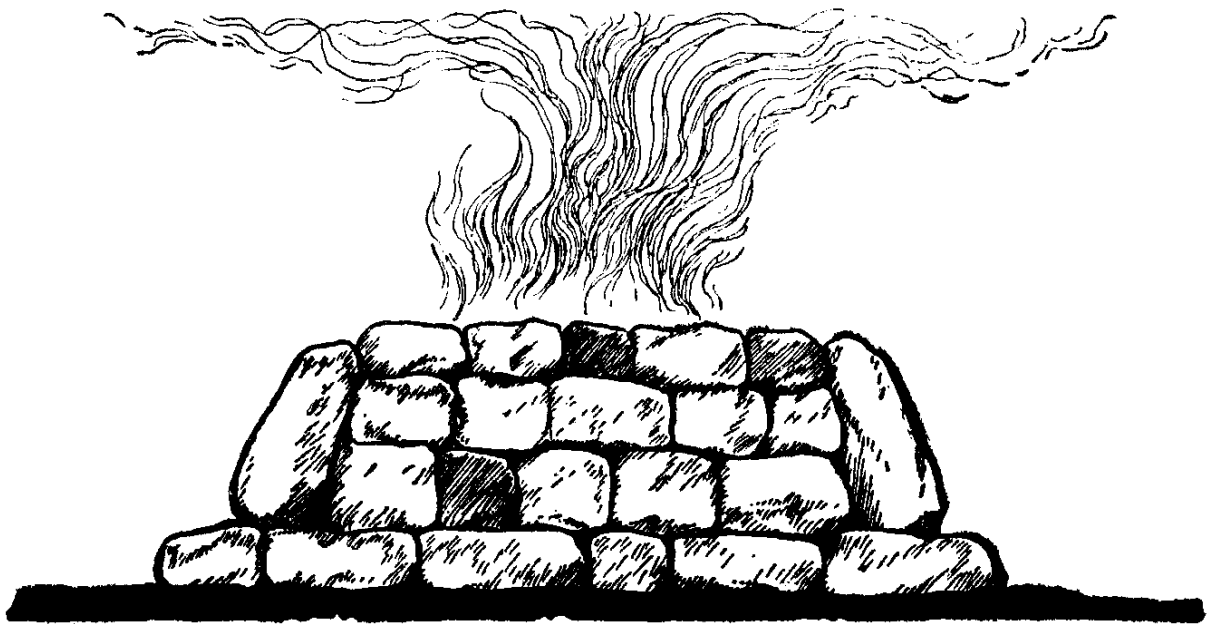


STEP by STEP  
Guidelines FOR:  
Building Little Altars



by Kelly Koshatka

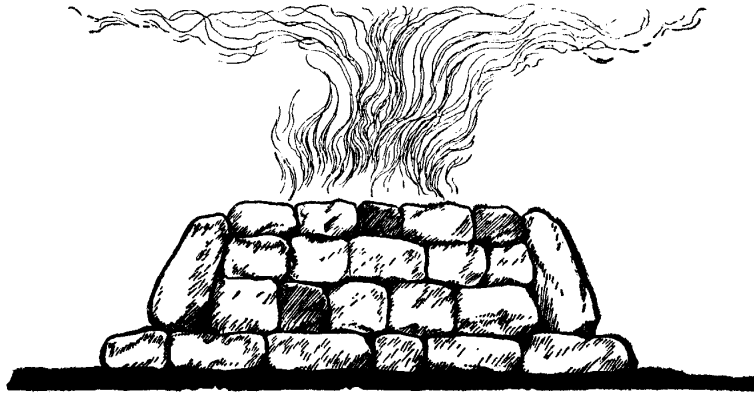
But what will they think if  
I do not declare  
my reasons  
my excuses  
my “self-awares”?

They’ll see me wrong  
and falsely accuse.  
They’ll say things of me that will  
wound and bruise.

RESIST oh my soul,  
this flood of pride  
and look straight into  
Christ Crucified’s eyes.

Steady... focus...  
live with Him there  
above the earth with its  
“self awares.”

# Building Little Altars



## How This Booklet Works



You will be “building” your own personal little altar as you journey through the pages of this booklet. Each chapter will be a step in the process of building your little altar in practical ways. At the end of each chapter you will fill in how that step can be applied in your own specific situation.

Throughout the booklet you should choose ONE SPECIFIC SITUATION in which to apply all the steps. This will help make what is being presented in these pages practical and applicable in a real life situation. Each section will present a specific step in the journey of altar building. That step will be followed by a “practical building” section where you can apply that step to your personal situation. The booklet can be used as a basic guideline for making “the deep and mystical teaching of the Cross” more personal as a step by step journey for the real life situations that you are in. Of course, it always requires God, the Holy Spirit, to guide us every step of the journey. May we cry out for Him to lift up Jesus in us every practical step we take!



“The little altars of our daily walk  
speak of the Cross being realized  
in a very personal and practical way.”

“Whatever spiritual knowledge or feelings we may have, they are all a delusion if they do not lead us to the real and constant practice of dying to self.” (Fenelon)

# Introduction

In our daily walk we encounter “little altars” that give us opportunities to “use our inward altar” for the glory of God. Wherever there is an opportunity to bless those who curse us, forgive those who harm us, love those who hate us, or be gracious to those who see things differently than we do, there we find a little pile of earthly mess that can form an altar upon which we can offer up the Lamb. The beauty of these altars most certainly does not come from the circumstances they are made of, but the spirit with which they are filled. The crises we continually encounter will remain Christ-less if we choose to deal with them by the knowledge of good and evil, i.e. “they get what they deserve,” etc. Yet these very same crises can become altars filled with the sweet savor of Christ if we respond in the love of God through the nature of the Lamb.

