

## Meeting students where they are in the altar setting

**Intro:** All of the work and effort in putting together a message that God has given you can go wasted if not followed through by an effective team in the altars. Think about it. You have a new babe in Christ and we help them to get accepted into the kingdom, and then leave them there with little help and instructions. This is the area we must develop first and foremost. Knowing what to say, having a plan of discipleship is vital in the growth and development of a solid discipleship program.

### Things not to do:

- Assume you know what they are in altar for. Just coming in and laying hands on them will not guarantee a successful outcome.
- Assume that just because you know big words like sanctification, regeneration, divine enablement, justification, and you use them will leave them with full understanding. You will do more damage by leaving them more confused than ever.
- Assume that you need to know every last detail of the person you are praying with. You'll need to know some things, but not everything.

### Things we should do:

1. While the pastor preaches seek God for direction in the altars.
  - a. What stands out from the message to you will usually stand out to others.
2. Be ready with scriptures
  - a. A Bible book marker is a good idea. Have one ready with key verses.
3. Pay careful attention to what the pastor is needing. (direction of the service)
  - a. You're to support his ministry not create your own agenda.
  - b. You are an extension of the pastor. He needs you because he can't possibly get to everyone. Think like he thinks, act like he acts.
4. Ask them what you can help them pray about
  - a. Communication is vital in the altar setting. Getting them to open up and reveal their heart is the key to dealing with the issues that have been brought to the surface.
  - b. Just coming over and laying hands offers some support but many need some explaining in the process of receiving.
5. Be attentive and listen to what they are saying.
  - a. Many times they move closer to God by just getting it out.
  - b. Assist them in a systematic plan of forgiveness, application, and building up in the faith.
6. Make sure they are saved first.
7. Be real. You don't have to know everything.
  - a. Anointing and spirits will flow from you into them.
8. Do what you do and then get others to do what they do best.

- a. If you know someone of your staff that has dealt with an area, they may be better served than you are.
9. Let them know what the next day may bring.
  - a. Explain how God offers opportunities to grow our faith.
  - b. The tests are ways grow in our confidence of becoming a mature Christian.
10. Record and report your info to pastor on ministry cards.

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