



## Consecration

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”—Jeremiah 29:11-13

Being a Christian is not a half hearted endeavor. It’s not something that you *do* once a week in church. It’s a day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute, second by second *choice* to say “no” to our sinful nature which keeps trying to take over, and to surrender our *will* to Jesus. “God desires to heal us [Spiritually and physically], to set us free. But since this requires an entire transformation, a renewing of our whole nature, we must yield ourselves wholly to Him.” This is called *consecration*.--Steps to Christ p. 27

Today is our 5<sup>th</sup> in the series “Steps To Christ: How to be ready for Jesus to come.” Our topic is “Consecration”. Consecration is NOT gritting your teeth and doing “the right thing”. It means intentionally surrendering your will (your hopes, dreams and desires) to Jesus and *choosing* to let God work in your life every moment of every day.

**1 John 5:2, 3**—“There are those who profess to serve God, while they rely upon their own efforts to obey His law, to form a right character, and secure salvation. Their hearts are not moved by any deep sense of the love of Christ, but they seek to perform the duties of the Christian life as that which God requires of them in order to gain heaven. Such religion is worth nothing. When Christ dwells in the heart, the soul will be so filled with His love, with the joy of communion with Him, that it will cleave to Him; and in the contemplation of Him, self will be forgotten. Love to Christ will be the spring of action. Those who feel the constraining love of God, do not ask how little may be given to meet the requirements of God; they do not ask for the lowest standard, but aim at perfect conformity to the will of their Redeemer.... A profession of Christ without this deep love is mere talk, dry formality, and heavy drudgery.”—*Ibid* p.28 (Emphasis mine)

## How Do I Consecrate Myself to God?

“Many are inquiring, “How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?” You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you;”—*ibid* p. 30

Can you relate with this struggle? I know I can. But there is an answer.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**—It is through our choice to surrender the will to Christ that we can take captive our thoughts. “What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can *choose* to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.”—*Ibid* pp. 30, 31

**Philippians 2:12, 13**—“Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not now *choose* to be Christians.”—*ibid* p. 31. We “work out our salvation” by daily choosing to yield our will to God. God is the One who works in us to create a desire to do His will.

“Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith.”—*Ibid* p. 31



The fifth step in order to have a relationship with God and be ready to meet Him is to consecrate yourself to Him continually choosing to give your choices to Him.