All throughout the history of God’s people right up to the present you will find their true spiritual state was in direct relationship to how they approached these little altars in their daily walks. From Father Abraham and his altars, to Paul and his daily deaths.... those who have truly been with the Lord in their generation have done so by opening to the Lord in this way.

Is there loss involved in the way of the Cross? YES. Does pain and hardship come when the heart becomes an altar upon which Christ is offered up? Many times. How about persecution? Most certainly. There is a cost to walking in this manner, and bearing the Lord’s dying in our own bodies in this way. We may experience all these things and more, but none of that is worthy to compare to the BLESSEDNESS of CHRIST LIVING THROUGH US to the glory of God and the care of others.

To those who love the Lord and long to be the courts where His life lives, this way of the altar is the answer to their deepest hearts cry. To those who want to live for self and only receive blessings from the Lord without participating in His divine nature, the preaching of the Cross is horrifying and the living of it is unthinkable.

In ourselves, we are selfish and afraid of loss. But in our hearts we love Jesus and want to be with Him in His way. It is the work of God’s Spirit in us to even make us willing to embrace Christ in this way. Only He can truly communicate the blessedness of the way of the Lamb in a manner that will saturate our heart with softening oils. And so we must turn to Him and allow the Holy Spirit to soften us, to speak to us, and to prepare our hearts to be the place where Christ can live through us as an altar that is ever ignited and offering up the Lamb. Amen!

*“Wherever there is an opportunity to bless those who curse us, forgive those who harm us, love those who hate us, be gracious to those who see things differently than we do, there we find a little pile of earthly mess that can form an altar upon which we can offer up the Lamb.”*



# STEP ONE:

## DETERMINING IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in Building

In the Old Testament, the practice of building altars marked the journey of the great lovers of God. These pioneers on the path of Life saw past their circumstances, the injustice and pain, and straight into the heart of the God they loved. They saw the real issue was not what was happening in the earth but God's heart for His Son to be expressed and released in the midst of all the darkness. Above everything, they saw God and embraced HIM and that is the motivation behind every altar they built.

If you look closely in the New Testament you will also find that those the Lord used most were altar builders. These altar builders were those who believed in real ways that life only comes out from death, more specifically Jesus' death at work in them in practical and daily ways (II Cor. 4:10-12 / Jn. 12:24). These men and women had the uncanny knack for being able to translate crises, persecution, daily experiences, defeat, hurt, rejection, (and the list goes on...) into little altars where God Himself would appear and be released into the earth.

Ultimately, it all boiled down to love. Whatever the situation, whomever the person, whenever it happened... the one common denominator is that they all chose to love God above themselves. What else would cause someone to gather up the shattered fragments of the hurtful and even tragic things of this life and from that pile construct a holy altar upon which Christ Himself would be offered in His beautiful nature? If our hearts are towards the Lord, then being with Him in daily altars will be something we cherish. Fellowshiping in oneness with Him in His nature is the greatest thing we could ever experience in this life or that to come. These little altars are doors into experientially knowing God in ways that teaching and ministry can never give.



# Practical Building #1

## AM I INTERESTED In Building?

The first question we must answer before we can even consider practically building a little altar in our personal experience is whether or not we are even interested. I believe the first real questions that we must ask ourselves are:

- ♦ Do I love God more than I love getting my own way in this situation?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how this applies to your situation:



- ♦ Am I willing to be misunderstood, lose my rights, not come to the resolution that my soul craves, etc... just to gain more of Jesus and release His Life?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how this applies to your situation:



## No, Not Now.



IF YOUR ANSWER WAS NO... Don't worry. Many times the answer to the previous two questions is NO, I am not willing!

God is not freaked out by our unwillingness to build an altar. God is our Father and He loves us. There is nothing worse than PRETENDING you want to build an altar that SECRETLY YOU HATE. That is where "false crosses" come from!

If you are not willing at this time... than pray that God your Father will work in your heart by His Spirit to make you willing according to Philippians 2:13 - "Yes, it is God who is working

in you. He helps you want to do what pleases Him, and He gives you the power to do it."



God want's my heart, and His Son... not my empty false crosses that I hate.

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IN ORDER TO PROCEED IN THIS MANUAL,  
PLEASE CONSIDER A SITUATION WHERE YOU ARE WILLING  
TO BUILD AN ALTAR!





# STEP TWO:

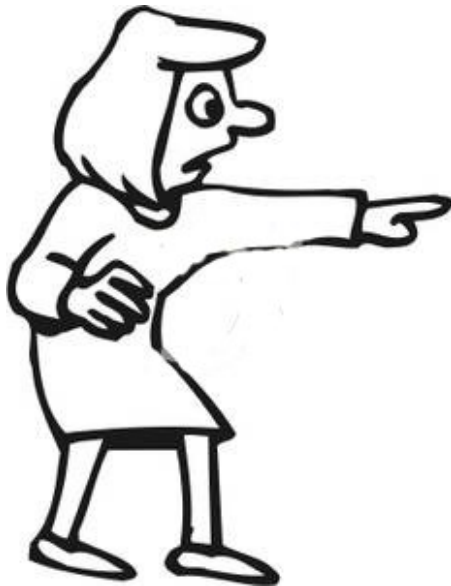
## Identifying THE OPPORTUNITY

Blessed “opportunities” to build little altars present themselves to us constantly, every day, all the time.

The building materials for little altars are not glamorous or glorious. In fact, they are usually little things that irritate, offend, and go against what we want. The even smaller altars many times consist of things we wouldn’t even notice or think of. You have to develop an eye and a heart that can recognize these hidden prospects before you can ever start building.

