

## Whose Name is On Your Life

Eph 1:13

<sup>13</sup>...When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit

The owner marks His property, He writes on it, He identifies it as His own, He makes sure that it looks different compared to everyone else. When we believe, we're marked by God with the Holy Spirit, He makes a change in us and we're different and we're identifiable.

So today, we're answering the question, "Who do you belong to?"

If we follow Jesus, it should be noticeable.

Matt 5:14-16

<sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

John 13:35

<sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

We should look different than everyone else who does not follow Jesus. The teachings of Jesus should fundamentally change how we live our lives. The transforming power of the Holy Spirit, who marks us should make a visible change in our lives.

Jesus actually tells us that people will know by our good deeds and our love for one another. It's our good deeds and our love. Good deeds won't save us, but if we're saved, good deeds and love should come out of us. The change on the inside should be visible on the outside.

So if we're being honest with ourselves, the question is:

Would people know we follow Jesus? And if they do, how do they know?

James 2:17, 18

<sup>17</sup>In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. <sup>18</sup>But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

Genuine faith is seen by our deeds. There must be a product of our faith, something has to come out of it. Genuine transformation must produce something. It's not enough that we believe, our belief has to result in good deeds.

## Consecration

Throughout scripture, we see the need for people to consecrate themselves before God, but what does it mean?

The word 'consecrate' means to set apart, be made holy, devote, to fully belong to, and be fully committed to. So when the people, when we, consecrate ourselves to God, it's setting ourselves apart solely for God. We exist for no other purpose or person or reason, other than God.

Joel 1:13-14

<sup>13</sup>Put on sackcloth, you priests, and mourn;  
wail, you who minister before the altar.

Come, spend the night in sackcloth,  
you who minister before my God;  
for the grain offerings and drink offerings  
are withheld from the house of your God.

<sup>14</sup>Declare a holy fast;  
call a sacred assembly.

Summon the elders  
and all who live in the land  
to the house of the Lord your God,  
and cry out to the Lord.

In verse 14, where it says "declare", that is actually the same Hebrew word for consecrate.

God tells the people to put on sackcloth, to fast, and to cry out to Him.

Putting on sackcloth would strip away their identity. Their title, their position, their honour, their pretence, their status, their role, all of it was gone. People could no longer recognise them by their position. They would come before God bare and with nothing to prove, nothing to show.

So much of our identity is caught up in what we do and what we're known for. But God isn't impressed with our qualifications or achievements. Instead, the scripture tells us to take all that stuff off and put on sackcloth. When you go before God, remove all those identifiers. He needs you to come before Him, humble, open, vulnerable.

All of these things mark and identify our lives, but God wants to be the One to mark and identify our lives. We put all the titles aside and come to God as His.

And all of these achievements and accomplishments might be good and might even be a blessing, but our blessings must point to the Provider.

Deut 8:17, 18

<sup>17</sup>You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." <sup>18</sup>But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

The mark on our lives isn't the blessing, it's the Provider.

Anybody can have a title, but only believers are sons and daughters of God. We are marked by God, not by our achievements. Don't let your achievement identify you more than who you belong to.

Psalms 51:17

<sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is<sup>[b]</sup> a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.

Consecration is coming to God uncomfortable and vulnerable. Let God work in those deep, difficult, painful areas of our hearts. Let Him handle it, He won't despise it, He won't be repulsed by it, He won't shy away from it., He welcomes it. We need to give God every area of our lives, even the parts that are broken, that aren't working.

Joel 1:14

<sup>14</sup> Declare (consecrate) a holy fast;  
call a sacred assembly.  
Summon the elders  
and all who live in the land  
to the house of the Lord your God,  
and cry out to the Lord.

Fasting is part of consecration. It's us saying no to the flesh, it's us putting aside our desires, things that we enjoy, even food, to remind ourselves that we need God more than anything else. We are putting God at the forefront of our minds, we're seeking Him more than the food we eat. It's part of taking away things so that we would be completely devoted and set apart for God. God sustains us even more than the food we eat.

The scripture tells us to be summoned, to gather, to be here and to cry out to the Lord.

Rev 2:2-4 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> "I know your works, your labour, your<sup>[b]</sup> patience, and that you cannot<sup>[c]</sup> bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have laboured for My name's sake and have not become weary. <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

You can have all the right theology, the discipline, the behaviour, the morals, the standards, the excellence, the lights and sound and screen and signs and building and everything else that you can possibly think of, but if you have left your first love, you have nothing.

Consecration is coming back to our first love. It's remembering to love Jesus again.

When we consecrate ourselves, set ourselves aside for Him, when we're marked by Him, not by our titles or achievements, just Him, we are transformed. We're made new. We step into the calling and purpose that He created us for.

2 Chronicles 16:9a

<sup>9</sup> For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.

His eyes range throughout the earth. He's looking for people whose hearts are fully committed. It means that there's not that many. It's not that God has so many options and He doesn't know what to do with them all. He's trying to find people who would be fully committed to Him. And when He finds them, He strengthens them. They're marked by God, they're known for who they belong to.

What if God didn't have to look so far?

What if God could find people whose hearts are fully committed to Him right here?

What if we were all marked by God, known by Who we belong to?

Then we would be the salt of the earth, we would be the light of the world, a city on a hill that could not be hidden.

People would see that we're different, marked by God, set apart, belonging to Him.