

CONSECRATION

CONSECRATION is the route to everything we get from God. It is the way to sanctification, to healing, to the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is the way to obtain power to preach this Gospel, and power to lay hands on the sick that they may recover.

The way to get the fire of God on your soul is to make a consecration deeper than words can tell. Do not be satisfied with what grace you have, but sink into God. If you do not receive your sanctification, your healing, your baptism, sink down into God until you reach a depth of consecration you have never known. There is not a thing in the Word that God has for another but that He will give to you. But you must get in desperate earnestness in seeking God. There are heights and depths of consecration to which we have never attained.

If you are seeking for healing for your body, go down before God and you will get it. You may have been prayed for; but if the healing does not come, then God requires you to consecrate, pray through, and wrestle before God, as you did for sanctification or for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and you will receive healing. Many are expecting someone to pray them through. But if they expect someone to do their wrestling for them they will never get their heart's desire. One must pray through.

Consecration is the way of death to self. When you are saved and sanctified and even baptized with the Holy Ghost, there yet remains a self-life or self-will that has to be kept down and bruised and brought under. Paul said : "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection" (I Corinthians 9:27) ; "I die daily" (I Corinthians 15:31). If the Apostle Paul had to keep his body under, surely we must keep our bodies under, and kill out the self-life that we might attain unto the first resurrection.

The Self-Life Is Subjugated

The self-life in a sanctified person is not anger or impatience. Those things have been taken out. There are no uprisings when things go wrong. There is nothing that wants to get even. There is always that in the heart that says: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." But those who are sanctified wholly still find they have a self-life, a self-will, that must be killed out and put under continually, by yielding to the Spirit, that God might work out in the life that perfection day by day. This is the deeper work that goes on as long as we live in this body.

There is an inner consecration that few ever reach. After everything is consecrated on the outside — friends, property, home, and loved ones — there is still an inward consecration that God wants us all to make. It is so deep that it cannot be told. It does not mean your family or house or land. That is outside consecration. (And few ever make the outward consecration to please God. The proof is that when He lays His hand on those things, many will have to go down before Him and make their consecration before they can gain the victory.)

That inward consecration is between your soul and God. It is going down before Him in secret prayer and wrestling with God till you get where He shuts you in, and you separate yourself unto Him alone, and nothing will ever come between you and God.

Consecration is the way of power. Whenever we go down before God to wait on Him for a special outpouring upon the work, or for special power in prayer for the sick, we first begin to consecrate again to God and consecrate to be tested: "O God, if You will pour out Your Spirit on my life, it is at Your disposal afresh. Put me to the test and I will prove true. Try the reins of my heart. Lay Your hand upon me just as heavily as You see best, and, by Thy grace, I will never shrink."

The Fiery Trial That Purifies

Some may tell you not to pray for fiery trials, and that you have enough to bear. But if you have some special request to make of God, ask Him to turn the fire on your life, and you will get the fire but you will have the blessing, too. Persecutions and opposition will be turned loose on your soul. But let it come in His own way, and then stand and say, "God, let the fire burn, but I'll stand."

God wants a people who are not afraid of the fiery trials, a people who are purified, made white, and tried. We must suffer with Him that we might reign with Him. God is looking for real martyrs — men and women who are not afraid to stand and bear the reproach of the Gospel. Jesus is preparing you that you might reign with Him in Glory, and all things work together for good to them that love God. Fiery trials will work out for your good.

God is requiring us to make a deeper consecration than we made a year ago. The things you consecrated then will have to be consecrated afresh. God wants every shore line cut, every band severed.

When something comes up in your life that is hard to bear, keep consecrating to God. Keep all on the altar. If you would have God's best, you must pay the price to get it. Jesus suffered before He was glorified, and you must take the way He trod. You will never have a glorified body with Him unless you suffer with Him.

The trial of your faith is "more precious than of gold that perisheth." Gold is put into the furnace and melted with intense heat till the refiner can see his own image in it. Jesus Christ is putting the- fire on you and me till He can look down and see His own image. He is going to have a people who are purified, made white, and tried. Job said: "He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

We shall have to have the chisel laid on here and there before we shall ever be ready to fit into the temple of the New Jerusalem. We remember that when they were building the temple they had all the stones prepared for the building, all the chiselling done, so it was ready to come together without the sound of a hammer. Jesus Christ is getting material ready for that New Jerusalem that is coming down from God out of Heaven; and if we would be lively stones in that holy temple, we must submit to the chiselling here.