Most of the time it is our own soul that clues us in to the opportunity for an altar.

When we find ourselves reacting in ways such as ...



UNFAIR

UNJUST

NOT RIGHT

How could they?

I can’t believe this... it is so wrong!!

They are obviously **WRONG**.

I don’t **HAVE** to do this

**THEY** need Jesus

This is asking **TOO MUCH** of **ME**

What about **MY** needs and feelings?

No one else has to put up with this! ...

... you are probably right in the middle of a great altar opportunity!!!

It’s not fair, it’s not right.

In fact, it can’t be God to be stuck in this plight.

It can’t be God?... Is that what you say?

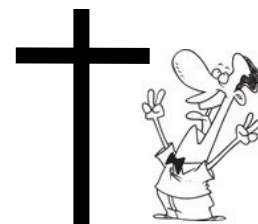
Which God might you be referring to, if I may?

Is it the God of Christianity, a culture formed by humanity?

Or is it the God of Mount Calvary,

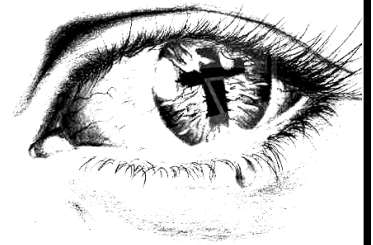
Who came and died alone and misunderstood on a tree?

These thoughts (and a million more like them) can indicate ripe conditions for altar building.



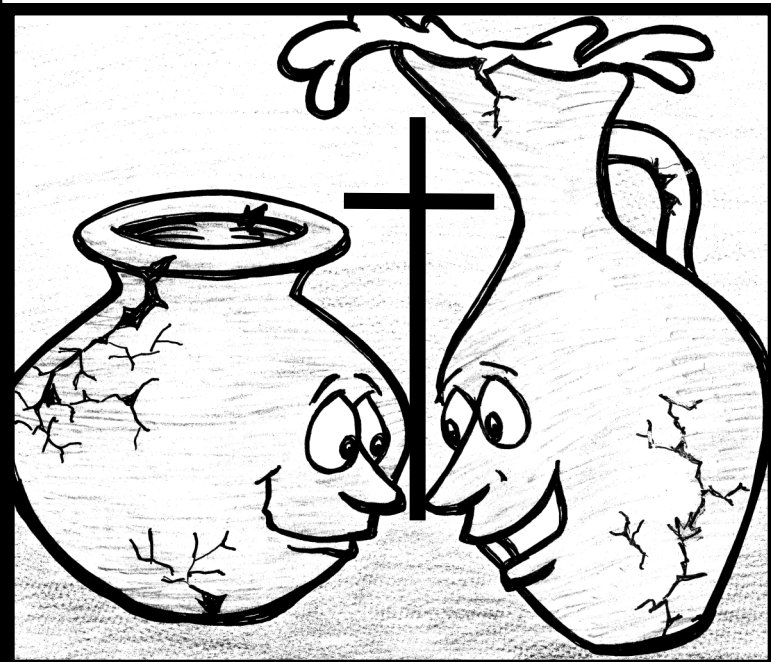
Identifying an altar opportunity will do little more than frustrate or condemn us if we do not see how JESUS can be found therein. The truth is, the Jesus we love and the Jesus who wants to live through us is a LAMB. He is a CRUCIFIED Christ. His beauty shines brighter the darker it is! His Cross was the most glorious manifestation of true love the world has ever known, and yet it was the ugliest display of unjust treatment a human has ever experienced.

Jesus identified the opportunity to glorify His Father and redeem mankind in the rejection and shame of a criminal's death on a tree. He had "altar eyes" and a heart of love for God and others. That same Jesus is in you and me and anyone who has ever asked Him into their heart! Our little daily altars give Jesus the opportunity to continue sharing His love through us, dying so that others might live. If you don't believe that is true, you should read what Paul said in II Corinthians 4: 7-12:



"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you."

## CLAY POTS WITH ALTAR EYES!



It is true, we are the clay pots, the earthen vessels. These situations press us and break us PAST what we can endure so that the TREASURE INSIDE (Jesus) can finally come out and manifest His love and Lamb nature through us! In other words, the altar we are building is so that CHRIST IN US can be expressed. We bear about HIS dying in OUR bodies. HIS love will fill the altars we build. Our faith and expectation is that Christ will come forth. We must SEE HIM in the opportunity before we can start building.

# PRactical Building #2

## IdentiFYing THE OPPORTunity

- ♦ How is your soul indicating that this situation could be an opportunity for an altar?



- ♦ How is this an opportunity for you (THE BROKEN VESSEL) to trust in Jesus (THE TREASURE WITHIN) in a practical way?



### The Prayer of A Broken Vessel

“Lord I am broken and confused

Wounded, torn, and used.

Hurt beyond repair, weak and in despair.

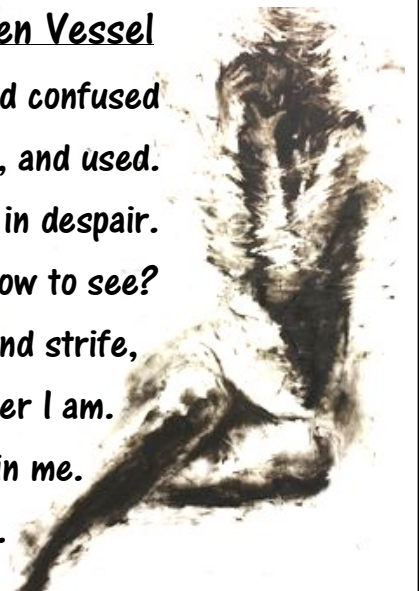
What is left for me but Your beauty now to see?

