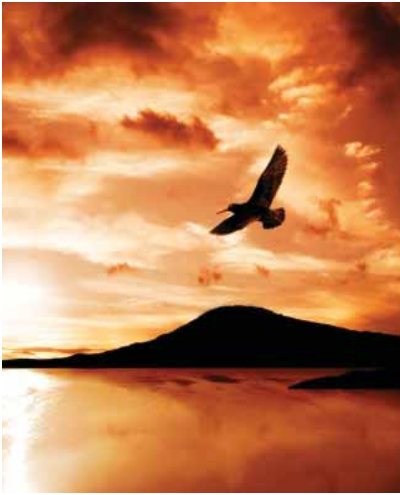


Be an Altar Dweller!

Rev. Les Bowling preached at Trinity's Night Revival Meeting about the secret to fulfilling our destinies – to first establish the altar of God in our lives.





In Genesis 12:2 (NKJV), the Lord told Abraham, *I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.*

National blessing, international blessing, family blessing, personal blessing... That word 'blessing', though it has many different tenses and meanings, one thing for certain is it means 'an instrument of divine favour'. In essence, this is to:

- I. **Be the answer to somebody's prayer:** people pray for favour and ask God to move, and all of a sudden you come into their lives; you bring the deliverance that somebody needs
- II. **Be a preventer of misfortune:** you move into a cursed situation, and all of a sudden, confusion and disorder start to shift; things start to get into alignment. You shall BE a blessing; you are the blessing that comes into that situation
- III. **Be the blessing that you become and impart,** that makes somebody else better off
- IV. **Be God's power to produce wellbeing in every area of life:** it is to have a productive life; everything in your environment works with and for you
- v. **Operate above one's created design, capacities, capabilities, abilities and gifts:** basically, the blessing will make you look better than what you really are. It will cause you to operate above your creative design.

The blessing is not something that just comes to you, but something you literally become.

In other words, the blessing is not something that just comes to you, but something you literally become. In Genesis 13, when Abraham and Lot's people grew so much, there was contention and they had to split up. Lot chose the well-watered plains of Jordan and Abraham just went off and

got the scraps. But God spoke to Abraham saying, *As far as you can see, East, West, North and South, and wherever your foot lands, it is yours.* Because **the blessing wasn't in the land – the blessing was on Abraham.**

Why Was Abraham Blessed?

There's one key element that stands out about Abraham that caused him to fulfill his destiny and the will of God. Without this aspect, we'll never be able to fulfill all the potential that we have, but with its existence, regardless of our shortcomings, a lack of wisdom or wrong decisions made, we will continue to progress forward into the will, plan and purpose of God. Without it, ministry is powerless and passionless. Without it, we can get intoxicated with success. Without it, we will hit situations and barriers that we'll just not be able to get past. You don't have to be noble or mighty or wise to necessarily possess it. What I'm referring to is the altar of the Lord.

Abraham knew the importance of the altar of the Lord. *After the flood, the water receded, and Noah came out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.* (Genesis 8:20)

What did Noah build? An altar. Notice the reaction from Heaven: *And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart: "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of his heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done."* (Genesis 8:21)

It's amazing to me the power that God's children have to move Him. It's not that we have to overcome a reluctance

in God to get Him to move – He already wants to do more than what we realise. There are certain things that touch the heart of God like nothing else. And one thing that we see consistently in both the Old Testament and New Testament is the importance of an altar.

Attributes of The Altar

An altar in the scripture was a raised place, a raised earthen place, or a rock; it was a place where they would offer sacrifices. It was also:

- A place where consecration, commitments and covenants were made
- A place where man met with God
- A safe place. (Don't be afraid of the altar; the altar is a safe place!)
- A place where you can encounter God
- A place where you can lay things down and pick things up
- A place where you can cast all your burdens and cares on Him because He cares for you
- A place of thanksgiving
- A place of new beginnings
- A place that moves God
- A place where we give our life to the Lord, or where we re-give our life to God.

I'm not referring so much about a physical thing, but to the altar as **a place of consecration** – where we touch God and He touches us.

