

Key Scripture: *2 Timothy 2:19-21 KJV*

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. [20] But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. [21] If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

The Master has a need of you. He saved you principally for Himself. When you understand this, it will influence the way you live your life. An example is the children of Israel. God said let my people go that they may serve Me, not that they may become a nation, *Exodus 8:1*. God is the focus of the service and all He did in Egypt was for one purpose: that He may be served. The same is true of all of us, we are saved for His service. We are all relevant in the service of God regardless of when we were saved. *Psalms 111* says the works of the Lord are great. Hence, He needs great people to do it. Hence, He extends the call to as many as will come.

God has a need of you. He needed a donkey to enter triumphantly to Jerusalem, *Matthew 21*. The same way He needs you. As we go into this meditation, we will understand how He needs you and how to respond to Him through consecration. God uses each man to the level of his consecration. Hence, He calls us to grow in consecration. In this meditation, we will see the stages and the requirements in consecration. He has the assignment for you written in His hands and He will surely make it known to you.

There are three major things that compel us to live a consecrated life.

1. **The Fear of the Lord**- *2 Corinthians 7:1, 2 Corinthians 5:11*. Consecration is needed for His continuous use of you. The word 'fear' here is same as terror; our God is a consuming fire. The Spirit of the fear of the Lord is part of the whole package that we received, *Isaiah 11:1-2*. It teaches us to fear Him because we know He is the one that can save and the one that can destroy. We fear Him because He is the Almighty and His judgement is final. If men are against you, you can run to God, but if God is against you, who do you run to? This is not an oppressive fear or a fear of terror as the unbelievers who resist the gospel because of a fear of being judged. His mighty power towards you is not to destroy you, but to save you to the uttermost. Because you know He has the power to save you, you reverentially fear Him. This fear moves you to His mercy.
2. **Mercy**. *Psalms 136*. When someone is so mighty and massive that He could crush you, yet He brings Himself so low to the point of living inside of you, it brings you to consecration. The encounter Jacob had in Peniel was an encounter with mercy, *Genesis 32:10*. Mercy wrestled with Him. Hence Jacob said I do not deserve the least of your mercies. He condescended Himself to the point where Jacob could hold Him down and He would beg to be released, *Genesis 32:23-31*. There is a cry God can never turn His ears from, it is a cry for mercy. *Psalms 147:11, Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 12:1*. Hence it is said that the redeemed of the Lord should say so, His mercy endures forever. His mercy overrides our weaknesses and consumes them into Himself and replace all the weakness with His strength, so that when you have done all

that He asked you to do, you give praise to His mercy. His mercy is a person. When you call upon His mercy, He comes to you. He is a God that destroys sin and sinners; His eyes cannot behold sin. However, this pure God, Holy and mighty came down to dwell among sinners, this is because of the riches of His mercy. Pray and ask for His Mercy continually. The mercy of God is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. This is the expression of His mercy in all His ramifications. When you know and think about His mercy, how do you view it? Sometimes, we get so familiar with God, that we forget where He picked us from. When we know where He picked us from, we fear and reverence Him. We were by nature Children of Wrath. The wrath of God is not something anybody can face, it is terrible. To be wrath is to be fiercely angered. God is a loving God, but there is a side of Him that no one should toy with. He delivered the Children of Israel, but He took 40 years to bury them one by one in the wilderness. He crushed Pharaoh, but these people were so fearful that they dishonoured Him and magnified their enemies above God, *1 Corinthians 10:1-5*. The church of this age has lost the fear of the Lord. We cannot afford to take God for granted. Yes, He is a God of mercy, but He has standards and He will not compromise His standards. Your consecration doesn't increase or decrease God's status, it is for your good. God is rich in mercy and you can never exhaust the riches of His mercy but please don't take it for granted. His mercy and grace walk hand in hand, they are one and the same. When He shows mercy, He gives grace. A key combination to take note of is Mercy and truth, they also always go together. All the path of the Lord is Mercy and truth to them that fear Him, *Genesis 24:27, Psalm 25:10*. May the Lord never leave you destitute of His mercy and truth. His truth is constant, it cannot be bent. Facts can change based on circumstance. Justice also is constant. *Psalm 85:10*. His truth and Justice work hand in hand. His Mercy provokes us to Love God.

