



THE ALTAR WORKER'S CONFERENCE 2025

Fresno Part 1





SUBSCRIBE



Purpose: to provide initial training and ongoing support for prayer ministries, prayer ministry leaders, altar ministry leaders, altar workers, prayer warriors, ministers, and deacons.

Expected Outcomes

1. Participants will explore personal reasons for participating in altar ministry
2. Participants will explore general do's and don'ts.
3. Participants will explore the scriptural premise for having altar ministry
4. Participants will explore issues that may keep the altar worker from being effective.
5. Participants will explore how doctrine impacts the service of the altar worker
6. Participants will explore difference composition and ways to physically arrange altar service for Sunday mornings
7. Participants will practice receiving and praying for people.

After introducing yourself by stating your name, church, and how long you have been a believer, explain why you participate in, or have a desire to participate in altar work/prayer ministry.

Be prepared to introduce someone.

Who was the first person's prayer that made an impact on you? What was your most impactful prayer moment? Describe/Discuss

Previous Prompt

James 5:16

¹⁶ Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

When I don't pray fervently its because

“The Way We Do Anything
Is the Way I Should Do
EVERYTHING”

“If I flow in the thoughts of my mind, then people will be exposed to whatever I feel. If I walk in Biblical principles, people will be exposed to truth and the results will be lasting and real.”



Salt



Sugar



PART 2

THE BETHESDA CHURCHES



Main Film

Text b2Exp to 77977 to Give or bethesdachurches.com/give-1

Sundays 10:00 AM service Bethesda West 5756 N. Marks Ave, Fresno, CA

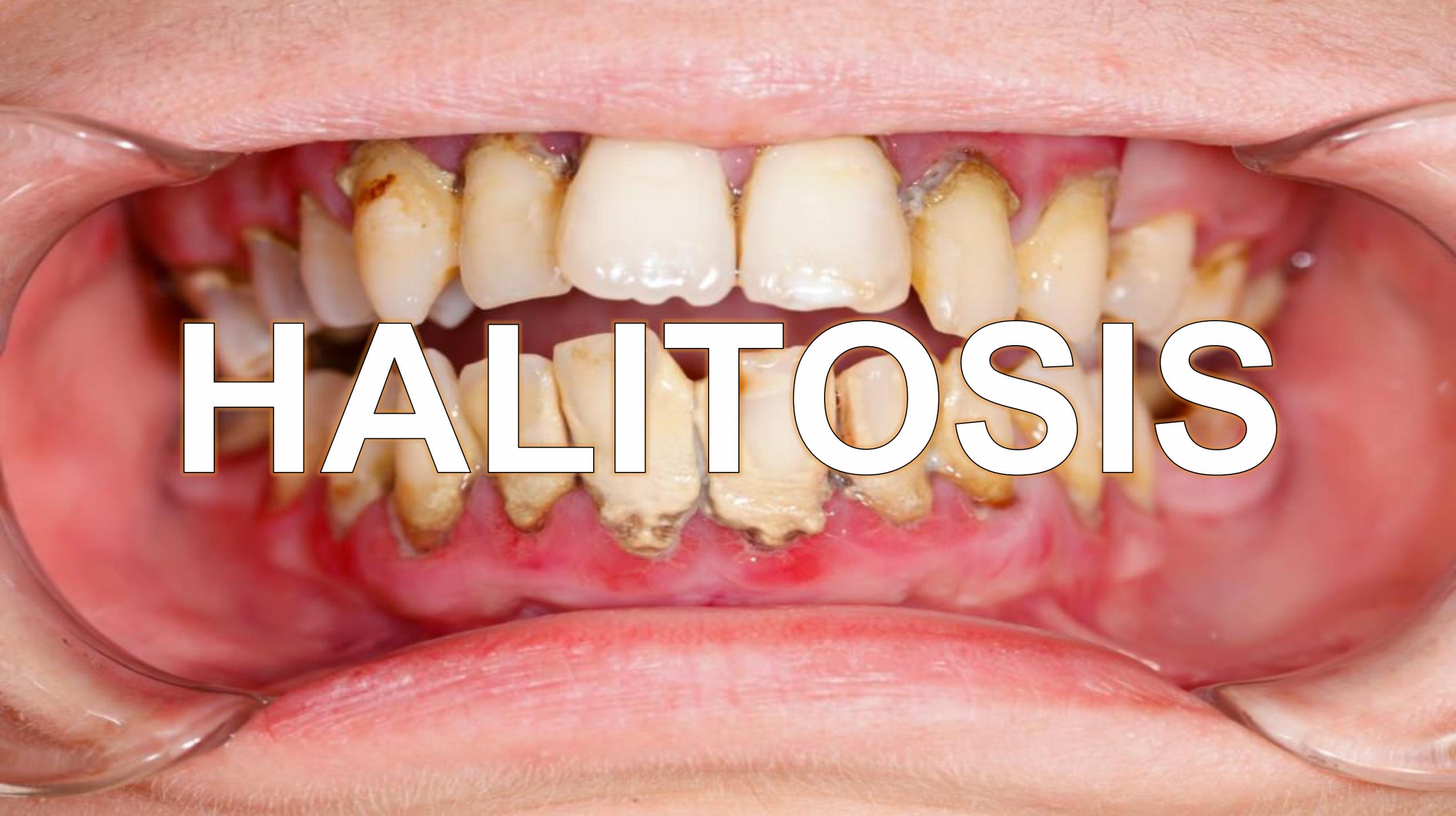


Love & Rainonia

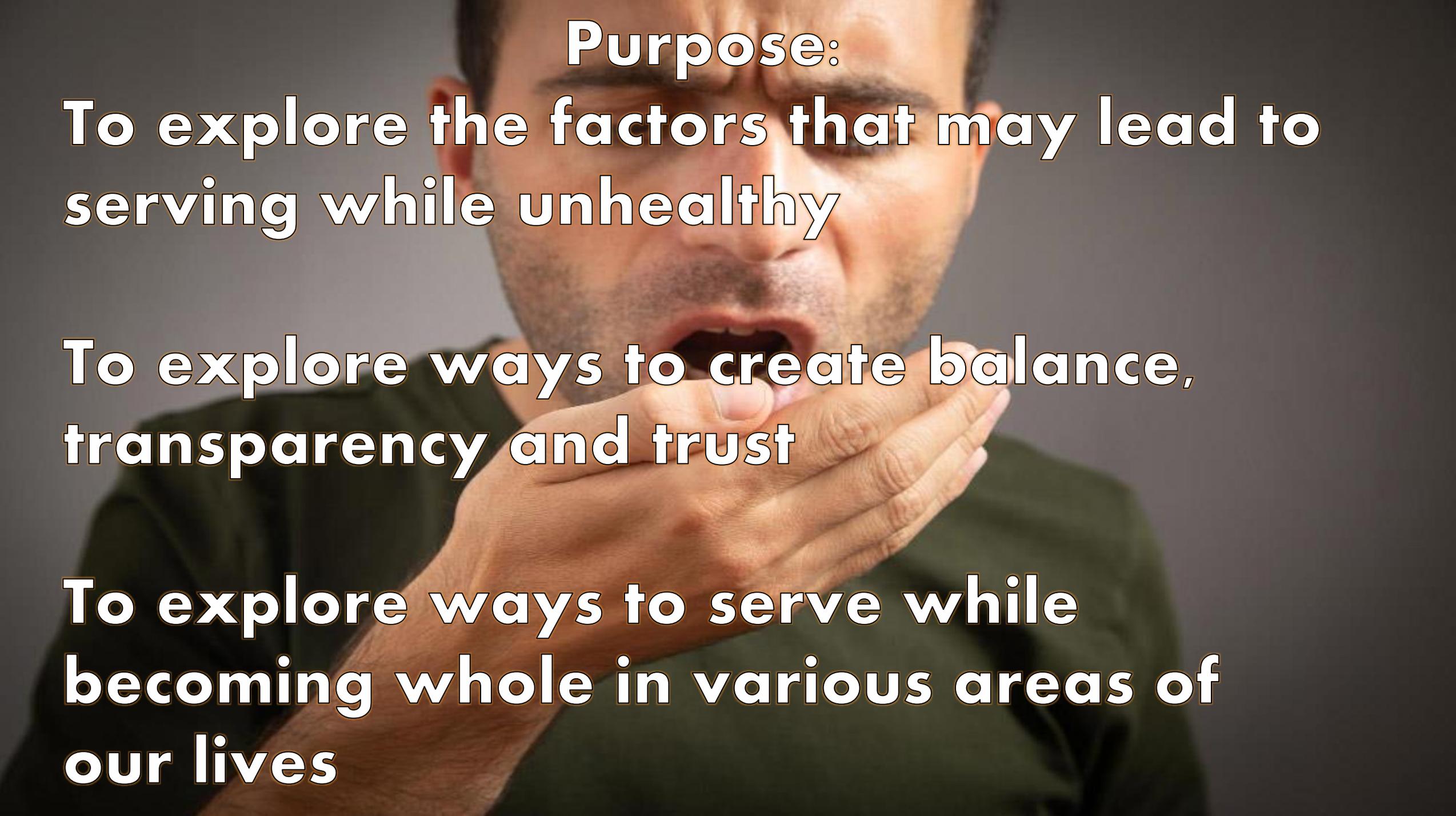
**How might the devil
attempt to hinder love
in our church or
altar/prayer team?**

PART 3



A close-up clinical photograph of a patient's mouth, showing severe periodontitis. The upper and lower teeth are heavily stained with yellowish-brown plaque and tartar. The gingiva is severely inflamed, swollen, and red, with significant recession exposing the roots of the teeth. The overall appearance is consistent with advanced periodontal disease, which is a common cause of halitosis. The word "HALITOSIS" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

HALITOSIS



Purpose:

To explore the factors that may lead to serving while unhealthy

To explore ways to create balance, transparency and trust

To explore ways to serve while becoming whole in various areas of our lives

A close-up photograph of a man's face. He has a distressed or uncomfortable expression, with his eyes closed and his mouth slightly open. He is covering his mouth with his right hand, palm facing outwards, as if to hide a bad smell or prevent himself from speaking. The background is a plain, dark grey color.

What causes bad breath?

What Causes Bad Breath?

It is caused by bacteria in our mouth, Halitosis.

This bacteria is breaking down food debris which creates by-products called volatile sulfur compounds (methyl mercaptan and hydrogen sulfide) which emit a smell similar to rotten eggs. Bacteria, just like humans, consume food and excreting waste.



And it is these sulfur compounds (waste) that usually lie at the root of a person's breath problems.

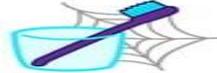
Because this bacteria needs an environment free of oxygen, they will live in areas that are difficult to reach-such as: pockets around teeth (A-B); the grooves in the tongue (C) and especially on the back of the tongue (D).



90%
of the bad breath originates in the mouth.



IN SOME CONDITIONS, THE ODOR MAY BE CAUSED BY:

1  Poor dental hygiene infrequent or improper brushing and flossing can leave food particles to decay

2  Troubles or infections on the pharynx, lungs or stomach as Chronic bronchitis, Gastrointestinal disturbance, Liver or kidney ailment. Even Dieting

3  Psychiatric illness - people may perceive that they have bad breath, but it is not noticed by oral-health-care professionals or others, this is referred to as "pseudohalitosis."

4  Infections in the mouth - gum disease

5  Dry mouth- caused by salivary gland problems, medications or by "mouth breathing"



Other factors can cause bad breath, such as :

 ALCOHOL	 ALCOHOL CONTAINING MOUTH RINSES	 FOODS LIKE GARLIC, ONION AND SPICY FOODS	 HUNGER
 TOBACCO	 BRACES	 DENTURES	



TOP 10 Worst Home Remedies for Bad Breath

-  Excessive mouthwash use...this produces sloughy, bad smelling tissue that is worse than you breath!
-  Breath mints...long lasting sugar candies subject your teeth to acid attacks and increase your risk for cavities
-  Mint chew tobacco...smokeless tobacco causes gums to recede and increases the chance of losing the bone and fibers that hold your teeth in place and can cause oral cancer.

