

# THE CONSECRATED FAST

## When does the Consecration begin?

We will begin Monday August 7, 2023 at 12:00 a.m.

### What about medications?

Please continue to take all medications as prescribed. It is vitally important that you do not stop taking your medications.

## May I take vitamins and sports drinks (protein drinks)?

Yes, you may take a good multivitamin and a meal substitute drink. We discourage sports drinks due to the high sugar and sodium contents.

## What is the key to a successful consecration or fast?

Prayer and study of the Scriptures. Please spend time in private devotion (Prayer and Bible reading). **See the attached scripture readings**. You may also want to share in a time of corporate prayer with your spouse, family members or other believers.

## What are the dietary restrictions being observed?

One meal a day. Water, juices, teas can be consumed at any time. Fruits, nuts, and raw veggies can be consumed throughout the day. Chicken, turkey and fish are acceptable for one meal a day. Please pay close attention to the chicken now being sold as "authentic".

Jewish and Arab meat shops sell organic meats and fish, in line with their beliefs!!!

**PLEASE DRINK PLENTY OF WATER** (flavored with lemon or lime) – This serves as an excellent cleanser.

## What about Unmarried or Pre-Marital Physical Intimacy?

If this question is being considered, stop the activity, and schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

## What are the Corporate Prayer Days and Times?

- Morning Prayer: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 5:00 a.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m., in person and also through the conference line: Dial-in: +1 717-832-8330 or +1 502-509-0282. Access code: 343 9463
- Noon Prayer: Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer: Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
- In case of emergencies, please call the office any time during office hours.
- Please ask God to give you a Prayer Partner or someone to be accountable to.

### **WORSHIP II**

### Praise is Seeking God – Worship is being Found by Him

How do we become qualified to be in God's Presence? A: Purity. Sincerity is no substitution for purity. God comes to those who meet His conditions. God does not come, because we want Him to come. This is why so many Saints never experience the manifestation of God's Presence. They truly want God to come, but they have no idea what qualifies them to receive His Awesome Presence. Father will respond to our desires, only if we meet His standards. The Standard is Holiness. Separated from the world and all of its tentacles, music, entertainment, etc... We must be Holy, as He is Holy. Holiness means that we are pure in motive. God is integrated in His Thoughts, Words and Action. He cannot lie; neither can He pretend. Those who want to live in His Presence must be as He is.

Obviously, this is not our state, apart from God. The father of lies, John 8:44, has deceived us into rejecting God's Truth and accepting his lies. The only way this will change is for us to stop believing Satan's filthy lies, about God and about ourselves. God's Word is Truth. We must begin to spend time with Him, and His Word. In other words, we become Holy by association with Holiness. So, the entire purpose of the Tabernacle and Temple was to prepare a way for us to approach the Father, without being destroyed, because of our sin. In the Old Testament, the rituals of the Priest and the people were how man fulfilled God's requirements, for coming into His Presence. When they met the requirement, God rewarded them, by appearing, to the Priest between the Cherubim in the Inner Sanctuary and to the Nation in Smoke or a Cloud.

#### **Consecrate Yourselves**

Coming into God's Presence is not something that can be done casually. This is why the Command, "Consecrate Yourselves", was a constant refrain in the Old Testament. God demands that we cleanse ourselves, before we come into His Presence. For the Priests, this meant a series of ritual washing of themselves and their garments. For us it's repentance of sin. They had to wear certain clothes (Ex 29-30; 39-40; Lev 8). Priest and common folk alike were obligated, as part of their rituals and rules concerning the Work and Worship of God's People. They were not to eat unclean foods, or to touch anything that was unclean, in accordance with God's definition. (Lev 11) To touch these things made a person unclean and unfit to gather, with God's people, as they stood in His Presence. Touching the world makes us unclean and not fit to approach God. Each rule was to make God's people presentable to stand, in the Presence of God. It is no different today, we cannot live two lives and think we can stand, in the Presence of a Holy God. We might be in Church singing; praising; and the Anointing comes. Know that it is not your singing and praising that brought the Anointing, if you are not living right. It is someone else's praise next to you, who is living right, that God is acknowledging. The Bible says, "have no fellowship with the unfruitful work of darkness." Ep 5:11-13

"Consecrate yourselves and be ye Holy because I am the Lord, your God. Keep My decrees and follow them. I am the Lord, who makes you Holy." Lev 20:7-8 Jesus makes that very clear. However, the uncleanness on the outside is not the only form of impurity. In fact, it is not the most important source of contamination. It is the uncleanness of our hearts that pollutes our lives. Nothing outside a man can make him "unclean" by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him "unclean". "And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand: There is nothing from without a man, that entering him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. If any man has ears to hear, let him hear. And when he was entered, into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable. And he saith unto them, Are ye so

without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entered into the man, it cannot defile him; because it entered not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth, out into the draught, purging all meats? And he said that which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." Mark 7:14b-23

