



## **Praying, Fasting and Consecration**

**Sunday Teaching (outline) – 1/2/2022**

**Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor – Teacher**

**2 Chron. 7:11-17 - Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's house; and Solomon successfully accomplished all that came into his heart to make in the house of the Lord and in his own house. <sup>12</sup> Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. <sup>13</sup> When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, <sup>14</sup> if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. <sup>15</sup> Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. <sup>16</sup> For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.**

**Luke 21:36 - Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."**

**2 Chron. 7:12 - Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.**

In our text we see God saying that He is choosing the temple that Solomon had built as a place for His presence and the place where sacrifices should be made.

God gave Solomon specific instructions on how to construct the temple which his presence would be in because God only wants to reside in the best.

In this temple Solomon sacrificed animals to consecrate it for Holy use.

Today God doesn't reside in a temple constructed by human hands, God resides in temples He has built in the wombs of other humans. **Isa. 44:2 - Thus says the Lord who made you And formed you from the womb...**

God has chosen your temple, your body as a temple for sacrifice by the way of prayer, fasting and consecration so that we can get the fully effects of His presence living in us.

**1 Cor. 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, (our bodies came from God) and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

The Old Testament has types and shadows of the New Testament truths. The temple in 1 Chron. 7 that Solomon built to house the presence of God is a type of our bodies that should house God's presence.

Just as King Solomon finished that temple, King Jesus constructed and finished our temples/bodies in our mother's womb. **Ps. 139:13-14 - For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.**

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As marvelous as Solomon's temple was, it wasn't the place God ultimately wanted to abide. Solomon temple couldn't walk, couldn't talk, could think, couldn't say thank you Jesus, couldn't lift Holy hands in praise, couldn't express the proper Glory due to God.

So, God, through the finished works of Jesus Christ, purified by His blood, constructed not just one temple but many temples to exist in. He calls the temples the Body of Christ, the Church.

Just as the temple Solomon built was made for sacrifices our bodies were made for sacrifices also.

The first sacrifice we must offer is praise: **Heb. 13:15-16 - Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.** We don't offer sacrifice and praise just when we feel like it, we offer sacrifice and praise because God commands it.

**Gal. 5:24 - And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** We don't sacrifice animals, but we sacrifice the flesh (in our bodies).

Now we know Jesus went to the cross and died so we can live eternally, but to continually live the abundant life of **John 10:10** we have to put to death the sinful deeds of the body as well.

**Rom. 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

Paul says this sacrifice must be done daily. **1 Cor. 15:31 (Amp) - [I assure you] by the pride which I have in you in [your fellowship and union with] Christ Jesus our Lord, that I die daily [I face death every day and die to self].**

**1 Cor. 9:27 - But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.**

Fasting is a sacrifice we make in this body by not giving it what it desires or craves,

We sacrifice food, and self-gratifying pleasures as we seek God's face.

Fasting is one way to sacrifice to God as we pray and consecrate ourselves.

**Matt. 6:5-7 - "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. <sup>6</sup> But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

The only way to get into the Father's secret place is by way of seclusion, a place of consecration where it is just you and Him.

Consecrating ourselves in a place of seclusion is one surefire way to enter into the secret place of the Father.

... <sup>16</sup> **"Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. <sup>17</sup> But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

Jesus said we pray, fast and go to a secluded place where you can enter the secret place where God is. That place of consecration is where you will enter the secret place.

Consecrating ourselves is going to a place of seclusion to seek His face, not His hand.

You willfully set yourself apart to concentrate on Him with no to little distractions.

We consecrate so we can concentrate more on Him.

Jesus said when we do this ... **your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.** There is an open reward for consecration.

There are certain answers to prayer, certain moves of God in your life you will not see until you fast and consecrate.

When Moses went to the mountains and Elijah went to the hills, Jesus went to the wilderness, and the apostle Paul was in a place of consecration, pray and fasting during his time of conversion.

**Mark 9:17-29 - Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. <sup>18</sup> And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." <sup>19</sup> He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." <sup>20</sup> Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. <sup>22</sup> And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

<sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" <sup>26</sup> Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. <sup>28</sup> And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" <sup>29</sup> So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Notice in verse 23 **If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.**" According to this text of scripture fasting must increase faith.

Jesus told His disciples that unless you have the faith that is acquired through fasting you will be limited in what you can do!