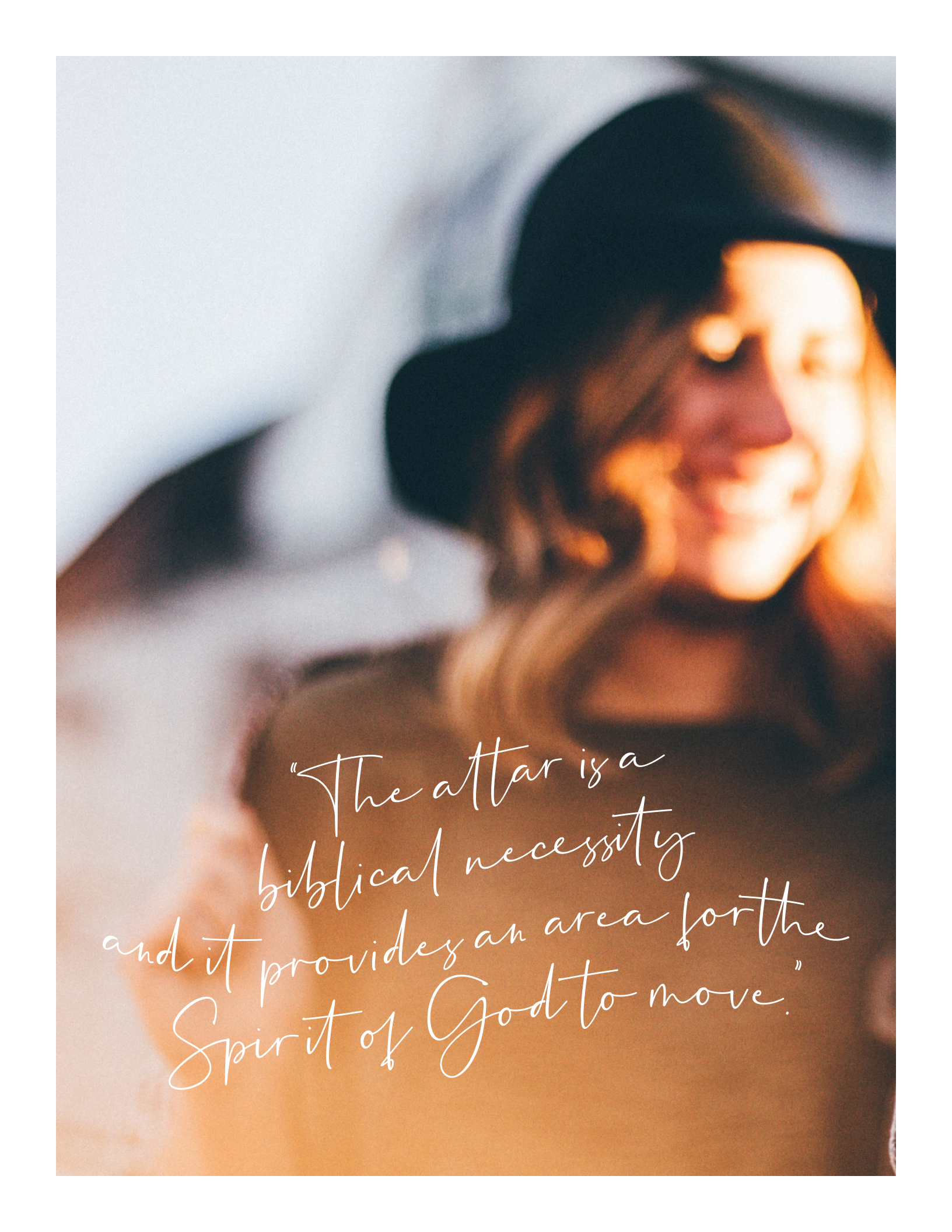




STAYING FREE

How to Keep Your Victory



"The altar is a
biblical necessity
and it provides an area for the
Spirit of God to move."

