

**There is Hope Radio**  
**The Power of an Altar Call**  
**PreacherRichD**

Welcome to *There is Hope Radio*, our radio host is the Let's Get Real PreacherRichD of Creating Futures.

There is Hope Radio. Your radio host is the Let's Get Real PreacherRichD of Creating Futures. This podcast is about the Power of an Altar Call.

Many will say there's no need for altar calls at church. That God can do a spiritual work in someone's life whether they go to an altar at church or not. And I would say that I absolutely agree that they are correct.

God can work and does work anywhere, anytime, in any way he wants to work. He is God. But there is power in going to the altar in prayer.

In this podcast I'm going to share an audio clip from an interview with a friend of mine named Bobby and an altar call transformed Bobby's life. I can personally testify of the transformation that took place. To give you background, Bobby had made the decision to live at one of the faith based sober houses that I oversaw as the executive director.

Bobby was desperate to see change take place in his life while at the same time he was antagonistic to the things of God. In fact there was a part of him to try and prove that I was a fake and that faith in Christ meant nothing in regard to addiction recovery. But he accepted that part of the requirements to live in our sober homes was to attend church services at the church I pastored.

Bobby: This is about almost 10 years ago to the day just here in the next couple months. I had a really really great encounter. I had an altar call and Rich asked if anybody wanted to come up to the altar and be forgiven.

Bobby: And I just didn't know that was a thing. I didn't even know that I needed to be or I didn't even know that I was carrying such a heavy weight. And so I did.

Bobby: Not having no idea what was in store I just didn't even think it would work. But you know why not? You had no idea going. Just to clarify this.

PreacherRichD: You didn't have a church background. You have the idea of going to an altar. What does that really mean? And then the altar and then God can do something or whatever.

PreacherRichD: You literally had no idea what was going to take place. Yeah I just I had no clue. I mean literally no clue.

Bobby: I didn't even I barely even knew what I only knew what an altar call was because I'd seen it maybe once or twice in that same church for the weeks past. And I just remember thinking I'm way too embarrassed to do that so I'm not going to do that. So I did it and just because I don't know why not.

Bobby: I just was I just I had just been beaten up so bad where I just thought anything must be better than the way that I'm going. And so I tried it and I just I mean as soon as they started praying they Rich touched me and Carmi touched me and I just started crying like a baby. Yeah and that was probably the most you know that was a the first major experience I had ever had.

Bobby: At least where I felt something and I mean I had miracles happen before but I you know I didn't acknowledge that it could have been God. But so that was the first first experience I had with the power of God. And right then and there there was a huge burden lifted and my life felt easier and I just really it really allowed me to open up and kind of delve into this.

Bobby: That was my first experience there and since then I've had a ton.

PreacherRichD: Bobby's life turned 180 degrees around after that altar experience. He ultimately received Jesus as his Lord and Savior and the chains of sin started falling from his life.

So could God worked on his heart without being at the altar? Absolutely. I would say that God was working on his heart at every church service at every in-house Bible study. But I will also say that the demonic in his mind was also working on his heart whenever the Word of God was being shared.

Praise God Bobby cooperated with the Holy Spirit and responded to the altar call. How many people were at a church service God touching their heart to go to the altar and they let pride take control and they did not go to the altar. They leave the church saying when I get home I will go before the Lord and we all know 99% of the time it never happens.

So nothing changes in them and then some will say I see no benefit in going to church. I am still bound in sin. I will say it out loud.

I will shout it out loud. You are still bound because refuse to meet God at the altar and again God can meet you anywhere but when he is calling and tugging on your heart in a church service to go the altar and you refuse you are allowing the enemy to deceive you to trick you and you find yourself still bound up. With this look at some factors regarding what can be taking place in the pew versus what takes place at an altar.

Before I do that I want to say clearly that there are multitudes of people getting born again recommitting their lives to Lord getting healed and delivered wherever the Holy Spirit may be working in their life. God does not need a church. God does not need an altar to do his work but Almighty God does use the altar at the church.

I strongly believe when there is an altar call individuals respond if the Holy Spirit is tugging on their heart to do so. Here are the reasons why. A. In the pew there are distractions all around you.

