

Praying for people in the altar is an incredible experience as the Lord touches, saves, sanctifies, baptizes individuals with the Holy Ghost, heals and performs great things in the lives of people. But we must at a physical level provide an environment for people to receive from God. We are often afraid or not sure about counseling in the altar. In addition to specific principles for Salvation, Sanctification and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, there are some general principles for Alter Ministry. Some of these things are common sense, some are out of experience, but I believe this move of the Lord will empower our campers. So we all need to learn/refresh these things in our heart and be ready to Work in the Altar! God bless You!!!

1. **Personal Life:** The Lord is very faithful in what HE does. We need to grow in faithfulness in what WE do. Keep you life and relationship with God alive in prayer throughout the daytimes and week so you are prepared and primed for ministry. Be ready BEFORE church (and hopefully before camp) Otherwise the first few people pay the price during your 'warm-up' period. Be in prayer and keep your heart tuned to the Holy Ghost in non-ministry times so you are ready. Please do not step in the ministry roles with unrepentant sin your life. Take care of your relationship with Him first and foremost.
2. **Presentation:** This is very simple. Treat them better that you would even like to be treated. Ask yourself a few simple questions, and you will come up with your own best practices in addition to ours. *Simple questions but these are points of distraction that draw the attention to you and away from what the Lord is doing*
 - a. Would you like to have someone with body odor or bad breath pray for you?
 - b. Do you want someone yelling or praying loudly directly in your face?
 - c. What would distract you from focusing on the Lord?
 - d. Would overpowering or attracting cologne or perfume?
 - e. Neutralizing breath mints are great – not overpowering ones
 - f. Gum is not a good idea as you may spit it on them while praying.
3. **Appearance:** Dress *comfortably* yourself including shoes that you can stand in for a while *but* always *modestly* for both men and women.
4. **Touch:** It's important that both men and women observe this when ministering to members of the opposite sex.
 - a. Please do not touch them in the torso areas. Hands, arms, shoulders and head are fine, but keep the center torso area for both men and women protected from any touching.
 - b. Even when praying for same sex, please still use discretion.
5. **Level of Touch:** Please do not apply any more pressure anywhere on their body than it would take to break an egg. Lighter the better. Watch over-enthusiasm and a tendency to want to "help God out" especially when you are sensing a strong anointing within you or if you are tired and getting a little impatient. Don't be afraid to get the attention of another staff member to help you or take over for you especially if you are getting impatient or tired. Take a break for a few minutes and then come back or go pray with another camper.
6. **Encourage, Don't Discourage:** Please don't make a person feel that they are unable to receive or are resisting the Holy Ghost just because they are not openly showing something - we are called to encourage and love, not speak words that will bring rejection or discouragement. Other Staff Members will pray for them, or you can come back when you have finished ministering to several others.
7. **Forcing ministry:** If the Lord is not doing something, relax and remember that God is in control and you are called to do your best.
8. **GET IN THERE:** Don't stand back, Don't say I'm supervising, Don't say I'm keeping the rest in line, Get in there and help those campers receive from God!!!! Unless you specifically feel led NOT to ask them, ASK. Don't assume they know how to pray or receive. Ask and pray with them. Lead them in prayer so that they will have the opportunity to receive from God.

Counseling Children to Receive the Salvation

SALVATION is redemption from the power and consequence of sin by Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Biblical basis: Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, John 1:12.

1. Find out why the camper responded to the Altar invitation.
 - a. Don't just come lay your hand on the camper and pray.
 - b. Don't just come lay your hand on the camper and pray.
2. Help the child understand the need for Salvation: (Ask Questions)
 - a. What is Sin?
 - b. Memorize (or mark) Romans 3:23, 6:23
 - c. Admit that you were a sinner and had to receive salvation
 - d. What is God's Punishment for sin?
3. Help the child understand God has made a way for sins to be forgiven.
 - a. He sent Jesus to die for us. John 3:16, Romans 5:8
 - b. Memorize (or mark) 1 John 1:9
4. Read or Quote and explain a verse or verses that contain both God's condition and promise of salvation. I like John 1:9, but also Acts 16:31 and Romans 10:13. Ask questions like, "What do you have to do?", "What will God do", and "Do you want to accept Jesus as your Savior from sin right now?"
5. Encourage the camper to pray. Let them know that they can talk to God just like they talk to you. Encourage them to tell Him about their sin and that they believe He did for them. And, to ask Him to forgive them and save them from their sins.
6. Leave the camper with assurance of Salvation
 - a. When he/she finishes praying, don't tell them they are saved. The assurance must come from the Holy Ghost. You can ask, "What did Jesus just do for you?"
 - b. Use the Same verse(s) from earlier so that God can assure them. For example
 - i. 1John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - ii. Confirm what they did and what God promises to do
7. Encourage the child to thank God for what He has done for them.
8. Leave them with the assurance of Hebrews 13:5 where he says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Counseling Children to Receive the Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of God's grace that purifies, consecrates, or "sets apart" the believer to live a Christ-like, holy life. While sanctification continues on as the believer grows in grace and maturity, it is a definite initial experience. We teach it as the 2nd definite work of grace. Romans 6:6-18, II Tim. 2:20,21

