

your king and that your life is where his kingdom comes to life; like in the morning raising the flag, declaring to everyone and everything that this is Jesus' territory; he rules here as king.

That's also telling the devil and his mates, they don't belong, they have no rights here. They need to move on; and because we pray in Jesus power and authority that's what happens.

Let's now join in a prayer of consecration. Jesus today I present my body, my life, my all as a living sacrifice to you. I've been brought with your blood on the cross, and my body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Come and rule in me today that my life is a living reflection of you. I dedicate and consecrate my mind, body and

soul to Jesus. Jesus come in and grow me to be all that you have dreamed possible; so that your kingdom comes and your will is done in my life. It all belongs to you, I belong to you. I trust you; I'm yours, I love you.



1 October 2017

## MOVING MOUNTAINS

### Week 4: Prayer of Consecration

Last week I was focused on the power and authority we have in Jesus. So I am able to intervene in people's lives with Jesus' power and authority. That's something I've known, but not always focused on, or connected all the dots on how that impacts on the invitation to prayer Jesus gives.

Jesus invites us to use the power and authority he won at the cross to extend his kingdom that Father's will is done. Which is what we pray for every time we pray the Lord's Prayer. Jesus invites you to use his power and authority, according to his will, that his kingdom impacts people, so that they come to know him. So that they might live with him as their king, and as their brother, with Jesus' father as our father.

I'm still taking with Jesus about the implications of using his power and authority. Like the how, and when and why. I'm glad Jesus has stretched me a little more in our relationship, and pray that he'll keep growing me in our relationship.

And he has again this week, as we look at what John labelled the 'Prayer of Consecration'.

But before we go any further, just a reminder that this isn't, a how to influence God to get what you want. I must admit that at times that's how I pray. I seek to twist God's arm to get what I think I need, to get the outcome I want.

Which is like the tail wagging the dog. That's back-to-front. When you spell dog the other way around what do you get? 'GOD'

God, in Jesus, and through the Spirit has come into my life, taking the initiative, so that my life wags with his very character, his very person. My life grows as a living expression of God, who in Jesus takes the initiative to find me, that I might grow to be all that he has dreamed possible.

So we're not out to twist God's arm, but looking at how things work in this wonderful relationship which Jesus has birthed us into.

Today we pick up the prayer of consecration. What do you think of when you hear the word consecration? If you're like me, your first thought might be a blank; what the heck is consecration.

This week I've seen many examples of people consecrating

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**Christ Church Lutheran**

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

their lives and their property. You many have noticed red, blue and gold everywhere. Why's that? They're declaring to the world that they are fans, more than fans, they are part of that great army going to win the holy grail.

Just an aside, does anyone know what a grail is?

When I go and visit Colin Schenscher I always notice the house next to him has a different allegiance. They fly a different flag.

Their territory belongs to a different team. Their allegiance has been consecrated to a different kingdom.

When explorers come to a new land they often would raise a flag. What was that to symbolise? That this land, now, was under the rule of their king; which sometimes ended in conflict. The collision of two kingdoms.

The prayer of consecration is raising Jesus' flag over our

lives; that means over everything we do, and everywhere we go. Jesus is king; we live by his power and authority. We bring in his kingdom as we follow Jesus, living as his disciples. His will determines who we are and what we do. We are, in Jesus, Father's children, chosen and marked by his love, the

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### The prayer of consecration is inviting Jesus to rule

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delight of his life.

How often do people raise a flag? I've noticed that public buildings will raise the Australian flag every day. That reminds us that this land, that this place is dedicated to Australia. In a sense we re-consecrate our allegiance with the raising of the flag, or when we play the national anthem. We are declaring that we are Australians and proud of it.

It's not a one off event. As the old joke goes; an eighty year old couple are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The wife says; 'in all these 60yrs you haven't told me that you love me'. To which the husband replies; 'when we got married I told you I love you, if I ever change my mind I'll let you know!'

Each time we say to the people we love; 'I love you' we're re-consecrating that relationship. We're declaring it to be a

relationship of love, of immense importance and priority in our lives. Other things can wait.

So consecration is re committing ourselves, It is reminding ourselves of our priorities and keeping the way we live aligned with those priorities. We dedicate ourselves to that relationship.

What happens to anything if you neglect it or take it for granted?

In Jesus you have the power and authority to continually commit yourself and all you have to Jesus. You have the power and authority to raise Jesus' flag, so to speak, over your lives, daily declaring to the whole world that this is Jesus' place. This is where Jesus lives. This life, this property, this job belongs to Jesus. He is the one in charge. He is the one who gives it shape, purpose, meaning. This is Jesus' territory, where he reigns as king.

So the prayer of consecration is inviting Jesus in to reign as king. Inviting Jesus in, so that in that place and at that time, his kingdom comes and his will is done.

That's not because he's not always present, but in any relationship, you can never say 'I love you' enough. That doesn't mean you didn't love the person before, that's just how relationships work. You can never tell your kids

enough that you love them. You can never tell your parents enough that you love them. That's just how relationships work; the love we have for each other is given opportunities to find expression; to be given life.

So before God comes to the Children of Israel at

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### Today I invite you to daily consecrate your life to Jesus

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Mt Sinai to give them the Ten Commandments he calls then to a three day act of consecration (Exodus 19-22). That's not because God wasn't with them. That wasn't so God would come to them. That was so that they might be ready in body, mind and soul to receive the wonders that their God was going to bless them with.

Before they entered the Promised Land, the Children of Israel once again are called to

consecrate themselves (Joshua 3:5). Not to twist God's arm to be good to them; he already was. But what's the danger of taking any relationship for granted?

The Children of Israel are given time to prepare themselves so that they don't miss out on what their God is doing. So that don't miss appreciating the wonders that the LORD was going to do for them. Otherwise they might be in danger of thinking they did it themselves; by their own efforts and smarts.

So they consecrate themselves; they re-dedicate themselves, reminding themselves again of who they are, and the amazing mission the LORD has invited them to join him on.

Today I invite you to daily consecrate your life to Jesus; not to twist his arm but to invite him in, that you might be aware of his presence. I invite you to daily declare Jesus as