What was significant about Abraham's life was that **whenever he arrived at a new place, he would build an altar**, and there call upon the Name of the Lord. In Genesis 12:7-8, after the Lord appeared to Abraham and said, *to your descendants I will give this land, Abraham built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.* And this is consistent. There are many places that Abraham, where he went, built an altar to the Lord.

There were only two places where he newly went, that he did not first build an altar. And **in both of those places where he neglected to build an altar to the Lord, he got off track.** Notice what happened:

Now there was a famine in the land. And Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there...he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know you are a woman of beautiful countenance. Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you. (Genesis 12:10-13)

Whenever the altar leaves our life, self and flesh takes first place.

how he got back on track: *he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel...to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the Lord.* (Genesis 13:3-4)

He got back on track by returning to the place that

had always kept him on track with God, and that was the altar. And there he called upon the Name of the Lord. Lot took the best places; Abraham just took what was left. But the Lord said to Abraham, *"Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give to you."* Then Abraham...*built an altar to the Lord.* (Genesis 13:17-18)

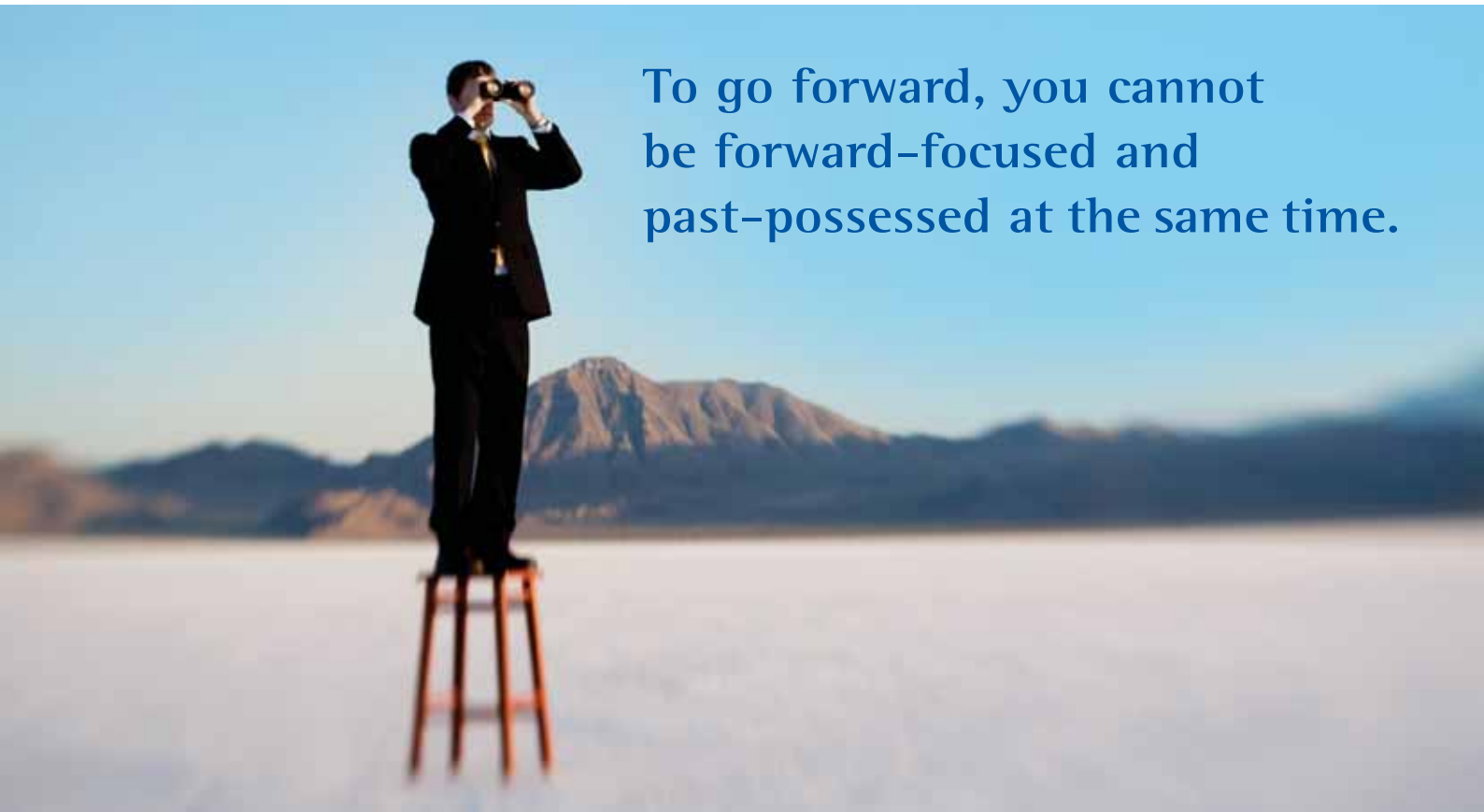
Genesis 20 is another place he got off track when Abraham lied to Abimelech, king of Gerar, that Sarah was his sister. But *then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God.* (Genesis 21:33)