-  Brushing with cleanser. It is poisonous and dangerous. Don't laugh people do this!
-  Chewing gum...it only masks bad breath
-  Using mouthrinse with alcohol.....dries out gum tissue and only covers bad breath it does not deal with the cause.

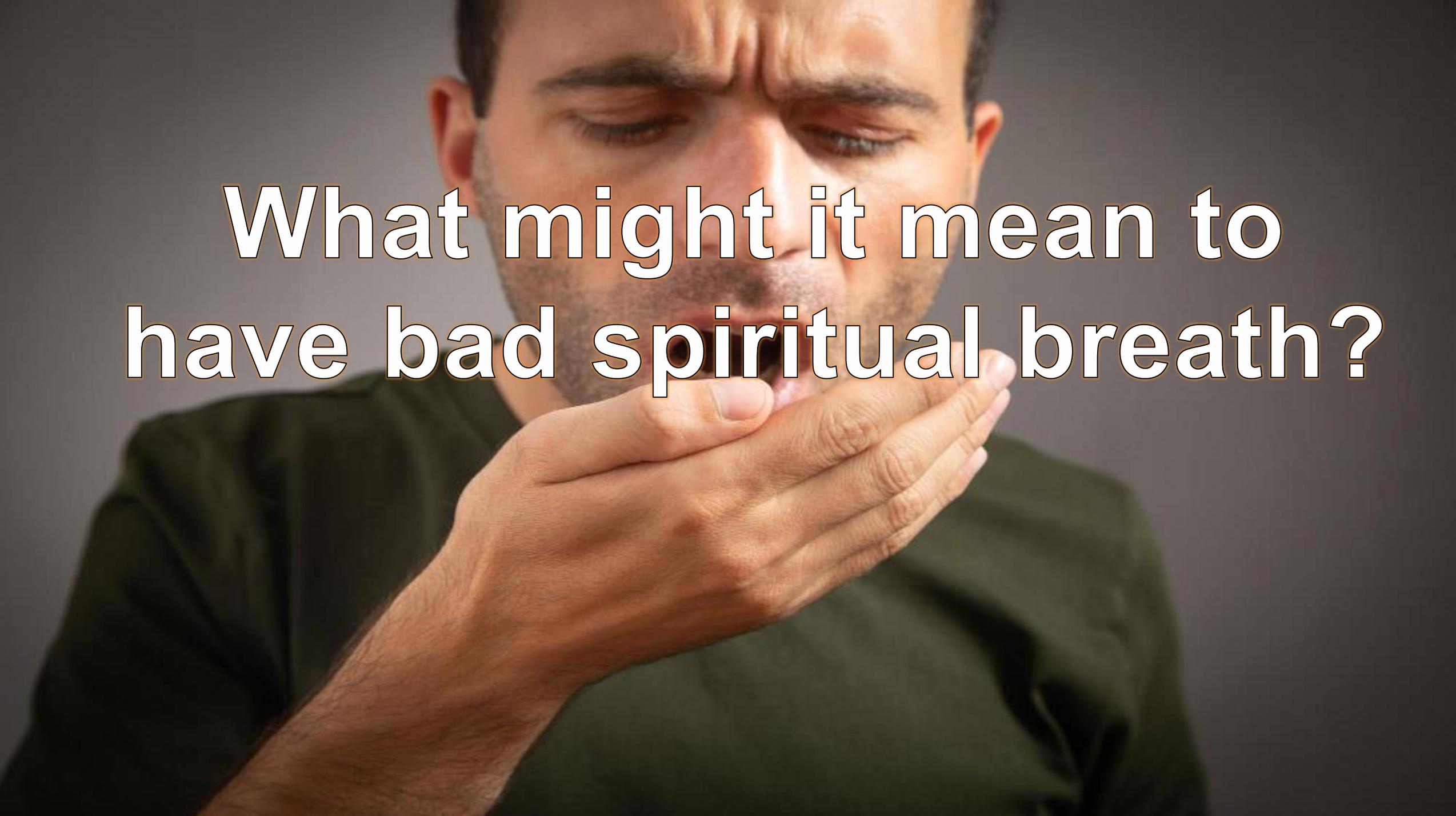


Infomercial items. Use items that have the ADA Seal of Approval. Unapproved items could do more harm than good.



Tongue piercing...allow you to harbor more bacteria on your tongue where sulfur compounds that cause bad breath live.

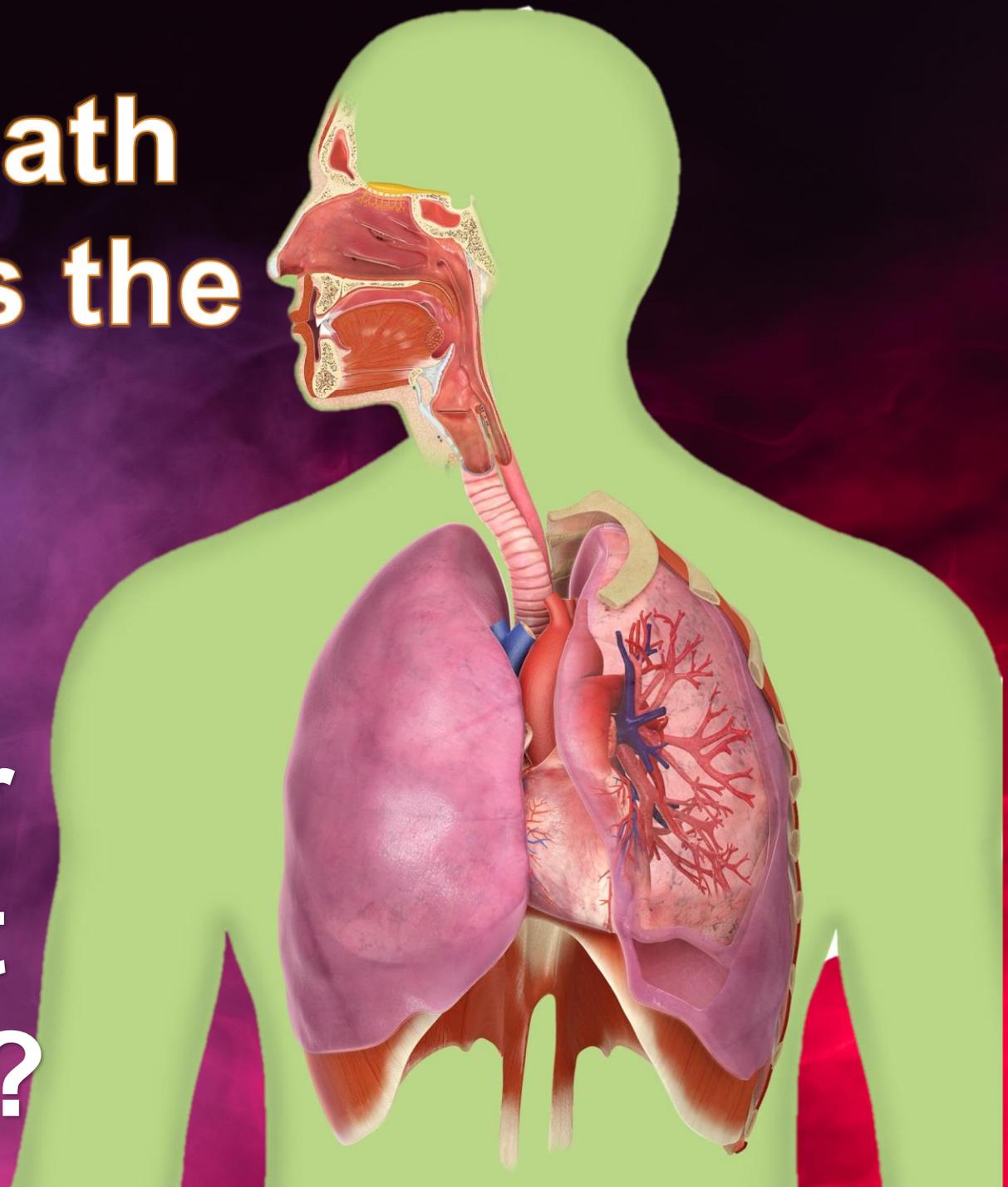
 Alcohol.....will cause dry mouth causing bad breath.

A close-up photograph of a man with a distressed expression. He has his eyes closed and a furrowed brow. He is covering his mouth with both hands, suggesting he is trying to suppress an emotion or hide something. The background is a plain, dark grey color.

**What might it mean to
have bad spiritual breath?**

How does breath work? What is the process to breathing?

How does our breath impact altar ministry?





WIND

RUAH



SPIRIT

NESHAWMAH



BREATH

Genesis 2:7-8

King James Version

⁷ And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Genesis 8:1

And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged;

Job 33:3-5

King James Version

³ My words shall be of the uprightness of my heart: and my lips shall utter knowledge clearly.⁴ The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.⁵ If thou canst answer me, set thy words in order before me, stand up.

Psalms 51:10-12

King James Version

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Exodus 14:21

And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

Proverbs 18:21

**Death and life are in the power of the tongue:
and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.**

John 3:5-10

King James Version

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.⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.⁹ Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Acts 2:1-4

King James Version

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

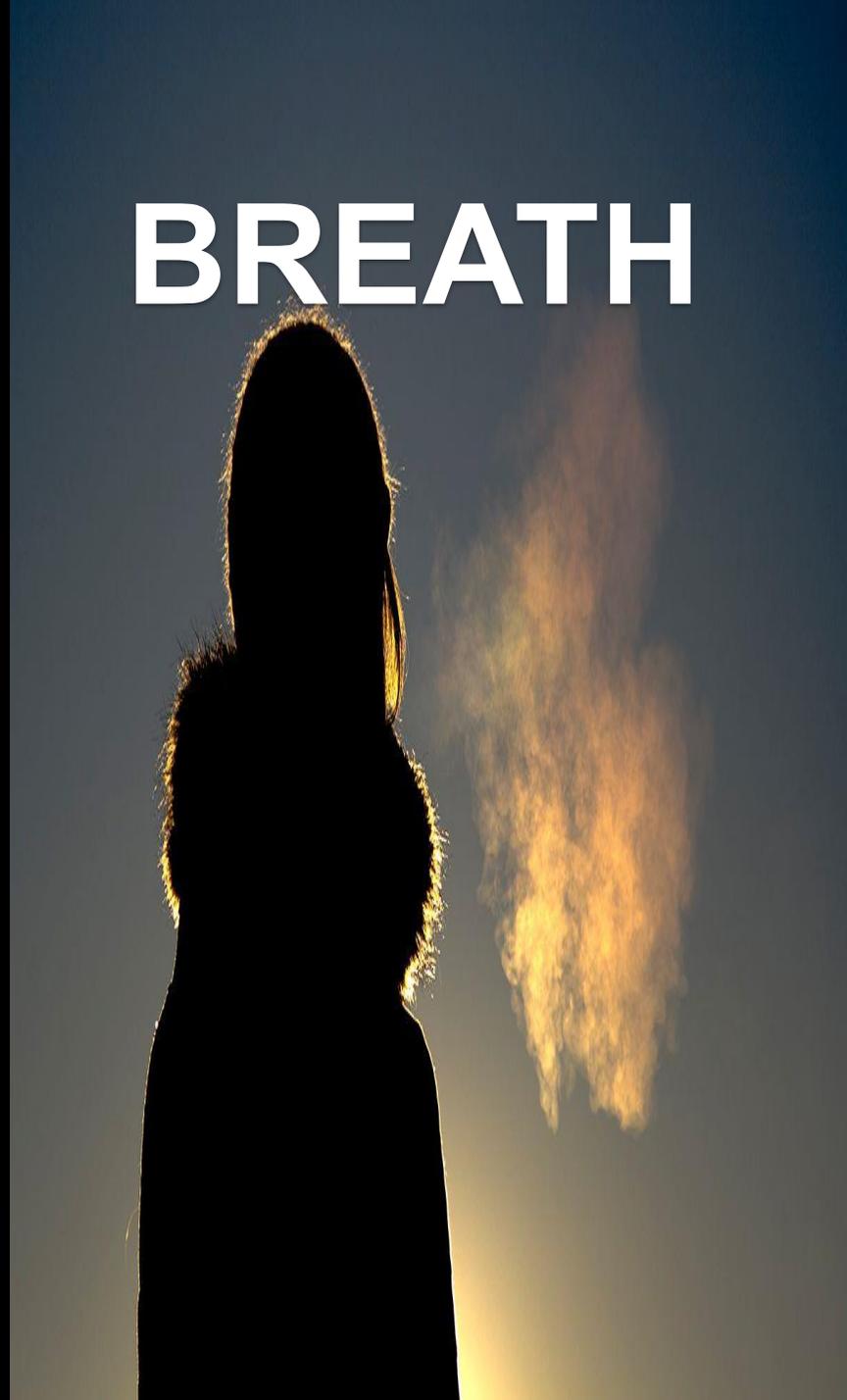
WIND



SPIRIT



BREATH



WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT CAN CAUSE US TO HAVE BAD BREATH?

WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES WE CAN USE TO HAVE BALANCE IN OUR LIVES WHILE HAVING TRUST AND VULNERABILITY AMONG OUR TEAMS?

WHAT ARE SOME STRATEGIES TO FRESHEN OUR BREATH SO WE CAN BE READY TO SERVE?

ACTIVITY:

With a small group of 4-5, develop a 4-5 step plan to restore an altar work team member back to health during your normal weekly meeting. Each person in your group will present a step and be ready to explain why that step is vital to the restoration and health of an altar worker.

The Bethesda Churches

Altar Workers & Prayer Conference

Room Assignments

AM Session

PM Session

Sanctuary

Praying Through the Pain

The Impact of Intercession

Event Center

Altar Work Essentials

From the Outer Courts

Chapel

Worship & Warfare

Prayer Is In Order

Room 12

Creating a Space for God

Battlefield of the Mind



Bishop Tobaise Brookins &
First Lady Dr. Antionette D.
Brookins

Bethesda Central
3723 E. Dakota Ave
Fresno 93726





SUBSCRIBE



PART 4

What is an altar? Why an altar?

Exodus 25

Altar=Mizbeah

A place of offering

A place of slaughter

A place of supplication

A place of divine reception

WHAT ARE WORDS
ASSOCIATED WITH
SACRIFICE?

What are the things I might lose by being a part of altar ministry?

Of the things I might lose, which one am I most worried about losing?

Genesis 8:20

And Noah builded an **altar** unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the **altar**.

2 Chronicles 7:14

King James Version

¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Matthew 21:13

And said unto them, It is written, My **house** shall be called the **house of prayer**; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

James 5:16

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Numbers 21:7

King James Version

⁷ Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

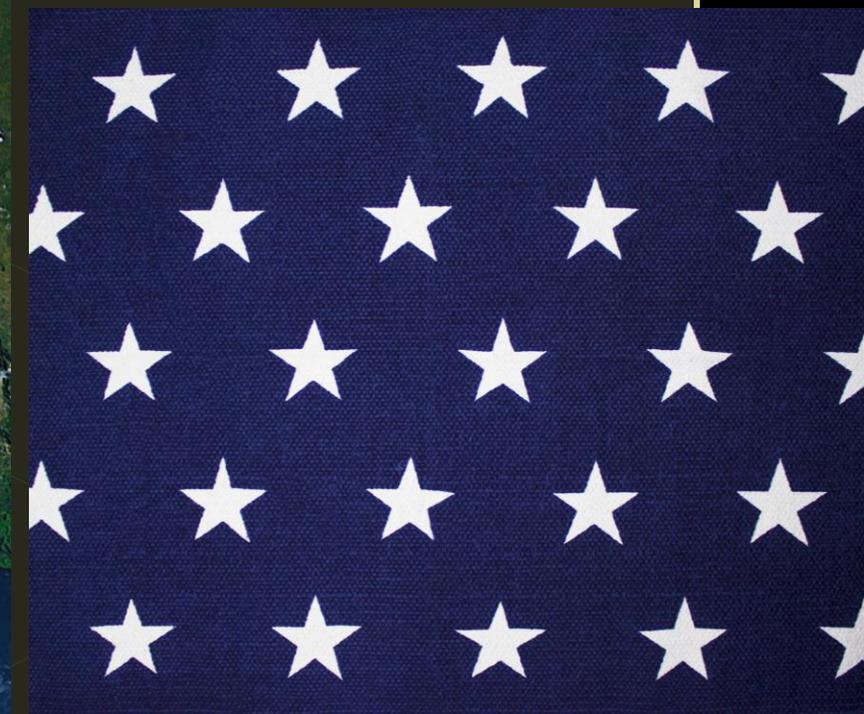
A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a wooden roof truss structure under construction. The image shows a complex network of light-colored wooden beams and joists, with a clear blue sky visible in the background. The perspective creates a sense of height and structural complexity. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

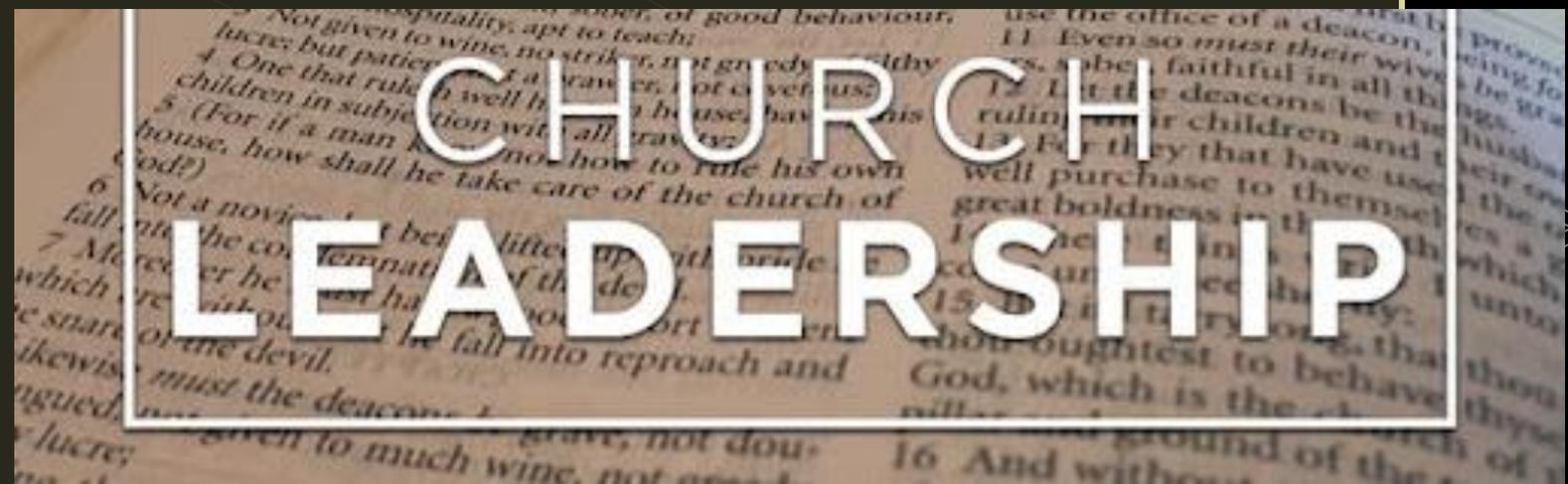
Where can we build or
strengthen our times for prayer
ministry? How might we build
or strengthen our altar ministry
moments?

What might be the difference between

Prayer Ministry
&
Altar Ministry?

Saying
&
Praying







Shift Prayer

24 Hour Prayer

Call in line

Zoom

Social Media

Before Service

Reels/Shorts

Evangelist Michaelle Peters is live!



11:31 / 45:53

Scroll for details

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PART 5

THE TABERNACLE AND THE PRIEST

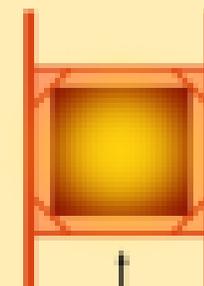
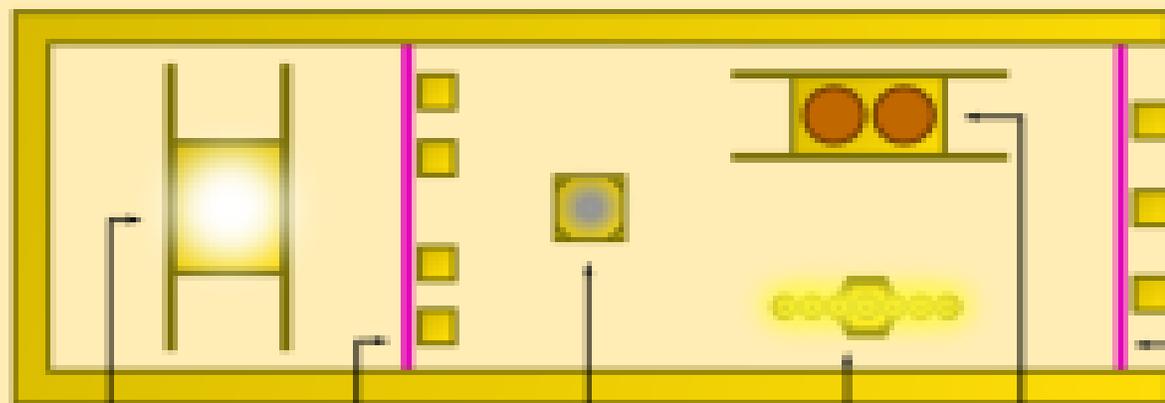


NUMBERS 4

Holy of Holies

Holy Place

Outer Courtyard



Ark of Covenant with "Seckinah"

