

Growing in Personal Dedication

Introduction

- A. It is important to keep in mind that the dedication of ourselves and all we have to God is **our response to His loving gift of His Son** and through Him of every good. Dedication is not, first of all, more external conformity -- **but an inner response of love.**
- B. Dedication is not primarily an emotion, but a **decision, a spiritual choice**, to give to God the only thing that He does not already have -- **ourselves.**
- C. In this act of dedication, **unreservedly surrendering ourselves to God**, we make the **very first step toward spiritual success.** Without it spiritual success is impossible.

I. The Importance of Our Dedication.

- A. Our Dedication is Important Because of the Biblical Exhortation.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Rom 12:1,2.

Comment: In contrast to the O.T. sacrifices, the believer is to be a **living sacrifice** to God. The reference to our body reminds us that dedication must issue in a **practice** of the will of God in daily life.

- B. Our Dedication is Important Because We Belong to God.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own?** For ye are bought with a price, **therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.** I Cor 6:19,20

Comment: The Lord Jesus has a prior claim on us: It is the right of creation, redemption, salvation, and calling. The evidence that we belong only to Him is found in the presence of the Holy Spirit is our life. Dedication is cooperating with the Holy Spirit.

- C. Our Dedication is Important Because of Our Holy Calling.

Who hath saved us and **called us with a holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. II Tim 1:9

Comment: To be called by God is a very serious matter. By this call we are **sacred people**, chosen to carry out God's plan. Dedication is our response.

II. The Warning Regarding Dedication.

And that servant, **which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will**, shall be beaten with many stripes. Luke 12:47

Comment: We may not treat God's call, His will, and His exhortations lightly. Our **personal success now, and our reward in the future**, depends on true dedication, which is extended in all areas of our life by obedience.

III. The Practice of Dedication.

A. Dedication is Always Characterized by **Worship**.

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**. John 4:23

B. Dedication is Always Characterized by **Decisions of Faith**.

But **without faith** it is impossible to please Him Heb 11:6

C. Dedication is Always Characterized by **Decisions of Love**.

Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind**. This is **the first and great commandment**.
Matt 22:37,38

D. Dedication is Always Characterized by **Decisions of Hope**.

And how abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
I Cor 13:13

Conclusion: **Dedication results in the obedience of worship, faith, love, and hope. Which in turn results in the power of God, and the Fruit of the Spirit.**

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