



## Consecration - 6

**(1) HOW SHOULD WE SEEK THE LORD IN ORDER TO FIND HIM AND BE RESTORED INTO HIS LIKENESS?**

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*Jeremiah 29:13*

**Related Texts:** Deuteronomy 4:29; 30:9, 10; Isaiah 55:6, 7; Luke 11:9, 10; Jeremiah 24:7; 2 Chronicles 31:21; Psalm 119:2, 10, 58, 69, 145; Joel 2:12, 13

Our sinful nature separates us from God but the desire of His heart is that we should earnestly seek Him. It is only when the whole heart is surrendered that we can be restored into His likeness.

**(2) WHAT IS OUR CONDITION WITHOUT GOD'S INTERVENTION?**

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*Ephesians 2:1*

**Related Texts:** Ephesians 2:5; 4:18; 5:14; John 11:25, 26; Romans 8:2; Colossians 2:13; Matthew 8:22; Luke 15:24, 32; 2 Corinthians 5:14; 1 Tim. 5:6; 1 John 3:14

This verse describes the condition we are in without the Holy Spirit. God desires to heal us and to set us free from the bondage of sin. Since this requires an entire change, a renewing of our whole nature, we must surrender everything to Him. Isaiah 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:26.

The battle we fight against self is the greatest battle that we will ever fight. The giving of ourselves by turning over all to the will of God is a struggle. Our heart must be willing to respond to God before it can be made new and holy.

**(3) WHAT INVITATION GIVEN BY GOD SHOWS THAT HE ALLOWS US FREEDOM OF CHOICE?**

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*Isaiah 1:18*

**Related Texts:** Isaiah 44:22; 41:21; 43:24-26; 55:1-3; Micah 6:2; Matthew 11:28; Deuteronomy 30:10, 19; Joshua 24:15; 1 John 1:9

The way God rules is not based on blind surrender. That would be control of us without reason and that is the lie Satan wants us to believe. The way God rules over us is reasonable and appeals to our conscience. "Come now, and let us reason together" is the Creator's invitation to the beings He has made. God does not force us to follow Him against our will. He cannot accept our devotion if it is not given willingly. If we were forced to obey, it would keep us from real growth of mind or character. It would make us like machines and this is not the aim of our Creator. We are the best of what He has created and He wants us to reach the greatest possible growth that we can. He offers us great blessings and wants to give them to us through His grace. He asks us to give ourselves to Him so that He may work His will in us. It is left up to us to choose to be set free from the prison of sin so we can share the glorious freedom that is given to God's children.

**(4) WHAT MUST WE BE WILLING TO DO WHEN WE GIVE**

**OURSELVES TO GOD AND BECOME DISCIPLES OF CHRIST?**

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*Luke 14:33*

**Related Texts:** Luke 5:11, 28; 18:22, 23, 28-30; Philippians 3:7, 8; 1 John 2:15-17

When we give ourselves to God it is necessary for us to give up all things that would separate us from Him. Anything that draws our heart away from God must be given up. Wealth is the idol of many. The love of money and the desire for wealth is the golden chain that ties them to Satan. Fame and worldly honor are worshiped by some. The life of selfish ease and freedom from responsibility is the idol of others. These ropes that make us slaves must be broken. We cannot be half the Lord's and half the world's. We aren't God's children unless we are all His.

**(5) WHY ARE WE UNABLE TO EARN OUR SALVATION?**

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*Ephesians 2:8*

**Related Texts:** Ephesians 2:5; Romans 3:20-26; Luke 7:50; John 3:14-18, 36

There are those who say they are serving God, while they depend upon their own efforts to obey His law. They think they can save themselves by changing their own character. Their hearts are not moved by any deep feeling of love for Christ. They try to carry out the duties of the Christian life thinking this is what God demands of them in order to go to heaven. Religion like this is worth nothing. When Christ lives in our heart, our soul will be so filled with His love

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and with the joy of being close to Him that we will cling to Him. When we think of Him we will forget about ourselves and love to Christ will be the reason for obedience. Those who feel the powerful love of God do not ask how little they may do to meet what He requires. They do not ask for the lowest standard, but try to be in perfect harmony with what their Redeemer wants them to do. With an eager desire they give their all to God. They show an interest in doing what God wants. To attempt to know Jesus without having a deep love in our heart for Him is just talk, just going through the motions.

### **(6) HOW DOES THIS VERSE DESCRIBE THE TORMENT AND HUMILIATION CHRIST ENDURED FOR OUR REDEMPTION?**

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*Isaiah 53:5, 7*

**Related Texts:** 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; Romans 4:25; 5:6-8; Daniel 9:24, 26; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 5:2; Titus 2:14

Do you feel like it is sacrificing too much to give everything to Jesus? Ask yourself the question, "What has Jesus given for me?" The Son of God gave all; He gave His life, His love; He suffered so that we can be saved. Could it be that we, who are such unworthy objects of His great love, would withhold our hearts from Him? Every second of our lives we have been receiving the blessings of His grace. For this same reason we cannot fully realize how little we understand of the ignorance and suffering from which we have been saved. Can we look at Jesus, who died for our sins,

and still be willing to reject His love and great sacrifice for us? After seeing the immeasurable shame that the Lord went through for us, we should not grumble because we have to humble ourselves and go through struggles to enter into life.