Altar of Incense

Menorah

Table of Shewbread

Laver

Altar of Burnt Offerings

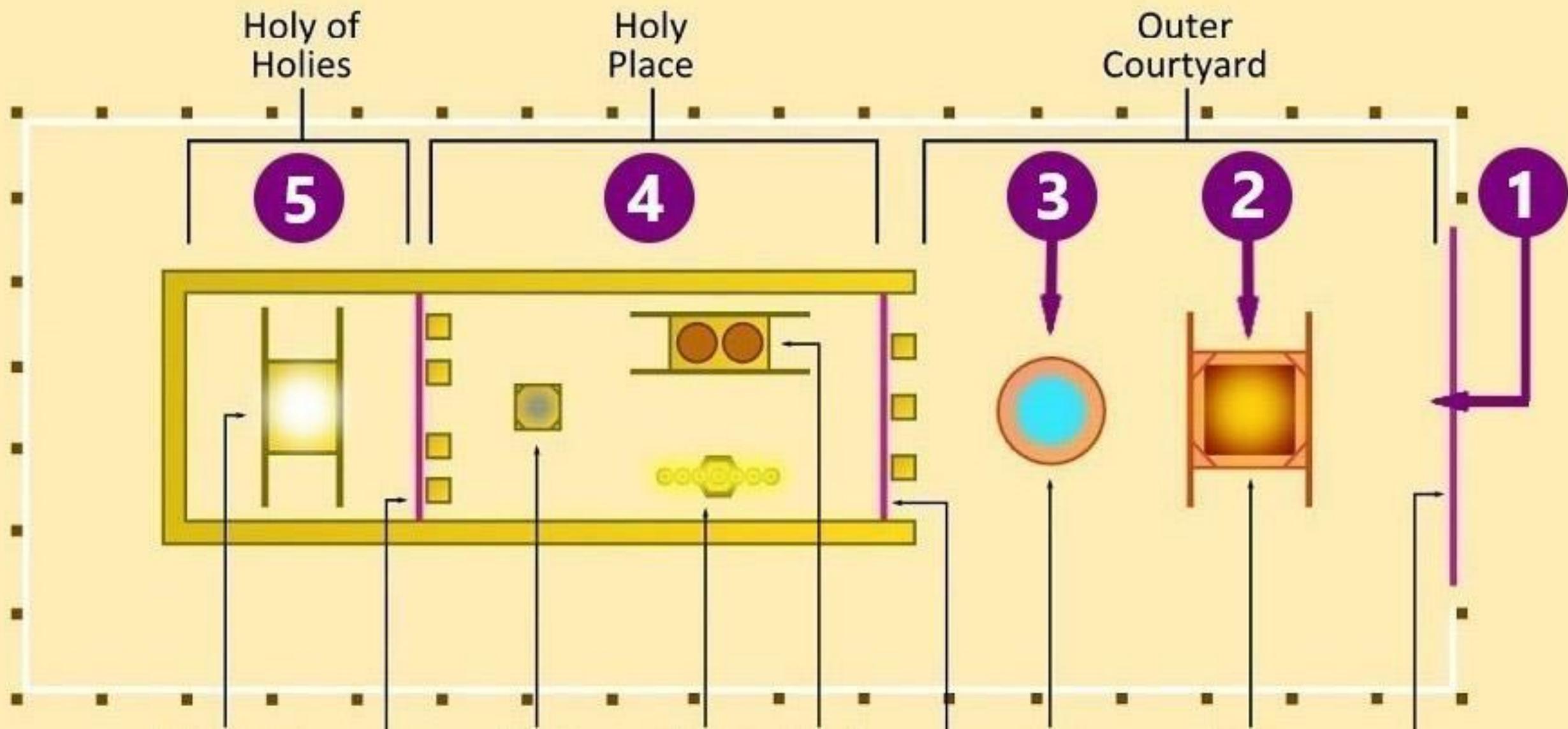
Veil

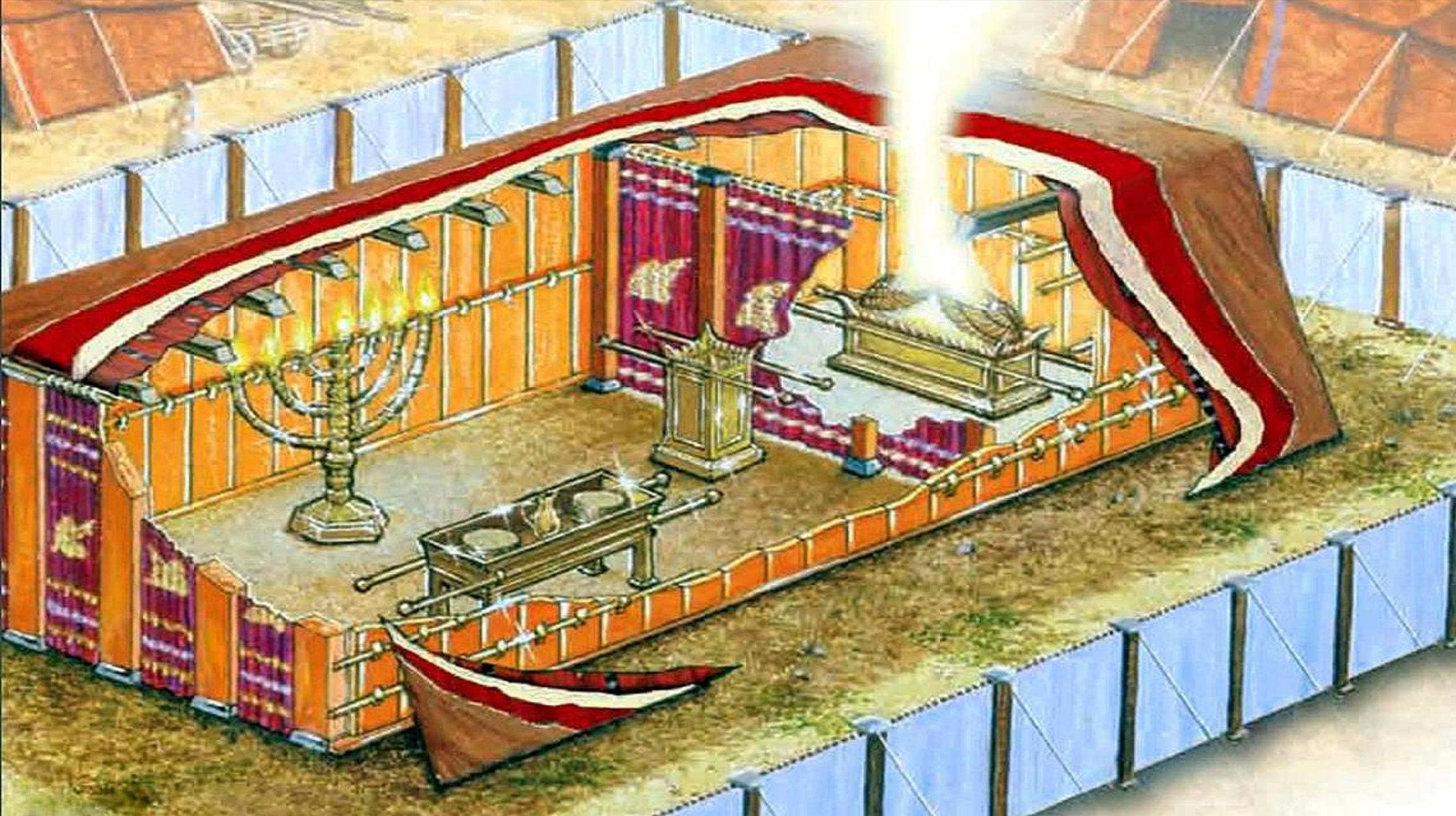
Door

Entrance Gate

A Pattern for Worship by Way of the Tabernacle

Five Steps From Entrance to Encounter

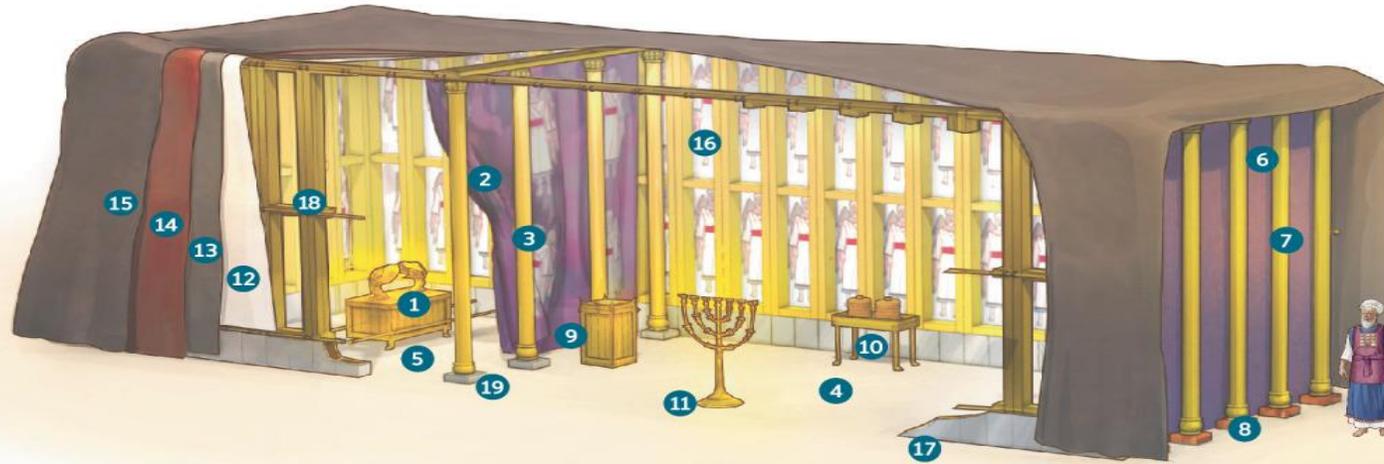




Tabernacle and High Priest

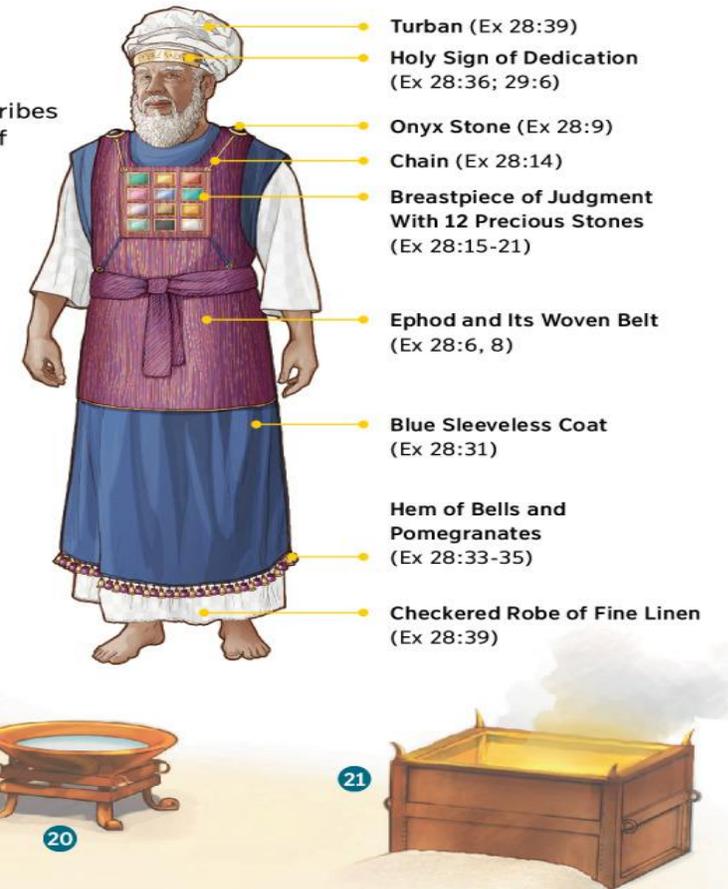
Tabernacle completed 1512 B.C.E. Temple inaugurated 1026 B.C.E.

