

# IMPORTANCE OF CONSECRATION

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It has always been profitable for a Christian to go back and consider again some of the steps that a Christian must take over and over again. It is one thing to consecrate ourselves, and it is another thing to keep consecrated or go back and look into this truth afresh. We can measure ourselves and see if we are still consecrated, and we can also renew our consecration, that we might more fully trust and receive from God the blessings which come through consecration.

Consecration means to give ourselves to God for His possession and use, and He will take possession of any vessel which has been given to Him, the primary object of consecration is that we will receive from God the inheritance that Jesus purchased for us with His own blood, that we might enter into Truth and enjoy the benefits of the righteousness, peace, health and protection that Jesus died to give us. The Holy Spirit has been sent into this world to take possession of us, to teach and train us and show us everything we need to know concerning that inheritance and lead us into it. Consecration places us in a position where God's Spirit can do this; and from this, we can see the importance of consecration.

The fulness of blessing, concerning our righteousness, fulness of peace, health and all protection and financial victory, have their foundation in consecration. One of the most important principles of consecration is that not only our hope of heaven depends upon it, but more importantly our preparation for Heaven. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people, and consecration is the only means by which God can prepare us for Heaven. Paul explains this in 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:23,24: *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit, and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Consecration places us in a position to look to God to do all things for us, to give up our way of trying to get to Heaven by our own righteousness and accepting God's righteousness and His way and letting Him take us through. An analogy, how could a tailor make us a suit if we never gave him the material? It is the same with us, how could God prepare us for eternal life if we never give Him our life and become fully consecrated to Him? It is just as unreasonable to expect God to prepare us and take us to Heaven when we do not give Him the opportunity.

There are many professing Christians who expect God to take them to Heaven yet never allow Him to have their life. That is the reason why many are called but few chosen; it is written: "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads unto life and few there be that find it." That is the reason it is written: "When the Son of man cometh will he find faith on the earth?"

Jesus said: *"As it was in the days of Noe so shall it be in the days of the Son of man; as it was in the days of Lot, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man."*

Consecration to God will place in us a clean heart, fulness of the Spirit, if we maintain that attitude, "Lord, I will go thy way." Then God begins to do what He has promised to do, but He cannot do it if He does not get possession of us. *"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols will I cleanse you."* (Ezekiel 36:2.)

We are given an example in Jeremiah 18:3, "Then I went down to the Potter's house, and behold, he wrought a work on the wheels." Further in the chapter we discover how the potter was working on the wheels with the clay and the vessel he made was marred; but that potter was such a master that he took those fragments of the marred vessel and made a vessel to suit himself.

When we once get into God's hands right, and He is not hindered, He will fulfill in our life what He has promised in His Word. He alone can do it. Our efforts will take us farther from God. When we are as clay in His hands, this great, efficient Potter will show us that He is the Master-workman, for it is

written Eph. 2:10, *"We are His workmanship, created unto good works in Jesus Christ, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

One very plain and important passage that informs us how to become consecrated is found in Romans 12:1, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* That is the most commonsense thing to do; to present our body a living sacrifice is the most essential thought about consecration, placing ourselves without reserve into God's hands for Him to do with as He pleases. We are to give up our plans and ways of doing things and meeting things, and we are to accept God's will, God's plans, and it means especially, that we are to surrender our lives to live a Scriptural life.

When we surrender our lives, God furnishes the power and desire to live according to His Word. God placed the commandments in the New Testament, and He does not expect any individual to keep them in their own strength; but back of every command, back of every admonition, the power of God comes right out to back it up.

When a person presents themselves a living sacrifice, they become holy, acceptable unto God. He immediately accepts, takes possession, of that which we present to Him. *"And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."* We have our nature changed; transformed means to make into another form. We naturally have a way of viewing things, of thinking and acting which is exactly opposite to God's, and we are to be formed or changed to His way of doing things, which will eventually take place as we yield ourselves.

We are to be completely made over, just as God took the clay and made Adam; we are His pieces of clay, and He can make us over again, just as He did man at the beginning. God took nothing and made something in creation, and He can take nothing, if we are willing to be nothing in ourselves, and make something in re-creation for His glory and honor. *"And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,"* or spiritual nature, *"that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."*

The will of God, to the natural man seems like a hard thing, but thank God, it is just the opposite. The will of God is the best place anyone could be in. Satan likes to turn our opinion entirely around, instead of it being the most difficult place to get in, it is one of the best, and that is the reason so few people consecrate themselves, because Satan pictures that it will be the hardest, meanest place that a human being could get into.

