

Why an Altar? Pastor Bobby

Last Sunday, I began teaching on building prayer altars. In Samuel 24, David decided to count his fighting men. The parallel passage in I Chronicles 21:1 says that Satan incited him to do it. When you read the preceding chapters leading up to I Chronicles 21 you will find that David enjoyed huge successes. He defeated many kings and nations around him, even showed kindness to an enemy. Perhaps Satan realized, "I can't stop this guy, so maybe I can feed his success into pride, momentary fear, or stop trusting his God fully."

After David realized his wrong and repented of his sin, God said, "Build me an altar" (II Samuel 24:18). He was instructed by God to specifically build it on the threshing floor owned by Araunah the Jebusite. We discovered that this site became the very place of the first temple built by Solomon, and also was the place Abraham went to sacrifice his son (II Chronicles 3:1). So the building of the temple started with an altar!

David obviously repented before the Lord (II Samuel 24:10), yet the consequences continued until David built an altar (II Samuel 24:25). Why did the altar need to be built to stay the plague? While scripture does not specifically tell us, I would conjecture that David's repentance was sorrow, but not a transformation of his heart. 2 Corinthians 7:10 – *"For God can use sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek salvation. We will never regret that kind of sorrow. But sorrow without repentance is the kind that results in death."* God had in mind a transformed heart to be the foundation of his temple! Not a sorry heart, but a heart that totally understood the mercy of God.

God's first act of mercy was to allow David to see the plague angel that was headed to his door, but God showed mercy and stopped the plague from consuming his household (II Samuel 24:17). God's mercy must first be seen by us, as to where we are headed if God does not step in! Many times the course of our lives are so filled and fast we don't even stop to process the plague of evil sweeping around our land and ponder a moment where this will end up? When we see destruction around us or coming upon us, if we don't stop and pray, then it will continue.

Building an altar is a result of us seeing the plague and then creating a place where God can come and abide to sweep away the current and coming judgment. God does not delight in judging us (II Sam 24:16). **He weeps over having to judge us.** He delights in stepping in and stopping evil, because we have set up an altar of worship and prayer. John Mulinde says it this way, *"It is not enough to get God to hear us only to see some improvements in society. We must create an atmosphere of Him to come and abide with us so that the real work of restoration and redemption can be seen in our land"* (pg. 23 – [Prayer Alters](#)). Sunday, we'll look at how the pioneers of faith built altars and what happened as a result! I want to encourage each of you to come to Greenway tonight (Wed) at 7:00pm to hear Dave Kubal of Intercessors for America.

He will have a timely message for us.

PRAYER NEEDS

PERSONAL REQUESTS

Cathy H: My son just passed away July 18th 2014. I do need prayer. I keep the Faith of the Lord and it will keep me strong, hear my prayers, and save me from all despair. Amen.

Sherry S: Requests prayer for God's provision of a part-time job.

David B: We thank the Lord for His guidance and provision. We pray for wisdom and discernment, and that our children Joshua (24) Angela (21) and Mary(19) be sold out for Christ!

Jennifer T: Prayers for safety as Brownie(donkey) and Bonnie(goat) see the vet and ferrier on Thursday.

John S: Thanking God for providing abundant and complete provision and redeeming the time! Please pray for God's guidance in medical decisions (we have several appointments this week).

Sam S. & Amanda: Looking for a place to live. Amanda, health issues and job search.

Todd J: His father, Arlin, is still hospitalized. Doctors still not certain of his diagnosis. Pray for clarity and for family in this time of uncertainty.

PRAISES

John N: Praise God we received donations needed to file non-profit status for our animal sanctuary.

CHURCH PRAYER PRIORITIES

1. Pray for those attending the DOVE Leadership School this weekend and for Pastor Bobby who will be one of the instructors. Pray for the Holy Spirit to impart fresh revelation and insight into hearts and minds. Pray for the instructors to have eyes to see and ears to hear what the Spirit is saying in this hour.
2. Pray for Pastors and Leaders in this community to be drawn by the Holy Spirit to deeper fellowship with one another. Pray for a spiritual hunger to increase for Church unity in this community and for barriers to be broken. Pray for a common and united vision that will draw them together for prayer. Pray for Pastor Bobby as he contacts pastors to invite them to weekly prayer.
3. Pray for the teachers and leaders in our Children's Ministries. Pray for fresh vision for the teachers and a renewed sense of call and destiny in their leadership. Pray for strong relationships and for the children to receive godly instruction, spiritual mentoring and strong foundations to build on. Pray for the teachers and leaders who give of their time and talents in this ministry. Pray that God would pour out on them an extra grace and favor as they sow these seeds into the future generation.

4. Pray that every member in our congregation would desire a stronger relationship with the Lord on a daily basis. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw each of us closer to Himself through prayer, meditation, worship and sharing our faith with others.

5. Pray for a renewed vision for transforming revival, not only in our congregation, but our community. Pray for the DISCOVERY WEEKEND coming up in several weeks at Greenway. Pray that believers would be drawn to this time of teaching and impartation, learning about how to access God's manifest presence and attract heaven to our lives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carrie Tomlinson, our new Office Manager, is now editing our weekly Newsletter. Please email her with any news, updates or prayer requests at this church email: ccc.officedesk@gmail.com

Wanda can be reached at her new email ccc.wandaalger@gmail.com

Transforming Revival 7:00pm TONIGHT: Come and hear Dave Kubal, President of Intercessors for America, speak at Greenway Spirit and Word Fellowship in Stephens City.

Might Men's: Join us for food and fellowship Saturday, September 27th 7:30-9:00am. Mike Hoffman will be speaking.

Rachel Alger, Keith & Datty Will Leaving for Haiti October 1:

If you would like to contribute financial support to Rachel for her 3-month assignment, or to the Will's for their long-term needs, indicate on your offering envelope and give on Sunday.

Update on Rachel's Mission Trip to Haiti

Rachel just accepted a temporary job with Life Connection Missions as their Computer Center Coordinator. Life Connection asked if Rachel could fill this role temporarily while she serves down in Haiti.

This will be a full time job for Rachel as she works with the school in Haiti overseeing the college students who are taking online courses. She will work with the Administrator of Education and be the assistant in scheduling, and being a mediator with students. She will use her administrative gifts as well as her pastoral heart in building relationships and serving with her various talents. She will also be using her photography skills to help make ID badges as well as get updated pictures of all the staff in every ministry such as the school, students, medical clinic and other side ministries that Life Connection is a part of.

Rachel has received \$1,100 towards her need of \$1,500 dollars. If you feel called to give towards this \$400 deficit she will still be receiving financial gifts for the next two weeks.

There will be no Thursday Night Prayer Watches this month.

Interested in taking care of fish? We are in need of someone to take care of the church's fish tank on a monthly basis. If interested, please contact the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Journey to Transformation: DISCOVERY WEEKEND - October 3, 4 Greenway Spirit & Word Fellowship in Stephens City

Are you praying for a spiritual awakening in your life? Your family? Your job? What does it take to attract heaven's attention and God's manifest presence in a tangible way that totally transforms us long-term? Come to this two-day seminar where you will hear stories from other communities around the world who have experienced this and been drastically changed. Learn how we can nurture a lifestyle of "presence-based" ministry here in Winchester and prepare the way for God to come in a powerful way.

Register online at www.JTTUSA.org (Click on "Discovery Weekend: Winchester").

Sanctuary Soaking ---- Saturday 7:00pm