

Scripture Reading: Genesis 35:1-15

True Repentance Will Build an Altar

We are going to meditate on these scriptures for the next two days. Jacob tried to fulfill the plans and purpose of God over his life through fleshly efforts. Though he seemed to be victorious at the moment, he had to go through losses, sorrow, loneliness, suffering, shame and a lot of pain. At last, when he faithfully repented and truly acknowledged his condition before God, he was able to hear the words of God saying, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother". Immediately Jacob arose and went along with those who were with him and built an altar and worshipped the Lord at Bethel – the place where God visited him.

Question:

What is an altar? Why should we build it? Should I too build it being a New Testament believer?

Answer:

During the Old Testament times, an altar was a part of the temple where people would make sacrifices and worship the Lord. By those sacrifices, God will be glorified, the sins of the people will be cleansed, sickness will be healed and the relationship with God will be renewed. For this reason did Jacob build the altar and worshipped the Lord. In the New Testament times, we are the temple of God. Our heart is the altar. The praise and thanksgiving that comes from our heart is the worship that pleases God. Each person who has truly repented will worship God by giving his sacrifices of praise with a heart full of thankfulness.

"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name". Hebrew 13:15

Prayer

Dear father, we have sinned against you ignorantly. As we've realized our sinfulness, we repent of it Lord. Forgive and accept us. Amen