

First Things Consecration GUIDE

January 2019

By Pastor Timothy T. Scott, Jr.



Theme for 2019

Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and **walking in** the fear of the Lord, **and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.** — Acts 9:31 (King James Version)

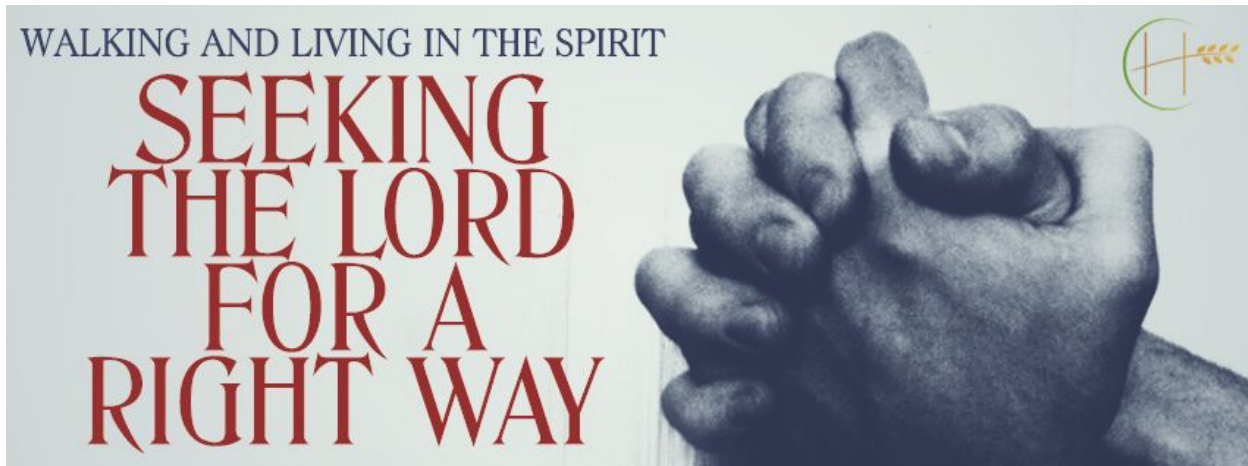
Meditation for 2019 Theme

BE FILLED ■ Ephesians 5:18; Romans 8:13; John 7:37-39; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4

BE EMPOWERED ■ Zechariah 4:6; Isaiah 10:27; Isaiah 59:19; Acts 10:38

BE LED ■ Haggai 1:2, 4-14; Romans 8:14-16

BE FILLED, EMPOWERED, AND LED ■ Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:41-47



Consecration Focus:

Seeking the Lord for a Right Way

Ezra 8:21-23

(21) Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. **(22)** For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. **(23)** So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.

Pursuing Our Spiritual Options

It is important for believers to give bible-based **directions** to our walk with the Lord. It is also important for us to set the **pace** for our pursuit of exercise ourselves in godly things.

DIRECTIONS

The Bible is a written guide that all believers should accept as the rule for faith and practice. To be clear about our faith through convictions and our practice of faith through daily walking with the Lord. We gain directions as we exercise the privilege of seeking the Lord through His written word. We get to ask for guidance when faced with the affairs of life. We get to ask for specifics about His will or purpose when dealing with the details of life. These directions means that we get to walk with the benefit of knowledge and wisdom from the one who knows all things.



PACE

In Isaiah 40 verses 29-30, I think that we find the best insight into understanding the pace of exercising ourselves in godly things. We can mount up with wings as an eagle. We can also run without being weary. Finally, we can walk without fainting. We not only get to set the pace; we get to be successful in pursuing our spiritual options not matter what pace we choose.

CHOOSING

Ezra saw the conditions of the city where his nation had experienced divinely led worship for many years. After seeing the deplorable conditions of the city and the people who were still there, Ezra began to pursue several spiritual options available to him. He selected fasting and seeking the Lord (a type of prayer). He not only chose fasting and prayer for himself, but he chose to involve others in this pursuit of God.

We Don't HAVE to ... We GET to

The entire book of Ezra was left on record for the body of Christ in this generation. The record of Ezra is not one in which the Lord appeared to him and gave him some prophetic word to do what he did. He took action because he had been given the power of choice.

We don't **have to** consecrate ourselves through fasting and praying. We **get to** consecrate ourselves through fasting and prayer. Thus, at the beginning of each year for many many years, many believer around the world have the spiritual awareness of the perils of human conditions which surround us and choose to be people who take action. We are blessed with an opened door.

