

The importance of living a consecrated Christian life

Jesus Himself said,

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”
(Luke 9:23-24)

“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost.” **(Luke 9:25)**

The moment we come to Christ the spiritual warfare intensifies

Jesus Himself said,

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” **(2 Timothy 3:12)**

Being continually in the centre of God's will for our life is a great key to remaining strong in our walk with the Lord and to bearing much fruit

The Apostle Paul wrote, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” **(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

Living a consecrated Christian life helps us to continually remain in the will of God for our lives

The Apostle Paul, who achieved so much during his time here on earth wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” **(Galatians 2:20)**

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” **(Philippians 3:7-8)**

The Apostle Paul is a great example of what God can do through the life of a person who lives a consecrated Christian life

The Apostle Paul went on 3 major missionary journeys, planted many churches and wrote around 28% of the New Testament

So why is it so important that we continually choose to live a consecrated Christian life as believers

1. Because it will help us to avoid the pitfalls of life and to make wise choices in life (Isaiah 55:8-9)

When our lives are fully surrendered to Christ, He will give us wisdom to do life well. God’s ways are higher than our ways

In the book of James we read, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” **(James 1:5)**

2. Because it is a key to experiencing the abundant life that Jesus spoke of

Jesus Himself said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

3. Because it helps us to continually remain in the will of God for our lives

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

4. Because it enables us to realise our full potential in Christ and to fulfill our God given assignment here on earth

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **(Ephesians 2:10)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” **(Ephesians 3:20)**

5. It helps us to store up treasures in heaven and to receive eternal rewards when we appear before the judgement seat of Christ

Jesus Himself said,

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (**Matthew 6:19-21**)

Jesus also said, “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” (**Matthew 16:24-27**)

6. Because it will greatly determine the authority that we are given when we reign with Christ here on earth

The bible makes it clear that as believers we will reign with Christ in the Kingdom (Daniel 7:27) and rule the nations (Revelation 2:26–27; 20:4) and judge the world (1 Corinthians 6:2)

In the book of Revelation we read,

“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” (**Revelation 20:6**)

The apostle Peter calls Christians “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation” (1 Peter 2:9). In Revelation 3:21, Jesus says about the believer who conquers, “I will grant him to sit with Me on My throne.”

In some sense, then, Christians will share authority with Christ (Ephesians 2:6). There is some biblical evidence, as in the Parable of the Ten Minas (Luke 19:11–27), that individuals will be given more or less authority in the Kingdom according to how they handle the responsibilities God has given them in this age (Luke 19:17)

The extent of the authority given to believers will depend on our works in obedience to the Lord's command here on earth. Specifically, the quantity and quality of our works on earth will determine how much authority we are given to reign in the next life

But God did not create us all with the same ability and does not give us all the same opportunities to serve Him. Therefore, the factor of ability is also taken into account. To him or her to whom more is entrusted, much more will be demanded

In the gospel of Luke we read, "... For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." (**Luke 12:48**)

With this in mind the degree to which we are given authority when we reign with Christ in the Kingdom will greatly depend on the degree to which we lived a consecrated Christian life during our time here on earth

With this in mind I can only but encourage all believers to give their best in living for the Kingdom Cause and to be faithful in fulfilling the Ephesians 2:10 plan for their life. The "... good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

7. Because it is a great key to consistently walking in the Spirit so that we truly shine in a world that is becoming more and more ungodly and lawless

Jesus Himself said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
(Matthew 5:16)

8. Because it helps us to be people who promote unity in our homes and church fellowships which is a great key to seeing God's favour and blessing upon our lives and churches. (Psalm 133)

Strife and contention always occurs when self becomes the focus of our lives again. We see this in James 3:14-16

In the book of James we read, “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.” **(James 3:14-16)**

9. Because it is the key to experiencing God's favour and blessing upon our lives in this life

In the book of Isaiah we read, “If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.” **(Isaiah 1:19)**

Jesus Himself said, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**

Jesus also said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” **(Luke 11:28)**

10. Because true joy and fulfilment in life as a believer only comes from living a life that is fully consecrated to the Cause of Christ (Philippians 3:7-8) (Matthew 25:20-23)

King David wrote,

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” **(Psalm 16:11)**

And

11. Because our lives will only make a great eternal difference in the lives of many others if we are prepared to live a consecrated Christian life in a world which always tries to influence us to live for ourselves

Jesus Himself said,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” **(John 12:24-26)**

SO, WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LIVE A CONSECRATED CHRISTIAN LIFE

I will now just quickly look at 12 characteristics or traits of what it looks like to live a consecrated Christian life

1) That our desire is always to do God's will for our life and not our own. (That we have a desire to be faithful in fulfilling God's assignment for our lives here on earth and not just to live for ourselves)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”
(**Ephesians 5:15-17**)

King David wrote,

“I delight to do Your will, O my God,
And Your law is within my heart.” (**Psalms 40:8**)

2) That living a consecrated Christian life will always involve living for others just as Jesus did not come into the world to be served but to serve

Jesus Himself said,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (**Matthew 20:25-28**)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” (**Philippians 2:3-4**)

3) That we start each day by getting God's perspective for the day as we commit our plans to Him

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (**Proverbs 16:3**)

4) That we have a clear understanding of what God has called us to do in each season of our lives
(That we seek God to know His vision and plans for our life)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (**Ephesians 2:10**)

5) That we have a teachable spirit and are open to correction (We need to be prepared to act upon and to heed God's guidance and instructions for our lives)

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.” (**Proverbs 9:9**)

6) That we live a life of simple trust and obedience knowing that God's ways are higher than our ways

King David wrote,

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord,** And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (**Psalms 37:3-5**)

7) That we build our life based on God's wisdom in His word so that our lives are continually built on a firm foundation

Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore, **whoever** hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” (**Matthew 7:24-25**)

The LORD said to Joshua, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (**Joshua 1:8**)

8) That we always live our lives with eternity in mind. That we are in the world but not of it

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.” (**Colossians 3:1-2**)

9) That we have a lifestyle of prayer where we involve God in all that we do in life. In short that we are God dependent

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“pray without ceasing,” (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**)

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)

10) That we continually allow the Holy Spirit to direct our steps in life

(This is a great key to being always at the right place at the right time doing the right thing so that our lives bear much fruit)

King David wrote, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way.” (**Psalm 37:23**)

Jesus Himself said, “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (**John 16:13**)

11) That we always have a great desire to glorify God in the way that we live our lives

Jesus Himself said,

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (**Matthew 5:16**)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (**1 Corinthians 10:31**)

And

12) Most importantly, that our greatest desire is always to know God intimately

(It is our great love for God that will cause us to want to walk continually in obedience to His will for our life)

King David also wrote, “Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)

Jesus Himself also said,

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” **(John 14:21)**

So, in conclusion;

It is only in living a consecrated Christian life that our lives will make a great eternal difference in the lives of many others

If we do not purposely choose to live for the Kingdom Cause each day, (to live a consecrated Christian life) we will invariably be drawn away from God's plan and purpose for our lives through the cares of this world and other things and distractions taking our focus off God's assignment for our lives here on earth

What a time now for each of us to break open our lives for the Cause of Christ as Christians, at a time when so many people are looking for genuine hope for their lives. We have the answer. His Name is Jesus the hope for all humanity

So, my encouragement to everyone is to fully embrace all that God has planned for your life by choosing each day to live a consecrated Christian life. We have one life here on earth to leave an eternal legacy in the lives of others.

Given all that Jesus did to give us the gift of eternal life what a privilege it is to live a life of consecrated service to Him

I will finish again with the words of Jesus,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” **(John 12:24-26)**