

PRAYER MINISTRY HANDBOOK





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Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.

James 5:16

WHY PRAY?

1. Intimacy with God

You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:12-13)

2. Receive Help & Healing from God

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. (James 5:16)
I lift my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2)

3. Strengthen our relationship with God

For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. 16 I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

4. Surrender our Cares to God

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you. (1 Peter 5:6-7)

5. We are called to Pray!

"Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door[a] will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)

6. Because Jesus Prayed

After dismissing the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. Well into the night, he was there alone. (Matthew 14:23)

WHY PRAY?

7. Prayer Changes Lives

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength. (Ephesians 1:17-19)

8. To Fight Spiritual Battles

Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)

9. To Be Set Free

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains came loose. (Acts 16:25-26)

10. Prayer Blesses God

My soul, bless the Lord, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. (Psalm 103:1)

11. To Hear from God

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and incomprehensible things you do not know. (Jeremiah 33:3)

12. To Receive Wisdom & Direction

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)

What is Altar Ministry?

Altars were used in the Old Testament as places of worship and sacrifice — a designated place of encountering God. In the New Testament, the Cross was an altar in which Jesus laid down His life for us so that we could encounter Him — His Gospel that would save us, deliver us, heal us and give us new life in Him.

The altar on Sunday mornings or during prayer events is certainly not the only place to pray and receive from Jesus. We can pray anywhere and anytime to receive from Jesus. Scripture teaches us to pray without ceasing. God desires that we have an intimate, constant heart connection with Him.

However, when we gather as a church body, the invitation to pray at the altar and receive prayer at the altar it is a beautiful and powerful demonstration of our faith and humility to receive from Jesus.

What Happens During Altar Ministry?

1. Sharing of Burdens

The person asking for prayer invites the prayer intercessor into their pain, sin, or battle. The intercessor is receiving God's grace and the Holy Spirit's anointing and guidance to carry the burden to Him in prayer.

2. Hearts are Surrendered

The person asking for prayer is surrendering their heart to God by asking for His help. The person who is asking for prayer has taken a huge step of surrender simply by coming forward and humbly asking for prayer.

3. Holy Spirit is Speaking

The person asking for prayer is responding to Holy Spirit. This could be a response to the Gospel for salvation, healing, freedom or a response to surrender/share a burden through prayer.

4. Salvation

Altar Ministry provides an opportunity for someone to talk and pray with another person who is a Christ-follower about their decision to receive salvation.

ALTER MINISTRY

5. Encouragement

Altar Ministry is a time the church gets to see people humbly respond to God. It is a time that the Spirit is working in the hearts of people who may not be coming forward to receive prayer. It is a powerful witness to the church of God working in the hearts of people through prayer.

6. The Blessing

The Spirit speaks blessings over the person receiving prayer through the words of the intercessor. Speaking identity in Christ, truth, and blessing during prayer leads to hope, healing, and freedom.

7. Advancement of God's Kingdom

God changes hearts and lives through prayer. Altar Ministry is a time when God is working powerfully in someone heart, family, or beyond to advance His Kingdom.

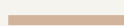
What Altar Ministry is Not.

1. Counseling

Altar Ministry is a time to listen to Holy Spirit, the person's prayer request and pray accordingly. It is not a time to offer advice or counsel.

2. Crisis Intervention

A person may be in crisis, but altar ministry is a time to pray for the person. If the person needs additional help, connect the person with a Pastor/Minister.



PREPARING FOR PRAYER MINISTRY

Praying for others needs to come from an overflow of our personal relationship with God. When we walk closely with God and receive from Him, our hearts are prepared to pray. Praying for others is a spiritual battle, so we must care for our own hearts through intimacy with God and receiving from Him. This will also prepare us to pray for others from a place of authenticity, love, and anointing.

Note: There will be times when we are asked to pray for someone, and we are not prepared. We may feel disconnected from God and empty. Take a moment in prayer and ask God to help you; ask the Spirit to fill you and pray for the person. Then, take some time to re-connect with God and allow Him to restore your heart and receive from Him.

Personal Practices:

1. Spend daily time with God receiving from Him for your own heart.
2. Surrender your burdens daily, confess and repent of sins, and stand firm against the enemy's lies.
3. Seek personal healing and freedom in Christ.
4. Read Scripture every day.
5. Ask for others to pray for you.