First Things Consecration 2019

For the next 21 days, we will follow the pattern provided to us by Ezra:

1. I / We will proclaim a fast.
2. I / We will humble ourselves before our God.
3. I / We will seek of him a right way:
 - a. for me / us
 - b. for my / our little ones
 - c. for all of my / our substance
4. I / We will not require the arm of the flesh to help me / us against the enemy.
5. I / We will continue to say, "The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him."
6. I / We will not forsake him.
7. I / We will fast.
8. I / We will request and require these things of my / our God.
9. My / Our prayer shall go up as incense to God.
10. My / Our God will HEAR and ANSWER me / us.

When you are alone, make these declarations personal.

When we are together, let us make these declaration together.



FIRST THINGS Consecration -- 21 DAYS		
	OUR WEEKLY FOCUS FOR FASTING AND PRAYER	Prayer
Jan 6-12	Week 1 - Fasting to Seek of Our God for A RIGHT WAY FOR US (Fasting with One Meal each Day - Monday through Friday)	Jan 12 @ 9AM
Jan 13-19	Week 2 - Fasting to Seek of Our God for A RIGHT WAY FOR OUR LITTLE ONES (Fasting until 3:00 P.M. - Monday through Friday)	Jan 19 @ 9AM
Jan 20-26	Week 3 - Fasting to Seek of Our God for A RIGHT WAY FOR ALL OUR SUBSTANCE (24 Hour Fast with Water Only - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)	Jan 26 @ 9AM
FIRST THINGS SHUT-IN Saturday, January 26 -- 9 AM - 3 PM		

Mid-Week Expectations

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 P.M.

January 9, 16 and 23

Services led by Pastor Timothy Scott

Assisted by the HCEC Prayer Ministry & Others

PPT -- Prayer-Praise-Teaching

Come for the **Glory!** "It's Time"

In the Book of Acts, the early church saw many signs, wonders, and miracles. We are Releasing our Faith in God:

- For Manifestations of the Gifts
- To Confirm the Word with Signs
- To Receive Mark 16:17-20

"God will **move**. Things will **change**. We shall receive **direction** for life."



Suggested Fasting Schedule

PLAN 1							
Week	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
#1	Free Day	Fasting Beginning at Midnight with One Meal Each Day					Free Day
#2	Free Day	Fasting Beginning at Midnight until 3pm Each Day					Free Day
#3	Free Day	Fasting for 24 Hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday					Free Day
PLAN 2							
Week	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
#1	Free Day	Midnight until Noon Each Day					Free Day
#2	Free Day	Midnight - 3pm	Free Day	Midnight - 3pm	Free Day	Midnight - 3pm	Free Day
#3	Free Day	Midnight - 3pm (15 hours)	Free Day	Midnight - 9pm (21 hours)	Free Day	Midnight - Midnight (24 hours)	Free Day



Fasting and Praying

Prayer is INTENTIONALLY
INVOLVING GOD

At its core, Christianity is acknowledging that we need God in life. We need His love, His hope, and His direction. Not praying is like trying to go through life without God. Not praying as a Church is like trying to build a church without God.

Prayer is Effective
with MERCY AND TRUTH

Proverbs 3:3-4 (KJV) **3** Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: **4** So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Mercy and Truth - Always a Good Team

Praying is God's way of ensuring us that mercy and truth will have an active role in our lives. Our approach to God and our prayers to God should carry the aroma of and exclusively reflect the presence of mercy and truth.

Together, mercy and truth become both our gift from God and our grace to others. They should be as a collar that can't be removed. They are constant reminders of who we are and Whose we are. Their presence and guidance ensure that GOOD SUCCESS will come when we pray.

When you pray,

thank the Lord for His mercy and truth in your heart and life. Ask Him to overshadow your life and family with them in greater ways. Ask Him to manifest them in the lives of friends and enemies alike. Declare that His mercy and truth are so enduring and great that you have no desire for hurt or ill will for anyone.



What are Mercy and Truth?

