



# Consecration

This session will focus around our own personal healing and wholeness. Firstly, we read a verse from Joshua.

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

*Joshua 3: 5*

We are all looking forward to God doing great things among us during this 24 hours and beyond. As we come before God it is right to prepare our hearts and seek to "consecrate ourselves" in preparation.

Consecrate is such an old and un-used word these days but the dictionary definition of the word is to: make or declare something sacred; to officially make something holy, dedicate formally to a religious purpose.

We are simply going to go through some steps as a form of guided meditation, so if you haven't already, make sure you are in a comfortable place for the next little while. If you find yourself drifting off don't worry, just enjoy the soaking prayer.

**Holy Spirit be with us,  
speak to us,  
reveal to us what you want us to  
know, to see.  
Would you consecrate us today,  
that tomorrow you might do great  
things among us.  
Amen.**



In a podcast from late last year John Mark Comer speaks of the time of Covid as having been a crucible – the vessel in which metal is subjected to intense heat to the point of melting. The impurities float to the top and are removed, leaving the pure molten metal.

This can now be used to create whatever the craftsman chooses.

Do not rush through this time of preparation. Give yourself time to sit, listen to God and allow him to speak into your heart.

# Impurities

We are going to start by allowing the Holy Spirit to show us what things have floated to the top during this time of heating, refining and testing over the last year. As these things are brought to mind, confess them to God. Read these verses out loud and ask God to bring to mind things that he wants to make you aware of.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and **purify** us from all unrighteousness.

*1 John 1:9*

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us **purify** ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

*2 Corinthians 7:1*

Let us first confess those things that may have risen to the top in the crucible of the last year:

*Maybe we have been frustrated by the restrictions, the rules, the uncertainty, others behaviour, the complete disruption to our lives...*

*Maybe we feel a frustration as we have been unable to fulfil dreams or had plans cancelled...*

*Maybe we have found our routines disrupted and our relationship with Jesus through prayer interrupted...*

**"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."**

*Matthew 11:28-30*

*Maybe we have become hardened...*



# Pure Gold

In this next section we are going to celebrate and think on the pure things – the gifts and strengths that have been perfected (or at least improved) over the last year. Read these verses out loud and be thankful that Jesus turns our sin into something redeemed and beautiful.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is **pure**, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

*Philippians 4:8*

Let us now celebrate, rejoice and give thanks for those things, gifts, talents, strengths and relationships that have been strengthened or recognised, purified and made better in the crucible of the last year:

*Maybe you have discovered amazing new tech skills – whether you wanted to or not...*

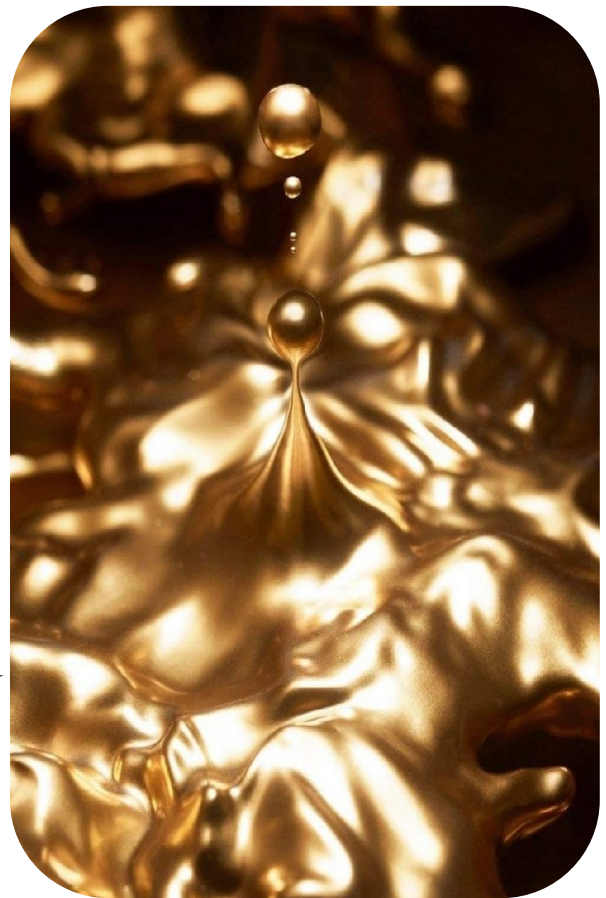
*Maybe you have found opportunity for more prayer and study during lockdown...*

*Maybe you have found being locked down together has blessed your family experience...*

*Maybe lockdown has allowed you to be more mindful of your own mental health...*

*Maybe lockdown has given you permission to try new forms of creativity or simply get that job done in the house or garden you never thought you would be able to do...*

*Maybe lockdown has enabled you to explore your surroundings more and discover the beauty in nature...*



Let us be thankful to God for these previous gifts of time and space. May we never get too busy to stop appreciating the things of beauty all around us.

# *Dedication and Being Set Apart*

Then finally we will dedicate ourselves afresh to God, offering ourselves to be made into whatever the creator chooses.

As we approach this final part of the meditation let us remember that we are loved and seen by the maker of the universe!

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

*Romans 12: 1-2*

Let us finish by committing ourselves afresh to God's service – setting ourselves apart for God, devoting ourselves to God.

**Let's offer all we are to God**

**Our relationships**

**Our grief**

**Our successes**

**Our weaknesses**

**Our strengths**

**Our hopes**

**Our fears**

**Our anxiety & pain**

**Our aspirations**

**Our possessions and bank balance**



It would be great to be specific right here. To not just name the titles above but to bring to God those things that you know (deep down) you have been holding onto tightly. This is the moment to commit to giving God control over all of it and asking him to use you as we enter this new and exciting season in 2021.

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

*Joshua 3: 5*

As we draw this section to a close, may we, having consecrated ourselves, be prepared to encounter the living and loving God, and may we be expectant and willing to see God do great things among us.