

Altar Working Techniques

-It is God's will for _____ to pray for others and be effective.

-If you're not praying with others you are either: 1. Not a believer or 2. simply refusing to or 3. Not sure how.

-Mark 16:17-18 "These signs shall follow them that believe...

I. Understanding The Altar Concept

1. Altar calls became popular in the _____, during the ministry of evangelist

_____.

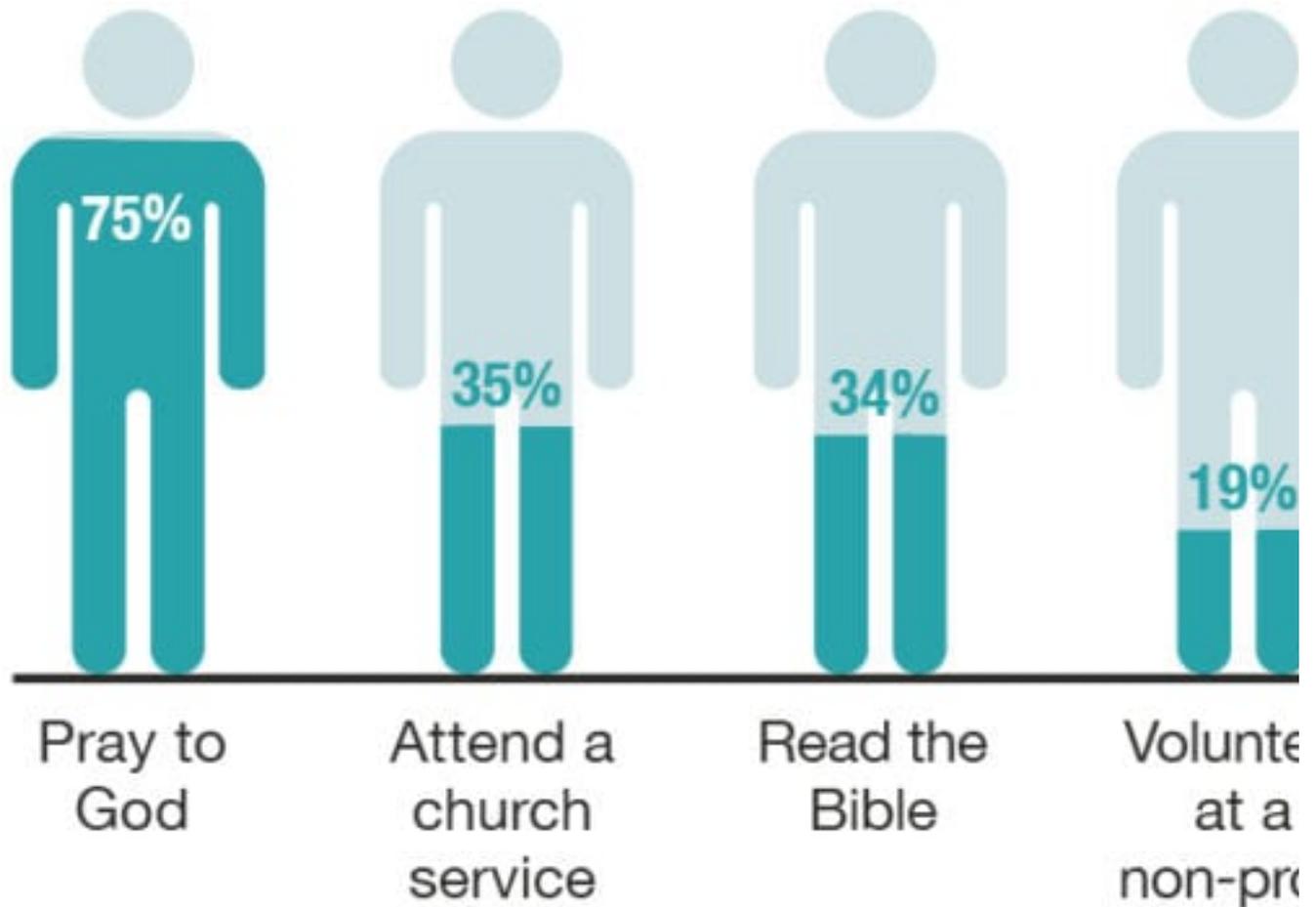
2. Viewed as a man-made concept, some churches, theologians, scholars, and pastors see this part of a church service as unnecessary and potentially manipulative.

