

All Kinds of Prayer The Prayer of Consecration

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Pride is the enemy of everything.

Pride undercuts every great thing the Lord wants for us.

Pride kills.

- Lucifer's original sin in heaven was pride.

Followers of Jesus usually begins their walk in humility.

We are in awe of what God has done for us.

- But we so easily allow pride to seep in...to make us think that we are making it on our own strength, skills, wisdom.

Duet. 8

God warns the Israelites that when they enter into the land of abundance, living in houses they did not build, eating from crops they did not plant, don't forget the Lord your God.

- God did it.
- God provides.

But it inevitably happens to us all to some extent:

Our desperate cries for the Living God fade into a simple tip of the hat, a wink toward God.

Today we consider the prayer of consecration.

The prayer of consecration or dedication is really the prayer type that most addresses pride.

Pre-prayer.

- An area that should precede every other prayer and area of our lives.

Psalm 37:5

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:

Notice 3 things:

Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust in him,
He will bring it to pass.

Much of the time we want to skip number one and go right into trusting in Him.

Why? **Because the commitment part is the part where we deal with ourselves.**

- There needs to be a commitment from your heart.

We have a tendency that when we begin to walk in God's blessings we can lose our dependence on God.

When times get tough...people show up to church.

- They'll take notes, get the app, sticky notes with scripture on it.
- Then, they get their need met and stop coming.

We begin to think that what *God* has started we can finish.

Paul said, *Having begun in the Spirit, do you now think you can continue in the flesh?*

- Foolishness.

Without God's anointing, we are nothing.

We have to begin with committing our ways to the Lord.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Remember the man who came to Jesus who said, "*Lord, I believe, but help Thou my unbelief.*"

How often do we provide ourselves with a "safety net" in our walking with God?

{PromiseKeepers: praying for no rain, but just in case, there's the exit.

- I believe, but just in case it doesn't happen here's plan B.}

Abraham: God told him to leave his family and go...so he took his dad with him.

His dad was rich. In case God didn't come through.

His family slowed him down.

They get to the Promise land, so he gets spooked and goes back to Egypt.

- He then brings a little Egypt back with him.

You are not trusting in the Lord with **all** your heart if **you** are making plans for him not to.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

In all your ways acknowledge him...

That's the consecration part: acknowledging him in all your ways.

What happens? In many of our ways we acknowledge ourselves and give the difficult ones to God.

Acknowledge: Hebrew: Yada, to consider, to know intimately. In everything, we are to consider the Lord first.

And He will direct your paths.

A consecration of yourself goes right to heart, to your thoughts of the heart.

- Your thoughts are the core of your being.

Proverbs 23:7

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

The core of our lives...needs to be in communion with God.

- We try to keep those things secret from others around you, but you can't hide the core of who you are from God.

Jesus said you clean the outside of the cup but don't clean the inside. How often do we become religious?

We look good, we smile, we shake hands at church and on the inside you're thinking ill of them.

Then we play the old game of, "It's their fault, I'm the victim."

Have you heard this before?: "They sure make me mad."

- No one can *make* you mad, you choose to get mad.

We have to examine ourselves and admit, “I’m the problem, not sister so-and-so.”

They may have their problems, but why do you let them effect you?

The prayer of consecration goes to the core of your being and sets your own heart right.

- You must be consecrated before you ever bring a need up before the Lord.
- That’s what causes prayer not to be answered.
- Bitterness, anger, resentment, offense.

We can’t skip the “*Commit your ways to the Lord.*”

- It cleans out the pipe between you and God and causes your prayers to be heard and the answers to come down.

The prayer of consecration deals with root of the problem: **pride.**

Pride causes us to make excuses, to try to ignore and make deals with God.

- You place yourself in a position of calling God a liar.
- If you start calling God a liar, you will lose that argument every time.

1Peter 5:5

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

1 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways. Then will I hear from heaven and heal their land.

- It doesn’t just work with a nation, but also with an individual.

We must humble ourselves first:

How? Not just by saying, “I humble myself.”

But by looking at ourselves and admitting our sin and weakness, confessing the weaknesses.

- Not trying to hide ourselves and just play church.
- Not cleaning up the outside of the cup while the inside remains dirty.

1John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

Then we can come to him and offer other prayers and they will be heard.

John 15:7

If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you can ask what you will and it will be done.

We want to go right to the part of his words abiding in us and not face the reality of abiding in him.

We want to hoard our secret sins and still see if God will bless us and answer our prayers.

- Forget it!

God doesn't want wasted prayers.

In a prayer of consecration: **we must decrease so that God can increase.**

It's interesting about Abraham:

He did seem to try to have an ace-in-the-hole with God a lot of times.

- Keeping his dad with him.
- Coming back from Egypt and trying to bring some of Egypt's ways with him.
- God promises a son with Sarah, so he gets a handmaid to conceive a child, just in case.

But deep on the inside, Abraham was a very humble man as we come to the story of Lot going to Sodom and Gomorrah.

- He, at this time, had much wealth, much land, many prayers had been answered.

God spoke to Abraham that he was going to destroy those cities. Abraham is going to intercede against that happening.

He starts his prayer with: *I am but dust and ashes.....*

A great way to start your prayer time.

Yes, I'm the righteousness of God in Christ,

- But in and of myself, I am nothing, dust and ashes.
- Without God, I have nothing, can do nothing.

Isaiah, one of the greatest men of the bible that ever lived.

God told him to spread his message:

Isaiah responds, *Lord, I am a man of unclean lips.*

All God wants is your honesty.

I wish Christians would understand the power of their lips.

James told us that even in nature salt water and fresh water don't come from the same fountain.

- You have to go to church to find that.

We come all dressed up, ready to praise the Lord, walk out of the church shredding the Pastor, the Worship Leader, the ushers.

Isaiah understood how unclean he was.....what did God do?

- An angel comes and picks up a coal and touches his lips to purify him.

As we prayer prayers of consecration, I believe that God comes into your heart and touches us with the coal of His purity.

This is how it was in the OT.

Magnify the Lord.

You can't make God any bigger than He is, but you can make yourself smaller.

- God increases only in our own sight and vision.
- We must see Him as bigger than we see him right now.

We have diminished him in our own sight.

We must focus on the Lord, take the attention of ourselves and put it on God.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious (worry) about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

One of the most subtle forms of pride is **worry**.

Worry says, "I can't help God and if I can't do anything else, then I can at least worry."

Worry tears yourself down.

Jesus said: Birds don't worry, flowers don't worry birds don't worry.

And the peace of God, which passes (transcends) your understanding will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The purpose of the prayer of consecration is to bring peace into your life.