INTRODUCTION

While visiting a church not too long ago, the Lord allowed me to see in the spirit the freedom taking place at the altar. You see, the Lord's Spirit was rushing through the altar area like a flood, an ocean of water. As the people stood in the spiritual water and received prayer, the enemy wasn't able to penetrate the anointing. It looked like a spiritual force field. After some time, I watched a young lady walk away from the altar after prayer. I asked the Lord "what happens when people walk out of the river? Does the freedom continue to freely flow as it did at the altar?" His reply seemed simple yet so profound. The Lord told me that "yes she is free now; however, when she returns home and is void of prayer and time in the word, when the enemy comes back, she will have no strength, power or anointing to resist him.

And as I reflect now, His answer seemed to have two parts; the first being, the significance of the altar. A specified place of sacrifice (clear throughout the scripture) and consecration to the Lord, a symbol of our surrender of His needed intervention. The altar isn't just the edge of the stage; it is a biblical necessity and it provides an area for the Spirit of God to move. Secondly, the freedom that people experience at the altar, in a prayer service or through a fire tunnel is totally legit. However, people often seem to "lose" this freedom because they do not walk daily with the Lord, filling themselves up with Him, His Word, and surrounding themselves with like-minded believers.

*Sometimes as believers we can focus too much on the number of people responding to an altar call and we forget that the altar is truly where the work **BEGINS**, not where it ends. So that is my heart behind this teaching. To break down the steps of daily faith so that you can see God truly transform your life not only at the needed altar, but in the days, weeks and years to come.*

xo,

Crystal Komala

Author, Blogger & Women's Ministry Leader

Back to the Basics



| *the seed* | *your ground* | *communication* | *stride* | *faith*

The Seed

The Word of God, which is the Holy Scripture, is more than just words on a page. In fact, I have heard it said that “The Bible is the only book written where the author is present with the reader every time the book is read”.

The Bible, Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth, lays the perfect ground for its readers to build a solid foundation. While some may think the Old Testament is no longer important, it was written for our example (see 1 Cor. 10:11). From the first fall of man in the garden, to God’s grace in the physical ark, a Kinsman Redeemer, the fire by night and cloud by day; I could go on for years about the significance of the Old Testament in understanding God’s heart and character, as His Word says He never changes. I hope to encourage you to understand that while there were literal physical enemies against God’s people in the Old Testament, we now, in this present, age fight spiritual battles. However, just like the Lord was the defender for the warriors of faith in Genesis through Malachi, He is our spiritual victor in this present day.

While the Old Testament offers lesson upon lesson, the New Testament reveals God in the flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior. As you come to know Him through scripture, you cannot help but fall in love with His heart. The Word of God is essential to our life as Christians. Joyce Meyer says it best when she reminds us that just like “sitting in the garage doesn’t make you a car, sitting in the church pew doesn’t make you a Christian.”

The Word of God is compared to a seed multiple times in scripture. Just as a seed cannot just be thrown carelessly into the wind never to be thought about again; producing a prosperous Word-life

requires diligence. The Bible instructs us to plant the seed of His Word into good ground (we will cover that part next). Just as a farmer plants seed intentionally, waters it and waits expectantly on the seed to produce its fruit, this is what will happen when we plant God’s Word into our hearts. As we read the Bible, we begin to understand the character of God and His heart. We watch Him prove His faithfulness time and time again. These words are living seeds that will spring forth hope, faith, trust, honor and expectancy for our God. The Bible tells us that we must renew our mind daily (see Romans 12:2), then it goes on to tell us how, by the washing of the water of the Word (see Eph. 5:26). It takes the intentional reading of God’s Word to uproot the deposits of this fleshly body and sinful world and replace it with the truth of God’s Word. This then will bring forth life, not death and blessings, not cursing, etc.

Not convinced yet? Read over the temptation of Christ in the Gospels. When Satan came to tempt Christ during his time of fasting how did Christ combat the enemy? It was with the spoken Word (from the Old Testament). There’s a triple whammy. Did you catch it? Not only did Christ defeat the enemy by speaking (not thinking) God’s Word, He used the Old Testament scripture. This should be enough proof for anyone that if Jesus needed to speak scripture to defeat the enemy, we do too. And we shouldn’t count out the Old Testament teachings.

Your Ground

In the Bible, Jesus speaks of the ground of a believer and compares it to the way they receive Biblical teachings and the Word of God (see Luke 8).

There are three categories. And I think it is important to note that while you may have fertile soil today, tomorrow when you hear a word from the Lord, your ground may have changed. We must take care to be sure our ground is ready for planting and harvesting all year round.

