshipping God without being prompted by an adult

- Those who have begun family altars testify there is now less need for discipline in the home as God's Spirit begins to convict and instruct their children. One young boy had a dream in which Jesus was riding on a donkey next to him. Jesus instructed the boy, "I want you to obey your mother and father." When he woke up he remembered what Jesus had told him.

- A young child was physically healed of an illness as she cried out to God in prayer. Prior to this healing she was about to be taken to the hospital.

- Youth spontaneously having times of seeking God's Presence (outside of the official "family altar time") In a home where they were having just one night of family altar a week – Their 18 year old son said, "Can we have two or three family altars a week, because I think we're just scratching the surface of what God can do here."

- Several young children (ages 5-7) have approached their parents asking – at times even begging – to have the Bible read to them

- A large percentage of the youth in the church are now considering or have already begun the process of entering into full-time Gospel ministry. Seeing their parents modeling a lifestyle that is lived solely for the purposes of God is having an impact on the long-term dreams of their children. "I want to be a missionary" is increasingly becoming the refrain of many.

- **Doors open to the unchurched**

Example: 9 year old reading his Bible caused his unchurched 9 year friend to start reading his Bible. The confused family is eventually admonished by their 9 year old "we need to go to church."

Where the church previously had no ministry presence doors began to open to establish holy altars in workplaces, and in other places of society.

Final Practical Encouragement with Regards to Marriage & Family Altars

We hope that you can see the tremendous value there is in establishing a holy altar in our marriages and in our families. We hope that you are inspired by these words to begin a holy altar in your family or to go deeper in the one you have already begun. Even if you are the only one in your marriage or family who is interested in establishing a holy altar, there are countless testimonies of those who began by themselves, but in time God changed the heart of their spouse, or their children so that the whole family began to gather together.

Please keep in mind that only the Holy Spirit of God can lead us to implement these aspects of a marriage and family altar in such a way that they bear lasting fruitfulness. We trust that as you seek God in regards to this, He will give you wisdom in how to apply each of these elements of a holy altar within the context of your marriage and family. We trust that as you do, it will bring a deepening richness to your marriage and family. We also trust that it will position you to make a difference in the lives of many others around you.

Though this will not likely be easy to see this firmly established in your marriage and family, our God is able to do this good work. We encourage you to persevere until this holy altar is burning brightly in your marriage and family for all to see.

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.
Galatians 6:9

Chapter 6 - Raising Holy Altars in Society, in our Local Congregations and in Our Region

So far we have discussed just the first two levels of Holy Altars – those within our personal lives and those established in our marriage and family. Here is a list of some of the other types of Holy Altars that we believe God to establish in the nation of India in the coming days: Societal Altars, Congregational Altars, and Regional Altars.

Societal Holy Altars:

Vision: Every Sphere of Society in India to Establish a Holy Altar

(Every business, in government, in schools, media etc...)

Imagine regular strategic prayer piercing the darkness at the local bank, restaurant, engineering firm, college campus, elementary school, police station...the possibilities are endless.

We have already looked at the impact that can be made in an individual life and in a marriage and family. As believers realize the power of a lifestyle that is radically given over to Jesus Christ – they will begin to lay hold of God in prayer and not let go until a total transformation has taken place in their sphere of society. Let us prayerfully look for and link up with other Jesus-followers to help build a strong holy altar in our place of work and in our community. There are some workplaces that have been changed even as one Christ-follower began on their own to start this process of inviting God’s Spirit to move in their midst.

Co-workers coming to Christ - Teachers and students seeing the power of the Living God - Open doors to share the Gospel where there had been only hardness - A spiritual climate shift in the workplace - **“He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.”**
Isaiah 61:1

Testimony of the Impact of a Societal Holy Altar at a Business:

In a technological hub in East Asia a businessman who had begun to establish a holy altar in his family life recently felt compelled to take this same altar into his workplace. As the division head of one facet of a manufacturing plant, he had a considerable level of responsibility. Though his office was predominantly Buddhist with only a handful of other Christ-followers, **he began to gather the other believers throughout the week in order to read the Word of God aloud, worship God, and pray on behalf of their workplace.**

Within a short period of time, God's Spirit began to show him unethical practices in their business activity that he himself was still engaging in. Here they were asking the Holy Spirit to move in their workplace, while they themselves were still contributing to the ungodliness of the office. As they began to repent of these areas of financial compromise, God's Spirit began to move in the office bringing more and more souls into a saving faith in Jesus Christ. He risked his job to obey God, but before long their small group had grown from a handful to 10, 20, 30 and eventually 40-50 people gathering on a regular basis to seek Jesus.

God's Spirit then began to reveal another area of sin. They were keeping the workers so late at the office in order to meet their quotas that there was no time for the workers to go home and lead their families in a holy altar in their homes. Relationships with spouses and children were suffering.

This same man risked his career again by choosing to begin to let the employees go home at 6pm and no longer allow overtime, in order to ensure that they had time with their families. If their production quota was not met it would mean the loss of his job.

