



January 4th, 2026
Pastor Josh McPherson
"THE CONSECRATED LIFE"

"THE CONSECRATED LIFE"

"As we launch into 2026, the note we're striking is this: **"Return to our first love.."**

"Return to the center of gravity: **an unwavering love for Jesus Christ...**"

A TWO-FOLD GOAL:

- 1) Lower **expectations** of God.
- 2) Raise **anticipation** for God.

Before Climbing, Consecration:

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

'These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your **deeds**, your **hard work** and your **perseverance**. 2 I know that you **cannot tolerate wicked people**, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have **persevered** and have **endured hardships** for my name, and **have not grown weary...**

Yet I hold this against you: You have **forsaken the love you had at first**. 5 **Consider** how far you have fallen! **Repent** and **do the things you did at first**. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. 6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." (Revelation 2:1-7)

How We Make War:

By **intentionally, persistently, aggressively** drawing nearer **to Jesus**.



January 4th, 2026
Pastor Josh McPherson
"THE CONSECRATED LIFE"

What IS Consecration?

A **lifelong yielding to the Holy Spirit**, for **ever-increasing freedom** from sin's dominance, and **ever-increasing likeness of Christ** in our lives.

CONSECRATION IS TWO THINGS:

#1: SEPARATION.

"But you are a **chosen race**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, a **people for his own possession**, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who **called you out of darkness** into **his marvelous light**. 10 Once you were not a people, but **now you are God's people**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:9-10)

"Beloved, I urge you as **sojourners and exiles** to **abstain from the passions of the flesh**, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:11-12)

#2: DEDICATION.

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship**. 2 **Do not be conformed** to this world, but be **transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)

THE RESPONSE:

1) **Audit Your Life.**

*Time, Resources, Knowledge, Dreams, Aspirations,
Relationships, Assets, Money, Talent.*



January 4th, 2026
Pastor Josh McPherson
"THE CONSECRATED LIFE"

2) **Consider the Results.**

"Is this the evidence of a consecrated life? What areas are slacking or sloppy?"

3) **Give God His Tithe (of your year)**

Podcast/Family Reset Exercise/Church Camp/Consecrate Series/City Group.

RESOLVE FOR 2026:

Before God speaks... He already has my **YES**.



January 4th, 2026
Pastor Josh McPherson
"THE CONSECRATED LIFE"

Discussion Questions:

Getting to Know Me

1. What memories will you remember from this recent Christmas season? What were some of your favorite moments?
2. What are you excited for in the Year of our Lord 2026?

Into the Bible/Sermon

1. Read Revelation 2:1-7. In what ways is this letter to the Church in Ephesus a relevant word for us at Grace City? Describe the parallels you see between the journey we've been on as a church family, and the Church in Ephesus.
2. Pastor Josh used an example of the "Goofy's Sky School" ride to describe the Christian life. "It's this crazy ride where you're simultaneously saying, "WHEEEE!" and also "We're going to die!" at the same time!" How have you experienced that reality play out in your christian life so far? How does the example resonate with you?
3. Consecration is twofold-"Separation & Dedication". What does it look like for a church to live out these principles? What does it look like a family to live out these principles? What about in a personal relationship with Jesus? How do these three intersect?

Application

1. Describe your response to the sermon as you listened. What was God doing in your heart and mind? Did you have a big takeaway or something that particularly stirred or moved you?
2. Do you think there could be any area of your life where you are consciously or unconsciously afraid to give God your wholehearted YES? Why do you think that is?
3. What could change if you responded in obedient faith to pastor Josh's exhortation to give God your YES, before He speaks?
4. Can you think of the names of lost people in your life (maybe they are family, or friends, or coworkers...maybe they are your "one more") who might be impacted if you took seriously the call to live a consecrated life? How might your YES to God impact their lives? Their eternity? Whose changed life might be on the other side of your act of obedience?
5. How do you sense God is leading you to respond to this week's message? How will you live out what you heard? What action steps is the Spirit of God revealing to you?