3. The success rate of altar calls is noted to be around _____.

Is it truly a method problem, or is it a heart problem?

Would not having or participating in a altar call produce more faithful Christ followers?

HOW AMERICANS EXPERIENCE AN



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The problem is not the altar call, its not allowing God to alter your heart.

Scriptural principal for Altar calls.

1. Songs of Ascent (*Shir Hama'aloth*)

-Psalms 120-134

-(Pslam 122,124,131,133 David) (Psalm 127 Solomon)

These were traditionally sang while making the ascent into Jerusalem for special feasts.

2. An Omnipresent God, calls mankind at or to a specific _____.

Exodus 19:

3 And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:

4 ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. **5** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. **6** And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. **8** Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.”

Exodus 3

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush *was* not consumed. **3** Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.”

4 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, **God called to him** from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!”

3. “Going Out and Coming In”

I Kings 3

7 Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I *am* a little child; I do not

know *how* to go out or come in. **8** And Your servant *is* in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.

“Going Out” simply means: _____

“Coming In” simply means: _____

I Samuel 18

12 Now Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul. **13** Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. **14** And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord *was* with him. **15** Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. **16** But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

Saul despised David because his reputation (Going out/victories)

Michal, David’s wife despised him for worship (Coming in/praise/worship)

4. Jesus Calls

Matthew 4

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. **19** Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” **20** They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him.

Mark 10

17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

18 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God.**19** You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your

mother.”[c]

20 And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.”

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

II. Understanding Personalities

Five Major Personal Traits:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Extraversion

Extraversion is characterized by excitability, sociability, talkativeness, assertiveness, and high amounts of emotional expressiveness. People who are high in extraversion are outgoing and tend to gain energy in social situations. People who are low in extraversion (or introverted) tend to be more reserved and have to expend energy in social settings.

People who rate high on extraversion tend to:

- Enjoy being the center of attention
- Like to start conversations
- Enjoy meeting new people
- Find it easy to make new friends
- Feel energized when they are around other people
- Say things before they think about them

Spiritually with extraverts:

1. Praise and Worship may be more _____ or _____.
2. Prayer will be louder and find it easier to pray with others and have others pray with you.
3. Introversion is characterized by less talkativeness. Low amounts of emotional expressiveness.

An extrovert will gain energy from social situations while an Introvert will expend energy.

Introverts will Battle with coming to church because they anticipate the emotional withdrawal. But forgoing the emotional withdrawal also keeps them from a spiritual deposit from God.

4. An Extrovert's struggle will not be coming to church, but:

- Being overbearing toward others.
- Dominating conversations.
- Not careful to listen to others or allow others to be the center of attention.

Spiritually, as it pertains to the altar service:

- Extroverts are more open for prayer in the altar.
- Introverts can be JUST AS OPEN, but not express it the same as extroverts.

Understanding Techniques

1. If someone is praying softly or somberly, respond in kind. Pray softly and somberly with them.
2. If someone is praying more fervently, it is okay to respond in kind. Pray passionately and with fervor.

DO NOT MIX THESE TWO UNLESS GOD OPENS THE DOOR

III. Understanding Circumstances and Barriers

God is always able to breakdown barriers and overcome circumstances, but many times we are the

_____.

Three Main Types of Abuse:

- Verbal/Emotional
- Physical
- Sexual

Being mindful of Trauma Triggers

A trauma trigger is any _____ or _____ that reminds you of, or subconsciously connects you to, an aspect of your _____.

1. Yelling or screaming in someones personal space can not only be distracting, but if that person has endured verbal/emotional abuse, it potentially can cause a barrier between them and God.
2. Laying hands on head, shoulders, back etc. can also be a trauma trigger to victims of physical or sexual abuse and may create a barrier between them and God.

Statistics:

- 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse;
- Self-report studies show that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident;
- During a one-year period in the U.S., 16% of youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized;
- Over the course of their lifetime, 28% of U.S. youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized;
- Children are most vulnerable to CSA between the ages of 7 and 13.

It is okay to stop the prayer process and ask:

“Is it okay if I pray with you”

“We believe in the power of laying on of hands according to James 5:14-16 and Mark 16:17-18” “Would it be okay if I lay hands on you and pray?”