Ministry Practices and Guidelines:

1. Pray as you stand at the altar.

Pray for the people in front of you to hear and respond to God. This keeps your mind and heart focused on God and what He is doing in people's hearts. Pray for your heart by thanking God for the gift of getting to pray for others.

2. Be Conservative with touch.

Not everyone is comfortable with touch. Ask permission before touching someone's hands, shoulder, arm. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and the person's body language. If you are praying for someone of the opposite sex, do not touch them.

3. After hearing the person's request, ask the person, "may I pray for you now?"

You may need to interrupt someone gently if they are taking too long with their request.

PREPARING FOR PRAYER MINISTRY

4. Pray Truth.

Speak God's promises, identity in Christ, and truth over the person as you pray for them.

5. Pray with people of the same gender.

Prayer can be sensitive as people share a variety of prayer requests. If possible, men pray with men and women pray with women.

6. Personal Presentation is important.

Stand in a manner that gives the message that you are safe and approachable (not arms crossed, gentle smile). Breath mints are our friends. Avoid heavy cologne and perfume. Dress for the culture of the setting/environment.

7. Tone.

Pray with boldness but with a tone that is not aggressive. Maintain a calm and steady voice as you pray.

8. Cross of Christ.

When you hear a prayer request that is heavy or triggers your own pain, pray the Cross of Christ between you and the person sharing the request - as they are sharing their prayer request.

9. Salvation.

If the person prayed to receive Christ, ask for their name, phone number and email and email the information to designated church leader.

10. Crisis - if someone shares with you that they are having suicidal thoughts or don't feel safe (abuse at home or anything that is concerning to you). Pray with the person and then tell the person that you would like for the two of you to talk to a minister/counselor. Walk with the person to a minister or pastor and let them know your concern.

11. Cleansing Prayer.

Release the person and his/her burdens to God after you pray. Use the Cleansing Prayer as a guide and leave the person and their burdens with God.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

Our church is a house of prayer! We believe we can do nothing apart from prayer and that God works through prayer to transform hearts and homes. We are committed to being a people of prayer for our hearts, homes, church and beyond.

Prayer Opportunities

Online Prayer Team - our on-line prayer team commits to praying at least one hour per week for the prayer requests that we receive on the Prayer Wall.

Sunday Morning Prayer Team - our Sunday morning prayer team prays for and with people during invitation.

RESTORE/Special Events Prayer Team - this prayer team prays for and with people at special events such as RESTORE nights and Freedom Week.

Weekly Prayer Groups - we have weekly prayer groups for both men and women. For more information, contact _____.



Prayer for Salvation

<https://empoweredhomes.org/resource/prayer-for-salvation/>

Scriptures on Prayer

<https://empoweredhomes.org/resource/scriptures-on-prayer/>

Cleansing Prayer

<https://empoweredhomes.org/resource/cleansing-prayer/>

Apprentice Prayer

<https://www.soulshpherd.org/the-apprentice-prayer-blesses/>

Daily Prayer

<https://empoweredhomes.org/resource/a-daily-prayer/>

Cross of Christ

<https://empoweredhomes.org/resource/cross-of-christ-prayer/>

Burden Bearer's Prayer

<https://empoweredhomes.org/resource/burden-bearers-prayer/>

Freedom Prayers

<https://empoweredhomes.org/freedomprayers/>

Truth Treasures

<https://empoweredhomes.org/resource/truth-treasures/>

Praying Scriptures for Your Son or Daughter

<https://empoweredhomes.org/resource/praying-scriptures-for-your-son-daughter/>

Prayers for Prodigals

<https://empoweredhomes.org/resource/prayer-for-prodigals/>

The Blessing

<https://empoweredhomes.org/resource/prayer-of-blessing/>

Empowered Homes

<https://empoweredhomes.org/personal-growth/prayer/>

Wild at Heart – One Minute Pause App

<https://www.pauseapp.com/>

First 15 Devotional

<https://www.first15.org/devotionals/>

Lectio

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365/>

Soul Shepherding

<https://www.soulshepherding.org/>

Immanuel Journaling

<https://www.presenceandpractice.com/immanuel-journaling>

Books on Prayer

A Praying Life: Connection with God in a Distracting World by Paul E. Miller

Hearing God by Dallas Willard

Moving Mountains by John Eldredge

Praying Like Monks Living Like Fools by Tyler Staton

Prayer by Richard Foster

Where Prayer Becomes Real by Kyle Strobel & John Coe

