

21 DAYS
OF PRAYER & FASTING

**PRAY
FIRST**



WEEK ONE

| 1/3 – 1/9

WEEK ONE: January 3 - 9

*“ if My people who are called by My name will **humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways,** then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

2 Chronicles 7:14/ NKJV

FOCUS: Establishing an Altar through Repentance, Sacrifice, & Consecration.

This is not a week of asking, but rather it is a week of presenting ourselves to God as a sanctified vessel, set apart and prepared for His holy purpose in our lives.

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God,** which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Romans 12:1-2/ NKJV

This week of consecration begins by establishing the principle of **“PRAY FIRST!”** We should establish a certain time for prayer, a certain place for prayer, and a certain plan for prayer.

QUESTION: After repentance, what can I do this week to begin setting myself apart for God's service?

CONSECRATION

Consecration is *the act of devoting or setting apart anything to the worship or service of God*. In the Bible the word consecration means "the separation of oneself from things that are unclean, especially anything that would contaminate one's relationship with a perfect God." Consecration also carries the connotation of sanctification, holiness, or purity.

After forty years in the wilderness, the children of Israel were about to cross over the Jordan River into the Promised Land. They were then given a command and a promise: "Joshua told the people, '*Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you*'" (Joshua 3:5). Upon consecrating and cleansing themselves, the children of Israel were assured of God's promises. Just as God opened the Red Sea to deliver them from their Egyptian bondage, He opened the Jordan River and took them into the Promised Land. It was in this Promised Land where the people of God would take hold of His promises and purpose.

SCRIPTURE TO PRAY AND ACT UPON

*"Blow the trumpet in Zion, **consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; Gather the people, sanctify** the congregation, **assemble** the elders, **gather** the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room. Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' " Then the Lord will be zealous for His land, and pity His people. The Lord will answer and say to His people, "Behold, **I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them;** I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations. "But I will remove far from you the northern army, and will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, with his face toward the eastern sea and his back toward the western sea; His stench will come up, and his foul odor will rise, because he has done monstrous things." Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done marvelous things! Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field; For the open pastures are springing up, and the tree bears its fruit; The fig tree and the vine yield their strength. Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, and **He will***

cause the rain to come down for you—the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. **The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.** “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you. **You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.**

Joel 2:15-26

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

Psalms 119:9

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1

“Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the Lord;

Lamentations 3:40

“Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.

Psalms 26:2

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth... But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Timothy 2:15

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ...

Hebrews 12:1

“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hand, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you doubleminded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

James 4:6

KEYS TO CONSECRATION

- 1. Examination
- 2. Confession & Repentance. We must own our sin and the besetting weights we have carried. We need to cleanse ourselves and our homes of every sin, weight and distraction which hinders us from being closer to God.
- 3. We need to commit to a daily life of intentional holy living. We should commit to daily prayer and bible reading. We need to commit to fasting and fulfilling God’s purpose in our lives.
- 4. Once we have been cleansed and have committed our ways to the Lord, we need to offer ourselves as a holy living sacrifice to Him. This is our spiritual act of worship and consecration to God.
- 5. If we get off track, we should immediately repent and self-correct.

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

REMEMBER

- ✓ Pray every day and consecrate your life every day. Reference the Prayer Guide for inspiration, prayer models, and other help.
- ✓ Ask God to reveal to you things that need to change, and ask Him to give you the wisdom and courage to change.
- ✓ Make your plans to join us for Midweek Bible study and Saturday Prayer. Gathering is an essential part of consecration.
- ✓ Read your Bible daily. Read with open ears and an open heart.
- ✓ Select one or two days to fast this week. Reference the Biblical Fasting Guide for fasting ideas and help.

QUESTIONS: Take a few minutes to visualize your life after you have consecrated more fully to God. What do you see? For what miracles are you willing to believe? Write your thoughts below.

