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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CONSECRATE YOUR LIFE?



I once attended a Bible school where our teacher asked us a question about Exodus 19:1–20:21. Both Moses and the people of Israel had prepared to meet with God. Yet when God's presence descended on Mount Sinai, the people trembled and stood at a distance, while Moses drew near. Why was that?

He said something that has stayed with me: the people had prepared themselves for an encounter with God, but Moses had already consecrated his whole life in an ongoing walk with God. The question was: *are you consecrating yourself for an encounter, or to walk with the Lord for life?*

This question invites us to consider the cost of walking faithfully with God for a lifetime. What then is needed to live a life like Moses? One consecrated to God?

Set apart for God

To consecrate your life is to dedicate yourself to God, to offer Him your whole self and allow that belonging to shape your choices. This includes our thoughts, relationships, ambitions, habits, time and how we spend our resources. It involves asking God what He wants us to do and becoming willing to follow where He leads.

The Hebrew verb often translated as 'sanctify' or 'consecrate' is *qadash*. It carries the sense of setting apart as holy. In Joshua 3:5, the people were instructed to consecrate themselves before crossing the Jordan. In Joshua 7:13, consecration involved confronting sin within the community. In Joshua 20:7, the same Hebrew root describes the setting apart of cities of refuge.

These passages concern different situations, but they share the idea of people or places being set apart for God's purposes. For us, consecration means recognising that our lives belong to Him and learning to live accordingly.

If we already belong to God, why consecrate ourselves?

When we come to Christ, we are received by God through His grace. We do not earn that acceptance through the depth of our devotion or the strength of our resolve to become a child of God.

The call to consecration, however, invites us to live out that relationship deeper than the surface. Because we belong to God as His very own, we willingly offer ourselves to Him in daily surrender. Romans 12:1–2 connects this response to God's mercy. Paul urges believers to offer their bodies as

a living sacrifice and to be transformed through the renewing of their minds. Our surrender grows from what God has already done for us.

Consecration can include a significant moment of commitment, but it continues through ordinary decisions on a daily basis. Slowly but surely, we learn to bring our desires, plans and conduct into agreement with the One to whom we belong.

God makes a consecrated life possible

Even our desire to belong wholly to God is a response to His grace and the work of His Spirit. In John 17:17, Jesus prays for His disciples to be sanctified through the truth of God's Word. In 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Paul prays that God Himself would sanctify believers completely. These passages direct our confidence towards God's power to change us.

At the same time, Scripture calls us to respond. We listen, repent, obey and offer ourselves willingly. Philippians 2:12–13 holds these truths together: we are called to active obedience because God is at work within us, shaping both our desires and our actions. We depend on God for the transformation we cannot produce by willpower alone and we trust Him enough to take the next step of obedience.

A lifelong walk

Scripture describes Enoch and Noah as people who walked with God (Genesis 5:22; 6:9). That picture helps us understand consecration as an ongoing relationship.

A walk unfolds step by step. It involves trust and a willingness to follow. There may be seasons of costly surrender and seasons in which faithfulness consists of quiet, repeated acts of obedience.

Consecration calls us to leave sinful ways behind. When we stumble, we return to God in repentance, receive His forgiveness, and continue walking with Him. The aim is a heart increasingly willing to say, "Lord, every part of my life belongs to You."

What does consecration look like each day?

A consecrated life takes shape in practical choices. It may mean telling the truth when dishonesty would protect our reputation. It may involve forgiving someone who has hurt us, setting a necessary boundary, or asking forgiveness from someone we have wronged.

It can mean surrendering an ambition we have placed above obedience to God. It can also mean carrying out familiar responsibilities with greater faithfulness: caring for our families, doing our work honestly, keeping our promises and treating others with patience.

Our use of time, money and attention matters too. We make room for prayer and Scripture, practise generosity, and consider whether our habits are helping us love God and our neighbours.

For those involved in ministry, consecration includes the willingness to serve without recognition, receive correction and handle spiritual responsibility with humility. These choices may seem small, but put together, they reveal the direction of our lives.

An invitation to surrender

The question our teacher asked us still challenges me. Am I seeking an occasional experience of God's presence, or am I willing to walk with Him through the whole of my life?

There is joy in that surrender. God knows us fully, loves us faithfully, and calls us into a life shaped by His presence and purposes. We can entrust ourselves to Him.

Perhaps the place to begin is with one honest question: **"Lord, is there an area of my life that I am holding back from You?"**

As we prayerfully reflect on that question in the light of Scripture, we can take one practical step. We may need to confess something, repair a relationship, change a habit, or obey a direction we have been avoiding. Consecration becomes real as we respond to God, day by day, moment by moment.

Lord, thank You that I belong to You through Your grace. Show me what I am holding back and give me the willingness to surrender it. Shape my desires through Your Word and strengthen me by Your Spirit. Teach me to walk with You faithfully, today and throughout my life. Amen.