In the rubble of my life, from the misery and strife,

I make a home for the Lamb, His burial chamber I am.

Let Your dying, Lord Jesus, be truly at work in me.

May Your love build this need into a little Calvary.



# STEP THREE:

## Walking In MY NEW Identity

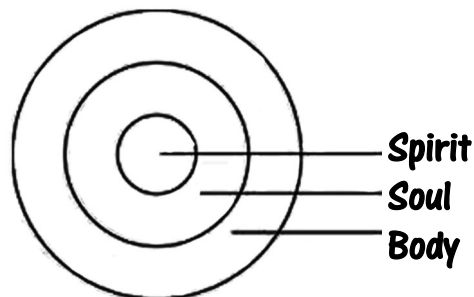
In Luke 9:23 Jesus said that if we want to really know Him in our walk we have to pick up our cross, deny our souls and follow Him. The first cross we must embrace is the one we were crucified on with Christ (Gal. 2:20). There is no way we can build a little altar if we are trying to do it in the flesh. Next we must deny our soul. The word “deny” in the Greek is interpreted “refuse to identify with.” If we want to walk in Christ, we must believe that we are not who we used to be. The Bible says that we are a new creation in Christ (II Cor. 5:17). We are now members of Christ’s own body (Eph. 5:30). The feelings and thoughts in our souls are not proof of who we are. GOD’s WORD is proof of who we are. Christ’s Cross is proof of who we are. If you are born again, your identity is now one with Jesus, and not with your old sinful nature that was already crucified with Him (Romans chapter 6).

The little altars that we build happen in our relationships and temporal circumstances. All these things affect our SOULS.

Spirit = where Christ dwells in us

Soul = mind, will and emotions

Body = the physical container



We have to learn to SEPARATE how our souls are responding from how our hearts and Christ in us is responding. In order to build a little altar we must CHOOSE to believe that we are dead with Christ and not identify with our wayward souls. That includes NOT identifying with our carnal thoughts and emotions. This decision involves NOT trying to FIX THE SOUL by making it FEEL sacrificial or loving. Jesus told us to deny our souls, not to fix them. Rather, we must turn our focus and identify with Christ Who is our Life in our innermost being (spirit).



I deny my soul and follow Jesus in my spirit.

Once I have made a decision to identify with CHRIST in me and not my SOUL,  
I am ready to move forward into altar building.

# Practical Building #3

## Walking IN MY NEW Identity

- ♦ On the chart below, list the ways you would need to embrace that you are crucified with Christ and stop identifying with your soul in order to begin building a little altar in your circumstance.
- ♦ On the corresponding side list how Christ in you wants to use this situation as an opportunity to love others and bless the Father.

<p>✓ I am Crucified with Christ</p> <p>✓ Deny (stop identifying with) my Soul</p>  <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>This is an altar opportunity:</p> <p>✓ My Heart For Jesus</p> <p>✓ Christ in me</p>  <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.” (Luke 14:28-30)

Now is the time to really count the cost and make a heart decision about truly building this altar. The cost to your soul is real and will require yielding to the dying of the Lord Jesus (who is your Life) in the very areas your soul wants to live.

# STEP FOUR:

## Letting Go!

At this point we have:

- identified an opportunity for altar building
- counted the cost for building it
- made choices to identify with Christ in us and not our souls

Even though we have chosen not to “I”dentify with our old nature, there also comes the time to **ACTIVELY REJECT** it as a way of dealing with your **SPECIFIC CRISIS**. These steps become really practical when you are confronted with your altar-situation. We must **LET GO** of those things in our soul that would block the dying of the Lord Jesus in our hearts from coming forth in the altar-situation. The following list is examples of different ways someone might deal with their crisis. In order to begin building my little altar I must **LET GO** of:

My Control

Self Justifying

Ambition

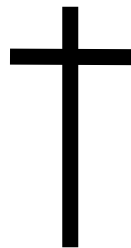
Vindictiveness

Self Defense

Self Pity

Manipulation

Partiality to my view, needs and my own



Fill in the blanks  
with the specific  
things you would  
hold onto in dealing  
with this crisis apart  
from the altar:



◆ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ \_\_\_\_\_

◆ \_\_\_\_\_

We are either going to “build our case” for our righteous cause and allow self to live, or we are going to “build an altar” upon which self will die and the Lamb of God will manifest His selfless life through us.



# Letting Go continued

In order to really let go of these motives, we must first reject them as:

⇒ Not worthy of being held onto

⇒ Worthy of death



If we look at these things in light of the unjust situation we are in, then we will not want to let go, and we will **HOLD ON** and grow harder and harder against the altar. It is when we look at these things in light of our beloved Jesus who through love was crucified for His enemies that we realize how foolish it is to hold on to anything that keeps us from HIM in real ways. Paul felt this way and wrote these words to the Corinthians who did not understand the joy of living as altar builders:



"The difficulties I am going through right now in time and space are bringing forth the eternal Christ in me in ways that will glorify God forever. The things I see in this trial are fading tools that God is using to build Christ in me. I am making a choice right now to fix my eyes on His eternal view and not allow my soul to be distracted by the carnal viewpoint of my trials." II Cor. 4:17-18, AVI Translation



"We have small troubles for a while now, but these troubles are helping us gain an eternal glory. That eternal glory is much greater than our troubles. So we think about what we cannot see, not what we see. What we see lasts only a short time, and what we cannot see will last forever." Easy-to-Read Version

**So the real, practical help we can find in being able to "LET GO" is to  
LOOK AT JESUS INSTEAD OF THE TRIAL!!!**

The saints who were successful altar builders did just that, as the scriptures tell us in Hebrews 11: 1-3:



"As for us, we have this large crowd of witnesses around us. So then, let us rid ourselves of everything that gets in the way, and of the sin which holds on to us so tightly, and let us run with determination the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right side of God's throne. Think of what he went through; how he put up with so much hatred from sinners! So do not let yourselves become discouraged and give up." Good News Translation

**"We are in confining quarters, indeed, when we are enclosed in self,  
but when we emerge from that prison and enter into the immensity of God,  
we are truly free." (Fenelon)**

**"Self is the only prison that can truly bind the soul." (Henry Van Dyke)**



# PRactical Building #4

## LEtting Go!

Letting go starts with looking unto Jesus. Let us consider how II Corinthians 4:16-18 applies to the areas we want to let go of.



