

THE POWER OF PERSONAL AND CORPORATE CONSECRATION

Isa 55:6 Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; 11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

CONSECRATION - To set something apart for use. To dedicate something to a specific purpose. To cleanse in preparation for use.

Old Testament reference:

Jos 3:5 Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." 6 And Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over ahead of the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went ahead of the people.

IT WAS A PREPARATION FOR A PROMISE TO BE FULFILLED

WHY DOES CRC CONSECRATE ANNUALLY IN JANUARY?

1. To begin each year focused on God and His Will
2. To cleanse ourselves in preparation for the year
3. To make it clear that He and His purpose are our personal and corporate priority

Biblical References:

Jer 29:11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 12 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

Ro 10:11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

HOW DO WE CONSECRATE OURSELVES?

1. By encouraging daily personal time with the Lord
2. By facilitating daily corporate prayer times
3. By encouraging the Biblical discipline of fasting and repentance from sin.

Biblical Reference:

Da 9:3 So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. 4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, 5 we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances.

WHAT ARE WE DOING SPECIFICALLY?

1. Meeting for prayer each day Mon thru Fri 7pm, Wed 6am and Sat at 10am

2. This year we are reading:

Mornings with Tozer by A. W. Tozer (A daily devotional)

The Bible - this link will help you set up a daily bible reading plan

<http://oneyearbibleonline.com/one-year-bible-custom-reading-plan/?version=51&startmdd=1025>

3. We are fasting using the partial fast referenced by Arthur C. Wallis in his book, God's Chosen Fast.

We encourage those who are physically able to fast in various ways as they are comfortable. Primarily one meal a day but some may choose to fast from certain foods or go on a juice or liquid fasts. What's important is that you're praying consistently during this time. Some of us only fast during the specific week that our city is leading while many of us fast the entire 21-day period in some fashion. THIS IS TOTALLY UP TO YOU. People who are physically unable to fast often fast from activities like watching television, seeing movies, social media or any number of creative ways to remove distractions so you can pray.

PERSONAL BENEFITS

1. You establish the habit of daily personal time with the Lord.

Approximately thirty days is all we need to turn an act into a habit.

2. You begin to fill your spirit with the Word and this strengthens you for battle

Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

3. You will begin to grow financially because you are seeking the Kingdom first.

Pr 8:17 "I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me. 18 "Riches and honor are with me, Enduring wealth and righteousness.

Mt 6:32 "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

4. You will experience changes in your emotional and physical health.

Pr 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.

Pr 3:24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. 25 Do not be afraid of sudden fear Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes; 26 For the LORD will be your confidence And will keep your foot from being caught.