

# **3 WEEK CONSECRATION**

FLAMMABLE

**PSALM 104:4** He <u>makes</u> his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.

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# **ABOUT THIS CONSECRATION**

We believe this time of consecration is meant to be a journey for all that would accept the invitation. The Lord has given us a progression meant to position us to *fully* receive and respond to what He is going to release next in our church.

Yes, there are things the Lord wants us to do and accomplish for Him. There are sacrifices to be made, work to be done, deeper truths to study, and intercession to be made. But we sense that in our current state, even with the best intentions, if we don't allow Him to draw us near, pour into us, and build us up, we won't be able to fully embrace what He gives us; seed won't go deep enough and we won't have the endurance to bear fruit that remains.

So, as you will see below the consecration begins with us seeking intimacy, apart from striving. Then it progresses to allowing Him to minister to us, give us perspective and build us up. Finally we will allow Him to make us kindling as it were – ready to burn for Him at the slightest spark!

## WEEK 1 - DRAW NEAR

### **SUNDAY 1/14 - SUNDAY 1/21**

In Luke 10:41-42, Jesus lovingly tells Martha that she is "worried, bothered and anxious about many things," and that one thing is truly needed, necessary and essential. He describes this one thing as "the good part," "better portion," or as the Message Translation says "main course." Mary, Martha's sister, chose this better portion, but it was available to Martha all along, and it's available to us today.

Simply put, the better portion is Jesus; being with Him, at His feet, in His care, and under the sound of His voice.

So Week 1, we will respond to His invitation to the better portion. Our entire focus will be to simply draw near to God. Not striving, or working, or trying to be anything other than postured for intimacy with Him. As we do, we'll receive His love, become more aware of His nearness, and deepen our understanding that we are His children.

#### A Note of Encouragement

Know that as you draw near, some areas of that need to change may start to become illuminated. Don't be discouraged or push away. See it correctly, as His love and fatherhood toward you. <u>Read - Hebrews 12:5-11</u>

### WEEK 1 GUIDELINES & FOCUS:

• **Dietary -** There are no dietary guidelines week 1.

- Electronics & Entertainment In lieu of any dietary guidelines, other than tasks required for work, we will choose to limit all electronics, entertainment, reading materials and social media to little or nothing. Any content we consume should be limited to Christian content and things that help us draw near to God.
  - Don't see this as a restriction, but a desire to get free from things we thoughtlessly turn to instead of God, things that hinder us from *fully* drawing near to Him regularly.
- Connect Make Time To Be With Him Be Intentional
  - **Prayer:** Make time to connect with the Father in prayer–maybe not always for a need, but to simply connect, ask Him to show you how to draw near to Him, ask Him to speak to you, find scriptures to pray.
  - **Worship:** Make time for personal praise and worship. Be intentional about not just listening to music, but engaging and worshiping the Lord.
  - The Word:
    - Read Whenever you open your Bible, pray and thank God for His Word, ask Him to help you understand it, make it alive in you, and to reveal Himself in it.
      - You can select a reading plan that takes you through sections of the Bible.
    - Study If you feel led, study a certain topic, passage, or even a specific word.
  - Other Resources Find other books, teachings, podcasts, etc. that feed you spiritually
  - **Journaling** Reflect and record what God is doing so you can look back on it, keep a track record. Make this a normal practice in your life.

#### Combine the Time

Don't feel like you always have to do these things separately. Doing them in conjunction with one another is a great way to deepen and enrich your time with God.

### Scriptures For Drawing Near:

Read and reflect on these scriptures daily. Take your time—say them, pray them as promises over yourself, etc. Quiet your heart and let their truth really settle in and be planted deep as the lens you see your identity through and the position you live life from.

- **Exodus 33 (Read this chapter)** Even after their sin, God invited <u>all</u> of His people to draw near to Him, but only Moses and Joshua took advantage of His invitation and its benefit.
- **Psalm 27:4,8 AMP** One thing I have asked of the Lord, and that I will seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty [the delightful loveliness and majestic grandeur] of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. When You said, "Seek My face [in prayer, require My presence as your greatest need]," my heart said to You, "Your face, O Lord, I will seek [on the authority of Your word]."
- Luke 10:41-42 AMP But the Lord replied to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered and anxious about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part
- **Psalm 73:28 ESV** But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.
- Proverbs 8:17 NASB I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.
- **Hebrews 4:16 ESV** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- Psalm 145:18 ESV The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth (sincerely)
- Romans 8:31-39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God

# WEEK 2 - BE STRENGTHENED

### SUNDAY 1/21 - SUNDAY 1/28

Part of what we sense the Lord showing us is how, at times, our situations and trials are monopolizing our focus or becoming the lens that we see and live our lives through. The challenge is that when God is calling us closer or asking us to focus on what He is doing, our attention is magnetized to what is going on in our lives. God sees and cares about the things each of us are going through, but if we let Him, the enemy will use our circumstances to deter us from leaning into the greater things God wants to do in and through us.

YES, our Father, the Good Shepherd, wants us to face the facts and bring our burdens to Him. Of course. But He also wants us to continually lay them down and exchange them for His peace, assurance, and strength. When we do, we can trust that His hands are on it even when things don't change right away. This frees us up to not just be concerned with what we have going on, but with His Kingdom purposes.

So Week 2, continuing to operate from the place of intimacy, we will take our burdens, questions, families and life situations to Him with the specific goal of receiving His perspective, peace, answers, strength, strategy, and refreshing. As He pours into us in this way, we will be prepared for Week 3 and beyond!

### WEEK 2 GUIDELINES & FOCUS:

**Please Note** The dietary guidelines may not be appropriate for every person or situation. Please feel free to adjust or amend them as needed based on your health requirements. Simply maintain the heart to do absolutely everything you can to press into God, sacrifice what He is asking for and connect with Him as deeply as possible.

