

Altars of Consecration

As a born-again children of God, we realize that we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. And the Lord Jesus is dwelling in us by His Spirit that we might fulfil the righteous requirements of the law. We realize how God put us in Christ, how He delivered us from the kingdom of darkness, how He has delivered us from the power of sin, self, flesh, the world, and from Satan. We realize that our life must be yielded to Him in order that He may accomplish His purpose. Now, We hear His call, "*I urge you...by the mercies of God...that you present your body a living sacrifice.*"(Rom.12:1;8:9)

All of these wonderful things are "the mercies of God." We deserved nothing but death, but God has freely bestowed all of these great blessings on us. Now God asks us to do something for Him. This is to consecrate ourselves to Him. Consecration is the giving of our life to God to do His will instead of my own. It means that I present my body to the Lord to become "a living sacrifice." In the Old Testament, a sacrifice was something set apart for God by being put on the altar. When people offered that thing to God, it no longer belonged to the one offering it. It belonged to God, for His use and His satisfaction. Today, when we consecrate ourselves to the Lord, we give up our own claims on ourselves and put ourselves completely in His hands. The result of consecration is that I die to my own plans and ambitions; I live to do will of God. When I consecrate my life to the Lord, He can show me that work which He has for me. God who decides what He wants me to do and where He wants me to serve Him. Our satisfaction comes when we find God's will for our life and do it. So, let us renew our consecration and devote our self to be altogether His.

An altar is a place where offerings such as sacrifices are made. It always represented a place of consecration. Altar is a place where believer in Christ would meet with his God. Jacob built an altar and called the place El-Bethel, there God had revealed Himself to him.(Gen.35:7) Altars represent places where earth welcomes and opens to the Lord. Altars are really portals or gates of Heaven. God today is calling Christians from all walks of life to gather as living stones fit together by His design to offer sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Christ.(1Pe.2:4-5) He is looking for places built for His glory to become gates of His Kingdom rule to flow through in the earth. Altars to the Lord are to be established as places prepared for the fire of His glory and power. As we worship and minister unto the Lord, the gates open wider and the influence of the Kingdom of Heaven increases and the awakening that has been released in the earth grows stronger. May we erect altars of the Lord and prepare to receive fresh fire from the Lord. Praying for God's Kingdom should be our focus - to bring kingdom of Christ. Your will be done on earth even as it is in Heaven.

Four reasons why we should consecrate ourselves to the Lord. 1. So we can walk in the Lord's way. After we're saved, God wants us to walk in His way, follow Him, and be led by Him. Consecrating ourselves to Him keeps us in His way and saves us from taking our own way. 2. So we can grow in life: When Christ comes into us His intention is for His divine life in us to grow. As we surrender every part of our being and every aspect of our lives to Him, we give His life the best opportunity to grow in us and develop in us. We can sense what is pleasing to Him and what is not. 3. So God can work in us: to conform our thoughts, feelings, decisions, inner disposition, our whole being to the image of His Son. 4. To enjoy riches of God's salvation: God blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Divine life, Christ's perfect humanity and living, His powerful resurrection, His victory over Satan, His ascension all are ours.

The promises you seek are only found in the consecration God expects. "*Abraham built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.*"(Gen.12:7) The story of Abraham's journey is a milestone of obedience and altars of consecration. Obedience is the sincere expression of faith. "*By faith Abraham obeyed.*"(Heb.11:8) Altars are significant to God and prominent in each person's spiritual journey. Old Testament sacrifices merely foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice. The sacrifice called "the burnt offering." represented the Lord Jesus offering up His life to the Father to do His will. The consecration is "unto the Lord," and it must be voluntary "*If any man of you bring an offering unto the Lord he shall offer it of his own voluntary will*"(Lev.1:2-3) Consecration is offering up of a whole life to God. Once consecrated my life to God, I cannot take it back again. God expects my dedication to be a once-for-all giving of myself to Him.

If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.(Luk.9:23) The burnt offering was offered to God each morning and each evening, day by day, continually. This tells us that our consecration must be continual. My consecration begins with act of giving myself to the Lord, but I must live out my consecration. Day by day, I offer myself to the Lord to do His will instead of my own will. The Bible tells us how the Lord Jesus did His Father's will when He lived here on earth. And how He continued to do the Father's will through the apostles and disciples. Now, the Lord Jesus wants to work through us to do God's will. To do this, He needs us to consecrate.

Consecration became Abraham's lifestyle. Every place Abraham pitched his tent, he built an altar, dug a well, worship the Lord there. On every altar, Abraham offered a sacrifice and made a further consecration of himself to God and His promises to multiply and bless his seed. "*By faith, Abraham made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents.*"(Heb.1:8-10) Abraham believed in God. For the Christian, the life of faith is living in God's appointed place in this life. The promises you seek are only found in obedience and consecration God expects.

There are times when an altar of consecration needs to be repaired. And Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down . . . with twelve stones, he built an altar in the name of the Lord, then the Lord answered with fire from Heaven demonstrating that He is the Lord God! When a believer sacrifices upon it, God will surely show up. You and your life are "the living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God." An altar of consecration is where you humbly bow to the sovereignty of God, a sacred place of worship expressed in sacrifice and consecration of your affections and will.