3. **Love.** *2 Corinthians 5:14* When we have understood the riches of His mercy, there will be nothing too big to give. When our consecration is driven by love for God, we are getting to the perfection of our walk with Him. It is His mercy that will lead us into His love and it is His fear that will make us to know His mercy. When mercy is appreciated, it will burst out into your heart as a song of love for Him.

What is Consecration? Consecration means to set apart, to draw away from something. There are three definition in the old testament for consecration:

- It is the crown the priest wears upon His head. *Ezekiel 44, Leviticus 21:12*. This is being crown with the oil of God. There is also the vow of the Nazarine, He must live his hair long. While the crown of the priest is given to Him as anointing, the Nazarine's is because of conquest. In the new testament, the crown is referred to as two things: Stephanos and Diadem. The diadem is given as an oil. Once you are born again, the oil of the Holy Spirit is given to you. You only need to know it and live in the light of the being crowned. This crown does not allow unclean things to hover over your mind. There is another crown, the Stephanos, which you go after as you grow in your love for Him. This is symbolized by the Nazarine vow. This is what Paul referred to as a crown of righteousness. It is a crown given to one who has been faithful, who used what was given to them to get more. This comes to you when you take the next level of consecration which is driven by the love of the Father. There is a level of consecration given to you as a believer already, but God wants you to take the next level. However, this is for those who can

see clearly the glory set before them. *Hebrews 12:2*. Because of what is before you, you do not count your life as being precious anymore. You are ready to lay down your life for Him. *Philippians 1:21-30*. Paul says I press towards the mark, *Philippians 3:14*. This is where you begin to run for the crown. Hence it is said, on your mark, get set, go. This is when the vision becomes clear. The crown or unshaven hair is a crown of dedication, *Numbers 6*. As we allow this lock to grow, *1 Corinthians 11:15* speaks of this hair as our glory. This is a symbol of our bridal fidelity. Many of us are still playing around with our proposal from Jesus. It is when you give an answer, that He can give you the engagement ring. This is when you get to the mark and you are ready to run. This is when the hair is growing. Here, a man moves from the general level of consecration and He begins to take a definite vow because of the Love for God. Recall the two wives of Jacob, they all had their idols but when the time came to move to Bethel, they submitted their idols, *Genesis 35:1-2*.

- Consecration also means a fixed state. It is a state of fixation like the stones that were set in the ephod. In *Revelations 3:12*, Jesus said they that overcome will be fixed as a pillar in the house of the Lord. This means they are stable in the house of God. This is a promise to the overcomer.
- Consecration also means to be set apart, to be hallowed and holy to the Lord

2 Timothy 2 speaks of the foundation, who is Jesus Christ, *1 Corinthians 3:11*. When we are speaking of being consecrated to the Lord and the picture of Jesus is not clear, what you will produce will be like a monk and nun. This is because it is a consecration that is devoid of the foundation. It attempts to do what the foundation is meant to help you do. Any who will consecrate must know that the foundation stands sure. The foundation determines everything about the house. It determines how strong the house is. To ensure that everything is stable around us, He gives us a sure foundation. When we build on this foundation, we never grow weary in living a consecrated life. Many have thrown this foundation away and all they have left are dead works and in a short while, they suffer a burn out, *Isaiah 28:16*. As you rest on this foundation, you will not be ashamed. You will see how Christ lived and He becomes your example. Any man who builds without considering the foundation will build wrongly. The foundation sets the pattern, the corner stone, everything about the house. This is how men like Paul made it, despite the shipwrecks, snake bites and lashes. They stoned him and people thought he was dead, you will wonder what was pushing him. Everywhere he went, all he sought was to make Jesus known, *2 Corinthians 11:21-33*. However, in these last days, Paul is not even the example, Christ is. In these last days, God is producing people that will be at par or even do more than Paul, because the glory of the latter house will be greater than the former.

Prayer: Lord Give pour upon me the Spirit of Consecration. Thank you for the crown of consecration you have given to me already. I am looking up to you for the crown of Life. Please be My strength Oh God, that I run this race and that I might be a vessel meet for the master's use.

Isaiah 66:1-2 KJV

Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? [2] For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.