- **Dietary** Starting at 6pm on Sunday 1/28 we will participate in a Daniel Fast.
- **Connect** Continue to be intentional about making time to seek God through worship, prayer, the word, journaling, and other Christian resources that build you up and draw you closer to Him.
- Electronics & Entertainment We will continue to restrict electronics and entertainment as much as possible with the goal of continuing to build new habits and norms to carry forward even after this time of consecration.
- **Prayer focus** As described above, seek God regarding specific things in your life that are barriers or disproportionately occupying your focus.
  - Use the "Out Is Not It" mentality and the question(s) given:
    - Access the message online to listen again: Out is Not IT
    - You are in a very difficult situation or season, but ask these questions regarding each of the individual situations you are facing and write down or record what God gives you as the answers to the questions above:
      - What Are You Coming Out From?
      - What Are You Coming Out To?
      - What Are You Coming Out For?
      - What Are You Coming Out With?
  - **Build a Snap-out-of-It trigger:** Think about how to "catch" yourself, re-posture and re-focus when low or difficult moments come and want to drag you down.
  - Our goal is to receive:
    - Strength to continue if you are in a difficult season that is not over. Perspective on what has happened. Answers and strategy on how to proceed, Anything else the Lord wants to say to you about your life and situations.
- Silence and listening
  - Make sure you are allowing space and time where you are quiet and for Him to speak and respond.

 In our quietness, God is going to also reveal what's in our hearts and motivations. Continue to let Him do it-don't turn it away

#### • Why this week's focus is important

- $\circ\quad$  God is saying–turn to me, not it.
- $\circ$   $\,$  We need Him to help us avoid focusing on our issues at the expense of focusing on Him.
- What we focus on is what becomes magnified. So, a focus on Him is really the only thing that will position us to see our mountains move...not a focus on the mountains.

#### REMEMBER

You don't have to walk this journey alone (Ecc 4:9-12). Invite other brothers and sisters in Christ into what you are hearing and processing through.

### Scriptures For Turning To God & Being Built Up:

- **Psalm 19:7-8 NLT** The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living.
- **1 Peter 5:7 AMP** ...casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully].
- Isaiah 41:10,13 NIV So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

- **Psalm 138:8 NKJV** The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.
- **1 Samuel 30:3-4,6 CJB** So when David and his men arrived at the city, there it was, burned down, with their wives, sons and daughters taken captive. Then David and the people with him cried aloud until they had no more power to cry.

David was in serious trouble: the people were talking about stoning him to death, because all the people were in such deep grief, each man over his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in Adonai [the Lord] his God.

Then David consulted Adonai. And [Adonai] answered him

- **2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV** So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
- **Psalm 34:5 NLT** Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces.
- 2 Timothy 2:1,3-4 NASB You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him.

# WEEK 3 - BECOME FLAMMABLE

SUNDAY 1/28 - SUNDAY 2/4

Whether we realize it or not, we are called to live with a radical passion and fire for God–to have an insatiable hunger to know Him, love Him, and serve Him as a way of life. Living this way moves us beyond consumer-minded Christianity, to an all-in commitment and life of kingdom-centered purpose.

Week 3 is meant to be a convergence of our intentionality, and the sovereign outpouring of His spirit. We are positioning ourselves to become ignited with a fire for God that causes us to burn hotter and brighter for Him. May our cry be to become more sensitive to His Spirit, responsive to His word, and so passionate for Him that we spread who He is as we come in contact with others.

### WEEK 3 GUIDELINES & FOCUS:

**Please Note** The dietary guidelines may not be appropriate for every person or situation. Please feel free to adjust or amend them as needed based on your health requirements. Simply maintain the heart to do absolutely everything you can to press into God, sacrifice what He is asking for and connect with Him as deeply as possible.

- ENCOUNTER Sunday 1/28, 6:30pm let's come together to kick off the last week of the consecration strong.
- Dietary:
  - Monday Wednesday Partial Fast: No food, only liquids until 6pm
  - Thursday Sunday after service Full Fast: No food, only liquids
- **Connect** Continue to be intentional about making time to seek God through worship, prayer, the word, journaling, and other Christian resources that build you up and draw you closer to Him.
- Electronics & Media Solidify new habits and norms in order to position yourself for consistency far after the consecration.
  - There will be no *official* restriction on media and entertainment. Instead, we will practice being back in the "real world" where no external source is saying what we should and should not do.
  - Practice continuing to make the types of decisions you have made to pursue intimacy and clearly hearing God. Practice prioritizing your time with God more than other things you could do in your free time. Choose picking up your Bible instead of your phone more often, and turning to the true Comforter for peace instead of the temporary relief of what you typically veg out on.
  - It's not to say that we will never enjoy these things post-fast, but hopefully these choices become more second nature and less abnormal, or even difficult.
  - Reflect and be honest about what your defaults are–identify them and write them down so we are clear what not to go back to.
- **Prayer focus** Father, what does it look like for me to be on fire for you? What does an ignited heart look like for me?

### Scriptures For Passion & Fire For God:

- Matthew 22:37 NKJV Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
- Leviticus 6:12-13 ESV The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out. The priest shall burn wood on it every morning...

Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.

• **Psalm 84:2 NLT** - I long, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of the Lord. With my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God.

- **Romans 12:11-12 NIV** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
- Psalm 104:4 ESV He makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.
- Luke 24:32 NLT They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"
- Matthew 5:16 ESV In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- **Ephesians 6:18 NIV** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.
- Isaiah 6:6-7 NKJV Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."
- **Romans 6:13 ESV** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.
- **1 Peter 4:2 NLT** You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.