4000 B.C.E. 2000 B.C.E. B.C.E. / C.E. 2000 C.E.



High Priest

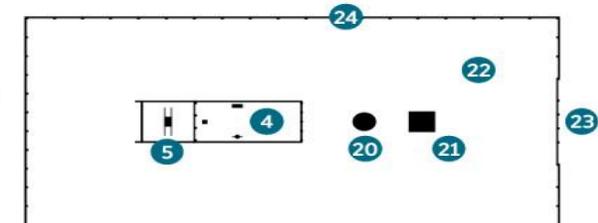
Exodus chapter 28 describes in detail the garments of Israel's high priest



Tabernacle Features

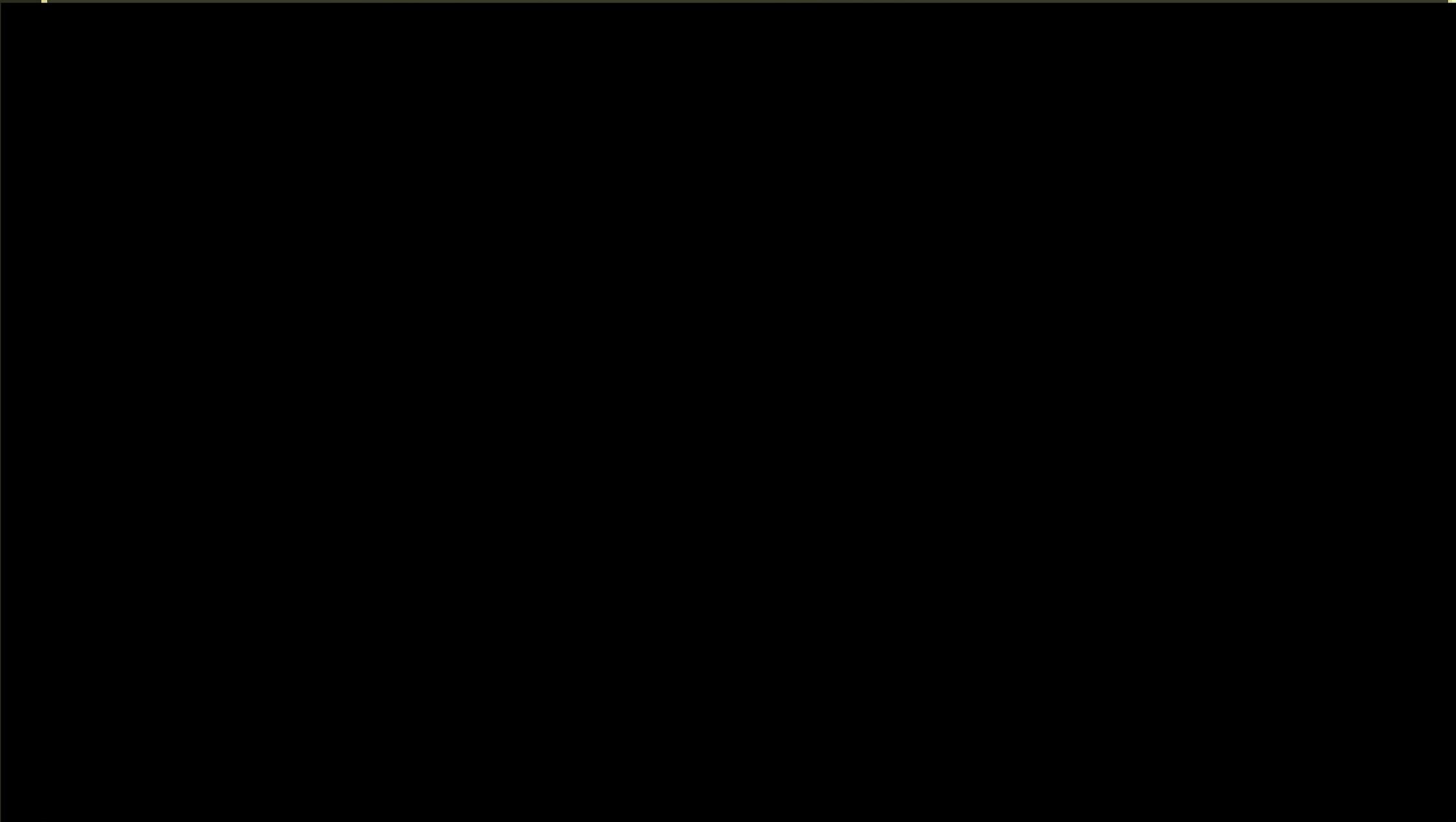
- 1 Ark (Ex 25:10-22; 26:33)
- 2 Curtain (Ex 26:31-33)
- 3 Pillar for the Curtain (Ex 26:31, 32)
- 4 Holy (Ex 26:33)
- 5 Most Holy (Ex 26:33)
- 6 Screen (Ex 26:36)
- 7 Pillar for the Screen (Ex 26:37)
- 8 Copper Socket Pedestal (Ex 26:37)
- 9 Incense Altar (Ex 30:1-6)
- 10 Table of Showbread (Ex 25:23-30; 26:35)
- 11 Lampstand (Ex 25:31-40; 26:35)
- 12 Tent Cloth of Linen (Ex 26:1-6)
- 13 Tent Cloth of Goat Hair (Ex 26:7-13)
- 14 Covering of Ram Skins (Ex 26:14)
- 15 Covering of Sealskins (Ex 26:14)
- 16 Panel Frame (Ex 26:15-18, 29)
- 17 Silver Socket Pedestal Under Panel Frame (Ex 26:19-21)
- 18 Bar (Ex 26:26-29)
- 19 Silver Socket Pedestal (Ex 26:32)

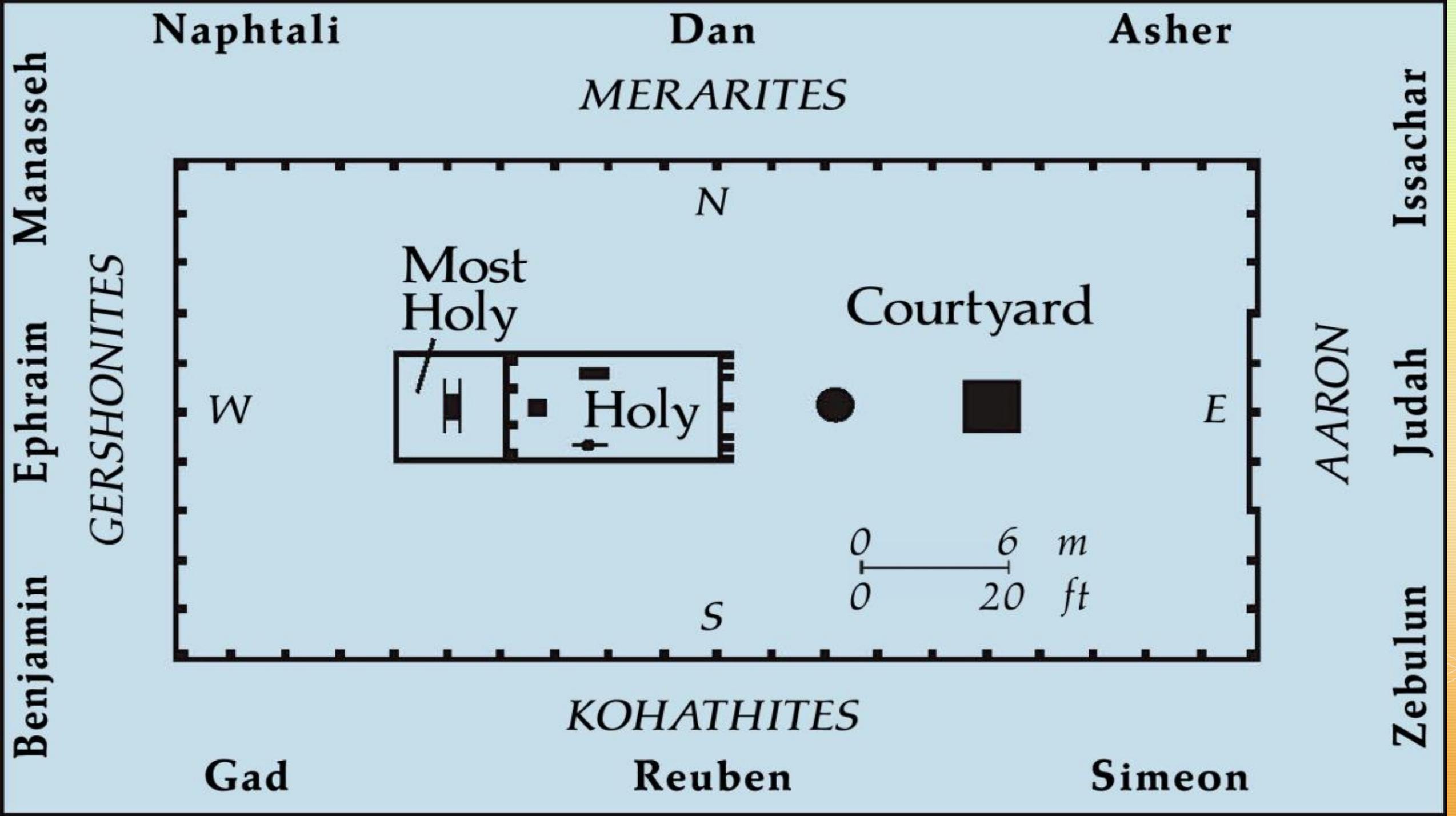
- 20 Copper Basin (Ex 30:18-21)
- 21 Altar of Burnt Offering (Ex 27:1-8)
- 22 Courtyard (Ex 27:17, 18)
- 23 Entrance (Ex 27:16)
- 24 Linen Hanging Curtains (Ex 27:9-15)











Duties of the Gershonites (4:21 - 28)

- Gershonites were to carry
 - the curtains of the tabernacle and the tent of meeting
 - The covering of goatskin that was on top
 - The screen for the entrance of the tent of meeting
 - The hangings of the court
 - The screen for the entrance of the gate of the court
 - They followed the command of Aaron and his sons.

Duties of the Kohathites (4:1 – 20)

- Clan of Moses and Aaron
- Kohathites had the most sacred assignment: carry “the sanctuary and all the furnishings” after Aaron and his sons “have finished covering” them. (v. 15)
- They were not to touch or even “to look on the holy things...lest they die”(v. 20)

Duties of the Merarites (4:29 - 33)

- Merarites were under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest
- Merarites were to carry
 - The frames of the tabernacle
 - Its bars, pillars, and bases
 - The pillars around the court with their bases, pegs, and cords, with all their equipment and all their accessories

Based on this study, how does God view duties connected to the tabernacle/house of worship? What are the actions we can take to ensure our altar duties meet the excellence of God? Explain.

What are the duties and roles necessary for our altars to meet the excellence of God?