Within a short period of time his superior came and asked him, **"What is going on in your department?"** In simple honesty he explained that they were seeking to honor Jesus Christ in the workplace. At first his overseer did not think he was being serious but eventually stated, **"Your department has become the most productive in the entire company. Whatever you are doing here, we want you to share this with all the other department heads.** We have scheduled a meeting for you to share with them for one hour."

At this one hour meeting the man shared a five point presentation beginning with a slide which stated, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." (Proverbs 1:7) and concluded with a slide which stated, "Jesus Christ is the solution to all of our problems!" Though some of the other department heads were coming from a Buddhist background, one stated, "I may not understand all this, but there's something about this Jesus man!" The Christ-followers now have a vision to take the holy altars to every department in the entire company!

Just one person with a vision for establishing a holy altar at his workplace has had an impact on an entire company!

This is just one example of hundreds and thousands around the world. In Taiwan alone, they have seen hundreds of marketplace professionals beginning to take their workplaces for Jesus through the establishment of holy altars. Testimonies are coming from the government, film & television studios, small businesses, and doctors offices. It is truly amazing what God is able to accomplish when we come in faith and simply give Him room to live His Life in and through us.

Uganda is now at the point where virtually every business in the capital city of Kampala has a holy altar to the Lord. Christ-followers from different congregations, join together to read the Word, worship, pray and invite God to come and have His way in their workplace. These altars strategically target prayer requests related to the workplace environment and they have seen dramatic answers to these prayers. In this way, holy altars have spread into the President's office, the Parliament, banks, hotels, and virtually every sector of life has been affected. They now have many businesses with names that give praise to God. (Example: Hosanna Reality, Hallelujah Electric Services)

Part of what it means to see the Kingdom of God manifested in the marketplace, is that the economic resources of the land begin to be reallocated and placed towards the establishment of God's Kingdom will and ways. Whereas before the resources of the land were being put towards ever increasing darkness, now we can see a shift that causes the financial resources to be placed into the hands of the Godly for the purpose of being used for Christ's purposes in the land.

Do you believe that such a thing can take place in the nation of India? More importantly, do you believe that God thinks this is possible? Do you believe that God wants this to happen where you work? If so, then let us link up our hearts with His faith, and trust Him to give the specific guidance in how to see this take place.

Congregational Holy Altars:

Vision: Every Local Congregation in India to become a Holy Altar

There are so many different dynamics involved in a local congregation that it will be very important for the core leadership team of the ministry to seek the Lord regarding the specifics of what it will mean for you to see a corporate altar established in your midst.

There are several areas related to seeing a local congregation become a holy altar that we can discuss as being foundational to this process:

Core Team Principal

- You may begin by calling aside the core leadership team within the congregation, as Jesus called aside His 12, and begin to cast vision for the impact these holy altars could make in their individual lives, families and in the congregation as a whole. As the pastor and others within this core team begin to enter into the reality of the Three Foundation Stones, and the Essentials as a lifestyle, and begin to walk in this level of fruitfulness, then it may be time to seek to take this to the rest of the congregation.

This is not to restrict you and say that you cannot seek to bring the entire congregation into the holy altars all at once should the Lord lead in that direction. This is simply mentioning a concept that we see in the scriptures where a core team is brought on the

same page with God's agenda, and then He is able to use them to help spread it to the others. By first building up a core team, this allows it to not be just one person trying to hold up what God is doing but there are many workers to help with sharing testimonies and in training others to enter into this lifestyle.

Vision Casting to the Congregation

- Once you are ready to take this to the entire congregation, you may begin with a season of intensive testimonies that share the value of individuals and families beginning holy altars. You can share testimonies from Uganda, and Taiwan. If you began with your core leadership team establishing altars then they should be able to have some local testimonies of their own of how this has made an impact in their lives.

Take a Long-term Perspective of Saturating the Congregation with Altars

- Instead of thinking of raising altars in the congregation as a weekend conference, or a single Sunday morning message, think long-term. Just as it takes an individual time to wrestle with what it means to enter into the reality of the 3 Foundation Stones and the implementation of the Essentials, it is probable that it will take time for the congregation to enter into this corporate lifestyle.

Be patient and continue to lift the value of seeing these altars established. As you and the core leadership team are going deeper in this lifestyle, saturate the congregation with teachings on the Foundation Stones and the Essentials over a period of time (You may take a good 6-12 months in order to focus on this theme at various points. Re-evaluating every month or two in order to check progress and asking the Holy Spirit for His wisdom in how to see this deepen).

Imagine if God started to build the lifestyle of a holy altar into each member of your local congregation so that they are truly walking in this lifestyle. Imagine what would happen when you gathered to seek the Lord with everyone coming in having already been tending their holy altars. This would become a congregation that is on mission with God every day and not just on Sunday. Many souls would come to know the Savior. Many people would be discipling others to be effective ministers of the Gospel. Families and children would begin to be transformed by the holy altar in their homes. This congregational testimony would begin to be a model to every other ministry in the region the need to establish this lifestyle in their congregations.