The Amplified Bible has really good working definitions of mercy and truth:

“Let not mercy and **kindness [shutting out all hatred and selfishness]** and truth **[shutting out all deliberate hypocrisy or falsehood]** forsake you; bind them about your neck, write them upon the tablet of your heart. [Col. 3:9-12.]” — Proverbs 3:3 AMPC

Mercy is the act of showing kindness even to the undeserving. Truth is ascribing to those things that reflect the character and nature of God which has nothing false. Thus, we pray **for** those who treat us with ill intent. We are **guided** by truth even if it is to our hurt. We approach God knowing that truth ensures that worship is uncontaminated and good things are never withheld from our lives.

Not making mercy and truth our constant companions in prayer is to waste time, therefore, being unheard in the place of prayer. If we regard iniquity, the Lord will not hear us. Regarding iniquity is to look at hatred, selfishness, hypocrisy or falsehood (in us or others) in a favorable way or with justification. God, Who is omniscient (knowing everything), puts a limit on Himself to not even hear prayers that are not guided by mercy and truth. Mercy and truth clear the heart to ensure that God hears the petitioners' prayers and that we can pray according to His will.

Mercy is closing the door on hatred and selfishness to ensure that neither influence our thoughts or desires. Mercy is like a disinfecting spray and wipes that kills 100% of the contaminants that could and would diminish our quality of life after prayer. Mercy kills those invisible, destructive, infirmity-bearing, and living invaders in our lives. In other words, mercy kills hatred and selfishness.

Benefits of Mercy and Truth

1. The benefits of mercy and truth may NOT always be found in the place of prayer.
2. The benefits of mercy and truth will ALWAYS be found after we pray.
3. We will find favor with God and man.
4. We will live with good understanding in the sight of God and man.

When you pray,

thank the Lord for mercy and truth. Affirm your desire for mercy and truth to be manifested in the lives of both friends and enemies.



Prayer is LEANING ON GOD

Proverbs 3:3-8 (KJV) **5** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Pray Because You Trust the Lord

Praying with mercy and truth is a clear indicator of trusting the Lord as a matter of the heart. It can be intimidating to release control to the Lord and to rely on Him to handle the outcomes in life. Hurt, pain, disappointment, undeserving people, tragedies, and failure (to name a few) can make it most difficult to trust in the Lord. However, if trusting in self was so great, we could have used it to avoid the issues of life that make it challenging to trust the Lord. Thus, trusting the Lord is the only viable choice.

Get Your Own Understanding Out of the Way

Trusting in the Lord has benefits beyond measure when we decide to stop letting our understanding get in the way. This requires that we become as little children with the Lord.

Being a little child is marked by childlike words, understanding, and thinking. Children don't rely on their knowledge or awareness of things because they don't have much on which to rely. This makes it easy or easier for them to trust in whomever they put their confidence (God or adults).

When you pray,

thank the Lord and affirm that you trust Him with all of your heart.



Believe So That Rest Can Come

Adults have to lay aside their awareness and knowledge. They have to choose not to rely on their own understanding but to put their weight on the Lord. Adults must choose to rely on the Lord's words, directions, and promises. They are to rely on Him with all of their hearts. This reliance is **rest**. They enter into rest by walking through the door of **believing** God. Not walking through that door is **unbelief**. **Rest is** making no human effort to ensure that the Lord won't fail.

In Hebrews 3:5-19, unbelief is choosing to have no confidence in God in the face of undeniable evidence of His faithfulness. A faithful God demands that those who have confidence in Him will continue to believe in and adhere to His words. They are to rejoice with optimism regarding the future until the end leaving no opening for fear or fainting. Regretfully, the children of Israel had 40 years of proof that the Lord had no potential for failure.

Their responsibility was not to ensure that the Lord would not fail. Their responsibility was to remain steadfast in confidence and never depart from the Word of the living God. They saw the miracles but missed the **rest**. Thus, we are warned to keep our hearts in check, hear His voice, remain steadfast in confidence in God, and affirm our belief by never departing from the living God.

When you pray,

thank the Lord for bringing you into His rest. Declare, "Lord, I Believe."

Prayer is ACKNOWLEDGING GOD

Proverbs 3:3-8 (KJV) **6** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. **7** Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. **8** It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Ask and Wait for Direction

Acknowledging God is not merely praying to Him. Acknowledging Him is waiting with confidence for His directions, accepting His wisdom, fearing the Lord, and walking away from any evil. Leave no areas of your life off-limits to Him. As a result, His healing and health will be your portion.

When you pray,

ask the Lord for His Love, Hope, and Direction for now and the days ahead.