So whenever a situation would arise, or whenever he would fail, the way he would redeem himself was to build an altar there. I want to encourage you, don't ever fear the altar, the place where you meet God – the altar in a church. It is designed for you to meet with God. You can bring anything to God and put it on the altar. You can bring anything to God and leave it there and let God deal with it.

There are three things we need to put on the altar:



The purpose of the altar is so your past can be your past. Your past is to be passed. Your past is not to be the



To go forward, you cannot be forward-focused and past-possessed at the same time.

prophecy of your future. To go forward, you cannot be forward-focused and past-possessed at the same time. God has made a provision at the altar where we can come and leave our past.

It says in Psalms 118:27, *Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar*. The brazing altar had horns. There was a horn at each corner so when they put a sacrifice on the altar, they would tie it on. Because the sacrifice doesn't feel good, it would have the tendency to want to jump up off the altar. So sometimes what you have to do with your past is not just casually lay it at the altar;

you have to put it on the altar, ask angels to help you tie it to the altar, put bricks on the sacrifice, shoot it with a gun, whatever – leave it on the altar. Because **if we don't fully lay it on the altar, our past will visit us in our future.**

In Christ, all things are old and passed away, and all things become new. Jesus on the cross is our altar, and He was tied to it. He was nailed at His feet, He was nailed in both hands, so that your past and my past could be imputed to Him, and there we can leave it and when a death blow was delivered to Christ, a death blow was



delivered to our past. When somebody in those times would bring something to the altar, they knew that it was not coming back. Whatever they put on the altar was going to be consumed.



Our present life includes our present situations, our present season, our cares, our worries, our situations and our circumstances. I have found that **God will not create a future or a ministry or a life or a world for us in which we do not need Him.** One thing is for certain: even if you have a mind like Einstein, or wisdom like Solomon, or revelation like the Corinthian church, you will face situations where you will not have a clue how to handle.

I'm a connoisseur of books, which is why I like the library and bookstores. But there are certain things that the bookstore will have no subject on, nor can we text, email,

God wants us to come to Him and surrender all, cast all our cares upon Him because He cares for us, and lay it on the altar.

or surf the internet and get enough information out of some situations. In those times, God wants us to come to Him and surrender all, cast all our cares upon Him because He cares for us, and lay it on the altar. The altar is where have to come broken, bleeding, frustrated, struggling, bow our knees to a sovereign God and empty our hearts of cares and frustrations.

A life without an altar is where you will pick up baggage, collect and compound frustration, and you will be like a Velcro person: everything that comes will stick to you. The computer is wonderful and efficient but it can neither heal nor deliver you. Let's not let our computers be our altar, but let's have an altar where we can call upon an omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God who has all power, all might, all wisdom and all understanding. Give it to God at the altar, because at the altar there is death, but on the other side of the death there is resurrection.



3) Our Future

Proverbs 16:9 says *A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.* It's good to have a plan because it gets you going but, living in uncertain times, it's important that we go to a certain God because in the storm there's a safe place. There is a shelter. And that shelter is the altar of God. And there we say, *Lord, I'm not sure what the future holds, but I just know this: You hold the future.* We just have to put our future on the altar, and there surrender all – our ambitions, our future, our visions.