Regional Holy Altars:

Vision: A Corporate Holy Altar With Many Participating Congregations

The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

John 17:22-23

Imagine 50-100 congregations uniting together to bring God's Kingdom into a regional area. Imagine if each participating congregation had already encouraged all their membership to establish holy altars in every home, workplace, and sphere of influence. Picture thousands of these Christ-followers from many different denominations gathered together on a regular basis to establish a regional holy altar. Imagine the impact in the spiritual realm.

Whole communities could be transformed in less than a year. Whole cities could be overtaken by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Marriages restored across a whole society. Not just an individual but a whole school or a whole community of youths rescued from destructive lifestyles and given a new purpose in life. The collective spiritual power of such a contingency of believers – united in living out a lifestyle of radical abandonment to Jesus Christ – could literally transform a nation! This is not an exaggeration.

In recent years, some of these regional and national holy altars have literally begun to shift the course of entire nations (For instance, the national holy altar that was established in Uganda paved the way for God's Spirit to urge the President to hand the flag of the nation over to the Body of Christ. Those who lived during that time stated that this moment was the turning point in seeing the Gospel begin to spread into every facet of society.)

Is such a thing possible in the nation of India? What about the districts where there are only a handful of believers in the entire region; is this possible even there?

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not drive it out?" And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Matthew 17:19-20

Jesus states that if we have faith the size of a mustard seed that nothing will be impossible for us. Therefore we hope that the testimonies in this short booklet have served to encourage you to believe that our God is able to do this work in India, if we will simply step out and begin building with those that God has placed around us.

Seeing the Need for the Regional Body of Christ to Unite

As we begin to see the tremendous task ahead of us in bringing God's Kingdom into all of life, we will begin to see our need for partnership with every other sector of the Body of Christ. If this is our task, to disciple every facet of our nation in the will and ways of Jesus Christ, then we no longer have time for factions. We no longer have time for petty doctrinal disputes. Suddenly we realize that unity with every other part of Christ's Body, is absolutely essential if we are going to fulfill what is on His heart. This translates all

the way down to every individual in the Body of Christ. We need their gifts, we need their calling, we need their prayers and assistance. Every part of the Body is essential if we are to be a fully functional Body that is capable of discipling our region.

We are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.
Ephesians 4:15-17

If all God was calling us to do was to attempt to plant a church in a village and give everyone there an opportunity to hear the Gospel message then perhaps one congregation could accomplish this task. If God is calling us to literally disciple every aspect of life that goes on in that village then it would be very difficult for one local congregation to complete this task alone. If instead, God has called His Church to disciple every facet of society in our entire district, state & nation, then our eyes should be forever opened that no matter how big "our ministry" becomes, it can never single handedly fulfill the task that God has given to us. We need the others.

By entering more deeply into this reality, then our hearts will begin to long for the unity that Jesus prayed for in John 17:22-23. We will begin to be burdened to go across town and meet with the other ministers in our region. We will make the time for this to take place. We will begin to see in deeper and deeper ways how we need each part of the Body of Christ in order to fulfill God's purposes.

The Challenge to Begin Building

I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.

Exodus 23:29,30

"What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

Mark 4:30-32

It may not appear significant at first but God will use the steps of obedience we take to bring glory and honor to His Name. Will we step out to build Christ's Kingdom in India through establishing holy altars? If so, let us begin to build now, while there is still time.

Before moving to the next section we wanted to reiterate again the foundation stones and the Essentials so that you can begin to pray through how God's Spirit would have you implement these to establish societal, congregational and regional holy altars:

Foundation Stones of a Holy Altar (Societal, Congregational, Regional):

- **Foundation #1:** A Heart of Full Surrender
 - **My life is not my own**
 - **I live only for the eternal purposes of God**
- **Foundation #2:** A Heart of Complete Trust

Essentials to keep us on this foundation:

1. The importance and position of the Word of God
2. A Lifestyle of Praise & Worship that truly Encounters God's Spirit
3. Prayer that flows from the heart of God
4. A Lifestyle of hearing clearly from God (Prophetic Insight)
5. Spying the enemy (Receiving clear direction from God regarding Satan's schemes)
6. Subdue the flesh
7. Assign purpose to time
8. Lifestyle of Spiritual Accountability
9. Lifestyle of Fearlessly Proclaiming the Gospel
10. Lifestyle of Discipleship

Prayer Points for Establishing Societal, Congregational and Regional Holy Altars

- A Societal Holy Altar

For those who are at a workplace please prayerfully begin to ask God's Spirit for His wisdom on how you can begin a Holy Altar at your workplace. As we have mentioned, some of those who were unaware of any other believers had to begin alone, but in time God blessed their labors. We hope and pray that the testimonies of entire workplaces being transformed as one Christ-follower stepped out in faith, will be an encouragement to push passed any obstacles that the enemy may seek to throw at you, and to simply begin building.

- **A Congregational Holy Altar**

Begin to ask God's Spirit for His wisdom on how you can begin to see Holy Altars established throughout your congregation. Also ask God how you can strengthen your corporate times of coming together as a Body of believers.