God desires Truth and Purity. Coming to God with Praise requires that we cleanse our heart from all the evil that has taken up residence there. This is the message of Psalm 15. What is in our heart matters most of all because this is where truth and righteousness, or lies and unrighteousness, start. "Lord, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy Holy Hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the Truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved." Ps 15:1-5

Truth is at the core of the requirements presented in this Psalm-truth with God and truth with our fellow man. What is in our heart and what we do and say must match. We cannot say one thing in public and another in private. We cannot act one way in Worship on Sunday Morning and another way throughout the week, in our Homes and on our jobs. Righteous integration in all our life is necessary if we want God's Presence to come and stay with us. This requirement to inner purity is also evident in Psalms 24 and 101.

"Who shall ascend into the Hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his Holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart, who hath not lifted his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his Salvation. This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek Thy face, O Jacob. Selah." Psalm 24:3-6

"No one who practices deceit will dwell in My House; no one who speaks falsely will stand in My Presence." Ps 101:7

Clean hands and a pure heart, and truth in the innermost being. These are the distinguishing characteristics of the man or woman who may stand in God's Presence and offer Praise, in which God is enthroned.

Jesus evidently agreed with this assessment, for He said, "That the pure in heart would see God" (Matt 5:8). He also told the Samaritan woman He met at the well.

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true Worshippers shall Worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth: for the Father seeketh such to Worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that Worship Him must Worship Him in Spirit and in Truth." John 4:23-24.

Purity and Truth in our hearts are the critical factor that determines whether our Praise is acceptable to God. If the form and timing of our praise is right, but our heart is not, we cannot expect to receive the Gift of His Presence. God comes when we truly want Him. We do not get into God's Presence just because we ask, we must really want to dwell there. We only get there when we qualify for it. Yes, we have access, and all can come to the Throne. However, we must ascend into God's Presence, climbing the Hill of the Lord as Israel climbed Mount Zion, on the way to the Temple.

God wants pure and committed Worshippers. These are His standards for those who would approach Him through Praise. Consequently, just any praise will not bring Him to us. Lukewarm Praise will never bring Anointed Worship. Neither will Praise that is concerned more, with what we can get from God, than with Who He Is. Our Praise must be Tehillah: Praise that has no ulterior motive; Praise that comes from a heart cleaned from sin and wholly yielded to and controlled by Him; Praise that acknowledges the reality of God; Praise that is wholly focused on Him and the Glory of His Name. And He said, "Verily, I say unto you,

except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." Matt 18:3

Children are pure Worshippers of God. Then you have more experienced Saints who are so worried about things going right, notes, sound, we can get distracted and totally miss God. Some people have ulterior motives, want to be seen performing etc... All groups are singing the same song, with three different mentalities, three distinct attitudes. One is pure, the others are contaminated with division of thoughts.

This is why it is so captivating seeing children Worship. Their hearts are so one with Him, it is easy for the Anointing to fall upon them. He then comes and manifests Himself through and to them. God wants all Praise to enter into Worship. However, He wants us to be as little Children, in presentation.

PRAYER: Father, help us to Praise and Worship You as Children, pure in thought, motive, and act.

This WOFC, stills the enemy of our souls. From the lips of children and infants You have ordained Praise that will bring Anointed Worship. And He said, "Yea; have ye never read, out of the mouth of babes and suckling thou hast perfected Praise". Matt 21:16; Ps 8:2. God is seeking true Worshippers. God wants our Praise on the outside to match what is on the inside of our heart, then our spirit is doing what God is telling it to do. At that point, God's Holiness is beginning to rub off on us.

That is why the spirit in John 4:23-24 is a small "s". He was not speaking of the Holy Spirit, but our spirit. He is saying, we must fix our spirit before we come into His Spirit (that means get our life in order, only we can do that). Worship is intercourse with God, and He will not be contaminated with the junk in our little spirits. Once we have purified our spirits, attitude checks, priorities, and motives, only then can we say, "Bless the Lord, Oh my Soul" or "Glory to God". In spirit and in truth is the bottom line for Praise and Worship because we cannot fool God, by trying to fake something that is not in out heart. True Praises require integrity of heart and humility of spirit, that are not easily attained. Those who preserve receive the high prize of God's favor and His Presence.

God, says "This is the one I esteem; he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at My Word." Isaiah 66:2b In my integrity You uphold me and set me in Your Presence forever." Psalm 41:12

Worship is the privilege of those who seek God with clean hands and a pure heart. Uncleanness of the heart pollutes our lives. Truth with God and truth with the Saints is required of us, if we desire the Presence of God, to come and stay in our lives. Amen

\*Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapters 25-26)