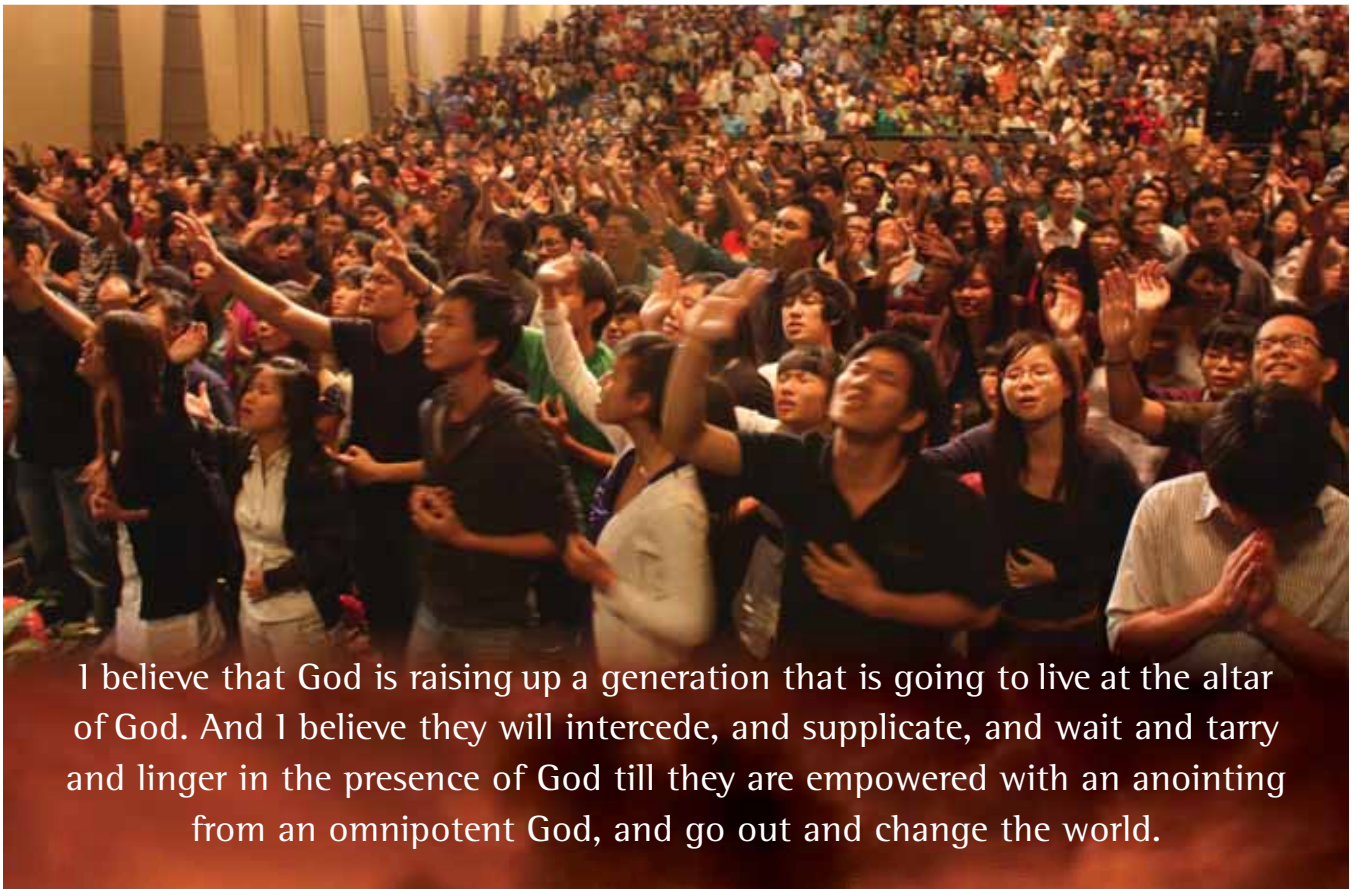
Sometimes, **we need to put our self on the altar. We must yield and surrender ourselves.** We need to go to the altar again, and again, and again. Twenty years ago I

was doing a youth revival and kids were hitting the altar. There was this young lady who was incredibly broken and as she was approaching, the leader said, "Well here she comes again." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "In every revival, every special meeting, she has to get right again." I said, "Well isn't that what the altar is for?" I said, "**If she's got to come ten thousand times, let her come.** If she's got to ride this altar all the way to heaven, let her ride it!"

