

The Altar Before the Assignment

Ministerial Licensing Course Part 4: Aptitude by Character, Not Head Knowledge

The Foundation of Ministry

Ministry is not merely about having answers. Ministry is about becoming an answer.

Ministry is Service

- Ministry is not first a title, a platform, a microphone, or a public assignment. Ministry begins with service.
- The minister is first known by what they can submit to, what they can survive, what they can steward, and what they can surrender.
- Assignment does not prove character. Assignment reveals character.
- The test is not designed to see how much you know, but to reveal what has been formed in you.



Words of Wisdom



Before there was a Moses sent to Pharaoh,
there was a Moses stripped in the
wilderness. Before there was an Isaiah
saying, "Here am I; send me," there was an
Isaiah crying, "Woe is me."



— The Process of Preparation

The Altar Defined

A Place of Exchange

The altar is where flesh loses its argument, and obedience becomes visible. It is where something is given to God and where something dies before something is released into the world.

A Place of Surrender

The altar is where worship costs something. Here, the minister learns that God is not impressed by religious activity that has not first been fully offered and consecrated.

The Living Sacrifice

12:1

ROMANS

Present Your Bodies

Not just your voice, your gift, or your availability when it is convenient.
Your whole person becomes the offering.

Your attitude, ambition, insecurity, offense, and need to be seen are
placed entirely on the altar before the Lord.

Used vs. Yielded

- ✗ **God used Pharaoh**, but Pharaoh was not yielded.
- ✗ **God used Cyrus**, but Cyrus was not Israel.
- ✗ **God used Balaam**, but Balaam's heart was still corrupt.
- ✓ **God can use anything.** But the deeper question is: Can God trust you when obedience costs more than visibility pays?

Posture Over Presentation

Inspection of the Offerer

Cain brought an offering, but Abel brought honor. God inspects not only the presentation, but the posture.

Correction is one of the greatest character tests of a minister. Can you be corrected without collapsing? Can you be adjusted without becoming offended?



The Seven Altars

The altar is not a one-time place. It is a daily lifestyle.

Altars of Preparation I



Prayer

A minister must have a private prayer life deeper than their public function. Prayer keeps the minister dependent, tender, and clean.



Obedience

Obedience is where love becomes measurable. It is proven not when the instruction is easy, but when it crosses your preference.



Submission

Submission is not agreement; it is order. True submission is revealed when your will has to bow while your opinion still has volume.

Altars of Preparation II



Correction

Correction is not punishment; it is protection. A person who cannot be corrected cannot be developed or trusted with greater weight.



Consistency

Consistency is character over time. It reveals whether your service is born of deep conviction or merely temporary emotion.



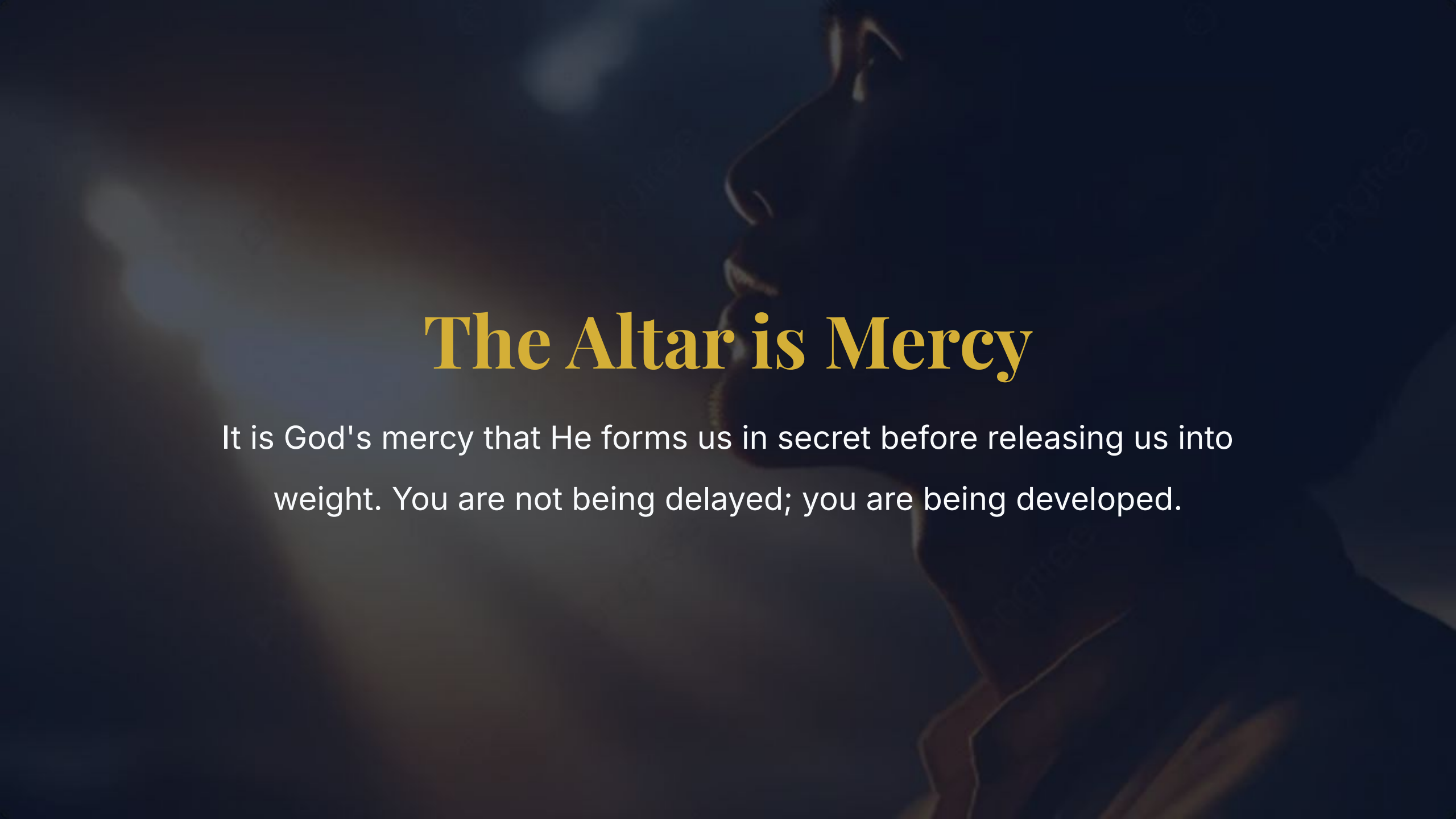
Humility

Thinking truthfully about yourself before God. It says, "I am gifted, but I am not the source. I am anointed, but not above accountability."

The Altar of Love

- Without love, ministry becomes machinery. Gifts can operate where love is absent, which is a sobering truth.
- Love will make you patient, careful, and truthful without being cruel to others.
- Love makes you correct without enjoying someone's shame.
- Love makes you serve when it is inconvenient and protect what God has entrusted to you.





The Altar is Mercy

It is God's mercy that He forms us in secret before releasing us into weight. You are not being delayed; you are being developed.