- **A Regional Holy Altar**

Begin to ask God's Spirit how you can begin to unite with other local congregations at the Village and District level in order to see holy altars spread across the region, and in order to raise up a regional altar that will begin to uproot the powers of darkness that have been holding back the purposes of God in your territory. As you remain in a place of total dependency upon the Spirit of God, we trust that He will use this regional holy altar to bring great glory to His Name.

Chapter 7 - The Battle to Establish Christ's Kingdom on the Earth

We would be remiss if we simply painted a beautiful picture of establishing holy altars in our personal lives, families and sphere of influence but did not mention the blood, sweat, and tears that will likely be necessary in order to see this take place. In most cases, due to the fact that we are entering enemy occupied territory and seeking to establish God's Kingdom, there will be a fierce battle.

There is a very real spiritual battle whenever we seek to see a literal establishment of Christ's Kingdom on the earth. This is often the case whether that is within your personal life, your family life, or your sphere of influence. The last thing that Satan and his demons want is for you to live wholeheartedly for the Lord Jesus Christ in this holy altar lifestyle. There will be a real battle to get you to be pushed back and settle for a lifestyle that is far from what God intends.

A good visual picture of the battle that is before us is found by looking at Joshua as he and the Israelites entered into the promised-land. There were great victories such as at the city of Jericho. But then this victory was followed by a pricey compromise by Achan that cost them many lives (Joshua 7:5), and shortly after that they failed to rely on God's counsel and got involved with a covenant with the Gibeonites that they should not have (Joshua 9:14-16).

As they moved across the promised-land, and learned to rely upon God's wisdom, they were victorious time and time again. It was not an overnight process but one that took years before the whole land began to come into their hands. Establishing holy altars in our lives, families, and sphere of influence is not a quick fix, but a God-given means of seeing the Kingdom of God advance in any land. Though it may be a battle, we can trust our God to give us strength, and insight in how to overcome. He is faithful. If we rely upon Him, there is no weapon formed against us that will prosper (Isaiah 54:17).

Know Your Enemy

What are the enemies who would seek to come against us?

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. Ephesians 2:1-3

In Ephesians chapter 2 Paul identifies three primary prison gates that seek to hinder the establishment of Christ's Kingdom on the earth.

- The Flesh

- The course of this world / world's system
- The prince of the power of the air / Satan and his demons

The schemes of the enemy that Paul mentions here are the three main hindrances to the advancement of the will of God on the earth. If we are to overcome them we must identify any way in which we are still in bondage to them, and begin to allow God's Spirit to set us free so that we may be effective in helping to set others free.

Each of these prison gates is applicable within our personal lives, families, sphere of influence, local congregations and in our region. The Spirit of God not only wishes to reveal any way in which we are still in bondage but He expects us to trust Him to overcome these forces of darkness.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

Rev. 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'

Rev. 2:11

Overcoming is not optional it is essential. The Spirit of God expects us to trust Him to overcome every one of these prison gates to such a degree, that not only are we free ourselves, but we are in a position to push back the spiritual forces in the heavenly realm and carry Christ's Kingdom back into the world's system to impact it for the glory of God.

Hindrances to the Establishment of God's Kingdom on the earth:

Prison Gate #1: Sin nature/human nature

As we already discussed in the section on "Subduing the Flesh", the heart beat of our sin nature is the twin root of pride and unbelief. This is a pride in our own understanding and ways, and an unbelief in God's understanding and ways. The Bible teaches us that we must put to death our sin nature so that we may live in the new life of Jesus Christ.

For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:13

We see that the Word of God gives us no option. We either learn what it means for the Spirit to put to death the flesh or we will die. Happily for us God has given us the perfect solution to our sin nature. Every born again believer in Jesus Christ has now received the Holy Spirit of God who has an entirely new nature that longs to please Him. The nature of the Holy Spirit is one of humility which uproots and removes the pride of

our old sinful nature. And the Holy Spirit has a childlike faith in God which removes the unbelief we had in our hearts towards God. In this way, the Christ-Life overcomes the sinful nature.

Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be one away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.

Romans 6:6-8.

Prison Gate #2: The System / Culture

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world.

Ephesians 2:1-2

There is a “course” or system of Human Relationships, and Laws (both written & unwritten) that surround us. These relationships & laws may be conducive to seeing the Kingdom of God established in our nation or they may be a strong prison gate holding us back from allowing God’s Kingdom to be established in us and around us. We have a role to play in seeing the culture of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ established in the system of life that surrounds us.

In every nation, there is a culture or way of life that causes the people of that nation to live and act in certain ways. This course of life is evident in the following institutions of society:

- **Family**
- **Marketplace/business**
- **Belief System** (Education, media, arts...)
- **Government**
- **The System of Worship / Priesthood (Holy vs. Unholy)**

If we are to be successful in discipling our nation, then we must ask God’s Spirit to show us how to shift the “course of life” in these institutions away from the kingdom of darkness, and towards the will and ways of God. We are to exalt the way of life that Jesus Christ instructed us in such a way that it begins to uproot and remove the elements of darkness in our current way of life and replaces them with His way of life.

