

## 6. Consecration (Dying to Self)

One of the most frequently asked questions by men who have professed faith in Christ, accepted the fact that according to Scripture they are saved, and yet continue in bondage to sin is “am I really saved?” Is it possible to have the Holy Spirit in you and still be in slavery to sin? The answer is an emphatic “Yes!”

The battle we face is accurately described by the apostle Paul in the book of Romans when he says, “***For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members***” (Romans 7:22-23 NKJV). As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we must not be discouraged or overwhelmed by the dilemma that we face. It has been said by a well-read Christian writer that, “We must lead unbelievers to Christ and lead believers to the cross.” And remember, the cross was a burden that even Jesus couldn’t bear alone. Our addiction has brought us to the place where we accept unashamedly that we need God to make it through this world. Again listen to what the apostle Paul says to fellow believers in Corinth, “***For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,***” (2 Corinthians 1:8-9 NKJV)

The task at hand involves consecration or allowing ourselves to be set apart for God’s use. The biggest obstacle to that is the sin that lives and will continue to live on inside of us. In other words, we must die to self so that Christ would be allowed to live in our mortal bodies. “***Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin***” (Romans 6:6-7 NKJV).

We must die to self in order that Christ can live in and through us. Only then will we discover the true freedom of a Victorious Christian Life.

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Meditation Passage for the Week - Romans 6

Consecration: The act or ceremony of separating from a common to a sacred use, or of devoting and dedicating a person or thing to the service and worship of God, by certain rites or solemnities. Consecration does not make a person or thing really holy, but declares it to be sacred, that is, devoted to God or to divine service Webster's Dictionary

Dying to self means **denying our**

1. Self-**Will** (Matthew 26:39)
2. Self-**Confidence** (Romans 7:18)
3. Self-**Esteem** (Romans 12:3)
4. Self-**Worth** – apart from Christ (1 Corinthians 15:9-10)
5. Self-**Sufficiency** – (John 15:5)
6. Self-**Righteousness** (Romans 3:10)
7. Self-**Pity** (Exodus 16:3)
8. Self-**deception** ( 1 John 1:8)
9. Self-**Indulgence** (Romans 6:11-12)
10. Self-**Reliance** (1 Corinthians 1:8-9)
11. Self-**Preservation** (Proverbs 3:5-7)

Living by Resurrection power means

1. Presenting our bodies as a **living sacrifice** (Romans 12:1-2)
2. Presenting our members as **instruments** of **righteousness** ( Romans 6:13)
3. Living a **new life** (Romans 6:4)
4. Allowing Christ to **live** in **us** (Galatians 2:20)
5. Considering ourselves as **married** to Christ (Romans 7:4)

Questions for Discussion

1. How does dying to self affect our plans both now and in the future?
2. How has reliance on our own thinking worked out up to this point in our lives?
3. What is the most frightening aspect of dying to self for you personally?
4. What aspect of reliance on Christ is the most challenging to you?
5. What does being married to Christ mean to you?