

KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING LIFE

Session Nine

Consecration and Preserving Our Whole Being for Life

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 4:7-8; 1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Gal. 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Rom. 12:1; Lev. 3:5, 11; 1 Thes. 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:3; 1 Thes. 5:16-19; 2 Cor. 7:1; Acts 24:16; 1 John 1:7-9; Rev. 12:10-11; Rom. 6:6; 2 Tim. 2:22

Outline

I. Consecration:

- A. The basis of consecration is God's purchase; His precious blood was the price He paid to buy us that we may belong to Him; since He has already bought us, He can therefore, demand that we consecrate ourselves to Him—1 Cor. 6:20.
- B. The motive of consecration refers to one's heart in consecration; when we touch the love of God and see that He truly is lovely, we will then consecrate ourselves to Him—2 Cor. 5:14-15.
- C. The meaning of consecration is to be a sacrifice—Rom. 12:1.
- D. The purpose of consecration, therefore, is to be used by God, to work for God; but in order that we may work for God, we must first let God work on us.
- E. The result of consecration is that we are caused to cut off all our relationships with people, matters, and things, and especially to abandon our future and wholly belong to God.
- F. In summary—We have been saved and regenerated; we see that we have been purchased by and for God, and we have consecrated ourselves for God's satisfaction because of His love; we may have everything already, but now is the time to experience these things item by item, to grow in life and to mature in life.

II. Preserving our whole being for life:

- A. In God's full salvation, our entire being is saved and made complete and perfect; for this, God is preserving our spirit from any deadening element, our soul from remaining natural and old, and our body from the ruin of sin; such a preservation by God and His thorough sanctification sustain us to live a holy life unto maturity that we may meet the Lord in His parousia—1 Thes. 5:23:
 - 1. Our spirit is composed of three parts: the conscience, the fellowship, and the intuition; our spirit is mainly for us to fellowship with God; when we have fellowship with God, we contact Him—1 Cor. 12:3.
 - 2. Exercising the spirit to keep it living is the first way to preserve it—1 Tim. 4:7.
 - 3. Another way to preserve our spirit is "cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," indicating that we should abstain from all defilement of both flesh and spirit—2 Cor. 7:1.
 - 4. Dealing with our conscience to stay living—whenever a Christian has the feeling of offense in his conscience, he must immediately go before the Lord to confess his sin according to this feeling and claim the cleansing of His precious blood—1 John 1:9; Acts 23:1; 24:16.
- B. Our psychological heart has three main arteries; these arteries, which are also the three parts of the soul, are the mind, the will, and the emotion; the way to unclog the three main arteries of our psychological heart is to make a thorough confession to the Lord:

1. We may begin by confessing all the sinfulness and uncleanness that is in our mind, in our thinking; by confessing our thoughts one by one, we shall remove the blockage from this artery.
 2. If we go to the Lord concerning our will, He will expose it in a thorough and detailed way; we shall realize that we are very rebellious, that we do not know what it means to be submissive to the Lord; one by one, we need to confess the germs of rebellion in our will.
 3. The artery of the emotion also needs to be unclogged; when we realize how serious is the problem we have with our emotion, we may be deeply sorrowful; we shall realize that in many cases we hate what we should love, and love what we should hate.
- C. To preserve our body first requires that we do not live according to our soul; to preserve our body also requires that we not present any member of our body to anything that is sinful; as long as we are living on this earth, we need to preserve our body—2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Thes. 5:23.

FOCUS: *The burden in this lesson is to help the young people have a definite and strong consecration to the Lord. We also want to help them to maintain the freshness and vitality of their consecration by dealing with their conscience and clearing up all the arteries of their heart that their whole being would be preserved in life.*

READING MATERIALS:

The Experience of Life, chapters 3, 6

Life Lessons, Lesson 18

Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life, chapter 3

Life-study of 1 Thessalonians, messages 23-24

Questions

1. What is our consecration equal to? Why is it necessary?
2. What is the basis of consecration? What else is needed for us to consecrate ourselves to Him?
3. Use the burnt offering in the Old Testament to show the meaning of consecration.
4. Are you a voluntary offering? Do you mean it?
5. What must first take place before we can work for God?
6. Give two examples of New Testament persons that practiced consecration.
7. What are the three parts of our spirit?
8. What is the main function of our spirit?
9. Have you ever been condemned by your conscience? When and about what?
10. Find several verses in the Bible that substantiates the three parts of the spirit.
11. What is our psychological heart?
12. Describe, according to your own experience, what clog up your three arteries most.