"The difficulties I am going through right now in time and space are bringing forth the eternal Christ in me in ways that will glorify God forever. The things I see in this trial are fading tools that God is using to build Christ in me. I am making a choice right now to fix my eyes on His eternal view and not allow my soul to be distracted by the carnal viewpoint of my trials." AVI Translation

TEMPORAL PLEASURES *or* ETERNAL TREASURE

LIGHT AFFLICTIONS *or* CHRIST FORMED IN ME

Re-write the "stuff you hold onto" from the previous page and then define what it means in the temporal view and the eternal view.

EXAMPLE (area I hold onto) Explaining why I am right to others

My Temporal View people think I am right and take my side

The Eternal View Self grows in me and Holy Spirit is grieved

#1 (area I hold onto)

\_\_\_\_\_

My Temporal View

\_\_\_\_\_

The Eternal View

\_\_\_\_\_

#2 (area I hold onto)

\_\_\_\_\_

My Temporal View

\_\_\_\_\_

The Eternal View

\_\_\_\_\_

#3 (area I hold onto)

\_\_\_\_\_

My Temporal View

\_\_\_\_\_

The Eternal View

\_\_\_\_\_



"A true altar begins to be built by a rejection of motivations that are not the Lamb".



# Practical Building #4 Continued.

Hebrews 12:2a



“Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith.” (Amplified)

“While looking away toward the author and perfecter of the faith.” (DLNT)

Altar builders LOOK AWAY from everything and fix their eyes on JESUS. If our eyes are focused on the injustice and issue, then we are never going to build an altar. If we begin focusing on the storm and the waves we are going to sink, just like Peter did. It is true, the trial is bigger than we can handle, that is why our faith and eyes are set on Jesus. He is the One who can handle it! Christ in us is the hope of glory (Col 1:27), and not our own abilities.

It is our hearts that press our eyes past everything!

Take some “heart-time”  
and practice lifting your eyes away from all that  
will distract you from focusing on Jesus.



With our eyes fixed on Jesus and our affections set on things above (Col.3:3) we are able to LET GO of the very things that would keep us from building our little altars.

Higher

Past my view

Higher

Past my feelings and reasonings

Higher

Past their view and reasonings

Higher

Past the temporal issue

Higher still

Into the eternal issue

Higher still

Into God's view

Higher still

Into God's throne

Even Higher

Into the slain Lamb...

Who is my love, Lord and Life.

# STEP FIVE:

## PICK YOUR TREE AND GATHER THE WOOD

With our eyes now fixed on Jesus, we will find that when we look in the scriptures and by the Holy Spirit we see that Jesus is a Crucified Christ. From the foundation of the world He was a Lamb (Rev. 13:8) and for all eternity He is a Lamb (Rev. 5:13). Jesus and His Cross are ONE because His Cross is simply a manifestation of His Lamb nature. Peter referred to the cross that Jesus was crucified on as a “tree” (1 Pet. 2:24). There is another tree referred to in the scriptures: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, whose fruit is death (Gen. 2:17). Jesus’ tree (the Cross) gives Life through death while the knowledge of good and evil tree pretends to have life but really gives death. As we begin to “gather the wood” to build our little altars, we must make a decision from which tree we are going to gather wood.

### THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL:

- ♦ Justifies my soul
- ♦ Makes me look good and my adversary look bad
- ♦ Brings me support and approval from others
- ♦ Excuses my flesh and delivers it from having to die
- ♦ Supports my reasons for not yielding to the altar
- ♦ Comforts me with sound logic and ethical reasoning
- ♦ Destroys my relationships
- ♦ Devours the work of the Spirit to bring forth Christ in me

### THE TREE OF LIFE / His Cross

- ♦ Will not feed my soul
- ♦ May make me look WRONG and rejected
- ♦ Brings me persecution
- ♦ Will not excuse my flesh but crucifies it
- ♦ Brings life and healing to others
- ♦ Brings forth more of Jesus to the Father and to others

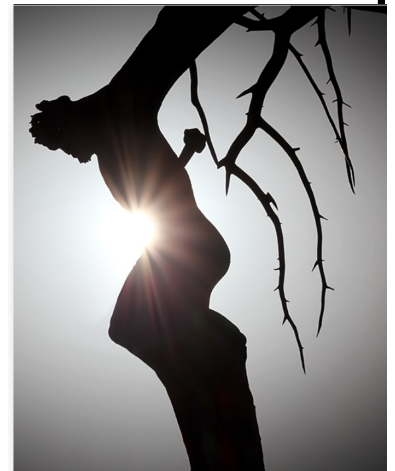


# PRactical Building #5

## PICK YOUR TREE And GATHER THE Wood

The wood from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil cannot build an altar for it will not ignite. Only wood taken from Christ Crucified can be used. Because Jesus told us in John chapter 15 that we are His branches, we can embrace the reality that we are ONE with Christ Crucified. His Lamb-life will flow through us as our faith embraces the reality that we are branches from THAT Tree. OUR PART is to abide in the tree of Life (abide in Christ). HIS PART is to flow through our branch causing dry and hardened attitudes and motives to become filled with His self-giving love. If you haven't realized it yet... YOU become the wood for your little altar when your faith embraces that you are HIS BRANCH. Gathering the wood is really gathering our hearts and minds into the faith that we are one with Jesus. We begin to "set the wood in order" (Lev. 1:7) by "plugging our branch" into Him, our Tree and letting His Life flow. In your own words, define how each of these steps in wood-gathering affects your situation:

