

The Power of a Consecrated Life

- *The words “consecration” and “sanctification” are closely related, and in fact, the same Hebrew and Greek words can be translated as either “consecration” or “sanctification” depending on the context and grammatical construction.*
- *However, that being said, it would be incorrect to conclude that consecration and sanctification are exactly the same or that the two terms are interchangeable.*
- *The Greek verb “to sanctify” or “to consecrate” is ἁγιάζω *hagiazō* and it means “to make holy, to set apart, to cause someone to have the qualities of holiness, to dedicate to God, give one’s self to God, to serve God whole heartedly.”*
- *The idea of consecration deals with setting something apart wholly for God. It is not progressive, but something one decides to do at a moment in time, whether it is consecrating one’s life to God or consecrating a gift to God.*
- *Although consecration is a decision we make at a specific moment of time we need to consciously choose to maintain that commitment.*
- *The idea of sanctification deals with the idea of making something holy through the process of sanctification and purification.*
- *Sanctification is the cleansing process whereby we are daily changed more and more into the image of Jesus Christ as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit to cleanse and free us from the power of sin.*
- *One could compare consecration and sanctification by saying, “consecration is our desire to be pure and holy unto God and sanctification is the process by which we are made pure and holy.*

2 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV)

³You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

⁴No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

- *The example of a soldier provides us with some helpful insights to distinguish between consecration and sanctification.*
- *The moment a soldier enlists in the army he is now set apart or consecrated to serve his commanding officers.*
- *He is fully a soldier from that day until he is discharged.*

- *However, this does not mean that he does not require training and discipline.*
- *The daily training and development of discipline in a soldier's life could be compared to sanctification.*
- *From the first day a person enlists in the army he is as much a soldier as when he is fully trained. His new identity is that of a soldier.*
- *Training does not make a soldier more a soldier, but it does make him a better soldier.*
- *A good soldier does not entangle himself with the affairs of this life, so he may please him who enlisted him, in other words, he has been set apart for service.*
- *Consecration can be compared to being enlisted as a soldier and sanctification can be compared to the training, maturing, and developing the discipline necessary to be a good soldier.*

Hebrews 13:11–13 (NKJV)

¹¹For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

¹²Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

¹³Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

- *Jesus suffered at Calvary so, “that He might sanctify the people with His own blood.”*
- *The Greek verb “sanctify” is the aorist tense, meaning an action that took place at a specific moment of time, so this is not speaking about a process, but a single event.*
- *When it says, “that He might sanctify the people with His own blood,” it is speaking about consecration, because through His sacrifice He has set apart all those who put their faith in Him.*
- *Once we have received Jesus Christ and are born again we have been consecrated by God for His service and since we have been consecrated, we are set apart and thus “let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.”*

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

²⁰For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- *Through the blood of Jesus Christ we have been redeemed and we now belong to God therefore “You are not your own...for you were bought at a price”*
- *In other words every believer has been set apart for God, consecrated, and he no longer has a right to his own life, so he “no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.” (1 Peter 4:2)*

Hebrews 2:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹¹For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

- *The verbs “sanctified” used in verse 11, He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are in the present tense in the Greek signifying a process.*
- *This does not speak about consecration, but the process of sanctification, being set free from the power of sin and maturing into the image of Jesus Christ in our souls.*
- *It is important to note that we are not left alone to work through the sanctification process, but that “both He who sanctifies (Jesus) and those who are being sanctified (us) are all one.”*
- *What is even more wonderful, no matter what struggles we may experience in our journey of sanctification, as long as we are willing to take hold of His hand and submit “He is not ashamed to call them brethren.”*
- *The moment we are born again we have become the righteousness of Christ in our reborn spirit and we can accurately say that in our reborn spirit we have been consecrated to God in true holiness.*
- *The process of sanctification takes place in our souls as we daily surrender to the leading of the Holy Spirit and the Lordship of Christ.*

Romans 6:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁸And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

¹⁹I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

- **“And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness” – *This is referring to the consecration that happened the moment we put our faith in Christ and we were set apart to God through the new birth.***
- **“so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness” – *This is referring to the daily choice of consecration to live consecrated lives for the glory of God.***
- ***Consecration is not so much about moral behavior, but a desire and a choice to be wholly dedicated and set aside for God. Sanctification is the result of consecration, and enables us to live lives that are pure and holy.***

Exodus 40:13 (NKJV)

¹³You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.

- **The Hebrew word “consecrate” is קדש *qdš* which means, “to be holy, remove from common use, to be set apart,” indicating anything that was consecrated to God belonged to God and He did with it as it pleased Him.**

Exodus 39:30 (NKJV)

³⁰Then they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD

- ***The high priest wore a mitre on his forehead proclaiming “HOLINESS TO THE LORD” as a sign that he was wholly dedicated to the service of the Lord.***

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

¹I 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.

²And 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.

- ***“That you present your bodies a living sacrifice” – We are to be totally consecrated to God and allow Him to do whatever He pleases to do in our lives.***
- ***“holy, acceptable to God” – We are to be completely set apart for His glory to do whatever is pleasing and acceptable in His sight and not according to our wishes.***
- ***“which is your reasonable service” – Whatever God chooses to do with our lives we must recognize that it is reasonable and not extreme, excessive, or unreasonable.***

- *“that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” – Our purpose in life, as consecrated vessels of His, is to make sure that everything we do, say, and even think is according to His will and plan.*

John 10:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- *Christ has not only offered us eternal life but abundant overflowing life.*
- *Many times Christians fail to experience the power of Christ’s abundant life in their lives, because they have failed to recognize the importance of living a consecrated life and the resulting sanctification and fruitfulness.*

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

- *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” - The Great Commission as outlined in Matthew 28 is not evangelism, but discipleship.*
- *Water baptism is a step of faith and obedience signifying a person’s decision to live a consecrated life for the glory of God.*
- *Water baptism is much more than a symbolic act, because it is an act of faith and obedience resulting in a release of God’s grace in our lives.*
- *Every time we step out in faith and obedience we find there is a release of grace in our lives to experience both restoration and strength to serve God in a greater way.*
- *When one takes water baptism it does not mean things will be easier or that we will have fewer trials. It means we have made a decision to honour God with our lives.*
- *Communion is a declaration of what Christ has done for us and water baptism is a declaration of what we desire to do for Christ—to live a consecrated life.*
- *Although water baptism is not a ritual, it does have strong symbolism.*
- *Water baptism is symbolic of death, burial, and resurrection.*

- *Water baptism is symbolic of surrender as we allow someone to lower us into the water and raise us up. This signifies our acknowledgement that we are powerless and it is Christ who is raising us up by His grace and strength.*
- *Water baptism is a confess of faith in terms of three aspects of death, burial, and resurrection:*
- *Water baptism is a confession of what happened the moment we put our faith in Christ. Through the new birth we died to our old identity and we now have a new life and a new identity.*
- *Water baptism is a confession that we choose daily to die to ourselves and live for Christ. We choose to live a consecrated life fully for Him.*
- *Water baptism is a confession of our hope in the resurrection and that one day these mortal bodies will die and we will be resurrected with incorruptible eternal bodies.*

Mark 16:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

- *Salvation, our justification, occurred at the moment we received Christ and is independent of taking water baptism.*
- *However, it would be incorrect to say that water baptism has nothing to do with salvation. It is not referring to justification, but sanctification.*
- *Water baptism represents us stepping out in faith and saying, “I want to obey Christ and live the life He has for me, a life that is victorious and filled with His glory, a life that is wholly consecrated to Him.”*