

The Believer and His Destiny

Consecrated to the Purposes of God

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I. Introductory Remarks.

The purpose of this lesson will be catch a glimpse of what God's overall purpose is for the church in these last days and then to see how we must be totally consecrated to that purpose in order for us to fulfill the destiny God has given to each of us.

Proverbs 19:21 (NIV) *Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) *In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.*

In order for Proverbs 16:9 to come into play in our lives, our lives must first be totally consecrated or sanctified unto the Lord.

1. Definitions of Consecration:

- **Webster's:** To make, declare, or set apart as sacred: To dedicate to some service or goal. Make holy: sacred. Honored as holy: hallowed.
- **Greek:** 1457. egkainizo, eng-kahee-nid'-zo; from G1456; to renew, i.e. inaugurate:--consecrate, dedicate. 37. hagiozo, hag-ee-ad'-zo; from G40; to make holy, i.e. (cer.) purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate:--hallow, be holy, sanctify.
- **Hebrew:** 6942. qadash, kaw-dash'; a prim. root; to be (causat. make, pronounce or observe as) clean (ceremonially or morally):--appoint, bid, consecrate, dedicate, defile, hallow, (be, keep) holy (-er, place), keep, prepare, proclaim, purify, sanctify (-ied one, self), X wholly.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Timothy 2:21 *Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a*

vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

As you see, God's goal is for us to be totally consecrated or set apart for His purpose and the destiny He has called us to. It is only as we are consecrated that we can be prepared for God's work in our lives and thus fulfill the destiny He has for us.

In the Old Testament vessels always had to be consecrated before they could be used for the service of the tabernacle or temple.

Leviticus 8:10 Also Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them.

II. God's Purpose in the Earth.

God's purpose in the earth today is much more than just getting a bunch of people saved and going to heaven. Jesus is in the process of building a church in which the gates or the authority of hell will not be able to prevail against. It is a church that is being designed to come into the fulfillment of all that the prophets have prophesied and to fully restore all that was lost in the fall.

Acts 3:19-21 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, "and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, "whom heaven must **receive** until the times of **restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Acts 3:21 (NIV) He must **remain** in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Ephesians 5:26-27 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- **Responsibility to Serve the Purposes of God for our Generations.**

Just as David served the purpose of God for his generation, so we must serve the purpose of God for our generation.

Acts 13:36 (NIV) *"For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed.*

Think of all the people in David's day that benefitted from the kingdom blessings because David served God's purpose. Think of all the people who are going to benefit from the blessing of the kingdom because we have chosen to consecrate our hearts to God for His purpose in this generation. We must be like the sons of Issachar.

1 Chronicles 12:32 *of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;*

Psalms 14:2 *LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.*

III. Distinctive Marks of Consecrated People.

The following are various attitudes or characteristics that should be in the process of being developed in our lives. If these qualities are in us, then we can be assured that we are pressing into the process of being consecrated or sanctified unto God's purpose. As a result, we are in position to fulfil the destiny God has charted out for us.

1. Overall Lifestyle is an Example of being a Living Sacrifice.

As born-again, Spirit-filled Christians, who have a destiny to fulfill, we are to present ourselves unto God as living sacrifices.

Romans 12:1 (NIV) *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

As a result of sacrificing ourselves to God we will be transformed by the renewing of our minds and be able to discern the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. You can't really understand or be involved in the purpose of God without the element of sacrifice in your life.

2. Must be Vessels unto Honor.

2 Timothy 2:19-21 *Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*

With a full understanding of your identity as to who you are in the kingdom of God and what your purpose is comes a greater motivation and desire to put off the old nature and its lusts. A person who has not truly repented is lacking in vision and purpose. Vision will cause us to be constrained in the things of God.

3. Not to be Entangled with the Affairs of the World.

2 Timothy 2:4 *No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

You will find that if you are not giving yourself to the purpose of God that your desires and affections will fall back on the world and its desires to the point that you get entangled with it and as a result you are unable to adequately serve God and His purpose.

4. Decisions in Life Take on a New Perspective.

Your decisions in life become based on God's overall purpose and destiny for your life rather than your own selfish ambitions and desires for the moment.

Matthew 6:33 *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Your decisions are based on the whole rather than the part. You base your

decisions in life on how they will affect pursuing God's purpose rather than the emotional whim of the moment.

Proverbs 19:21 (NIV) *Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*

5. Not My Will, But God's Will in Times of Testing.

In times of testing and hardship your prayer is "Not my will," but Your will be done, Lord." This is where your heart really becomes consecrated unto God, because you realize there may be an easier way out at times.

2 Timothy 2:3 *You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

Jesus could have taken the easy way out when He was in agony, concerning the Father's will for His life, in the garden of Gethsemane the night before His crucifixion. He chose rather to endure the hardness of the way. It was in this commitment that Jesus fulfilled the ultimate destiny and calling for His life.

Matthew 26:42 *Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."*

6. Consecrated People Walk Circumspectly, Redeeming The Time.

Ephesians 5:15-17 *See then that you walk **circumspectly**, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

199. akribos, ak-ree-boce'; adv. from the same as G196; exactly: circumspectly, diligently, perfect (-ly).

A person who has been consecrated or sanctified unto God's purpose will be like the sons of Issachar mentioned earlier in the lesson, who not only had an understanding of their times, but also knew what to do. A person who has not been consecrated unto God's purpose is usually acclueistic when it comes to being aware of significant things that are taking place in the kingdom realm.

7. Fervency Level is Maintained Under all Circumstances.

Romans 12:11 *not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*
No matter what season or difficulty you are in you maintain your level of fervency, because you know all things work together according to the purpose of God.

Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

8. A Consecrated Person Delights in God's Will.

Psalms 40:8 *I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."*

There are many hindrances, hardships, trials and oppositions that come our way as we journey through our destiny in God. It will take having a true delight in God's purpose and will to keep us on track or to keep us from getting detoured along the way.

9. There Is Genuine Delight in Giving to God's Purpose.

Because King David had set his affection on the House of God he found himself giving over and above all that he had actually prepared to give.

1 Chronicles 29:3 *"Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver:*

Ultimately David's giving heart was a major part of him fulfilling the destiny God had for him. As you delight yourselves in giving in the same way David did, you will be able to fulfill your destiny as well.

2 Corinthians 9:7 *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

10. Consecration Equals Divine Blessing & Inheritance of God.

Acts 20:32 *"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

As long as you continue to pursue God's purpose for your life you will be walking

on the path where all of His treasures and inheritance are available to you. You will need your inheritance and God's blessing to fulfill the destiny God has for you.

Ephesians 1:17-18 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

IV. Concluding Remarks.

My prayer is that we would all become more and more consecrated to God's purpose, realizing that there really isn't anything else worth living for. We each have a destiny in God to fulfill. The question is – Do you want to give your life for it?