We cannot allow Satan to make us afraid of the Will of God because God's Will should be our will, and everything else should be broken off, and we should be glad to yield all to Him. Then we will prove that it is acceptable. It is the only perfect place in our earthly pathway. Perfect blessing is only found in the perfect Will of God, who loved us and gave His own Son that we might enter into His Will. It makes God our workman, and the moment we present our bodies a living sacrifice, He begins to work as the potter works with the clay.

He begins to mold and fashion a Christian character, which will make us an entirely new creature until we are conformed to His image. (Romans 8:28.) Those who have done this come to know that all things work together for good. Everything that touches us will be the chisel, plane, and pruning knife from God's hands; every cross look, every loss, every gain, everything in our homes, in the workshop, in our business, in our Christian work will all have only one primary object in view; that is to conform our life into the very image of Jesus Christ; so we do not have to worry about what people say or do, because as it reaches us it has passed through God and thus can only prove to be the most glorious and blessed thing, however hard it seems, or appears; that very mean, spiteful act of someone, that persecution from another, if allowed of God to reach us, if met as He directs in His Word, will take us to the heights of blessing and victory.

1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 3:9, *"For ye are labourers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."* God's husbandry means God's garden. That is a splendid illustration of this power of being

transformed. "God's building.' That is the carpenter with the lumber. It also says in Ephesians 2:10: "*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.*" Some may ask, what will be the benefit to me, what will be the result? The Lord begins to instruct us concerning this in Matthew 11:28; He gives us an idea of the personal profit, benefit, and blessing. It is all to gain and nothing to lose. 'Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. I will lift every burden; I will give you peace; I will make you conqueror over sin; I will deliver you from the evil one and protect you for time and eternity; I will give you rest; I will take all trouble away; I will supply your needs and desires, if you will but come to Me. How is this to be done? Consecrate yourselves. "*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

Jesus invites us to take His yoke upon us and be willing to go when He goes and to stop when He stops, move when He moves, rest when He rests, yet, He will not compel us; He invites us. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; What will be the results? "For I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Nothing to be afraid of; nothing to be backward about, you need not feel abashed in approaching Him any more than your own mother, father, brother, or sister. He is meek, lowly, as the poorest, humblest person you could meet. 'And ye shall find rest unto your souls.'

That means life in its broadest sense; complete rest for your entire being: your spiritual life will be at rest, your body will be at rest--not tormented by the enemy--your home will be restful and controlled by God, and every part of your life will be blessed and controlled by God's power "You can rest," He says, "and I will work, manage and control you; I will make things go right for you. That is what God does when we take His yoke upon us, and He will do everything else besides; He will be our workman and make things right. "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." That makes Him our Teacher.

By taking this attitude we learn of Him. Nominal Christians today are taught by men; the preacher's study in colleges, from men and books. No wonder the ministers today do not believe in God's way of healing; they do not teach on baptism, about the Holy Spirit, trusting God for our temporal affairs; they have no faith; nor do they teach about the second coming of Christ. The one reason that these things are not known is because people have sought their knowledge from men, from the books of men, instead of at the feet of Jesus Christ; they have not learned of Him. That is the only place to learn; He is the great teacher.

Elihu gave Job a sermon on this subject in Job 36:22. "*Behold, God exalteth by his power: who teacheth like him?*" That question has never been answered by preacher or layman. No college professor could teach anyone like God could teach a soul. If you desire to know what this Book means, to be led into the truth, if you desire to become acquainted with God's ways and have an understanding of Christ, the prophecy of the Bible; or if you would like to know about God's financial plan, there is only one school and one Teacher, and that is God; no one else can teach you in the proper way. Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, the Triune God.

Consecration makes Jesus Christ your personal, private tutor every moment of every day, He is at our side and is endeavoring to teach us and trying to help us to grow and develop concerning His great salvation, concerning prophecy, concerning this wonderful Gospel age.

"My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The meaning behind those words, do not seem to convey the true meaning. My yoke is delightful, my yoke is grand, glorious, and blessed and you are perfectly happy wearing my yoke. How inadequate the English language is to express the significance of those words.

If you take his yoke, you will find happiness and fulness of joy in the Atonement of Jesus Christ, God's perfect peace, perfect rest, and perfect comfort. We want to meet these offenses, circumstances, and details of life, as God says in His Word, and they will abound with the richest blessings of every kind from His heart of love to His true children.