



## Consecration 2020: Prepare for Wonders

### Part 3: Fasting

January 19, 2020

Consecration is the act of setting someone or something apart; to dedicate someone or something for a specific purpose; make holy

### THEME: Prepare for Wonders

**TEXT:** Josh 3:5 *"Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." [NASU]*

### Week of Foresight

Foresight is defined as an ability or action of imagining or anticipating what might happen in the future.

Josh 2:24 *"They said to Joshua, "Surely the Lord has given all the land into our hands..."*

#### 1. What is God giving you in 2020?

### Week of Focus

Focus is defined as the center of interest or activity. It is to adjust one's vision or optical device so as to render a clear, distinct image.

#### 2. Wait for God's Movement

Evil is stalking even at the church door now.

*"He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it."*

(MLK)

## Week of Fasting

Fasting is simply doing without food, period! In the garden man partook of the restrictive and died. The new Adam restricts the allowable and life springs into new dimensions! God promises to reward us for what we do in secret. What an incredible privilege that we can do without food, seek HIS face and it opens us up to wonders!

### 3. Wholly Separate Yourself

Josh 3:5 *"Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves..."* [NASU]

The people are told to set themselves apart...for God is going to do wonders

Have you ever had to wait for an extended period with expectation and excitement? God's ways are not man's ways... HE asks us to take time and make sure we are truly committed to HIM and HIS plan.

**Why?** Well there could be many reasons but a few:

- We get too comfortable with sin
- We accept compromise in our own lives
- We want control and only talk to God when we have problems.

Consecration is a time to make sure we are in alignment. It reminds us that:

- God is Holy (Holiness is the Environment)
- Humility Expected – Pride grieves and quenches the Holy Spirit
- Have Expectations – Have faith in God

### Some would ask, is this a New Testament precept?

2 Cor 7:1 *"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."* [KJV]

Israel has had two great examples: (Joshua & Caleb)

Num 32:9 – 12 *"For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the Lord had given them. 10 And the Lord's anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying, 11 Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me: 12 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the Lord."* [KJV]

Wholly means completely, entirely, exclusively, solely, totally, without exception

He completely, without exception followed the Lord:

- Bad Reports / Intimidation – others say we can't
- Brothers Rejected / Intimate friends wanted to stone him
- Base Restless / Ill at Ease – Camp says we will go on our own

We have to make a decision that we will wholly follow the Lord!

Matthew 6:17-18 *"But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."* [ESV]

In 2020 how will we at Sunset Avenue follow God?

- Will we wholly follow God in prayer?
- Will we wholly follow God in giving?
- Will we wholly follow God in fasting?

1 John 3:1-3 *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."*

Hope motivates Christian living...wholly following

Cleansings is driven by relationship not rules

Relationships brings with it privileges and responsibilities.