

Quick Scripture References

Acts 2:38, 39 - "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 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."

John 3:5 - "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born of water and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

In the New Birth experience, God has something for everyone to do that only they can do.

- Sinner repents
- Church baptizes
- God gives the Holy Ghost

Repentance means to have deep shame and remorse for sin and to ask for God's forgiveness. Followed by a commitment to never return to a sinful lifestyle.

- **Proverbs 28:13** - "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso **confesseth and forsaketh** them shall have mercy."
- **Luke 24:47** - "That repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."
- **1 John 1:9** - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Baptized: To be dipped, plunged, or submerged underwater **FOR** the remission of sins.

- **Mark 16:16** - "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned."
- **Colossians 2:12** - "Buried with him in baptism, wherein ye are risen with him through faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

Baptism in Jesus' Name: The only Bible Name to use to have sins remitted.

- **Acts 8:16** - "They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."
- **Acts 10:48** - "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."
- **Acts 19:5** - "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."
- **Galatians 3:27** - "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Speak with Tongues: The initial evidence of being filled with God's Spirit.

- **Acts 2:4** - "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as **the Spirit** gave them utterance."
- **Acts 10:45-46** - "Poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues."
- **Romans 8:9** - "Now if any man have not **the Spirit** of Christ, he is none of his."

Altar Workers Guide



"The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Acts 2:47

Altar Working is Work

We cannot lead anyone further than where we have gone ourselves.

Habits of Successful Altar Workers

- Pray and study the Bible regularly to please God so they can minister to others.
- Prepare to pray with others. The altar service is not generally for the saint but for the visitor.
- Are teachable: {Colossians 3:16}. Listen to how others pray for themselves and others. Ask questions.
- Submit to the ministerial authority of the church.
- Enjoy questions and find answers.

Hindrances to Receiving

- Lack of total repentance. For example, some men and women show interest in holy things to find a mate.
- Lack of faith to receive. For example, some feel they are too bad for God to fill them. Some desire the infilling experience of someone else. Others are distracted by thoughts or things around them.
- Seekers refuse to pray aloud in repentance or praise.
- Chewing gum and tongue piercings are hindrances to receiving —

spiritual sensitivity to the right time to remove them matters.

- Any concealed weapon or unclean thing at the altar hinders receiving the Holy Ghost. At some point, they will need to put it away from them.
- **BACKSLIDERS:** Do not talk them down to the altar or pray with them in the pew. They'll go to the altar when they are genuinely ready to repent.

Working the Altar

- **Always** use breath mints (no gum), deodorant, and a modest amount of cologne or perfume.
- **LET THE SEEKER DIE!!!** Sincere repentance and praise ALWAYS result in a Holy Ghost infilling.
- **Ask Questions** such as *Have you repented? Do you know what it means to repent? Do you know what will happen when you receive the Holy Ghost?* While they are praying, questions like these are helpful. Sometimes, it is right to stop them from praying and show them they are experiencing the Bible.
- **Pray with Them:** Lead them with sincere repentance and praise. Soon, their faith will grow. Let them hear you pray in your native language and tongues. Encourage those around the seeker to pray aloud and with passion. If the seeker does not listen to altar instructions, find another seeker who will.

- **Be Considerate:** never palm or shake someone's head while praying for them – they might have a neck or back injury. They may have had a very negative religious experience elsewhere. Ask their permission.
- **DO NOT** give backrubs, huddle, or hold hands. Those actions usually distract the seeker away from repentance and into a feeling of human empathy.
- **DO NOT** be a Kleenex minister. If they really want Kleenex, they'll ask for it. The goal is for them to feel conviction, God's forgiveness, and ultimately His joy and comfort.
- **DO NOT** keep the seeker's hands up. It is acceptable for someone to pray without their hands raised. It is also appropriate for someone to pray while sitting down. When the Holy Ghost comes upon them, they will **ALWAYS** raise their hands, with or without help.
- **NEVER** tell someone they received the Holy Ghost! If they reply that they said something they didn't understand or are scared – show them a few scriptures describing what happens when the Holy Ghost is received.
- **ENCOURAGE** them for their efforts when they finish praying.
- **FOLLOW-UP:** Get the contact info of the soul you are helping to birth, even if it's not your contact. After the altar service is the best time to set a Bible study or time of fellowship.