- ♦ **Choose Your Tree**
- ♦ **BE a Branch of that Tree**
- ♦ **Set the wood in order**



"I am the vine. You are the branches. Those who live in me while I live in them will produce a lot of fruit. But you can't produce anything without me." (Jn. 15:5)

"And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire upon the altar, and lay the wood in order upon the fire." (Lev. 1:7)

# STEP Six:

## LOWERING THE BUCKET

NOW we are plugged into the right TREE (Christ Crucified). We are no longer approaching the altar as Christians trying to do our best to forgive, etc... rather we are ABIDING as HIS branches. GET READY, because Jesus said IF you abide in Him HE IS GOING TO ABIDE IN YOU (John 15: 5). Keep priming your pump by faith, because HIS LIFE IS GOING TO bubble up and flow forth from deep within YOU. The goal here is NOT to try and WORK UP FEELINGS of forgiveness, love, patience, etc. The goal here is to become a branch of His Life. To be a broken vessel with HIM as the treasure. To submit to His life within as a wife that wants to shows forth HIS NATURE. As we line up with HIM AS THE HEAD (Col. 1:18), our wood is set in order and we can begin getting the wood ready to ignite with the flame of His Life in the fuel of our circumstances.

We just referred to our faith as “priming the pump.” As His branches, we have the sap of Christ’s life in us, yet sometimes it is buried so deep that it needs a little help coming up and out. That is where we need to do something I term “lowering the bucket.” In order to get this altar prepared, we must get His life up and flowing through the branch. We must draw those living waters of Christ out from our innermost beings.



“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.” (Jn. 7:38)

The believer whose faith has embraced that Christ really is in them WILL EXPERIENCE JESUS in radical and living ways: HIS LIFE will bubble up and flow out of them in attitudes and behaviors that they could NEVER PRODUCE on their own.



# PRactical Building #6

## LOWERING THE BUCKET

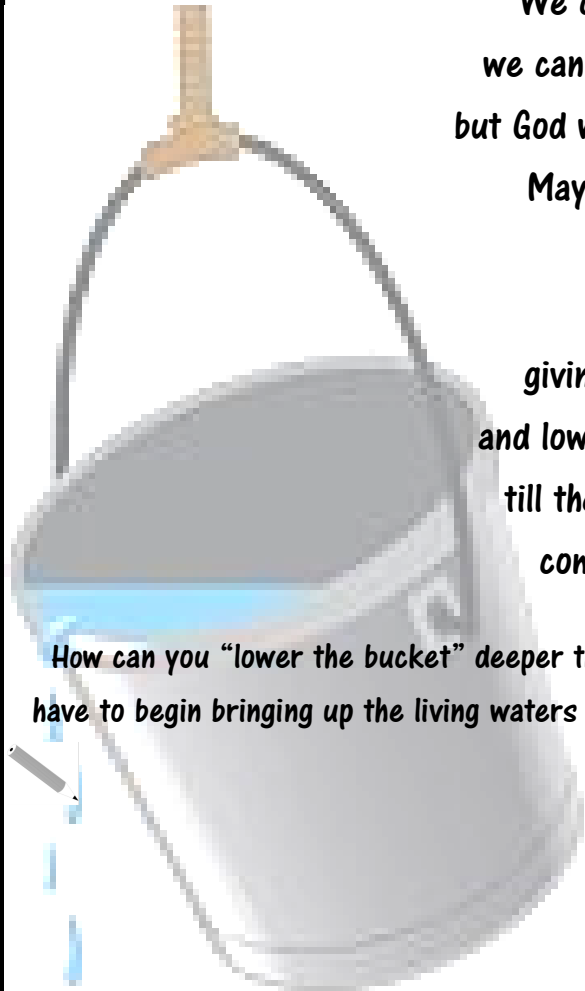
PRACTICAL STEP FOR OUR HEARTS TO PREPARE  
FOR LOWERING BUCKET:

**HAVE FAITH!** Before we can lower the bucket,  
we have to have faith that Jesus IS IN THERE! No  
matter how you FEEL, God declares that His Son is in  
you. PUT YOUR FAITH IN HIM, and forget about your  
inabilities and feelings. Lower your bucket deeper  
than your soul until you reach the living waters of  
Christ in your spirit!

We can fake it,  
we can try our best,  
but God wants HIS SON!

May we reject  
faking  
and  
giving our best  
and lower the bucket  
till the real Jesus  
comes forth!

How can you "lower the bucket" deeper than you already  
have to begin bringing up the living waters of Christ in you?



### LOWER THE BUCKET!

Lower

Past my fleshly reactions

Lower

Past my soulish responses

Lower

Past my justifications and excuses

Lower!

Past my Christian ideology and doctrine

Lower!

Past partially hearing from the Spirit

Lower!

Past doing what the Spirit tells me with

my own resources

Deeper

Into Christ in me, my life

Even Deeper

Into His crucified mind and nature

**NOW FILL**

My bucket full of the Spirit of Christ

and pour Him forth like living waters to all.

