

## MONTH OF CONSECRATION

*Increasing Our Focus (12.29.10)*

The word "consecration," as defined by Wikipedia, means "setting apart" for the service of God; of both persons and objects. Setting specific time aside for this solemn dedication plays an important role in our growth toward God, but it has 2 parts; our part and God's. Our part is the practical side of separating ourselves from sinful living. God's part is to prepare us for His use by actually making us holy. Note, in being prepared for holy use, God has to also prepare our body for being used in ministry. Both our part and God's part in consecration work together.

If you are a Christian, God has already cleansed you on the inside and made you holy. But consecration, in the Old Testament, was a way for cleansing the outside of the vessel also. After salvation, God's part in consecrating us for His use is to wash our body with His presence.

Through consecration we begin to drink from earthly sources less and actually draw near to God. God designed us as being of need - - spiritual and fleshly needs - - so we have to be "drinking" from something. We are able to drink from God through prayer, reading the Word of God, and through worship. By drinking from God, we are made pure and God's presence becomes our preferred way of quenching our thirst, not sin or unwanted behaviors. By drinking from God, the earthly ways of unrighteous living become less and less attractive to us. By



drinking from God, He is able to consecrate us and prepare us for His use.

As consecrated Christians, we have the responsibility to keep both our spiritual and carnal man healthy. Prayer, reading the Word of God, and setting aside time for personal communion or worship is how we keep our spiritual man healthy and growing. Likewise, we keep our carnal man healthy by eating the right physical foods and through exercise. Not only carnally, but also spiritually...it's not only how much you eat, but what you eat. We can find great success in consecration if we feed ourselves with things that advance the spirit and carnal man.

Also, for great success we must draw near to God and let Him draw near to us. Practical holiness and the cleansing of God for holy use cannot be separated; one without the other is not possible. For the Bible says, "...Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the Lord, come near..." (2 Chron. 29:31). The cross of Christ is the doorway to experiencing the presence of God. We have to consecrate ourselves before we enter the throne room to draw near to the Lord.

Practical purity from consecrated living is not possible without also drawing near and quenching our thirst with God: you have to enter and drink the Spirit. Otherwise, your thirst will drive you back to earthly sources. If consecrating yourself doesn't also turn you to God, you will find yourself just as bad off as when you started.

If you can do your part, you can trust God to do His.

# PRAYER AND FASTING SCHEDULE

*Govern yourselves accordingly...*

During this season of consecration, The Chosen Vessel Cathedral family is joining together in fasting and prayer, along with exercise. Please read the parameters below and govern yourself accordingly.

## **FASTING SCHEDULE:**

There will be no bread, no fried foods, no soft drinks and no deserts allowed throughout the entire fast. You are allowed to have water, tea and coffee at anytime. Additional restrictions include the following:

- January 2-8: two meals a day; choice of meat is optional
- January 9-15: two meals a day; choice of meat is restricted to fish, chicken and turkey
- January 16-22: one meal a day; choice of meat is restricted to fish, chicken and turkey
- January 23-25: two meals a day; choice of meat is restricted to fish, chicken and turkey
- January 26-28: solemn assembly; no food or fluids (except water) until 4:00 PM on the 28th

There will also be no movies allowed throughout the entire fast, except those of a Christian based message.

## **PRAYER SCHEDULE:**

TCVC will join together for prayer and exploration into the Word of God on Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for one hour of prayer and one hour of bible study. ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.

## **EXERCISE SCHEDULE:**

TCVC will join together for exercise and fellowship on Mondays from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM for A *Night in the Gym*. ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.

## **SPECIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

January 14-16, TCVC will host Co-Pastor Wanda Frazier Parker. Services will be held on Friday night at 7:30 PM and Sunday morning at 11:00 AM. A leadership session will be held on Saturday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.