



## W.o.W. -- Word Of the Week

### Consecration

January 26, 2022

Consecration. Simple statements and concepts of Scripture are always a puzzle to us when they have been complexified. Why is it so difficult to simply accept what Scripture says? How will we develop the simplicity of Jesus if we are not willing to take Him at His word?

How often do those who would teach us seem to know more than Jesus? How often do we go beyond the simple teachings of Scripture, the sword of the Spirit? When the Bible speaks clearly, why do we make it hard? Why are we so prone to seek God's communication in subjective experiences and connections when He has spoken clearly in his word?

We tend to take up time worrying God with peripheral questions and matters when he wants us to be released to concentrate entirely on his work and will and way in our lives. He wants us to learn consecration. **Consecration is the process of continually setting myself apart, separating myself for him.** Part One: God consecrates us for himself, as he did for Israel as they were leaving Egypt. He sets us apart for himself. Part Two: we set ourselves apart for him. Consecration is, for us, a continuing process. As human beings, we struggle to consecrate ourselves once and for all. Consecration is our continuing challenge.

The etymology of the word helps our understanding. The "con" signifies connection and also serves as an intensifier, the root is related to our word sacred – thus, dedicated or devoted. Consecrated—totally, completely dedicated or devoted. To what are you devoted? Each week, 168 hours: what takes up the majority of your time? What fills your spare time? Have you learned the beauty of prayerful leisure time? Do you spend your sabbath time resting and relaxing with God or apart from God? Have you learned to enjoy simply "wasting time" with God?

Do not confuse our consecration (our decision for devotion and dedication, our setting apart) with our sanctification (our being made or declared holy by God in Jesus). Sanctification in Christ is immediate. The Corinthian church in the midst of multiple problems was composed of saints, sanctified believers. The Bible does not separate salvation and sanctification. Sanctification is God's action. It is true that we can refuse his sanctification. It is also true that he continually cleanses us. We are fully sanctified at every moment of our lives as we walk in the light.

Perhaps this is helpful. In one sense, consecration is our part. The unconsecrated life stands in the way of God's saving, sanctifying purpose. Do not dismiss the decision you must make, to dedicate your entire life, being, heart, soul, and mind to loving God daily—every moment of the day. Do we daily commit ourselves to seeing and experiencing God's presence in our lives?

Here's what I know. When consecration wanes, living the sanctified life is difficult.