Prison Gate #3: Spiritual forces of darkness

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are aware that there is a very real enemy who seeks to oppose us. It is our privilege and responsibility to take our stand against Satan and his demons. These spiritual forces are working to influence the System around us (Ephesians 2:2). They are seeking to provoke our flesh against us. They are working hard for us to give into them so that they can have some legal ground within our lives to steal, kill and destroy us (John 10:10). Peter describes them like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

We can see the manifestation of different spiritual forces in our cities and districts. There are some places where it is very clear that the people of the land have given themselves over to a spirit of worldliness and this is manifested in the physical realm through seductive advertisements and shops that seek to lure people to buy the latest and greatest products, urging them to pursue temporary pleasures. Other places it is clear that a spirit of false religion is reigning in that place, and while they may not have the same temptation to temporary pleasures, their minds are being blinded from seeing their need for Jesus Christ.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Cor. 4:3-4

Darkness Can Be Pushed Back

As the people of God in any territory begin to raise the level of prayer in their individual lives, in their families, and in their congregations they are beginning to loose the grip of darkness over the territory. As the Body of Christ is praying in this way, and as they begin to unite across denominational lines, and pray targeted prayers at a district and state level, there is great authority in the spiritual realm to see darkness over entire regions pushed back and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ advance.

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith. 1 Peter 5:6-9

May we be faithful to begin seeing our area set free from the forces of darkness by humbling ourselves underneath God's mighty hand. May we proactively turn away

(repent) from any way in which we have allowed our lives to come into agreement with the kingdom of darkness. In this way, the legal ground that we had surrendered to the enemy is broken. As this repentance goes deep into every area of our lives, we will then have the strength to stand up and resist the devil in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will flee from us. As we are set free, we will then be in position to help set our families free, and our sphere of influence free. Hallelujah!

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7

The Value of the Blood of the Martyrs

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen...When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 6:8-9, 7:58-60

There will be times in this earthly life, where our stance on behalf of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ will not look like it is being victorious against our enemies. There may be times when we see great victories as Steven did in watching God use him to perform great wonders and signs, and then within a very short period of time he was killed for his faith in Christ. At times like these, when the discipleship of the nations seems far off and the daily pressures of the enemies around us are shouting at us, it is vital to remember that our God sees all and will work all these things for His good and glorious purposes (Romans 8:28).

When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

Revelation 6:9-11

It has been stated that we are now seeing more martyrs every year than at any point in the history of the church. The blood of the martyrs has often been the seed of the advancement of Christ's heavenly kingdom. The Old Testament saints, and the early

church understood this fact and willingly laid their lives down to advance God's Kingdom whether they saw the fruit of it in their earthly lifetime or not.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.
Hebrews 11:37-40

As in Stevens life, and when God used Paul to shake the foundation of all of Ephesus as is mentioned in Acts 19, these victories were usually met with some form of persecution. As the eternal victory of Jesus Christ is worked through our lives, we must choose to stand our ground in faith and trust God to go before us if and when persecution comes against us. Like Paul wrote, whether in life or in death may we be faithful and fruitful to the end:

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me;
Philippians 1:21-22

Overcoming Darkness and Advancing Christ's Kingdom

We can see from this section of the booklet that our job is not an easy one. In fact, it is humanly impossible to even set ourselves free let alone to see our families, our sphere of influence, or our state or nation enter into the ways of Jesus Christ. God has not told us that we have to figure out these layers of darkness and overcome them on our own. Instead, He has stated that He will overcome them on our behalf as we give ourselves over to Him. He has said that He will fight on our behalf when we keep in step with His Holy Spirit. Once again we can see the need to establish the lifestyle of a Holy Altar all the more as we prepare to face the many battles that will come against us. In fact, we must allow God's Spirit to establish this lifestyle in us so that we will be able to stand our ground against all the enemies schemes against us.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
Ephesians 6:10-11

May we make a choice today to ask God's Spirit to begin to set us free from these prison gates, so that we can be an effective instrument in His hands to bring His eternal Kingdom to others. As we allow the lifestyle of a Holy Altar to be established within us we will be prepared to meet any challenge that may come against us.

Action Points:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to identify any way these prison gates still have a hold on your own life. Write down anything that He reveals to you.

- Take these revelations from God's Spirit as specific, urgent prayer requests before the Lord. Seek God until the grip of these prison gates has been broken over your life and you are free to run into the purposes that Jesus Christ has for you.

- Ask God's Spirit to reveal to you any way that He wants you to be a part of praying through the areas of darkness that are seeking to hold back your family, sphere of influence, local congregation and region.

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves. 2 Cor. 4:6-7

Chapter 8 - The Spirit of Gideon

Please Read Judges Chapters 6-8

Then the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD gave them into the hands of Midian seven years.... So Israel was brought very low because of Midian, and the sons of Israel cried to the LORD. Judges 6:1, 6

Israel became very desperate and destitute under God's judgment. Desperation is often a necessary component that causes God's people to cry out for His intervention. We don't have to wait until we are faced with a desperate situation before we seek for God's intervention, but many times our attachment to the flesh is so strong that we will not do what is necessary unless pressure comes to get us to seek His face.