# STEP SEVEN:

## THE LAMB FOR THE ALTAR



“Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?” (Gen. 22:7b)

At this point we have built our altar thus far:

- ⇒ The rubble of a terrible situation is no longer just a mess, but an altar where Christ will be released.
- ⇒ We are the wood laying upon that altar (situation) because we have chosen by faith to abide in Christ, the Tree of Life, and be a branch/vessel for His crucified attitudes in how we react.
- ⇒ We are setting the wood in order by lifting our eyes to Christ our Life, and drawing forth His Life from deep within.

### WE ARE DOING OUR PART AND GOD WILL DO HIS!

Once we get to this point we are ready to OFFER UP! But the most important part of the altar is THE LAMB that is being offered on it (and not our best attempts at acting “Lamb-like”). We have given God our hearts and our faith. Now it is God who will provide His Lamb. One of God’s names is Jehovah Jireh. The meaning of this name is “The Lord Who Provides.” This name comes from the time in Genesis chapter 22 when Abraham built an altar, laid out the wood, and was about to offer up his best on it (his son Isaac) when God provided HIS LAMB for the altar (represented by the Ram in the thicket). GOD will provide His Lamb IN US! We prime the pump with our faith and openness, but it is God Who makes Jesus real in us, causing His ATTITUDES and REACTIONS to manifest in our hearts and responses. The name Jehovah Jireh is literally, “The Lord Who Will See To It.” God will see to it that His Lamb is on that altar if you are faithful to build it.



# PRactical Building #7

## THE Lamb FOR THE Altar

### A Practical Example:

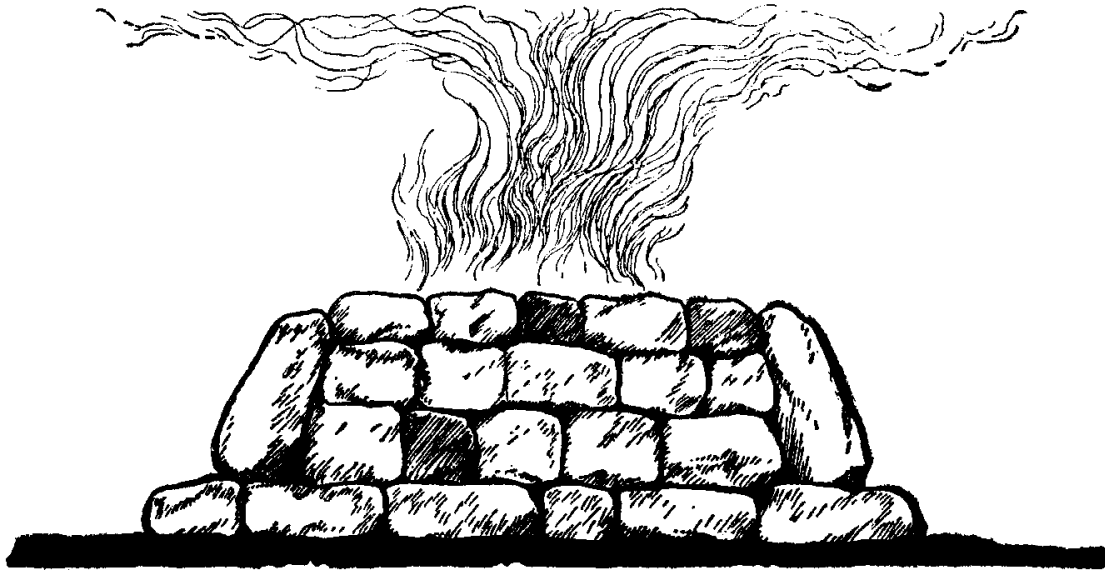
"It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former SS man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing center at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there - the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie's pain-blanced face. He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. "How grateful I am for your message Fräulein," he said. "To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!" His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side. Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him. I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your Forgiveness. As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me. And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on His. When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself." (Corrie Ten Boom)

How can you trust "Jehovah Jireh" to provide his Lamb in you in the practical responses that your little altar will require?



# STEP Eight:

## Ignite Your Altar



*"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." (1 Pet. 4:12)*

*"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor." (Eph. 5:2)*

*"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place." (2 Cor. 2:14)*

If you observe a scented candle, you will notice that it does not give off its smell if it is not lit. The same is true of incense. When the fire is lit, the candle or incense is being consumed in order to release its fragrance. Death is at work in that candle, but only when it is ignited. Just having Jesus in us does not release anything. Jesus must be **GIVING HIMSELF** (ignited) through us on order to release His life into a situation. His dying must be at work in us. The spirit of Christ in us wants to **GIVE HIMSELF**. He willingly suffers that others might gain. That is **HIS NATURE...** a Lamb ever offering Himself for others. When something is ignited, it is also being consumed. There is always loss involved in allowing the dying of the Lord Jesus to be at work in you. When you choose in practical ways to yield to the dying of the Lord Jesus in you, you are allowing Christ to be offered through you. You are allowing the fire of your trial to ignite Jesus in you rather than incite anger, bitterness, wrath and vengeance. You must know that **YOU ARE DEAD** and **CHRIST IS YOUR LIFE** in real ways. If you are still living by the old nature, that fiery trial will burn you up with bitterness. But if you are dead, those same flames will be opportunities for Christ in you to die so that others might live (II Cor. 4:10-12). God provides His Lamb in you, but you must allow Him to be ignited.



# PRactical Building #8

## Ignite Your Altar



The practical reality involving the flames that may encompass our little altars is where things get “hot.” It is easy to say that we love Jesus in a Sunday morning worship service. Even some people who are not saved cry when they watch movies about the crucifixion of Jesus or martyrdom of the saints. “Deeper-life” believers may be able to teach and write books all about the Cross and what it means. But when the fire comes, that is when it all moves from doctrines, teachings and moving stories to what is real in our lives.