PART 5



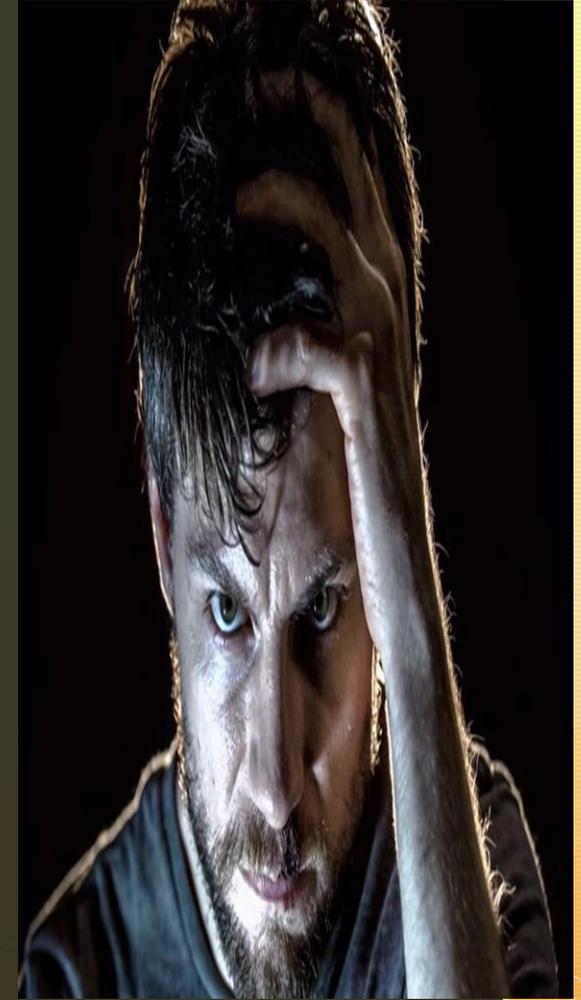
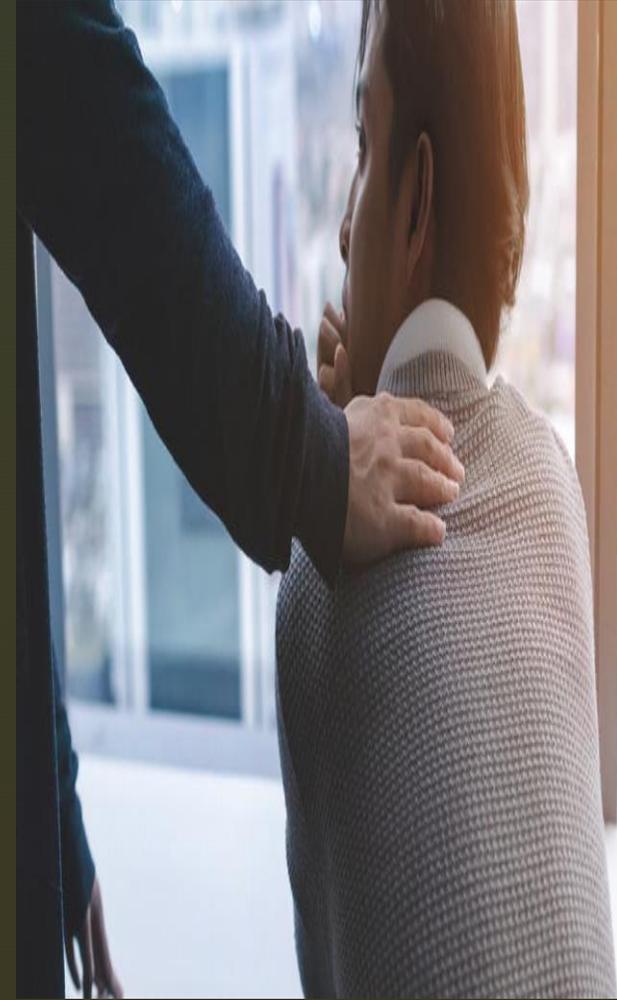
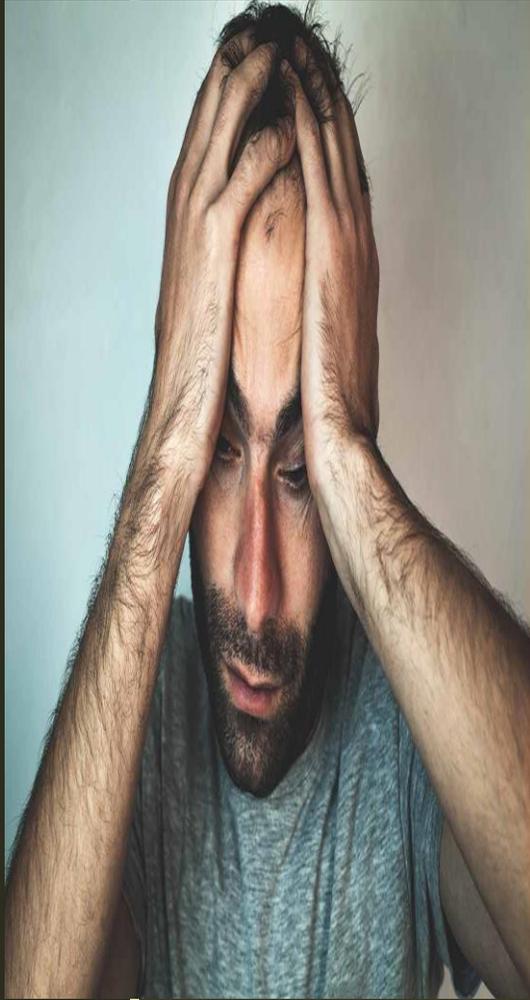
**4 Conditions and
Cycles That May Show
Up At The Altar**

ADDICTION

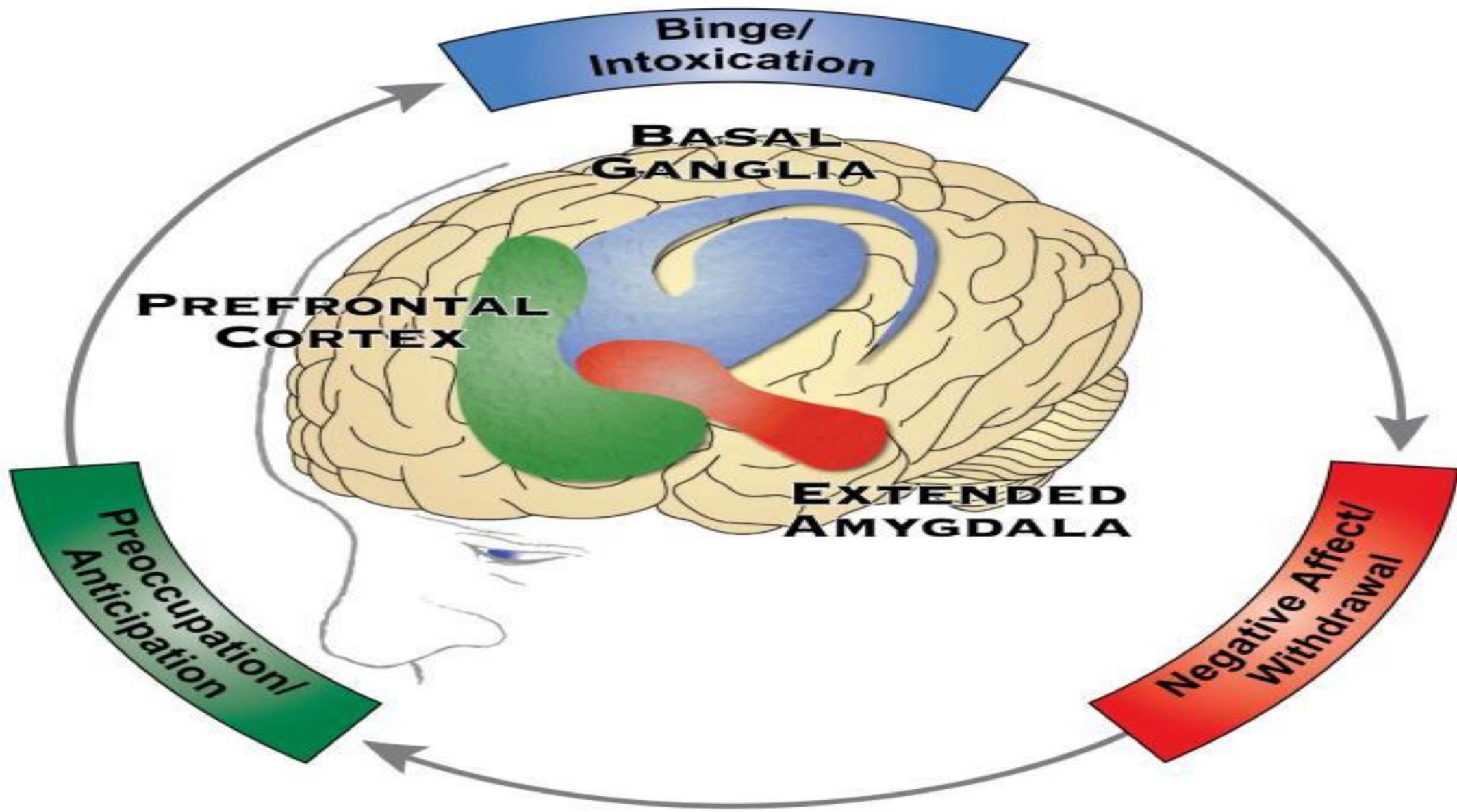
MENTALLY ILL

TRAUMA

**DEMON
POSSESSED**







Addiction Defined

Addiction is defined as obsessive thinking and compulsive need for drugs, alcohol, food, sex or anything despite the resulting negative consequences. Addiction includes the development of tolerance combined with withdrawal symptoms. In addition to tolerance, an addict or alcoholic will experience intense physical cravings for the drug and an emotional obsession to take alcohol or drugs regardless of the consequences. Addiction develops over time and usually begins with misuse, moving toward abuse and resulting in addiction.

The Cycle of Addiction

The Cycle of Addiction Is Characterized By:

- Frustration and internal pain that leads to anxiety and a demand for relief of these symptoms
- Fantasizing about using alcohol and drugs or behaviors to relieve the uncomfortable symptoms
- Obsessing about using drugs and alcohol and how his or her life will be after the use of substances

- Engaging in the addictive activity, such as using substances to gain relief (acting out)
- Losing control over the behavior
- Developing feelings of remorse, guilt and shame, which lead to feelings of dissatisfaction
- Making a promise or resolve to oneself to stop the behavior or substance use

After a period of time, the pain returns, and the addict begins to experience the fantasies of using substances again.

Breaking the Cycle of Addiction

The stages of the cycle of addiction can be matched up with some of the stages of the model of behavior change and its relationship to recovery.

1. Precontemplation -The addict has not yet considered stopping the behavior or use of substances.

2. Contemplation – The addict is starting to consider making a change in behavior.

3. Preparation – The addict is mentally and, possibly, physically preparing to make a change.

4. Action – The addict has taken an action, such as seeking treatment, self-help groups or counseling. Treatment has been provided and the addict has stopped using.

5. Maintenance – The addict is maintaining his or her new lifestyle and behavior, following a recovery program

Unfortunately, relapse can occur during the action or maintenance stage, which means the addict or alcoholic again enters the cycle of addiction.

A Drug Personality May:

- Have mood swings
- Be unreliable
- Be unable to finish projects
- Have unexpressed resentment
- Be dishonest and lie to family, friends and employers
- Isolate and withdraw from loved ones
- Appear chronically depressed
- Begin stealing from family and friends
- Engage in risky sexual behavior
- Exhibit strong, primitive defense mechanisms (denial, rationalization, minimization, projection, justification, blaming)
- Have difficulty paying bills
- Have difficulty with interpersonal relationships
- Have difficulty with work relationships or is unable to hold a job
- Engage in illegal or immoral activities to obtain drugs

Reflection

health PTSD outburst clinic
delirium antisocial condition tension
memory stress unhappy medicine bipolar illness ADHD hate
delirium pressure loneliness diagnosis psychotic communication anxiety assistance symptoms brain
panic arachnophobia insanity elderly confusion psychosomatic agoraphobia problem schizophrenia insomnia nightmare hallucination
help balance rage obsession depression trauma therapy treatment
solitary lost fear Alzheimer support withdrawal mood distraught anger aggressive OCD psychology hospital
disorder anorexia delusion grief turbulence mental
sadness phobia resentment suffer dementia scary retiree
mental illness



Common **WARNING SIGNS** of Mental Illness

Diagnosing mental illness isn't a straightforward science. We can't test for it the same way we can test blood sugar levels for diabetes. Each condition has its own set of unique symptoms, though symptoms often overlap. Common signs and/or symptoms can include:

- ! **Feeling very sad or withdrawn for more than two weeks**
- ! **Trying to harm or end one's life or making plans to do so**
- ! **Severe, out-of-control, risk-taking behavior that causes harm to self or others**
- ! **Sudden overwhelming fear for no reason, sometimes with a racing heart, physical discomfort or difficulty breathing**
- ! **Significant weight loss or gain**



- ! **Seeing, hearing or believing things that aren't real***
- ! **Excessive use of alcohol or drugs**
- ! **Drastic changes in mood, behavior, personality or sleeping habits**
- ! **Extreme difficulty concentrating or staying still**
- ! **Intense worries or fears that get in the way of daily activities**

*Various communities and backgrounds might view this sign differently based on their beliefs and experiences. Some people within these communities and cultures may not interpret hearing voices as unusual.