1. Make sure the camper has been saved.
2. Help the camper understand the need for sanctification.

Romans 6:6,7- For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

I Thessalonians 4:4,7,11 - 4 that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 11 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you,

II Timothy 2:20,21

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

3. Honestly, you are not going to be able to teach/explain all about sanctification in the altar. Try to get across the principle that since he/she has been saved, Christ wants to use them and they need to be cleansed/purified and set apart for HIM. (2 Tim 2:20,21).
4. Encourage the camper to thank God for saving them.
5. Encourage them to ask Him to wash them and set them apart for Him. To replace the sinful desires with a desire to please Him. Please use terms they can relate to or terms used by the teacher/preacher when sanctification was shared. Remember the camper is seeking be closer to God.
6. Remind them of 1 Thess 4:3a. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification"
7. Help the camper to be assured of sanctification. "Did God want you to be sanctified?", "Did you ask Him to Sanctify you?", "What did God do for you?"
8. Other Helps - Possible ideas for illustrating Sanctification:
 - a. Tug of War – Romans 7:21-25,
 - b. There is a Throne in your life, Who is the ruler on the throne Sin, Self, Jesus
 - c. What kind of glass do you want to be: (dirty or clean, 2 Tim 2:21,21)

Counseling Children to Receive the Holy Ghost

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is a gift of God. It empowers us to do the works of Jesus Christ. Scriptural support for the Baptism of the Holy Ghost: Acts 2: 1-4, 16-18, 39, Joel 2:28-29, Acts 10:44-47

1. Make sure the camper has been saved and sanctified
 - a. Ask “Has Jesus taken away your sins?”
 - i. Use phrases they are familiar with
 - ii. If needed remind them the requirements and promises of salvation
 - b. Ask “Have you been set apart for God’s use, Sanctified?”
 - c. If the camper is not sure, counsel and pray with them for salvation and sanctification.
2. Make sure the camper has a basic understanding of the Holy Ghost.
 - a. What is the Baptism of the Holy Ghost?
 - b. Who is it for?
 - c. Why do we need the Holy Ghost?
3. Encourage the child to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
 - a. Ask God to give you the gift of the Holy Ghost
 - b. Believe that he is going to do it (Matthew 7:7-11)
4. Encourage the child to respond to the presence of Jesus by asking them to:
 - a. Close your eyes
 - b. Lift your face up toward heaven as if you are expecting to receive.
 - c. Begin praising Jesus for who He is and what He has done.
 - i. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. (Psalms 150:2 KJV)
 - ii. *“The Holy Ghost comes to us through Praise”* Kathy Creasy
 - d. Stop thinking about what to say. Trust Jesus to give you the words to say
 - e. Yield your lips to the Holy Ghost. Begin speaking as you feel the Spirit prompting you to speak. He will give you words to speak as you begin speaking.
5. As the camper is seeking for the gift of the Holy Ghost, enter into praise. Allow the Holy Ghost to speak through you – speak in tongues as the spirit gives the utterance.
6. Don’t allow the camper to become discouraged seeking.
7. When the camper has finished praying, ask “What has God done for you?” If he is unsure, read Acts 2:4 with the child. Ask “Did you speak in tongues?” or “Did you speak in a heavenly language?”. If he says yes, ask, “When the disciples spoke in tongues (or a heavenly language), what had happened to them? What has happened you you?”
8. Don’t get discouraged.