

Consecration

Original Greek Meaning:

- to consecrate, sanctify, prepare, dedicate, be hallowed, be holy, be sanctified, be separate

1. It means a change of ownership - now dedicated to God and for God.
 - **"Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal." (Exo13:2)**
 - **A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. (Lev27:30)**
2. Old Testament laws (do not, eat not, wear not...) pictured what a consecrated life is like outwardly.
 - **You are to be holy to Me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own. (Lev20:26)**

Consecration of Priest:

- **Exodus 29**

Bases of Consecration:

1. God's calling and chosen grace
 - **who (God) has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. (2Tim1:9)**
 - **And I have taken the Levites in place of all the firstborn sons in Israel. (Lev8:18)**
 - **No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. (Heb5:4)**
 - **But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1Pet2:9)**
2. Cleansed by the *blood* and *anointed* for His service
 - **In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Heb9:22)**
 - **He then presented the bull for the sin offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on its head. Moses slaughtered the bull and took some of the blood, and with his finger he put it on all the horns of the altar to purify the altar. He poured out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. So he consecrated it to make atonement for it. (Lev 8:14-15)**

- **"Take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; consecrate it and all its furnishings, and it will be holy. Then anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils; consecrate the altar, and it will be most holy. Anoint the basin and its stand and consecrate them. "Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water. Then dress Aaron in the sacred garments, anoint him and consecrate him so he may serve me as priest. (Exo40:9-13)**
- **Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood from the altar and sprinkled them on Aaron and his garments and on his sons and their garments. So he consecrated Aaron and his garments and his sons and their garments.(Lev8:30)**

Outcomes of Consecration:

1. Set apart for God's use and service, holy to the Lord. Without consecration, you will have very little use in God's kingdom. Inner chamber is for *priests only*.
 - **But only you and your sons may serve as priests in connection with everything at the altar and inside the curtain. I am giving you the service of the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the sanctuary must be put to death. (Num18:7)**
2. God becomes our portion and inheritance.
 - **The LORD said to Aaron, "You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites. (Lev18:20)**
 - **"Consecrate those parts of the ordination ram that belong to Aaron and his sons: the breast that was waved and the thigh that was presented. (Exo29:27)**
3. Union with God in His purpose, working, and honor.
 - **Make tunics, sashes and headbands for Aaron's sons, to give them dignity and honor. After you put these clothes on your brother Aaron and his sons, anoint and ordain them. Consecrate them so they may serve me as priests. (Exo28:40-41)**

Consecration God Seeks:

1. Christ's consecration:
 - **Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, O God.' " (Heb10:5-7)**
 - **Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! (Phil2:5-8)**

2. Our consecration:

a. Offer our bodies to God:

- **Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. (Rom6:13)**

- **Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (Rom12:1)**

b. God deserves no less than “all”

- **Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Mat19:21)**

- **What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ. (Phil3:8)**

Keys to Realization of Consecration:

1. Cross - you may (try to) consecrate yourself (again and again) but only *cross-bearer* can truly live out a consecrated life.

- **Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (Luk9:23)**

2. Separation - shun away from “unclean” things.

- **"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (2Cor6:17-7:1)**

3. Faith - only His Spirit can work out in us the total consecration God requires. Trust in Him and allow Him to work in our lives.

- **Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Mat19:26)**

- **May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. (1The5:23-24)**

4. Hope - watch for His glorious appearing that He may find us not ashamed.

- **Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we**

shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. (1Joh3:2-3)

5. Love - the greatest enabling power.

- **For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. (2Cor5:14-15)**

Conclusion:

We don't know how God is going to use us. However what we can do is to make ourselves ready through consecration.

- **If a man cleanses himself from the latter (ignoble), he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. (2Tim2:21)**

God doesn't need a straight-A student to accomplish His work. He needs consecrated men and women who are so captured by His love that He can ask them to do anything and they will do it.

That is, to echo what Christ said, "Here I am – I have come to do Your will, O God."

- **"Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD ?" (1Chr29:5)**