At the altar there's less distractions. B. At the pew you're thinking about yourself and others. At the altar you're focused on God.

C. At the pew there will be thoughts that come in your mind saying you don't need to go to the altar. Just pray. Just confess.

Repent when you get home. Whereas the altar you're actually doing the praying and confessing and repenting. D. At the pew the demonic has seen your hesitation to go to the altar giving you all kinds of reasons to not go to the altar.

When you go to the altar the demonic sees you're serious to obtain help from God. E. At the pew you're praying by yourself. At the altar others can be praying for you.

F. At the pew you're worried about what people may think. At the altar you're concerned about being right with God. So as you can see there are a variety of reasons why it is wise to respond to an altar call.

I will say that in many churches across America there's so much quenching and grieving of the Holy Spirit. So much religion more than faith at times. That it can be that little takes place in the altar because the Holy Spirit is not welcomed in the church service.

They may say he is but he better not manifest himself through signs wonders. He better stay with the denominational boxes that he's been put in. But that is a totally different topic for another broadcast.

The other extreme is there are churches that is all about emotion, showmanship, and manipulation. That also could be another podcast. I close this podcast with a challenge to for all who are listening in myself.

Next time you're at church and the Holy Spirit tugs in your heart to go to the altar be obedient and see what God does. I can promise you he will honor your actions to obey his tug and your actions to get closer to him. If nothing whatsoever happens at the altar, God Almighty will still honor your faithfulness and fruit will come from your obedience.

I want to end this broadcast by praying but I feel led to share my own personal story that just took place recently. As I've been going through some struggles, some troubles, some challenges with some issues with an organization, some people, and it's just been tearing my heart apart and just a struggle with it and looking at my own life to see where I may be part of the cause of what's going on and what needs to be changing in my life. I remember just recently an altar call that says if you haven't been weeping for a while before the Lord, if you've been having a struggle going to the Lord, or if you're really going to something and need God to really work, come to the altar.

And so that was tugging on my heart and I ran to that altar, got on my knees and started praying and then the pastor knelt down and started praying for me and the words that were spoken to me were right on. Those words gave me encouragement, those words gave me comfort, those words challenged me to be faithful to who God's called me to be, not to be what others want me to be, but to be who God's called me to be. And again, it was empowering.

That would not have happened if I would have just stayed in the pew and just said, Lord touch me right now. And so I just believe in the power of going to the altar. Well, let's pray.

Heavenly Father, I don't know who's listening to this podcast. They may not even believe in church, they don't believe in God. There'd be others, Lord God, who don't believe in and they go to church where there is no such thing as going to the altar.

Lord, there may be others who have gone to the altar many times and haven't seen God work. I don't know who's listening or what their experience has been. But Father God, I believe in the power of the altar.

I believe you do work at the altar just as much as you work out on the streets when we minister on the streets. And I just would pray, Father God, that whoever is listening, wherever they're at, they don't have to now just run over to the church, they get to the altar. Right where they're at, they can make their living room their altar.

That Lord God, that altar to go before you, to humbly go before you and to cry out to you, to go to you with confession and go to you with repentance, to go to you calling out to you for strength, to go to you saying, Lord, I need to sense your presence. Whatever it may be, Lord, that can be done anyplace. It does not have to be done at the church.

I just pray, Father God, that individuals listening will just cry out to you and say, Lord, I need your help. I need your guidance. I need your wisdom.

Lord, I need salvation. I need deliverance. Lord, I need a touch from you.

Lord, I need to sense your presence. Lord God, would you wrap your arms of love around me. Lord God, I need healing to my body.

Lord Susie needs healing to her body. Jimmy needs healing to his body. Lord God, my friend needs healing to his mind.

Whatever it may be, Lord God, the key is to call out to you. And as we call out to you, you hear our cry. And when we're sincere, I absolutely believe, Lord, that you will bring the answer to our prayers.

And sometimes, Lord, yes, the answer is no, but you'll give us the reason why when we need to know what the reason is why. But if we don't ask, if we don't seek, if we don't cry out, we're not going to see that answer. So I just pray, Father God, again, there's a crying out to you.

And I pray all these things in Jesus' name. I'm hoping that my challenge to you to run to God will bring dramatic change into your life where you need it. Thank you for tuning in.

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