We need to leave our past, lay down our present, put our future on the altar and say, *God, I give it all to you. Lord I put my children on the altar. I put my spouse on the altar. I put my ministry on the altar. I put everything on the altar. Now God do with it what You will, but I surrender it to You. You can handle it God, but I can't.*

Where God takes and adds into your ministry, mission, destiny and purpose, it's going to be vitally important that the altar is strong in your lives. If you don't have an altar built, success will cave you in. The altar enables us to manage success and understand its purpose and why God brought it, and it will all be to the glory of God. You don't have to sacrifice success to walk with God, you just need to keep the altar in the middle of it and give it to God.

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I believe that God is raising up a generation that is going to live at the altar of God. And I believe they will intercede, and supplicate, and wait and tarry and linger in the presence of God till they are empowered with an anointing from an omnipotent God, and go out and change the world.

Prophetic Word for Trinity Christian Centre

Laying Our Youths on the Altar

I'm not going to ask you to come to the altar, because the altar's full. We've laid a generation on the altar right here. I believe it's prophetic. I believe that God is raising up a generation that is going to live at the altar of God. And I believe there they will intercede, and supplicate, and wait and tarry and linger in the presence of God till they are empowered with an anointing from an omnipotent God, and go out and change the world. So you are a generation of the altar, you are altar dwellers! You don't dwell in the courts of the wicked, you dwell in the altar! Come on, live in the altar! Get acquainted with the altar! Stay in the altar! The Bible says in Leviticus 6:13, *A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out. A people that live at the altar are people that are a flame of fire.*

Trinity, the Altar Church

Now, come on – just start to call upon God. The altar’s right where you are. Any place where you meet with God is holy; it becomes holy ground; it becomes powerful ground; it becomes the ground of the miraculous; it becomes the ground of the turning point. Come on, this nation needs you to be in the altar. Come on, you need to live in the altar. **Let’s Trinity be an altar church!** Let it be a place that God builds in this nation, that people will say, *I don’t know what it is about this place, I don’t even like some of the people, but one thing is for certain – God is there, and we go there to meet God and to love the Lord.*

There are a lot of people in nations that need all of you to overcome – individually and corporately. I just feel this in my spirit that **there are people in nations praying that Trinity will be the answer to their prayers.** There will be hundreds of thousands of people that would pass from death to life because you are people of the altar and have obeyed God to do His Will. I feel that strong in my spirit. I feel that strong in my spirit. This ministry is going to be the answer to their cry.

When God sends you, the blessing will have shown up. And all of a sudden, poverty would have to give way to prosperity. An empty life would have to give way to a full life. A defeated life would have to give way to a miraculous life. **By the blessings of Trinity, the city shall be exalted!**

Your Heart, His Altar

My life was forever changed through a man by the name of Tom Davis. He was not an educated man. He was sick and had a lot of physical problems but there was a fire

that burnt on the inside of him that just attracted me to him. He had no special wisdom, but you could tell this man knew God. One day, I asked him, “What’s the secret to have this kind of passion that you’ve got?” He told me a time and said, “Meet me at my trailer and I will show you.” I met him over there, and he said, “Come on back.” **We went into a room, and he just pulled out a chair, and said, “This is the secret of a passionate Christian life.” And there, he began to call on God. A presence came into the room that was unbelievable.** I felt the activity of angels. I had never felt anything like that before. He had an altar, where he called upon the name of the Lord and it forever impacted my life, and changed me forever.

Be a people of the altar, with the fragrance and the aroma of God, it’s just emanating from your life, and as people see you, they see a trophy of God’s grace. They see a life that was but is now made new. And **they’ll ask you “What is the reason for your transformation?” “I’m an altar dweller. I encounter God.”**

Rev. Les Bowling is the Founder and President of Eagle Rock Ministries in Ohio, USA. For over twenty years, he has brought the life of God to the hearts of hurting people. He is known across America for his teaching and impartation of powerful life principles.

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