

GOD WITH US

His People. His Dwelling Place.

Living a Consecrated Life - Craig Galloway

Consecration often sounds like a heavy subject, but it's not meant to be. In truth, it is something we choose to seek out, and it brings us great joy and life. It is a beautiful joy to be faithful and true to our covenant with God (much like it is a great joy to be true and faithful to our spouse).

Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them, but you shall cling to the Lord your God just as you have done to this day.

Joshua 23:6-8

Consecration is not a call to remove ourselves from the world but to not allow the thinking of the world to influence our beliefs. (Rom 12:1-2) **Consecration is to give entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause.** It incorporates dedication and holiness. The world talks about commitment but Jesus spoke about being devoted to God.

"Commitment comes from a calculated decision, devotion comes from a consecrated heart."

There is an invitation to live a dedicated, holy life devoted to God and his purposes. This starts with a consecrated heart.

1. **Consecration is something that we actively choose.** It is important to remember that consecration is never about earning God's love. Rather it is a response to his love. We choose to respond to his goodness and mercy by allowing him to be God of our lives. We give ourselves to him entirely. It is not something we do out of our abilities, but by surrendering to Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit does the work of making us holy and pleasing, but we need to choose to surrender to the process (Eph 4:17-24; Jude 1:24-25).
2. **We are consecrated for God's glory.** Every single one of us has a role as a priest (1 Peter 2:9). God called us out of darkness, sin, and slavery, to be a people who belong to him and who are established on a solid foundation. Our worship is in response to and to give glory to this loving, generous God (Ps 40:2-3). The overflow of a consecrated life is being able to worship him with freedom and joy. He is so worthy of all our worship.
3. **We are consecrated for Kingdom purpose.** It is not about asking the question of what is right and wrong. The question we should be asking is: what does it look like for me to pursue righteousness and flee sinful desires (2 Tim 2:20-23)? This often looks different for each of us. Are we responding to what God is asking us to do personally? It is following his guidance that leads us to live a consecrated life.

Consecration comes from hearing God's voice calling us, and then choosing obedience.

Reflection:

1. Spend some time asking Holy Spirit to show you what He is personally asking you to do to consecrate your heart. It's not about right or wrong, but about hearing His voice calling you and guiding you, and then choosing obedience.
2. If you feel comfortable share what Holy Spirit has shown you with someone you trust. They can pray and encourage you to walk out what God has said to you.