

**JOSHUA 3:5**

*JOSHUA TOLD THE PEOPLE, "CONSECRATE YOURSELVES, FOR TOMORROW THE LORD WILL DO AMAZING THINGS AMONG YOU."*

**CONSECRATE YOUR HEART**

FIND TIME EACH DAY TO BE ALONE WITH GOD. ALLOW HIM TO SEARCH YOUR HEART FOR ANYTHING THAT NEEDS TO BE "CLEANED UP."

**CONSECRATE YOUR MIND**

BEGIN TO GUARD YOUR MIND AND PROTECT IT FROM NEGATIVE THOUGHTS AND DAY DREAMS - FORCE YOURSELF TO THINK GOOD THINGS.

**CONSECRATE YOUR BODY**

DON'T GIVE IN TO EVERYTHING YOUR FLESH CRIES FOR. IF IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD, DON'T DO IT.

# GAME TIME



## PREPARATION

Joshua knew the importance of consecrating yourself before entering into a battle. The word *consecrate* means to clean yourself up spiritually for God's divine purpose to be fulfilled through you. Followers of Jesus that want the Lord to do "amazing things" are to be different, set apart from the rest, a people for God's use and not for our own agenda. We are soldiers in the Lord's Army, which means we are here to fight with a Kingdom perspective.

*"Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."*

**EPHESIANS  
6:11**

Parenting today seems to be more difficult than ever! My parents didn't have to worry about what I was exposed to on the internet or who I was communicating with on my cell phone. There are many more enemies that parents must fight against today than my parents ever had to deal with! This is more of a reason we need to be ready for the battles coming against us and our children each and every day. The problem is, most parents don't know how to fight spiritually which results in physical defeat.

According to Joshua, battle preparation begins with the consecration of self before the Lord. After we "clean things up" the armor can be put on with the reading of God's Word. Then we wait for the battles to arrive and we can watch how God does "amazing things among you" (Joshua 3:5). If I have consecrated myself for what is coming, I know God is going to show up and do something amazing! I have learned to expect Him to move, and He will. If you are not doing your prep, you are probably not expecting Him to show up - which is why so few parents witness amazing things these days. I am here to tell you that God is still in the "amazing" business. He can fix this! He can restore that! He can handle each and every need you have! Jesus is everything you need and He is the only thing you need. He is enough.

## COACHING PERSPECTIVE

Going into a battle "unclean" is like entering into a war zone without armor or weapons to fight with. Or in the world of softball, taking the field without a glove, or in the batter's box without a bat - we would never do that, right? Yet, we carelessly enter a day of battle without gearing up in God's presence? For coaches, it should be just as ridiculous not to clean up our hearts before God at the beginning of each day as it would be for a catcher not to wear gear behind the plate! Someone is going to get hurt! I don't know about you, but I never know what kind of problem is coming that day - I just know it's coming! Parents, players, injuries, bad attitudes, budgets, sickness, relationships, and the list goes on... and on.... This is especially true for coaches that want to impact the lives of their players for Christ! We are in a battle over the souls of our players and the enemy wants to destroy their lives - which is why we must consecrate ourselves before the Lord and be ready to do battle for the Kingdom agenda each and every day of our lives. With God on our side, those problems don't stand a chance! Without God on our side, we don't stand a chance! There is victory in every battle for those that are ready and armored up for the fight.

*"God is our refuge and strength..."*

**PSALM 46:1**



*"Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you: do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go."*

**JOSHUA 1:7**