Among the severely mentally ill

Substance Abuse Prevalence



140,000
seriously mentally ill
go homeless

There are some simple strategies that will help you connect with the person in distress:

- introduce yourself calmly and clearly
- explain why you are there
- be polite and non-threatening but also be honest and direct
- listen to what they are saying in a non-judgmental way
- avoid confrontation
- ask them what they see as the main problem
- do not attempt physical contact, except to prevent serious assault or suicide attempts
- encourage them to talk to a mental healthcare professional
- follow up difficult experiences with counselling for yourself.

Reflection



Types of Trauma

Emotional

- **Mental response to a disturbing event or situation**
- **Acute: Response during and directly after an event**
- **Chronic: Long-term response from prolonged or repeated events**
- **Complex: Response to multiple events that may or may not be related**

Physical

- **Serious bodily harm or injury**



Reflection



DEMON POSSESSION



Biblical Terminology Related to “Demon Possession”

The term “demon possession” is frequently used in English translations of the New Testament, most notably in the Synoptic Gospels, to render the meaning of the term *daimonizomai*. In addition, the parallels between Matthew 8:28, Mark 5:2 and Luke 8:27 suggest that the terms “with an unclean spirit” (*en pneumati akathartō*) and “having a demon” (*echōn daimonian*) are viewed as similar in meaning (cf. Mark 1:23/Luke 4:33), both to each other and to *daimonizomai*. These terms seem to indicate the presence of demons or unclean spirits, who are exerting a degree of regular or intermittent and pernicious influence in a person’s life.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/demon-possession/>

Symptoms of “Demon Possession”

The symptoms associated with “demon possession” vary significantly from one exorcism account to another. On the one hand, this condition may produce symptoms that are difficult to distinguish from those of illnesses that are simply the result of living in a fallen world. Specific accounts refer to an inability to speak, whether mentioned alone (Matt. 9:32-33/Luke 11:14), together with blindness (Matt. 12:22-23), or as accompanied by intermittent seizures and an inability to hear (Mark 9:14-29). In addition, Matthew 17:14-20 which contains a general reference to seizures that are associated with “great suffering.

On the other hand one encounters as well the case of the Gadarene demoniacs in Matthew 8:28-34, which is parallel to the accounts of the Gerasene demoniac in Mark 5:1-20/Luke 8:26-39. In this case the symptoms of demonic influence mimic a severe psychological or psychiatric disorder which include ferocity (Matt. 8:28), social isolation (i.e., living among the tombs—Matt. 8:28; Mark 5:2; Luke 8:27), dwelling on the mountains (Mark 5:5), “driven by the demon into the desert” (Luke 8:29), nakedness (Luke 8:27), self-harm (Mark 5:5), and excessive strength (Mark 5:3; Luke 8:29).

IMPACT MOVES

- Have compassion
- Use discernment
- Safety first
- Have referral resource information available
- Understand cycles
- Be ready to pray through

PART 6

DOCTRINE'S
IMPACT ON
THE ALTAR
WORKER

WE BELIEVE that Jesus is the only saving
NAME (Authority) given to humanity. (Mark
16:16-18, Luke 10:17-20, 24:23; John 14:13-14;
Acts 2:21, 2:38, 4:12; Romans 10:13;
Ephesians 1:21; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians
3:17)

WE BELIEVE in repentance from sin, belief unto God, submission to baptism in water by immersion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and in the baptism or infilling of the Holy Ghost with speaking in other tongues as the spirit gives utterance. We believe the initial sign of one's infilling is speaking in tongues. This constitutes the New Birth experience. (Joel 2:28, Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16-17, Luke 24:47-49, John 3:3-5, 7:37-39; c14:26, Acts 2:1-4, 37-41, 8:12-19, 35-39, 9:17-19, 10:44-48, 16:14-15, 16:31-34, 19:1-7; Romans 6:3-5, 8: 9, 10:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 3:20-21)

James 3:2-6

King James Version² For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.³ Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.⁴ Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

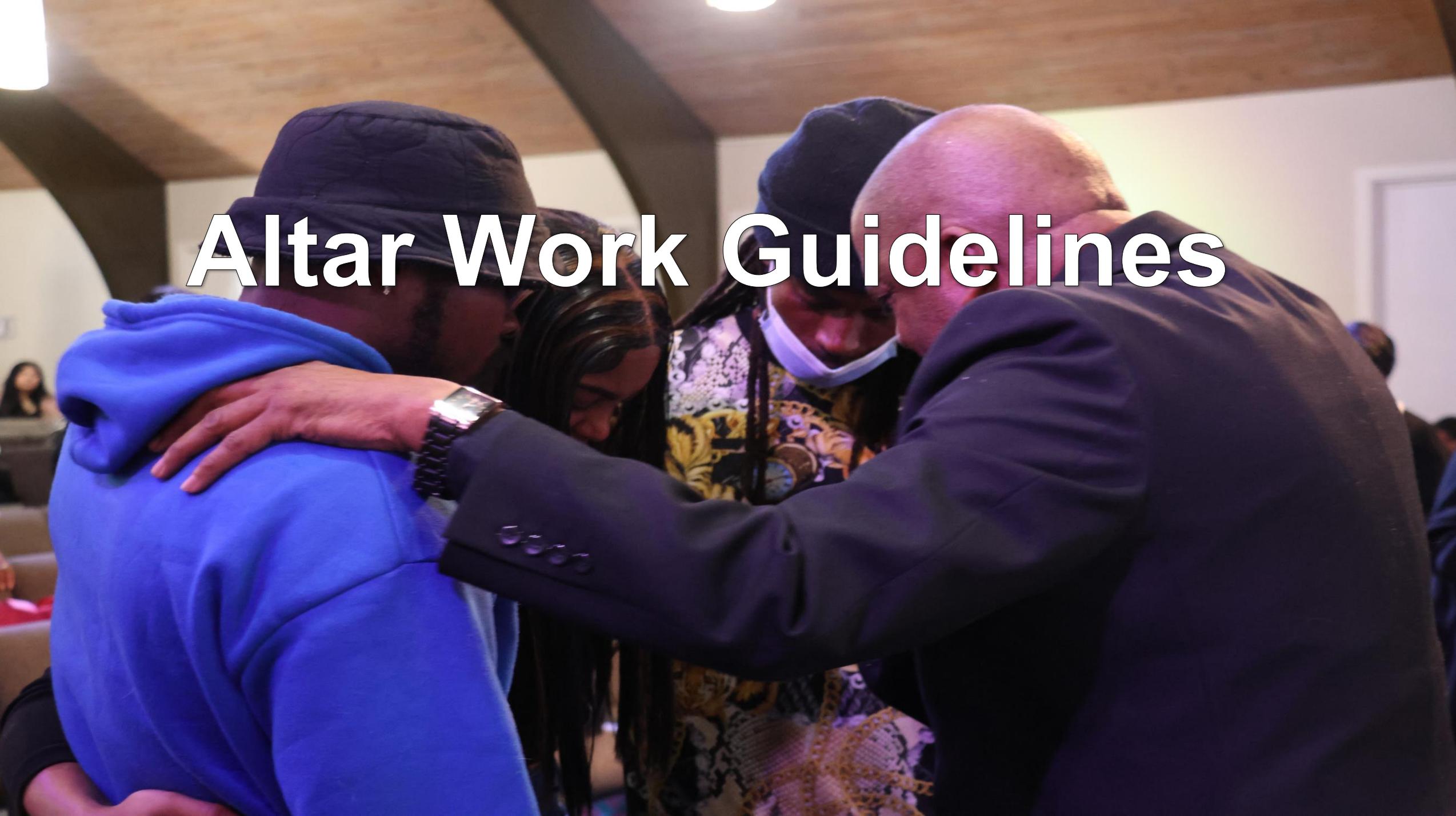
WE BELIEVE in a holy sanctified life based on the commandments of God and the power of His spirit. (Exodus 20:1-17, Leviticus 10:10; Deuteronomy c28, 30:19-20, Joshua 22: 5, Psalm 51, Isaiah 5:14, Ezekiel 18:20-21, Matthew 5:28-30, 15:7-20, 19: 2-10, John 14:5, Romans 1:18-32, 8:1-16, 12:1-3, 1 Corinthians 3:13-18, 5:7-13, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 17, Titus 2:1-8, 12-15, 1 Peter :17-19, Jude, Revelation 21:8)

“We Believe a person can be delivered and healed from all physical, emotional and spiritual bondages and sicknesses.”

Activity: Work with those around you to find scripture that would validate this conviction

PART 7

Altar Work Guidelines



Altar Worker and Baptism Ministry

Altar Workers and Baptism Ministry Team Job Description – Bethesda Churches (Apostolic)

Position Title: Altar Workers and Baptism Ministry Team
Member

Location: Bethesda Churches (Multisite)

Ministry Department: Altar and Baptism Ministry

Reports To: Senior Pastor, Altar Ministry Leader

Position Overview:

The Altar Workers and Baptism Ministry Team at Bethesda Churches is responsible for assisting individuals in responding to the call of salvation, providing prayer support, and leading people through the process of baptism. The ministry team plays a critical role in fulfilling the Apostolic faith by guiding individuals in the experience of repentance, baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, and receiving the infilling of the Holy Spirit. This ministry aligns with Bethesda's mission to make champions for Jesus Christ who bring healing to the nations through worship, life groups, personal evangelism, and serving on ministry teams. ***The team's responsibility is to ensure a powerful, transformative experience for every individual at the altar, empowering them to take the next step in their spiritual journey.***

Mission & Vision:

Bethesda Churches is established to **make champions for Jesus Christ** who bring healing to the nations. As a **multisite church**, our vision focuses on **worship, maturing through life groups, engaging in personal evangelism, and serving on ministry teams**. The **Altar Workers and Baptism Ministry Team** aligns with this vision by guiding new believers through the key steps of salvation and spiritual empowerment, which are central to the Apostolic faith: **repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit**.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Altar Call Support and Prayer:

- Assist in leading altar calls during worship services, inviting individuals to come forward for prayer, salvation, and healing.
- Provide personal prayer support to individuals responding to the altar call, focusing on **repentance**, **rededication**, and **salvation** in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Pray with individuals seeking deliverance, healing, or the baptism of the Holy Spirit, ensuring they experience spiritual breakthrough.
- Help individuals understand the importance of **repentance**, **baptism**, and **receiving the Holy Spirit**, in accordance with the Apostolic doctrine.

Baptismal Ministry:

- Assist in the baptism process, ensuring candidates understand the significance of being baptized in the name of **Jesus Christ** as per Acts 2:38.
- Help prepare baptismal candidates, ensuring they understand the doctrinal importance of baptism for the forgiveness of sins and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.
- Participate in baptism services, offering emotional and spiritual support to candidates and their families during this pivotal moment in their faith journey.
- Maintain cleanliness and organization of the baptismal area and supplies.

Follow-up and Discipleship:

- Connect with individuals who have been baptized or have responded to the altar call, offering ongoing discipleship, prayer, and connection to life groups or other ministry teams.
- Provide resources to new believers, such as Apostolic teachings on salvation, the power of baptism, and the Holy Spirit's role in their spiritual walk.
- Coordinate with the pastoral team to follow up with individuals to ensure they are integrating into church life and deepening their relationship with God.

Training and Empowerment:

- Participate in regular training sessions on **prayer ministry, understanding the Apostolic doctrine**, and how to effectively minister at the altar.
- Mentor and equip new altar workers to ensure the team is well-prepared to minister with compassion, wisdom, and understanding of the importance of baptism and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.
- Train the team in how to pray for individuals seeking baptism in the Holy Spirit, helping them to understand and experience this vital aspect of their faith. Train team in how to employ strategies for people to receive deliverance.

Potential Activities:

Baptismal Services:

- Organize and facilitate regular baptismal services, both during scheduled church services and special events, ensuring that all participants are prepared and supported.

Altar Call Ministry:

- Lead altar calls at every service, ensuring that individuals have the opportunity to respond to God's call for salvation, healing, or rededication.
- Prepare and lead prayer teams to minister to those coming to the altar.