Where are you on your journey? Are you presently willing to do whatever God asks of you? This attitude of total abandonment to God is necessary if we are going to truly change our lifestyle and walk in the reality of His Kingdom.

Now it came about when the sons of Israel cried to the Lord on account of Midian, that the Lord sent a prophet to the sons of Israel, and he said to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'It was I who brought you up from Egypt and brought you out from the house of slavery. I delivered you from the hands of the Egyptians and from the hands of all your oppressors, and dispossessed them before you and gave you their land, and I said to you, "I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But you have not obeyed Me.'"

Judges 6:7-10

Before God called Gideon He first sent a Word of correction and a Word of hope that spoke about the destiny of the nation. The Lord never intended for Israel to be in bondage. His desire was only for Israel's best. But instead of turning to God's love, they turned to fear. They feared the gods of the land. As a result of their fear they worshiped these gods and this kept them from being effective in fulfilling their created purpose. Instead of being the light that God intended, they were being influenced by the darkness around them. The prophet exposed their sin and called for repentance. Only after this did God move upon Gideon.

Do we have ears to hear and soft hearts to receive the Word of the Lord in regards to there being a need for repentance within the Body of Christ? How often did Jesus speak about the hardness of the heart, even to His own disciples? How much do the gods of India intimidate and cripple the Church? How much does the current mindset in the land cause us to pull back from walking in complete boldness and therefore fail to fulfill the purposes of God? Have we been allowing the idols of the land to determine our effectiveness? It is time to repent for any way we have been affected by the influence of

these idols. Repenting of any way in which the idols of the land are still in our own lives is crucial to being open to what God wants to do.

The Call of Gideon

“The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.” Then Gideon said to him, “O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.” Judges 6:12-13

The enemy seeks to place seeds of doubt, unbelief and rejection in our minds through our circumstances and present condition. He tries to make us feel like it is no use to attempt to make a difference. He wants us to believe that things will always be this way and that there is no hope for the future.

Maybe you feel discouraged and hopeless thinking that it will be virtually impossible to see lasting transformation in your life and in your region. Instead, we must believe what God says, not what we see or feel. God's word and truth are greater than our present reality. Only believe what He says, not what you see, and you will experience God's power at work in and through you. He says that you are a mighty child of God. He sees you as a valiant warrior and blood bought servant of the King who is capable of partnering with Him to make a difference in your region. Will you believe Him? It is in knowing what God believes about us and our circumstances that we will be sustained when opposition arises against us.

The Lord looked at him and said, “Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?” He said to Him, “O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house.” But the Lord said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man.” Judges 6:14-16

Maybe you were born in a low caste and feel unqualified, or are the weakest in your family. But just like Gideon God is saying to you, “go in this born again might that you have and save India!” Not by our might, nor by our power, but by God's Spirit. One man had faith and God moved through him to save an entire nation. Could He not use you in a similar way?

In our weakness and lack God makes up the difference. He is the majority in every situation. God is looking for surrendered vessels that agree with Him. He is looking for those who are willing to let Him live His life through them. Small or great, weak or strong, God honors humility. He seeks to fill those who are empty. Like water running to fill the lowest point so does our God fill those who are humble and contrite (Isaiah 66:2).

Have I not sent you?

When the King of kings gives us an assignment, we go with the greatest authority and capacity to accomplish the mission. He who spoke the world into existence and owns all things (Deut. 10:14), has placed you in the nation of India to accomplish His great purposes. God is not intimidated by the present condition of the nation because His blood is enough to break all the power of the enemy. He commands the army of the hosts of heaven (Dan. 4:35). Our part is simply to believe because His will is accomplished through those who believe. By faith we tap into His power and we receive from Him everything we need to accomplish His assignment.

But the Lord said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man.”
Judges 6:16

There is a great need to overthrow the spirits of Hinduism in the spiritual realm. They have terrorized India long enough. Only the church, by the power of God’s Spirit, can uproot and remove these demon gods. They have been feared long enough, and by the power of our God and the Holy Altars, we will see a shift in the heavenly places. What was once honored will be destroyed, and what is needful will be established – Christ’s Kingdom.

India does not have an economic problem nor a political problem, but a spiritual problem. As the church administers the Kingdom of God on earth, His perfect government in the heavenly realm will be manifested on earth. Do not worry, we will not have to break down the idols, those who are converted and touched by God’s Holy Spirit will become willing break them down themselves and cry out for a church to be built in its place.

Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it The Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.
Judges 6:24

He built an altar, a memorial of the Lord's visitation. Every time he saw this altar and prayed there, he was encouraged and strengthened for the battles ahead. He was also reminded of God’s word towards him for peace and deliverance. Meeting with God gave him the courage and power to face his own family’s idols as well as the national idols.