Luke 8 tells us that sometimes the Word of God falls on soil that isn't prepared for planting and it is scattered away or eaten by a bird. Other times the ground is like a rock, though the Word can be planted, it has no root system and is not prosperous. Sometimes the ground is covered in thorns (think lies from the enemy) and the life is choked out of the seed from the beginning. However, the final description of ground moved Jesus to tears. He stated that others have good ground, ready for a root system to receive the water of the Holy Spirit and their seed brings forth fruit a hundredfold! Be aware of your heart and your mind as you enter into God's house, into your prayer closet or even out on your day-to-day tasks. Have you spent time before the Lord asking Him to prune out the weeds and thorns that would try to steal your joy and your promises? Have you asked the Holy Spirit to dwell in you and bring forth life?

Communication

I could go on for days about the importance of correct communication. I believe what the Lord is trying to show us here is two-fold; blessing-bearing communication and the community that breeds your communication.

Blessing-bearing communication is exactly what it sounds like. And the opposite of it would be curse-bearing communication. Now, that one stings a little harder, doesn't it? The Word of God tells us

that our words either bring forth blessing or cursing (see Eph. 4:29, Proverbs 18:21, James 3:3-6). So why is it that we constantly speak things aloud like "I'm sick" or "I'm depressed"? If our words have power and we have the option to speak or not speak; if we choose to speak - let's put blessings out into the airwaves, not words that the enemy can use against us. Instead, try saying aloud "I have a peaceful and sound mind in Jesus name, and I will not give space to depressive spirits. I am covered by the blood of Jesus and through Him I have the victory." I dare say that if you speak the name of Jesus long enough and loud enough, the enemy is going to get real sick of being reminded that He (Jesus) is the one who whooped His butt in front of all his demon friends (see Col. 2:15).

What about your community? Girl - I have learned first hand that you can love some folks and pray for them, without letting them into your circle of influence. Ask God who you should surround yourself with, and watch and see if He doesn't begin to prune your garden.

Stride

Now that we have talked about the Word, our ground and our communication lets talk about our daily walk, or stride. I have heard from several people and I have now adopted it as a life rule, that you need the Holy Ghost to walk to the mailbox, let alone debating about if you need it to make it to Heaven. Maybe in the "old days" it would be possible to skate by without His leading but in today's society I think it is clear that we need the Holy Ghost to lead us everywhere. We need his leading in our conversations, friendships, career paths, prayers, diet; the list goes on and on!

I like to think of the Holy Ghost as God's secret agent. And if you had the ability to have God's counsel in every area of your life, not to mention his protection, why wouldn't you?

Your daily stride with God should be submissive to His Spirit. The Holy Ghost is a gentleman and He doesn't force himself on anyone who doesn't seek His companionship, direction and comfort. Don't forget sweet friend, the Holy Ghost is a part of the Trinity, which means He IS God (just as Jesus was God in the flesh, the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of God). When we reject His moving, we are essentially denying the Father. Open your heart to the leading of the Holy Spirit, He will never lead you astray.

Faith

Faith, it is like the gasoline that powers our heavenly vehicle here on Earth. Essentially, we can go nowhere without it. My favorite definition of Faith comes from Hebrews 11:1 in the Amplified Bible and it reads as follows;

"Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, [a] the title deed) of the things [we] hope for; being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]."

Did you catch that? Faith is ALL about what we cannot see. The other day my daughter asked me how she can be sure Jesus is real if she hasn't seen Him. While I smiled and told her I had seen him, I asked her if she had ever seen the wind? She replied no, and I went on to ask her if she has seen the effects of the wind? Can she see it blow through the trees or feel it on her face? Of course she agreed that yes, she has felt the wind. I told her that the peace she feels in our

home, the comfort that she feels at night, and the joy she feels in church - those are the effects of Jesus.

Faith is necessary to receive salvation, as we must believe that Jesus Christ was the product of a virgin birth, died for our sins and rose on the third day. If we had faith enough to believe that, then what is stopping us from having the faith to believe the promises that God has for us laid out in His Word? Remember, love - He never lies and He never changes.

SUPPLEMENTAL VIDEO TEACHING

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