



AWCI SERMON *Notes & Announcements*

DATE: August 10th, 2025

SPEAKER: Bishop (Dr.) Vincent Collins

SERMON TITLE: Rebuilding the Altar: A Place of Encounter, Power, and Influence

Visit www.agapeworship.org/resources

to access a digital copy or scan the QR Code.

KEY PASSAGE

1 Kings 18:30 — “Then Elijah said to all the people, ‘Come near to me.’ So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been torn down.” (ESV)

INTRODUCTION

In Elijah’s day, the altar was made of stone, repaired through human effort. But that moment served as more than just a physical act — it became a blueprint for spiritual renewal. Today, God is calling us back not to Mount Carmel, but to a posture of the heart. He’s inviting us to rebuild the altar of worship, surrender, and intimacy with Him.

Whether it’s your personal prayer life, family altar, devotional time, or passion for God’s presence — if it’s been torn down or grown cold — God is calling you to rebuild.

SERMON POINTS

Kings 18:30 — “Then Elijah said to all the people, ‘Come near to me.’ So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been torn down.” (ESV)

The Altar: A Place of Response

The altar is God’s chosen place of response — where heaven engages with earth, and our surrender creates space for His supernatural intervention. It’s not about earning His favor but about inviting His presence through obedience and worship.

The Altar Is Where God Moves on Behalf of His People

To see God intervene, we must prepare a place for Him to land.

The Spiritual Router: Let me give you a picture you can relate to. Imagine your altar is like a Wi-Fi router in your home. You can have the best internet plan—fast, powerful, unlimited—but if your router is broken or unplugged, you won’t get a signal. It won’t matter how good the service provider is—if the connection point is down, you won’t be able to stream, browse, or connect. The altar is your spiritual router. It’s your connection point to God.

Scripture Examples:

Noah Builds An Altar- A Sacrifice That Moved Heaven

Genesis 8:20 (ESV)

- “Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”SV– “And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in His heart, ‘I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth.’”

The Altar Redefined -The Woman at the Well: God Moves in Response to Honesty and Worship-

- In John 4:20-24 “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming—and is now here—when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. For the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Elijah’s Rebuilds The Altar: God Moves in Response to Repentance and Restoration

- **1 Kings 18:21 (ESV)** 1 Kings 18, Israel’s hearts were torn between Baal and God. Elijah asked, “How long will you go limping between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” —
- — **1 Kings 18:38–39 (ESV)** And the people said nothing—because their altars were broken. But once Elijah rebuilt the altar and prayed, “Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering... and when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, ‘The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.’”

BEYOND THE MESSAGE

Rebuilding the Altar When Life Gets Dry — Invite God's Fire to Fall Again (1 Kings 18:30–39)

Life can feel dry — prayer, worship, and purpose may seem distant. Elijah's story teaches us that spiritual drought isn't permanent but calls for a response. He repaired the torn-down altar before calling on God. This act signaled to heaven, "I'm making room for You again."

- Rebuilding might mean confessing sin, forgiving others, or simply showing up even when you don't feel like it.
- When we create space, God responds with fire — renewed passion, clarity, and joy.
- If your soul is dry or your joy is missing, rebuild. Make your heart and life a welcoming place for God's presence.

Put God First in Everything (Genesis 8:20–21)

Noah's first act after leaving the ark was to build an altar. It was an acknowledgment of God amidst uncertainty.

- No matter what new season you're entering — a new job, recovery, transition — start with your altar.
- Begin each day intentionally inviting God into your plans — it's the key to blessing what comes next.

Let Worship Redefine You — Trade Shame for Surrender (John 4:20–24, 28–30)

The woman at the well was broken, misunderstood, and burdened. Yet Jesus redefined her through honesty, not shame.

- Many of us carry shame, stress, or insecurity, trying to hide or mask it.
- Jesus desires honest worship — in spirit and truth — where brokenness meets His grace.
- You don't need perfection; you need sincerity. True worship can transform and redefine your identity.

Takeaway

- Rebuilding your altar is essential when life feels dry or your spiritual fire wanes.
- It starts with making space — confessing, forgiving, showing up — so God can respond.
- Prioritize God each day by inviting His presence and committing to worship Him in spirit and truth.
- Remember, true revival begins in the heart. As you rebuild, trust that God will send His fire, renewal, and power into your life, positioning you to influence others and impact your world.

Let's rebuild the altar — a place of radical encounter, power, and influence!

NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note: There are multiple ways to sign up for an event. You can scan the QR code, visit our website, or sign the signup sheet in the foyer under the event registration section.



August 3rd - Sept. 11th - 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting. Download your Prayer Guide Today. Scan The QR Code.

August 13th - August 27th at 7:00 pm - Wednesday Night Series: The Power of Prayer

August 16th - Men's Ministry Meeting. 8:30 AM. At Agape Worship Center International 424 Lee Road, Columbia, SC. All men are invited. More information: Contact Deacons Teddy Spence or Eureka Washington.

Sept. 3rd - Oct. 8th at 7:00 pm: Wednesday Night Bible Study: Blueprint of Faith: The Nehemiah Bible Study!

Sept. 20th - Our next water baptism celebration—scan the QR code and sign up throughout August to take this powerful step of faith! If you'd like to be baptized sooner or in August, just let us know and we'll gladly work with you.



Sept. 20th at 10:00 am-4:00 pm —Annual Church Picnic. More details coming soon.

Oct. 15th-Nov. 19th at Various Dates & Times: Fall Into Fun Agape's Interest Groups. Scan the QR Code to sign up today. For more information, contact the Christian Education Department.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Sunday School

- Every Sunday at 10:10 am-10:55 am.
- Scan QR Code to Sign Up & receive a digital copy of the Sunday School Book.



Men's Ministry Meeting.

- Every 3rd Saturday, 8:30 AM.
- At Agape Worship Center International
- All men are invited.
- More information: Contact Deacons Teddy Spence or Eureka Washington.

Breakfast For Champions: Weekday Devotion & Prayer

- Monday-Friday at 7 am
- Call In: 717-908-1690 Access Code: 577625

Intercessory Prayer

- Every 1st, 2nd, and 4th Monday at 6:30pm-7:30pm

Virtual Midday Bible Study - Starting Back August 14th, 2025

- Every Thursday at noon
- Call In: (470)869-2200 (US East)
- Meeting ID: 393-678-9202
- Virtual: meetings.ringcentral.com/j/3936789202

CONNECT, GROW, BELONG!

Whether you're a first-time guest or a long-time member, we invite everyone to fill out our Connect Card—just scan the QR code to update your information, share prayer requests, and take your next step, whether that's joining a membership class, signing up for baptism, finding a life group, volunteering, or simply learning more about our church.