### **Some of the hottest fires burn in the little things.**

- How a husband mistreats his wife when no one is looking. *(you are the wife)*
- An employee scapegoats a co-worker so they are not blamed for something they did. *(you are the co-worker)*
- Self promotion and ambition in ministry. *(you are the one who rightfully should be promoted)*
- A mother’s partiality to her own child above other children. *(you are the other mother)*
- A person manipulating and using other people to get their way. *(you are the person being used)*

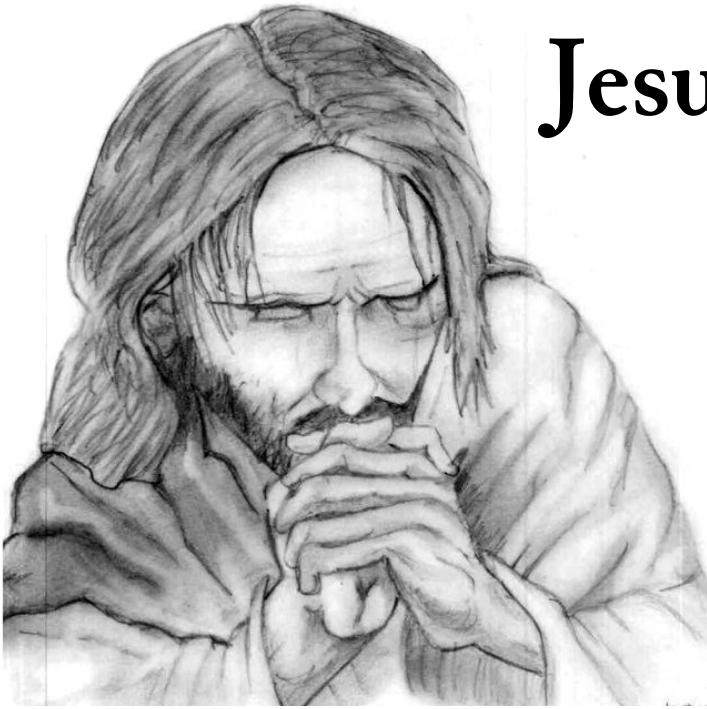
The fire comes to try us and see if Christ is LIFE and ignitable in us, or a doctrine that has no effect in real life.

Only those who love Jesus more than themselves will let Christ be ignited in them (Rev. 12:11).

They will count all things loss to gain Jesus in this way and fellowship with Him in His sufferings (Phil. 3:8-10).

Within the circumstances of your little altar, what will it require to allow Christ to become ignited and given in your situation? How will you suffer loss in allowing His dying to come forth through you?





# Jesus' Prayer For Us

Jesus, what do You say when  
Your heart opens to pray?

“Father keep them in Thy Name  
in oneness, in Us-ness  
in God Who is love-ness.

I gave them Your Word  
the One from Your heart.  
The world hated them for it  
because they loved me, and ignored it.

Father though the world hate them,  
spurn and disdain them.  
Keep them down in it,  
let My Cross appear in it  
again and again through these my friends. . .  
my dying seeds. . . my Calvaries.

And my prayers go further than these alone  
but to the fruit of their lives sown,  
That they all may be one,  
a harvest complete - Your corporate Son - Your family.”

# My Prayers and Personal Notes



"And David built there an altar unto the LORD,  
and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings,  
and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from  
heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering."  
1 Chron. 21:26

"So redeem the time... redeem today  
Use each opportunity to find a way  
To fellowship with Christ as His wife,  
Not just for one hour,  
but the rest of your life"

"Out of the spoils won in battles did they  
dedicate to maintain the house of the Lord."  
1 Chron. 21:26

"Discouragement is simply the despair of  
wounded self-love."  
François Fénelon

"As for me, I am pleased with all  
the Lord orders for me. I am ready  
to suffer not only imprisonment  
but death. All is good in Him to  
whom I am united forever."  
Madame Guyon

please don't forget...  
in the dark of the night  
when fears assail in circumstances plight  
When the knowledge of good and evil  
tries to seduce you  
away from Me and My crucified view

IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW JESUS, YOU  
HAD BETTER LOOK GOOD ON WOOD.

To truly bow before the Lamb  
is to bow before every circumstance  
you find yourself in.  
And instead of trying to change it or them,  
you embrace the cross and kiss the nails...  
glorifying God  
in it  
through Christ Crucified  
in you

Philosophy... Theology... or Calvary?  
Nusbaum R.T.

Did I just escape  
from an opportunity to decrease  
and increase Christ in me?  
Am I relieved to be released?  
Do I enjoy this false sense of  
peace?

MEN TRY TO FIX PROBLEMS WITH DUCT TAPE.  
GOD DID IT WITH NAILS.

Not just loss  
Not just cost  
but blessed decrease  
making way for  
His glorious Increase

"Hast thou no scar?"  
AMY CARMICHAEL

But let's do this, Lord.  
Let's endure the Cross.  
Let's pay the price whatever the cost.  
And I will remain on bended knee  
before Your heart at Calvary.  
I won't pretend with blinded eye  
that You are not a Christ crucified.

If you seek to save... your gonna  
lose. But if you lose for Him,  
you've gained more that eternity  
itself can declare.

YES LORD,  
Even in this...  
Especially in this...  
COME FORTH!  
MARANATHA

In His weakest moment, God overcame everything.  
R.T. Nusbaum

"Know you not that Christ wooeth His wife in the furnace? ...this  
wilderness shall bud and grow up like a rose." Samuel Rutherford

this booklet can be downloaded online at:

[www.fireministriesinternational.com](http://www.fireministriesinternational.com)