

The Altars We Build: A People Marked by Eternity

1. Personal Altar of Prayer

- a. Matthew 25:1-13 (Parable of the Ten Virgins) — “the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.” Oil = intimacy with God, prayer.
- b. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 — “pray without ceasing.”
- c. Romans 12:11-12 — “fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.”

Action Steps:

1. Establish a daily time with God
2. Keep a simple journal
3. Guard your secret place

2. Family Altar of Prayer

- a. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 — “you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart... and you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (principle of a covenant family rhythm).
- b. Joshua 24:15 — “as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
- c. Psalm 127:3-5 — children are a heritage; blessed is the fruit of the womb.

Action Steps:

1. Create a family prayer night:
2. Sing together or declare a short worship chorus; let the home become a sanctuary.
3. Pray for the next generation—protection, discernment, and a hunger for God.

3. Church Altar of Prayer

- a. Matthew 21:13 My house should be called a house of prayer for all nations
- b. Acts 2:42-47 — the early church devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers.
- c. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 — “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.”
- d. Ephesians 6:18 — “praying in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”

Action Steps:

1. Establish weekly corporate expressions of prayer
2. Let prayer be the engine for all ministries
3. Create lanes of intercession:
4. Teach and model prayer for all ages; equip prayer leaders and host times of worship that flow into intercession.

4. Regional, State, and National Altar of Prayer

- a. 2 Chronicles 7:14 — “If My people... will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”
- b. Psalm 2:8 — “Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, the ends of the earth for Your possession.”
- c. Isaiah 62:6-7 — “I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night.”

Action steps:

1. Create regional prayer gatherings (revival, unity across denominations, mercy missions, justice).
2. Pray for leaders and for divine wisdom
3. Develop and or be a part of national prayer gatherings that are worship- and mission-driven, not merely ceremonial.

5. Why these altars matter for eternity

- a. Scripture anchors:
 - i. Colossians 3:23-24 — “whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”
 - ii. Revelation 22:12-13 — “Behold, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me to repay each person according to what they have done.