

# A Cross-Centered Consecration

## Ephesians 6:10-12

When you preach consecration to Christ, you must also preach the crucifixion of Christ.

***Romans 12:1-2 – I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

In Romans, Paul spent 11 chapters explaining the meaning of the gospel for Christians before he ever dealt with what it looks like to live a consecrated life.

In Ephesians 6:10-12, Paul shows how gospel-driven consecration paves the way for consistent victory.

~ In order to know victory in the fight, we must understand two realities ~

## I. Our Spiritual Problem

*"Spiritual warfare must be fought in a spiritual manner." (Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones)*

We must help the next generation grasp that they are locked in a cosmic struggle with the forces of evil  
And by themselves they have ZERO CHANCE of ever winning

This is why Paul says you must be strong in the Lord's strength

This is why Paul says you must take God's armor forged on the anvils of heaven

We must help them see this is a spiritual battle they cannot overcome – WHY? (2 reasons)

### A. The Wiles of Our Foe

*"Wiles"* = Cunning methods and crafty schemes of the evil manipulator – Satan

You are at war with a scheming, sneaky, deadly lion ready to pounce

*"Principalities, Powers, Rulers, High Wickedness"* = Differing ranks of demons with different roles

Satan's army is a highly-organized demonic machine bent on destroying you

You are fighting a war right now you can't win

### B. The Weakness of Our Flesh

*"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might"* = You need a strength that isn't yours

We must make a bigger deal to the next generation about the impossibility of victory

We must compel them to see they have failed, are failing, and will fail to Satan

WHY? **If they don't grasp the nature of their battle, they will never see their need for Jesus**

## II. Our Supernatural Partnership

Because of the gospel of Jesus Christ, you have an invincible battle plan  
You must partner with the One who has already defeated Satan and sin at the cross

### A. The Power of the Almighty

*"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might"*

"Be strong in the Lord" = This is the rallying cry of the Christian made possible at the cross

**You MUST be strong or you will fall**  
**You CANNOT be strong because you are weak**  
**You CAN be strong through the power of somebody else's might**

"God's might" = Something God has – the strength God possesses because He is God

"God's power" = Something God does – manifestation of might – the action that proves what He has

**You do not have his might but you can have his power – HOW? The gospel!**

You must understand what happened at the cross before you attempt to fight Satan and sin's temptation

The death and resurrection of Jesus is God's declaration that Satan and sin can never win

At salvation, you are placed in Christ and everything He is and everything He has is yours

As you trust Him and obey, you will be strong in His mighty power

But none of this is true if there is no cross!

### B. The Putting On of the Armor

*"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"*

The Lord provides the power for the victory – but He also calls you to fight

***1 Corinthians 9:26-27 – I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.***

***2 Timothy 4:7 – I have fought a good fight...***

#### CONCLUSION:

When Jesus was tempted to sin, He didn't just quote Scripture

Jesus quoted Scripture in God's strength through man's weakness

Jesus has shown us how to partner with God in consecrated living

Living a consecrated life is possible because of the death and resurrection of Jesus

We must therefore preach crucifixion as we preach consecration

In the fight for consecrated living, what you know is half the battle