

Youth Ministry Altar Workers Course Outline

II Corinthians 5:18-19 "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."

Description: This course is designed to outline the basic elements needed to successfully conduct the Altar Call following the preached Word of God. It is imperative to remember that the mission of the Gospel message is the winning of Souls. The Altar Call Minister must be spiritual and allow the leading of the Holy Ghost as this is the most important aspect of any service.

Objective:

Reach out to those within the congregation (visitors, unsaved, those you do not know), and to share with them the baptism in Jesus name and the power of the Holy Ghost, while compelling them to be saved. Additionally, the altar call affords other to receive help to meet their spiritual needs, be it encouragement, healing, intercession for others, etc. The altar is open to all as the scripture admonishes; **Hebrews 4:15-16**; For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Scriptural Invitations – The Great Commission of the Gospel

With all this every Christian should not only agree but also rejoice. Christ is the perfectly suited savior for all who will come. Moreover, we should all be careful to learn from this that we also are entrusted with the responsibility to proclaim the **good news of God's saving grace** to all. This is our part in the divine enterprise or call of salvation (**Matthew 28:19**). We can go to any man or woman anywhere and with all sincerity say to them, "Christ is just what you need, and He is all you need. If you will trust Him, you will be saved!" The gospel is to go out to all men everywhere. Jesus saves!

Gospel – Good news concerning the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

First, it is often noted that the Scriptures abound with invitations to salvation. Such offers as, "**Come to me!**" and "**Come to me and drink!**" and "**Be reconciled to God!**" are well known, and they deserve to be. These are marvelous offers of life to those who will trust Christ.

It should be noted further that these offers are freely and sincerely given. The apostles did not hesitate to hold out Christ as Savior to all who would listen to their message. "Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (**Act 3:19**). They preached indiscriminately, "Be reconciled to God!" (**2Corinthians 5:20**) and "testified both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (**Acts 20:21**).

God's Plan of Salvation:

- John 3:1-8
- Luke 24:46-47
- Acts 1:7-8
- Acts 2:4, 37-38
- Acts 19:1-6
- Romans 6:1-6

ACTS 2:37-41; 37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, **(1) Repent, and (2) be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and (3) ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.** 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

The house of Cornelius, the first of the Gentile converts, also received the identical same message:

Acts 10:44-48

(**GENTILES** - Which puts to rest the lie that Jesus name baptism was only for the Jews.) 44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word (3). 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 **For they heard them speak with tongues**, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he **commanded** them to be baptized in the name of the Lord (2). Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

And the Gentile converts at Ephesus also received the same identical message!

Acts 19:1-7; 1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed (1) ? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied (3).**

The Roman organization has explained away the issue of baptism in the name of Jesus Christ by saying that this mode of baptism was only necessary in the early church for the sake of the Jewish believers who needed to specifically acknowledge Jesus Christ. But if this were true, why is it then that **EVERY SINGLE BODY OF PEOPLE** to whom this Gospel is recorded as having been presented were recorded

as having either been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, or were commanded to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ?

Acts 4:10-12

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

According to Peter, there is NO OTHER NAME whereby mankind is able to be saved. Salvation and the name of Jesus Christ are married one to the other. One cannot be saved without the name of Christ, and it is in baptism that the name of Jesus Christ is applied to our lives for the purpose of remission of sins. Look at Paul's own testimony:

Acts 22:12-16; 12 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, 13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. 14 And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. 15 For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. 16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Sounds like baptism in Jesus name to me. And it also appears that the purpose for that baptism is to remit sins, "wash away thy sins." Peter said at Pentecost...

Acts 2:38 - "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."

Paul made it clear to the Corinthians that their ought not to be any schisms or divisions within the body of Christ, regardless of what spiritual authority or teacher you preferred or chose to follow, after all, as Paul says it, "Was I crucified for you?" Obviously they were baptized in the name of the one who had been crucified for them!

Biblical Fallacy: Once Saved, Always Saved: The Word of God clearly states that one can fall away and be lost.

Passage Hebrews 6:6: If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Ask yourself this question: When there are guests at the church and the altar call is given do you wait for the guest to go to the ministers at the altar? What do you do?

Reaching out:

This is the most important part in this ministry. You have to get up and go to them.

- Take advantage of every opportunity:
 - Greeting visitors
 - Sitting next to them
 - Sharing your Bible

- Don't just sit in your seat and wait on them to move....go to them (*The harvester goes to the Wheat – The Wheat never harvest itself, wraps itself up, and goes into the barn – Go get them*)

John 4:35b:” ...behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

- Get over your fears
- Pray
- Don't assume they don't want to hear from you...just go
- Never judge a book by its cover
- Sheep beget Sheep – (Shepherds don't beget sheep)
- Speak in a friendly, non-threatening, non-condemning tone of voice
- Don't put them in Hell before delivering the information that they need
- Tie in the message of Salvation with the message the Pastor preached or the lesson that was just taught
- Assure them that you are coming to them because you care about their well being and not because you think they are a “sinner”
- Introduce yourself...ask them their name. Try to remember their name (*it's important*)

Getting the point across...doing outreach inside:

- Go straight to Bible!
- Do not attempt to talk to someone about Salvation without your Bible. Only the Word of God will compel them...not you.
- Know the scriptures (The Plan of Salvation): Primary Scriptures
 - John 3:1-8
 - Romans 6:1-6
 - Luke 24:46-47
 - Acts 1:7-8
 - Acts 2:4, 37-38
 - Acts 19:1-6
- Don't just read to them, let them read too
- Be conscious of your time...get to the point
- Make sure they understand you, don't use a lot of “church” terms.
- Bring them to a decision:
- Yes or No should be their response. “I don't know” is **not** an answer.
- Everyone will not say “Yes”. As long as you are sure that you delivered the Plan of Salvation (Death, Burial, and Resurrection) to them according to the scriptures and that they understood; you can walk away with a clear conscience.

Points to Remember:

1. **Pray, Pray, Pray-** Before you speak to anyone talk to the Lord about what to say, how to reach out, and for strength/courage to follow go to them.
2. **Do not travel in packs-** This is a **one-on-one** ministry. You do not want to overwhelm anyone and have them feel threatened by a group of people walking toward them. It is hard for someone to receive the Word when they are on the defensive.
3. If another Altar Counselor or Minister speaks to a guest after you...**don't be offended.** Sometimes people need another nudge in the right direction.
4. **If you make a promise, keep it-** Most times you will be the first person to really reach out to a guest and they feel comfortable with you. If you say that you will go with them and won't leave them at the altar...stay there. They need you to be there for them until they feel comfortable with the other ministers
5. **Once they go the altar you are not finished-** Now it is your job to worship and pray while the altar workers and ministers are working with them. Even if everyone else stops worshipping...don't you stop.

There are various ways that the Altar Call Ministry helps fulfill the church's mission to save the lost, equip the saved, and send out soul winners.

For example, the members of the ministry...

- Give guidance to those who receive Christ at the altar
- Support those who want to rededicate or strengthen their walk with the Lord
- Pray for those who come forward for prayer
- Equip others by presenting opportunities for them to grow in their faith
- Empower those in the ministry to grow in Christ
- Help those in the ministry understand what they believe, and how they can most effectively help others
- Encourage those who have matured in the ministry to step out as soul winners;
- Become leaders who train others to be altar call/prayer ministers.