Now on the same night the Lord said to him, “Take your father’s bull and a second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal which belongs to your father, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it; and build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of this stronghold in an orderly manner, and take a second bull and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah which you shall cut down.”

Judges 6:25-26

Our first assignment is to risk our life, and potentially sacrifice relationships and family ties by pulling down the false idols in our lives, family and region, both generational and cultural. This could be anything that is not in alignment with God's Kingdom within us and around us: the sins of our fathers, anger, rejection, fear, bitterness, lust, evil desires, and any darkness that influences your life that came from decisions in your childhood, bad experiences or family. Also, any darkness from your culture that has influenced your heart and formed your thinking: Things like the mindset of Hinduism that tells you that you are somehow the underdog and are lacking in some area; that you are a servant to some higher class that makes you follow their rules. All of these things are demonic and must be uprooted and removed by the Spirit of God.

You are a servant of Jesus, a prince in His kingdom, born again for a new life in and for Him. You aren't any class but the highest class - sons of God which do not serve man's agenda nor do you serve any other god. We are called to only do what the Father tells us to do (John 5:30). That is what makes us effective and that is what affects the world. Our service to Him may be expressed toward man but we are called to do only what pleases Him.

The false idols we are talking about must be uprooted and removed through repentance and prayer. We are not to pity them or be intimidated by them, nor feel sorry for them. These are enemies of our soul. We must break them down not just for ourselves but for our families, our region and for all India. We must realize that tearing down the idols in the land is the first step to the path of salvation for India. These idols are clouding the minds of the people and hardening their hearts toward the things of God. By praying down the idols in the land, we are helping our fellow Indian brothers and sisters to see clearer in order for them to come to their Creator and be saved.

Gideon built an altar to the Lord on the place where the stronghold of Baal stood (Judges 6:26). This is the equivalent of tearing down a Hindu temple and building a church in its place. We too can pray down the temples in the land. We must engage in this struggle as these demons are an enemy to God and man and are blinding the eyes of millions of our countrymen.

I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart. I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me.

Psalm 101:2-3

As we survey the latest tactics of the enemy in the nation of India we must not turn a blind eye to the way the television and internet are beginning to harden the hearts of many to the Gospel. As we seek to uproot and remove every idol through our prayers, we must also allow the Holy Spirit to remove from us any way in which we have set "worthless" things before our eyes through the television and internet.

The idol of television has the power to destroy moral values and disciple our children in the will and ways of darkness. If we don't address the television and what it is doing, our children can be lost to its influence. Sexual impurity, materialism, corruption, and violence are streaming through the television on a daily basis. If we don't safeguard our lives and our children, it is possible to lose them in one generation. They will have no values because the darkness is increasing.

We may choose to laugh at the bad jokes or enjoy watching the vanity now, but if we are not careful to remove the influence of the television today, our children may very well curse God by their lifestyle, mindsets and choices in the days to come. This is no game! The television and the internet are one of Satan's greatest influences in the nation. Tear down its influence in your life now. Protect and safeguard your life, family, local congregation and region from the evils that the enemy would seek to bring through these mediums. Then you will be in a position of spiritual authority to help set others free as these idols seek to influence more and more souls across the nation in the days ahead.

Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the sons of the east assembled themselves; and they crossed over and camped in the valley of Jezreel. So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him. He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, and they also were called together to follow him; and he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they came up to meet them.
Judges 6:33-35

Once the idols were destroyed and the altar of the Lord was established over the stronghold, the Spirit of God clothed Gideon. In the same way, as you remove any idols from your life, and as you erect a holy altar to the Lord, God's Spirit will also clothe you. God will move in and through you to do things no natural man would think possible, for with God, nothing is impossible.

So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and smashed the pitchers that were in their hands.... Each stood in his place around the camp; and all the army ran, crying out as they fled. When they blew 300 trumpets, the Lord set the sword of one against another even throughout the whole army; and the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the edge of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath. The men of Israel were summoned from Naphtali and Asher and all Manasseh, and they pursued Midian.

Judges 7:19, 21-23

Through a small remnant of warriors, God was able to overthrow an enemy that was "as numerous as locusts" and "their camels were without number, as numerous as the sand on the seashore." (Judges 7:12) Three hundred men and the Living God were greater

than an army that covered the entire area. God allowed Gideon's force to be so small and seemingly insignificant so that He would receive all the Glory.

We see this unlikely journey to deliverance began when Gideon responded to God's call upon his life. He chose to destroy the idols in his family. He then erected an altar to the Lord in its place. Gideon received the mind of God which inspired him to sound the trumpet call to face and defeat the enemy.

We must first be revived before we can revive others. What we model in our life is what we will transfer into the lives of those around us. When others see your genuine faith, they will follow you as the tribes of Israel followed Gideon into battle. Your countrymen will follow you as you are clothed with the Lord. They will follow you into the lifestyle of "Holy Altars". As more and more burning altars are established in the land, India will be revived to God's holy purposes.

God has a destiny for India, to be a bright and shining nation for His glory. He has prepared the highway for this message of awakening. Arise and build the "Holy Altars" in the land.