### **(7) WHAT GREAT BURDEN DID CHRIST BEAR IN OUR PLACE THAT SHOULD CAUSE US TO BE REMORSEFUL FOR OUR SINS?**

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*Isaiah 53:12*

**Related Texts:** Isaiah 53:5, 11; Galatians 1:4; 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:26, 28; 1 John 2:2; 4:9, 10; Mark 15:28; Luke 22:37

The question that many proud hearts ask is, "Why do I need to come before God in sorrow for sin and humiliation before I can have the assurance of His favour?" I point you to Christ. He was sinless, and even more than this, He was the Prince of heaven; and in man's behalf He paid the penalty of sin for us. He was numbered with the transgressors and He bore our sins.

What do we give up when we give ourselves to Him? We give up a sinful and dirty heart for Jesus to make pure, to cleanse by His own blood, and to save by His matchless love. And still many think this is asking too much!

### **(8) WHAT SHOULD BE OUR GOAL IN ALL THINGS AND, AS WE DO THIS, WHAT PROMISE MAY WE CLAIM?**

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*Matthew 6:33*

**Related Texts:** Matthew 6:30-32; 19:29; Romans 14:17; John 6:27; 1 Kings 3:11-13; 17:13-16; Proverbs 3:9, 10; Luke 12:31-34; Psalm 34:9,10; 37:3-7, 18, 19, 20, 25; 1 Timothy 4:8; 1 John 2:17

When we come to the Lord He does not ask us to give up anything that it is good for us to keep. In all that He does, He is always looking out for the good of His children. If all who have not chosen Jesus would realize that He has something much better to offer them than what they desire for themselves. He knows what is best for us and He plans all things for good to those who follow Him. No real joy can be found by seeking the pleasures of this world. We are only hurting ourselves when we think and act against the will of God. If we choose the path of sin it will lead to suffering and death.

**(9) AS WE SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD, WHAT PROMISE CAN WE CLAIM AS HIS CHILDREN?**

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*Psalm 37:4, 5*

**Related Texts:** Psalm 145:19; 84:11; 23:1-5; 36:8; John 10:10; 15:7, 16; 2 Corinthians 9:8-11; Luke 12:30-33; 1 Timothy 6:17; 1 John 5:14, 15

It is a mistake to even think that God is pleased to see His children suffer. All of heaven is interested in our happiness. Our heavenly Father does not close the way of joy to any of those whom He has created. What God asks us to do is to stay away from those earthly pleasures that would bring suffering and failure, the things that will keep us from being happy and going to heaven. The world's Saviour accepts us as we are, with all

our wants, flaws, and weaknesses. He will not only cleanse us from sin and rescue us by His blood, but will satisfy the desire of all who agree to wear His yoke and to carry His load. It is His goal to give peace and rest to all who come to Him for the bread of life. He asks us to do only those things that will lead our steps to the greatest joy to which those who disobey can never reach. The true, happy life of the soul is to have Jesus living in it. This is the hope of glory.

**(10) HOW CAN I FULLY SURRENDER MYSELF TO GOD?**

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*Joshua 24:15*

**Related Texts:** 1 Kings 18:21; Proverbs 4:25-27; Matthew 26:39; 6:10, 21; Romans 12:1; Philippians 2:5, 13; James 4:7; Luke 1:38; 1 Peter 4:19

You want to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in power to do what is right. You are slaves to doubt, and cannot get away from the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and efforts are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thinking, your impulses, or your affections. When you recall all of your broken promises and pledges to do right it weakens your faith and makes you wonder if you ever really were sincere. This makes you feel like God cannot accept you; but don't let this depress you. What you need to understand is the true power of the will. This is the ruling power in the nature of man: the power to decide and to make your own choices. Everything depends on the right choice of the will. God has given the power of choice to you; it is yours to use. You cannot change your heart, you cannot give love to God on your own; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him

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your will and then He will help you to want to do the things He knows is best. Then your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ. Your love will be centered on Him, and your thoughts will be like His.

Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go, but if you stop there they will not bring any results. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of giving their will to God. They do not make the choice to really be Christians.

### **(11) WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT WHEN WE HAVE FULLY SURRENDERED OUR WILL AND OUR LIFE TO CHRIST?**

*I realize that God's government is not, as Satan would make it appear, founded on blind submission or unreasoning control.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I am amazed that my Creator gave His all-life and love and suffering—for my redemption and desires to abide in me to overcome this power of sin in my life.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I realize that when my will is under Satan's control, I cannot control my thoughts, impulses, or affections; and my promises and resolu-*

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*Isaiah 41:10*

**Related Texts:** Isaiah 41:13, 14; 40:29-31; 44:2; James 4:7, 8; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Psalm 27:1; 29:11; Romans 8:31; 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10

In using the will to make right choices your whole life may be changed. By giving up your will to Christ, you connect yourself with the power that is above all kingdoms and all other powers. You will have strength from above to hold you secure, and by always surrendering to God you will be given the ability to live a new life of faith.

*tions for good are like ropes of sand.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*I am thankful God does not force the will of His creatures. I am glad He invites us to give our will to Him so that He may help us achieve the highest possible development of mind, body, and character.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**

*Now that I have a clearer understanding of the force of the will, and realize that the power of choice is mine, I choose to have my will governed by the Spirit of Christ.*

**Circle: Yes Undecided**