

Why Do People Sometimes Fall Down at the Altar?

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Have you ever seen someone fall down at a church altar or other prayer gathering and wonder why? Simply put, when we come into contact with the supernatural power of God, something is going to give. God's power, the anointing, is found throughout Scripture, and it is the anointing that causes miracles, healings, and breakthroughs.

In my own personal life, I grew up in a church where I did not see these things happening. As a teenager, I had a friend that would take me to churches where I saw people fall, as well as shake, dance, spin, or run. Some would cry, others would laugh. I was interested in the power of God and the Holy Spirit. As I pursued the presence of God, I began to experience the Holy Spirit moving on me for myself, I knew it was real. I wasn't imaging it or trying to make it happen. God just began to gently demonstrate Himself and His power to me. I was not an extremely emotional person. I was not out of my mind. I was simply a teenage girl who wanted to know God, and His Spirit touched me. I felt a power come over me, and I fell to the ground. As I laid there, I sensed God doing something in me, in my heart. I trusted Him and the love I felt, even though I didn't understand what I was experiencing. I am a witness; the power of God is real.

As a witness, I can say that there was no way I could have intellectually understood what happened to me. It was not natural; it was supernatural. The only way to understand it was to experience it. Thankfully, I was in a good church with caring pastors where I was taught the Word of God and allowed freedom to experience the Spirit in a safe and loving place. The Lord has never forced His power on me against my will, but I would experience it as I opened up and yielded to what He was doing.

What is the power (anointing)?

The power of God is all around us, but it becomes tangible to us when it is manifested. It's when what is spiritual is experienced in the natural. This is when God demonstrates or displays His power to us in a way we sense or feel it. It is when the power materializes, and there is an effect we witness or experience.

The anointing has a flow to it. In the Bible, it is described as something that moves like wind, fire, rain, rivers, honey, and oil. In addition, the Holy Spirit can descend on us like a coat, or blanket when it falls. I have sensed it come and go, feeling the weight of it. When ministering under the anointing when praying for other people, after the anointing lifts, I am usually physically tired and in need of rest.

Does it have to happen at the altar?

No, it doesn't have to happen at the altar; however, we often see the power of God manifested after worship or after His Word is spoken. There have been times when I have experienced the power of God so strong in my home that I have been unable to get up from the floor in prayer. I have also experienced the power of God in a group of people praying in locations other than the altar.

Should we seek a demonstration of the Spirit?

We should definitely ask God for His power, signs, and wonders to be present. However, we should seek Him, not just a supernatural experience. Those who have sought after the supernatural instead of the Lord have unknowingly entered into error and even an evil counterfeit. I'm thankful for having pastors early on that provided that safe atmosphere.

What does the Bible say?

If we are in pursuit of God and His power being effective in and through our lives, then we should be open and take action with what we see in the Bible. Here are several Scriptures of occasions when people fell under God's power:

Numbers 22:31
2 Chronicles 5:14
Ezekiel 3:23
Ezekiel 43:2-3; 44:4
Matthew 17:6
John 18:6
Acts 9:3-4
Revelation 1:17

When God's power is demonstrated, a person may fall or show other manifestations.

Stumbling is also common. Here are some Scriptures on appearing drunk which can include stumbling, falling, laughing, shaking, etc:

Acts 2:15
Ephesians 5:18

Can you receive from God if you don't fall or feel His power?

Of course. We receive by faith, not from feelings or experiences. However, if the power of the Almighty God shows up on human flesh, most of the time, something is going to give.

Has anyone ever been guilty of pushing someone over?

Sure, but let's not throw out what is real because of something fake. I've been on the receiving end of a minister pushing me over, knowing an usher would be there to catch me. Pushing should never happen. Falling under God's power should happen because of the touch of God's Spirit.

Has anyone been moved by simple emotion or a compromised mental state?

Yes, but that doesn't discount the real power of God.

Seek God's presence and the rest will follow

We should seek the Father, not the signs; however, when the power is in demonstration, we should not resist what the Spirit of God is doing. Instead, we should study the Bible, grow in spiritual matters, and trust the love of God when we are experiencing His presence.