

Has the Altar in our churches transitioned into a stage?

Could this be why the number of salvations and baptisms are down and churches are dying?

The Answer: YES, because our churches are not coming together according to His will.

First, what is an Altar?

An altar is any structure upon which offerings such as sacrifices are made for religious purposes. Altars are usually found at shrines, and they can be located in temples, churches and other places of worship. The word altar is used almost 400 times throughout the scriptures of the Bible, even Noah built an altar unto the LORD.

As Christians we say the Bible is God's Holy Word. We say it is true, without error, and the infallible Word of God. We say it is to be studied, trusted, obeyed, followed and is to be the blueprint for the lives we live. It is also considered to be the foundational scripture that our churches are to be built on. We say it is to be the final word of authority for our lives and the basis of our faith in Jesus.

However, If the above is true....

Why is it that our churches today are not seen or recognized as Houses of Prayer? Why it is that church members are not regularly spending time at the altar within our churches in prayer. Why is it that prayer within our churches seems to be the least organized, emphasized, supported, or attended ministry within most of our churches?

Why do we at CAA come to this conclusion? Because it is Biblical. Jesus said "My house shall be called a house of prayer." Three times in the New Testament (Matt 21: 13, Mark 11: 17, Luke 19: 46) Jesus refers to "My house shall be called a house of prayer" that was first written in the Old Testament in the book of Isaiah. (Isa 56: 7)

The scripture says "Ye have not because ye ask not..." (James 4: 2) That is, the problem is not the absence of answers but lack of asking. We have problems with making the right request, the right timing, the right motive and the right conviction. Every time we pray right we receive. "For every one that asks receives..." (Matt.7: 8)

Jesus, in further emphasizing the power and effectiveness of prayer says, "...ask and you shall receive so that your joy may be full." (John.16: 24)

1 John 5:14-15(NKJV)

Confidence and Compassion in Prayer

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Here is the Real Question: How much time is being spent at the altar in prayer each day, each week, or each year by you and your church?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV)

16 Rejoice always, **17** pray without ceasing, **18** in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

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