

# Deepening our Relationship with God

## Day 18

**“For their sake I CONSECRATE myself, that they also may be sanctified in the truth” John 17:19**

**Key Thought: Jesus CONSECRATED Himself for our sake.**

The highlighted word in the passage for today is CONSECRATE. This means to make holy or to dedicate to a higher purpose

In the Old Testament the high priest was the only one who could enter the inmost part of the temple called the Holy of Holies. It was there once a year that he would begin his ritual in the outer court, consecrating himself by the washing of his whole body, and then moving to the inner courts, where he would sprinkle the blood of the spotless lamb on the mercy seat and ask the Lord to once again forgive his sins and the sins of the people.

In Joshua 3:5, Joshua tells the people to, “...Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” Upon consecrating themselves by washing, the children of Israel were assured of God’s promises. The Lord promised that He would do amazing things among them. Just as He parted the Red Sea to deliver them from their Egyptian bondage, He would open the Jordan River and take them into the Promised Land.

In John 17:19, Jesus prays, “for their sake I consecrate myself...” He was setting himself apart for the coming crucifixion on the cross. As the high priest would take the sacrifice into the temple, Jesus, himself would become the perfect holy sacrifice. The blood that Jesus spilled at Calvary would be the blood necessary to redeem all of humanity. Unlike the Israelites, Jesus did not need to be cleansed of sin because he had no sin. Jesus’ life of perfect obedience and service, even to the point of death sets the pattern for His followers to be holy as well.

1st Peter 1:14-16 encourages all believers, “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

God is a holy, sinless, perfect God. Jesus lived a sinless life and therefore He alone was qualified to pay the penalty for our sins and give us His righteousness. May we respond in holy obedience to our Savior.

### **Questions to Ponder**

1. Do you struggle with dedicating your life to holiness and purity?
2. What areas of your life do you need to submit to the Lord?

### **Possible Prayer Points**

1. Thank God for the example of Jesus Christ to show us how to live lives of holiness.
2. Ask God to examine your heart to show you the places of your life that need to be consecrated to Him.

**How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way?**