HAVE I NOT SENT YOU?

Raising Holy Altars to Establish Christ's Kingdom in India

Then the Lord answered me and said, "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. "For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay."

Habakkuk 2:2-3

Following a time of prayer we believe that we received clear guidance to establish the following goals for the establishment of holy altars at the district, state, and national level. In hosting conferences in various districts we already have influential ministers who are beginning to pursue these goals in their areas. We hope that you will consider pursuing these goals within your sphere of influence as well. Should the Lord lead you to partner with us in this endeavor please contact us so that we will be aware of your partnership in the Gospel.

District Goals

We are challenging District leaders across the nation of India to consider taking up the call to see the following goals met within their district:

- 10,000 personal altars (Children, youth, adults)
- 5,000 family altars
- 5,000 societal altars (Business, government, education, media, arts...)
- 1,000 congregational altars
- Monthly /Quarterly Regional Altars (Village and District)
- 100,000 new souls brought to Christ (10 souls for every personal altar X 10,000 = 100,000)

State Goals

Goal of involving at least 10 districts in every state

- 100,000 personal altars (10 districts X 10,000 personal altars)
- 50,000 family altars
- 50,000 societal altars (Business, government, education, media, arts...)
- 10,000 congregational altars
- Annual State Altar (Stadium)
- 1 million new souls brought to Christ (10 souls for every personal altar X 100,000)

National Goals

It is our hope that in the next several years that the Living God will cause at least 10 states to participate in raising up over 1 million personal altars in the nation of India. That over 500,000 families will take up the call to see God's Kingdom deeply established within their home through raising a holy altar. That over 500,000 marketplace leaders

will choose to establish a holy altar in their position of business, government, education, media, and that over 100,000 local congregations will take up this call to establish holy altars. Through the establishment of these holy altars we are believing for a harvest of souls of more than 10 million coming into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and that we will begin to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ transform all aspects of Indian life. We believe that Jesus Christ is jealous for the 1.2 billion souls of India and that He has placed His Church here to be the salt and light of the earth.

Final Encouragement – Keep Going Until this Lifestyle is Established in you

The goal of this book is not merely to cast a big vision and share some spiritual concepts that cause us to see them at a distance but not put them into practice. Our hope is for this book to be an aid in seeing this lifestyle literally established in every Christ-follower in the nation of India. We would encourage you to not simply read this book one time and then set it aside, but to continue to pour through this material until these principals have become a part of your lifestyle. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into a deeper lifestyle of abiding in Him. He cannot fail as you entrust yourself to Him. In time, as this becomes your lifestyle, then you are now in a position to be able to share this with others.

Share this lifestyle with others

Even now you may begin to prayerfully ask Jesus who He would have you share this vision and lifestyle with. He modeled for us a lifestyle of pouring what the Father gave to Him into the lives of 12 other people. From these 12 God began to multiply them in such a way that this Gospel has spread to the nations of the earth. If you began to disciple just 12 others in this lifestyle it could quickly spread across your region. Ask God for wisdom in who He would have you begin to disciple in this lifestyle.

Contact Us:

If you have been touched and inspired to establish a holy altar in your personal life, family, marketplace or congregation please contact us so that we will know of your decision and so that we can seek to support you in any way as the Lord Jesus Christ leads in the days ahead.

Email: steevenanil@rediffmail.com

Phone in India: +91-9885626300

Pastor / Ministry Leader - Commitment Form to Raise Holy Altars to Establish Christ's Kingdom in India

- I commit to seeking God to establish a deeper holy altar in my personal life
- I commit to seeking God to establish a deeper holy altar in my marriage/family
- I commit to seeking God to establish holy altars in the personal lives, families and sphere of influence of the ministry/congregation that God has entrusted to me. (Specifically seeking to begin this process with at least 10-20 core leaders within the congregation)
- I commit to seeking to stay regularly connected with others in my region in order to stay encouraged in this vision as well as to be an encouragement to others. (Ex: Seek to attend appropriate mandal/district level meetings, attend special conferences related to the vision of raising holy altars in India)

Recognizing that there will be spiritual warfare against the establishment of these holy altars in my life, family and congregation:

- I commit to persevering with raising up the personal, family, and congregational holy altars until the altars have been thoroughly established. This may take 2 months, 6 months, or 2 years before it is the new lifestyle of the congregation but I am committed to seeing this take place.
- I commit to seeking God for the specific way that He would have these holy altars established and I'm willing to make the lifestyle of a holy altar the focus of our congregational meetings (Providing teachings, times for sharing testimonies, sharing struggles, and offering ministry to those who are seeking to establish these altars)

(This form can be e-mailed to us at: steevenanil@rediffmail.com)

Name _____

Address _____

Ministry _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Goals for your congregation of how many holy altars you are believing God to establish in next 6-12 months:

Goal for Personal Altars in your congregation: _____

Goal for Family Altars in your congregation: _____

Goal for Societal Altars in your congregation (Business, government, education...)_____

Goal for how many other ministries that you will share this vision with _____

Signature _____