Baptism Preparation Classes:

- Conduct pre-baptism classes or one-on-one sessions to explain the significance of baptism in Jesus' name, in alignment with **Acts 2:38** and **Mark 16:16**, and the doctrinal importance of this act in the Apostolic faith.

4. Healing and Deliverance Ministry:

- Offer prayer and support to individuals seeking healing or deliverance, in keeping with the **Apostolic doctrine** of spiritual empowerment through prayer and laying on of hands.

5. Special Prayer Services:

- Host periodic special prayer services for those seeking the infilling of the Holy Spirit, offering guidance, prayer, and ministry to help individuals experience the fullness of God's Spirit.

Tips for Growing in the Altar Workers and Baptism Ministry:

- 1. Cultivate a Spirit of Compassion and Patience:** Ministry at the altar is a deeply spiritual and personal experience. Approach each individual with empathy, patience, and love, understanding that God's timing is perfect in each situation.
- 2. Know the Apostolic Doctrine:** Stay grounded in the tenets of the **Apostolic faith**, especially the critical role of **repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit**. Be ready to explain these steps to those responding at the altar.
- 3. Empower Others:** As the team grows, mentor new altar workers and guide them in how to minister at the altar. Equip them with understanding and spiritual tools to pray effectively and lead others to Christ.
- 4. Be Sensitive to the Holy Spirit:** The work at the altar requires sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Seek God's direction in every interaction, and be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you pray for individuals.
- 5. Follow-Up is Key:** After individuals respond to the altar call or are baptized, ensure there is thorough follow-up to guide them in their discipleship journey and to keep them connected to the church body.

Quality Review:

The effectiveness of the **Altar Workers and Baptism Ministry Team** will be assessed through:

- **Spiritual Impact:** Evaluating how many individuals have responded to the altar call for salvation, rededication, or baptism, and how many of them have been successfully integrated into church life and discipleship.
- **Feedback from New Believers:** Gathering feedback from individuals who have been baptized or responded to the altar call regarding their experience, spiritual growth, and ongoing connection to the church.
- **Team Performance:** Reviewing the effectiveness of the altar workers in their prayer ministry, baptismal services, and ability to minister in alignment with the Apostolic faith.
- **Baptismal Tracking:** Tracking the number of baptisms that occur as a result of altar ministry, including follow-up with each individual to ensure they understand their new identity in Christ.

Specific Measurable Goals:

1. Baptism Participation:

- Goal: Baptize at least 100 new believers in Jesus' name annually through regular altar calls and baptism services.

2. Altar Call Response:

- Goal: Have at least 200 individuals respond to altar calls for salvation, healing, or rededication per year.

3. New Believer Follow-Up:

- Goal: Ensure that 95% of individuals who respond to the altar call or are baptized receive proper follow-up and are integrated into a life group or discipleship process.

4. Team Training and Development:

- Goal: Train and equip at least 15 new altar workers annually, ensuring they are grounded in the Apostolic doctrine and capable of effectively ministering to individuals at the altar.

5. Spiritual Milestones:

- Goal: Help at least 75% of those baptized experience the infilling of the Holy Spirit as part of their spiritual journey.

PART 9

The background is a dark blue gradient with several bright, glowing blue light streaks and swirling patterns that create a sense of movement and energy. The text is centered and rendered in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Bethesda Churches Altar

Training
Evangelist Angela F. Boyce

Types of Prayers

- **General**
- **Intercession**
- **Deliverance and bondage (addictive)
(cyclic sin)**
- **Repentance and salvation**
- **Infilling of the Holy Ghost**

Scriptures in connections

- **Confession of faith**
- **Repentance**
- **Baptism in water**
- **Grief**
- **Provision**
- **Conflict**
- **Sin**
- **Discuss with a partner other issues that need a scripture attached to it.**

Ministering Guidelines At The Altar

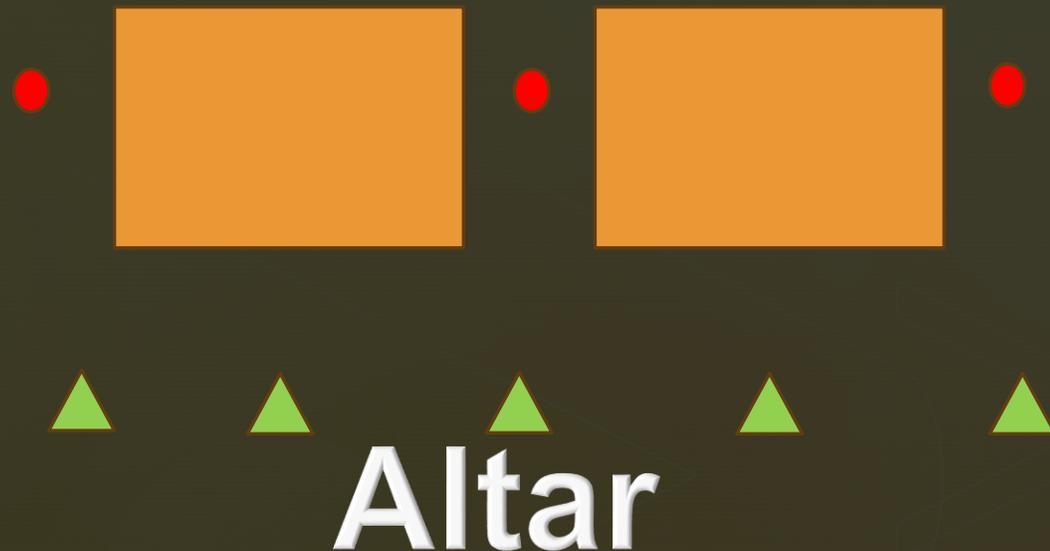
- **When the candidate approaches the altar ask the universal question.**
- **“What do you want the Lord to do for you today?”**
- **After the candidate responds, proceed to pray for them**
- **Signal the altar worker who will stand next to the candidate to assist in ministry.**

UNIVERSAL SIGNAL FOR MINISTRY

- **COUNSEL:** A gentle pull on your ear lobe indicates the candidate needs to be counseled (expound more on the word of God to them.)
- **HOLY GHOST:** A closed fist indicates the candidate needs the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
- **BAPTISMAL:** By bending the opened right hand to the left and to the right indicates the candidate needs to be baptized.
- **DELIVERANCE:** A closed fist motion to the left and right indicates the candidate needs deliverance.
- **PRAYER:** An opened right hand will indicate the candidate only wants prayer.
- If a candidate needs to be worked with further please move them to the prayer room. (ALWAYS WORK IN PAIRS OF TWO OR MORE WHEN POSSIBLE).

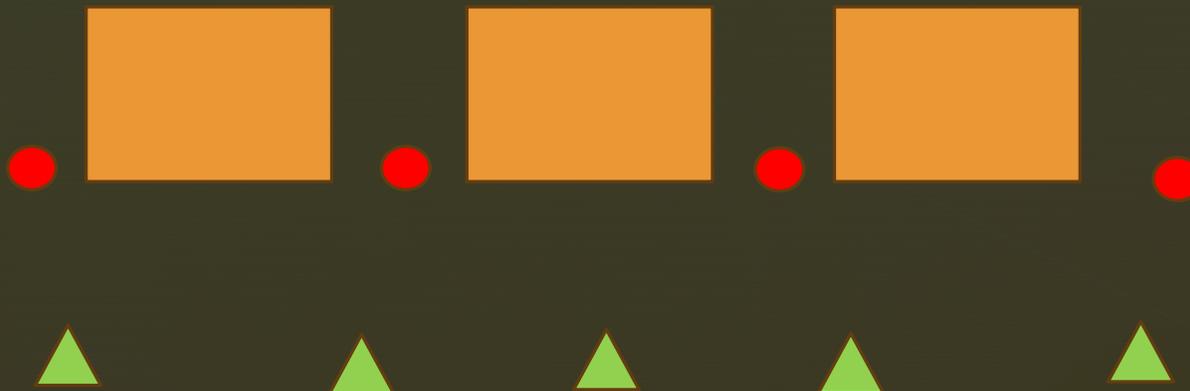
AISLE WORKER 2 (STANDING MIDWAY THE AISLE)

- You've made the right step
- You are going in the right direction
- Thank God for you
- May I walk with you



➤ AISLE WORKERS (STANDING AT THE MOUTH OF THE AISLES)

- What do you want from the Lord?
- What do you want God to do for you?
- Have you been baptized in Jesus name?
- Would you like to receive the Holy Ghost?



Altar

Workers for Those Who are Ready to Repent (Standing in front of the pulpit)

- Acts chapter 3 verse 19
- Do you understand what repentance is...Godly sorrow...
- It means that you are sorry for the things that you've done to the point that you are willing to turn away from those things....
- You're sorry that you've put off coming to the Lord until now...
- Acknowledging that you are a sinner in need of God's help...

Workers for Those Seeking the Holy Ghost

Standing at strategic locations to see and be able to respond to a souls need.

- Acts chapter 2:38, Acts 1:8,
- According to the bible, since you have repented and are consenting to be baptized, you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost...”
- (Emphasize positively that they shall receive the Holy Ghost coming out of the water.)

Note: Workers for those seeking the holy ghost are prepared to tarry “wait” with the individual.

▶ BAPTISMAL WORKERS (STATIONED IN THE
CHANGING ROOMS)
BAPTISMAL MINISTERS (IN THE WATER)

- Believe the Lord and you shall receive the Holy Ghost speaking in tongues as you come up out of the water...”
- Let those words flow
- Believe the Lord...
- Some things the soul may say, “I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins...” and “I want him to become Lord of my Life...”

Deliverance Prayers

- Workers at the mouth of the aisles or another altar worker not praying for someone will need to be mindful and watchful.
- If a soul is becoming animated as they are seeking deliverance, a supporting worker should support with the intention to keep the soul safe and others around them safe.
- Cover blankets are used to ensure the soul's body is covered if there is a risk for bodily exposure

After Deliverance/After Infilling/After Baptism

- After a prayer of deliverance, an attempt should be made to connect with the soul if they are not a part of your congregation
- After infilling, the soul should be able to state they have received the holy ghost if that was their intent in coming to the altar. Those who the Holy Spirit falls on may need the altar worker to tell them what happened (This should only be done by a seasoned or trained altar worker).
- After infilling and/or baptism in water, the soul should receive a certificate acknowledging their experience.

BAPTISM DECLARATION EXAMPLE

- My Dear Brother/Sister, Upon the confession of your faith and believe in God's eternal word concerning the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the confidence and obedience you have in that word, found in Matthew 29:19, Mark 16:16, Luke 24:47, John 3:5, and Acts 2:38, and upon the authority given to the apostles, and now given to me as a minister of the gospel/elder of the gospel/pastor of this church/Bishop of this church, we now indeed baptize you in water, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (if they have the Holy Ghost) and you shall rise to the newness of life or you shall receive a refreshing of the Holy Ghost.

Supporting People When the Spirit is Moving, Oil, Falling, and More

Falling Back
Falling Down
Falling Forward
Animated



Practice

After asking the universal question, engage in the following scenarios.

- Scenario 1: Demon Possession-Mimicking Spirit
- Scenario 2: Husband and Wife-Has a child in trouble
- Scenario 3: Wants to be saved
- Scenario 4: Has been baptized but hasn't received the Holy Spirit
- Scenario 5: Needs deliverance from heaviness, bitterness, or anger.
- Scenario 6: Backslider returns
- Scenario 7: Need physical healing

Baptism Pool and Room Maintenance

Changing Room Care

Prayer Cloths

Preparing to be Baptized

Baptizing

Tarrying with Souls

Praying Deliverance

Counsel

Follow Up

Questions



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