

HANDOUT PART FOUR-CONSECRATION: “A Committed Heart” Psalms 119:17-20

KEY: God Desire’s We Move Beyond Being Converted To Being “Consecrated”!

READ LUKE 9:23-25 **KEY:** To Not Waste What I Am In Christ Requires...Consecration of My Life!

When You Accepted Christ as Your Savior...At that Very Moment...Christ “Deposited” in you...All the Character Qualities of Christ! You Were Given Everything You Need to Be Like Christ Consecration is the Process of Letting Those Christ-Like Qualities Come Out...So That You Will Impact This World...Your World...for Jesus Christ! **READ Ephesians 1:3**

Today’s Text...God Reveals to Us the Heart of a Consecrated Disciple. **READ Psalms 119:17-20**

Vs 17 The Psalmist Clearly Understands he Cannot of his Own Ability Obey Gods Word!

- He says...That I May Live, and Obey “Keep” Thy Word...THIS IS ALWAYS A CHOICE!

The Psalmist recognizes his utter need for “Total Dependence” upon God in Order to Keep his Way Straight and to Live a Life Which is Pleasing to God.

- To Depend Upon God...We Must Let Go of this World and...CLING To CHRIST!

Vs-18 says: *Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.* It is particularly tempting to approach the Scriptures as an academic exercise for people who have been Christians for a long time...Yet the Scripture Tells Us Over and Over that Unless God Opens Our Eyes, We Will Miss Wonderful Things. This Position of Humbling Ourselves, Asking God to Open Our Eyes Makes the Truth of God’s Word Available to Both the Scholar and the New Christian Alike.

- KEY: The Heart that Seeks God Through Surrender and Humility Will Understand Gods Truth!

Because of Mans Fallen Nature...There is a “Veil of Darkness” on the Hearts of All People, with Respect to Divine and Spiritual Things their Understandings are Darkened. This Veil Must Be Removed, Before They Can Discern Spiritual Things in God’s Word.

- However, God Reveals His Truth Only to a Consecrated Heart! God Will Not Reveal Himself or Provide Guidance to a Christian Who “Allows Unconfessed Sin” in Their Life!
- When We Allow Sin to Remain in Our Lives It Literally Disconnects the Line Between Us and God...Simply Put...*Sin Separates Us from God.*
- It’s Not that God Cannot Hear Us when We have Unconfessed Sin...It’s Just That HE Will NOT MOVE TO ANSWER UNTIL WE CONFESS!

In Verse 19 the writer says that We Are Pilgrims in this Life. *“I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me.* **Having The Attitude that We are Strangers Here on Earth Is One of the Hardest Things for a Christian to Embrace!** **READ HEBREWS 12:1-2**

- Think About It...Everything in this World Seeks to Draw Us In...Entangling Our Time...Our Thoughts...Our Passions and Our Hearts!
- And All These Entanglements Keep Us From Understanding that we are Just Strangers Here...Pilgrims Passing Through...On Our Way to Eternity!

Consecrated Christians Understand...This World is Not Their Home!

- They Understand, while They may take an Interest in a Certain Location along their Path, they are Always Committed to the Journey’s End...ETERNITY!

THOT: So often we look to the day when God will grant us Great Prosperity, the Right Relationship or that Thing that We Believe We Need Before We Can Be Happy! *BUT...Happiness and Contentment Don’t Necessarily Follow Success in Those Terms. This “With-God” Life that We are Living is A CONSECRATED Journey.*

POINT: *The Christian Life is About Strapping on Your Sandals, Picking Up Your Walking Stick, and Following After Jesus Christ! Moment By Moment!*

Question: Have You ever Thought about the Fact that When You Accepted Christ as Your Savior and Were Saved from Your Sins...That...At that Very Moment... Christ Deposited In YOU...All the Character Qualities of Christ! And You Were Given Everything You Need to Be Like Christ?!

You and I Have But One of Two Choices to Make. Either Remain Trapped In the Quagmire Of The Hopelessness That Holds This World Captive...OR YOU can follow the Psalmists words of verse 20, "My Soul is Consumed with Longing for Your Laws At ALL Times."

- The Psalmist Understood that We Need to Abide With Christ in Gods Word! **Read John 15:4**
- William Wilberforce stated, "There is NO Shortcut to Holiness; it Must be the business of our whole lives." *The Only Way to Grow Is Through Abiding.*

The Psalmists Wanted a Deeper Relationship with His Lord and so his words in verse 20 says, "My Soul is Consumed with Longing for Your Laws at All Times."

- A Soul Consumed with Longing for God is a Key to Living a Consecrated Life!
- The Bible is not something we can just scroll through and tap our favorite parts.
- It's something we must read, study, meditate on, and let transform our lives.

In John 15 Jesus says: *"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me."* Jesus is telling His disciples and US that the Nutrients that We Need to Grow in Our Faith do Not come from Within Ourselves. They Come from God Alone. So, We Must be Connected to the Source of Nutrients that Produce Fruit.

If We Want a Life Filled With the Fruit of God, We Must Daily Spend Time in the Word of God. Because Apart from God, We Can Do Nothing.

As we read All of Scripture and See how God has been Faithful Over and Over again, it Will Change Our Perspective. *This Eternal Perspective is the product of Daily Spending Time in God's Word and Reminding Ourselves of who God is and that He Is In Control.*

A.W. Tozer said, *"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."*

- That means we should do Everything Possible to have Our View of God Tethered to God's Word and NOT Our Own Imaginations.
- We must remember that the Bible is God's Divine Revelation to His Creation. It is how He Speaks to Us. It is how He Teaches Us about who He Is.

If our goal is to have a personal connection with God, then it is Only by Immersing Ourselves in His very words that we will grow in our understanding of who He is. I Encourage YOU...To Abandon Anything that is Keeping You from Following Christ with Everything You Have!

Let What God Worked in You at Salvation...Your New Nature Take Leadership and Control Over Your Old Nature...With Its Wrong Desires and Priorities!

Surrender Your Time...Your Abilities and Your Finances to God's Use. As You Walk in the light of His Word...Consecrating Your Time, Your Talents and Your Treasure...Christ Will Be Glorified...And You Will Bear Much Fruit for the Kingdom!

POINT: MAY WHAT CHRIST HAS DEPOSITED IN ME YIELD A BIG RETURN!