

## The Motive of Consecration03

Since we understand that the Lord has given us all something to do and that He has fitted us for service unto Him, or we might say, enabled us, are we ready and willing to serve Him in the area or sphere that He has assigned? King David asked this question, with regard to providing materials for the house of God; *“Who is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?”* (1Chron. 29:5).

Even though David was referring to materials, he spoke of service for the Lord. More than 450 years earlier, the Lord spoke to Moses concerning the materials for the Tabernacle. Those who were of a *“willing heart”* were encouraged to bring an offering to the Lord (Ex. 35:5). The response in David’s day and in Moses’ day was; *“the children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and every woman whose heart made them willing”* (Ex. 35:29; 1 Chron. 29:6).

David challenged Solomon, his son to serve the Lord with; *“a perfect heart and a willing mind”* (1 Chron. 28:9). In the first epistle to the Corinthians, Paul sought to encourage the believers in their giving. He suggested that if there were first a *“willing mind”*, there would be a readiness to give to the Lord (8:12). Earlier in the same chapter, referring to the Christians of Macedonia, he said, *“they were willing of themselves”* and that they *“first gave their own selves to the Lord”* (vs.3, 5).

The Lord is not so much looking for ability as He is for availability. The Lord provides the ability, but we must provide the availability. We might ask ourselves today whether or not we have a willing heart and a willing mind to serve the Lord.

When David heard of Absalom’s conspiracy, he gave instructions to his servants. Their response was, *“Behold, thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Sam. 15:15).

We serve the Lord too, because of who He is. The people of Israel were commanded to serve the Lord in fear and reverence (Deut. 10:20; Josh. 24:14; Ps. 2:11). The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews wrote, *“Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”* (Heb. 12:28).

Although the motive of our consecration and of our willingness to serve the Lord, may be because we reverence and fear Him, we also serve the Lord, out of love and devotion, based on what He has done for us. Samuel exhorted the people of Israel to serve the Lord only with these words; *“only fear the Lord and serve him in truth with all your heart, for consider how great things he hath done for you”* (1<sup>st</sup> Sam. 12:24).

Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth; *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live, should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them and rose, again”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:14-15).

How happy then, beloved of the Lord, we ought to be to serve the one who loved us and gave Himself for us. The Lord Jesus said, *“If ye love me, keep my commandments”* (Jn. 14:15). John wrote in view of serving Him out of love and devotion for Him, *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous”* (1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 5:3).

When the Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon and saw the way in which his servant served him, she said, *“Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom”* (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 10:8; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 9:7).

Dear beloved of the Lord, let us then be prepared to serve Him in whatever capacity we are able, remembering that whatever we do, big or small, do it heartily to Lord and for His glory (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:23). Remember too, serving the Lord, involves serving the Lord’s people. The Lord Jesus said, *“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me”* (Matt. 25:40).

We serve Him because we love Him. We love Him because He first loved us.

*The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows;  
The more that I love Him, more love He bestows;  
Each day is like heaven, my heart overflows,  
The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows*