

MZ Consecration 2024



*Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness. Psalm 115:1*

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Introduction

Blessings. As we begin a New Year, we are grateful for the journey of 2023. For many of us, God brought us through many dangers seen and unseen.

God comforted us as we grieved the loss of precious loved ones. God blessed us as we navigated the post pandemic world, witnessing wars and rumors of wars.

We watched the economy being strained and felt the reaction of Wall Street as we purchased basic needs.

Yet, through it all, the God we serve has kept us by His mighty hand and favored us with grace and mercy.

As we embrace this time of consecration, a time of focus, sacrifice, and preparation, let us renew our commitment to God, God's Church, and God's people. Jesus is soon coming, no doubt. It is God's desire that no soul be lost. [2 Peter 3:9]

Our assignment, in this season, is to glorify God, giving God glory in all things.

We are encouraging all of us to take this 31-day period to 'seed' into your 2024 year.

The biblical premise for this is:

¹⁶ If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches. Romans 11:16

Let's look at what first fruits means.

"The earliest fruits of a harvest season; the first results or products of anything. Jehovah required the nation of Israel to offer their firstfruits to him, whether it be of man, animal, or the fruitage of the ground. As a nation, the Israelites offered firstfruits to God at the Festival of Unleavened Bread and at Pentecost. The term "firstfruits" was also used figuratively of Christ and his anointed followers.—[1Co 15:23](#); [Nu 15:21](#); [Pr 3:9](#); [Re 14:4](#)." Bible Dictionary

TIME

If we use this definition of first fruits for the time we give God, then we should endeavor to make the first minutes, of our first days and first weeks of the New Year, the earliest moments of 2024, holy unto the Lord.

This is sacrificial work. **Giving God more time than we believe we can afford.** Reading more Word than we may want to read. Listening to spiritual music that feeds our soul. For the Word encourages us:

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,

²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:15-20

First fruits unto the Lord means that we are intentional about our time with God. God gives us 24 hours in a day. A 'tithes' would be 2.4 hours a day in study, prayer, praise and service. Oh my, how close are we?

TALENT

First fruits of our talents gift and skills. Kingdom work is required of all the believers.

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

"If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:7-11

The following pages will help guide us to a closer walk with God and sow first fruit service into the Kingdom of God.

TREASURE

The Word encourages us to bring the tithe into the store house.

⁸ "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'"

"In tithes and offerings.

⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty.

¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 3:8-12

The Word [New Testament] also encourages us to be generous.

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." 2 Corinthians 9:8-9

And

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17-19

We understand that our church is a part of the Kingdom of God, part of the body of Christ. Decide how you will bless the work of the Kingdom of God this year with your time, talent and treasure. Whatever you decide to do, however you decide to serve, do it for the glory of God. Let your light shine!

The Action Plan

We encourage all of us to include the following requests in our daily prayers and meditation, as led by the Holy Spirit. During this month of Consecration, we are asking God to pour out God's Spirit in Mount Zion, collectively, and on each of us, individually.

These prayer requests are based on the Word of God. Meditate on the Word, and remember:

*"When we pray, God listens.
When we listen, God speaks.
When we believe, God works".*

The Word teaches us to ask God, because it will be given. We make our prayer petitions in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

We should not allow ourselves to become complacent in our relationship with God. We acknowledge that we are saved to serve.

Ask God for more; more wisdom in the Word; more love for God's people, more fire of the Holy Ghost, more passion for the Kingdom. Ask and decide to receive.

Each day read the Scripture below and include the prayer request that corresponds with it. Each week we will repeat these same Scriptures and prayer requests, believing that the God we serve hears us, and the God will grant our requests. Prepare for more!

MONDAY

1. Pray for the refining fire of the Holy Spirit and the purifying power of the blood of Jesus to clean you and make your whole life fit for the manifestation of God's glory, in Jesus' name.

"And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness." (Malachi 3:3)

TUESDAY

2. Pray asking the Father to destroy and consume by fire[the Holy Ghost], everything in you that hinders the outshining of His glory in your life, in Jesus name.

"And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God." (Zechariah 13:9)

WEDNESDAY

3. Pray and ask the Father, to baptize you afresh with the Holy Spirit, in Jesus' name. For God's Holy Spirit is the Spirit of glory.

"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31)

THURSDAY

4. Pray and ask the Lord to help you to yield to the Spirit of glory as He prunes and teaches you to manifest His glory daily, in Jesus' name.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." (John 15:1-2)

FRIDAY

5. Pray and declare that your light is shining so bright before men and that they will see God's good works in your life and glorify the Father in you, in Jesus' name.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

SATURDAY

6. Pray, declaring to the Father, I am your workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good, gracious and glorious work which you have already ordained, now, I declare that I am fulfilling my destiny in Christ, in the name of Jesus Christ.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

SUNDAY

7. Pray, and ask the Father to help you become all that He wants you to be in Christ Jesus, for that's the way to manifest His glory on earth.

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:29)

Random Acts of Kindness RAK

Because we have prayed and asked God to ignite our spirit with God's Holy Spirit we are moved to action.

As we shine the light of love, kindness, and generosity, we demonstrate the love of God. Random Acts of Kindness are little things we do for others to be a blessing, without expectation of reciprocity, expecting nothing in return.

There are so many ways to share the love of God. A smile, a word, an act of kindness, a blessing of generosity. Let's be intentional and watch God move in the hearts of God's people.

Look for the God-given opportunities to be a blessing. Have a ready word of encouragement. Be open to showing God's love in innovative ways.

Each day presents new chances for us to glorify the God we love.

NOTES: Our fast begins January 11 and concludes January 31. [See the Fasting Guide.]

Please consider including:

- Cutting down your TV time to 1 hour a day
- Cutting your social media/computer/gaming time to 1 hour a day
- Intentionally guard your mind against negativity, gossip, and judgmental thoughts. Rebuke the enemy and he will flee from you.

Consider:

1ST District Monday Prayer line: 6:00 AM #605.313.4144 access 6910909

Ingram Difference Friday Prayer Line: 6:30 AM 520-453-8331

Winning Souls for the Kingdom Gives God Glory

What does the Bible say about the importance of saving souls?

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? Luke 15:4

Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. James 5:20

⁹The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

What do I say?

Each of us has a story of grace to tell. At some point, we accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord in our lives. We must be so convicted by the Holy Spirit and convinced in our beliefs that we become boldly committed to sharing God's love with others. Tell others that God loves them. Tell them what a difference God has made and is making in your life.

Invite others to meet you in Bible Study, Sunday School, the Worship Experience or another church event. Talk about how the Lord is blessing you. Explain why you worship?

Leading others to Christ- When we find people who are willing to receive Christ.

DO NOT hesitate to lead them in the Prayer of Salvation.

Pray this prayer with them.

Father, I confess that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from You. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past and turn toward You. Please forgive me.

I believe that Your son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, that God resurrected Him from the dead. I believe that Jesus is alive.

I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to empower me to obey Your Word, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

Will you commit to being an ambassador for Christ? *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20*

The Consecration Calendar To God be the Glory

- January 3 Bible Study Consecration Introduction - Pastor
January 5 6:30PM Love Feast – preparation for Communion
January 7 First Communion-Repents, Renew, Recommit
January 8 Leader’s Prayer [Stewards and Trustees]
6:00PM Zoom Prayer Line 7:15 Call Line-invite someone
January 10 Consecration Bible Study 7:00PM Guest Presenter zoom
January 11 Consecration Fast begins

We use the Daniel Fast as a base because we have so many of us with dietary restrictions. However, as the Holy Spirit leads, we can personally amend the fast.

Example : some of us may fast from 6:00am to 6:00PM and still restrict what we eat according to the Daniel Outline [attached].

- January 14 Guest Preacher P.E Gregory Nelson. Atlantic City District NJ Conference
January 17 Consecration Bible Study 7:00PM Presenter Rev. Faison
January 24 Consecration Bible Study 7:00PM Presenter PE Janet Jenkins- Sturdivant
January 28 Guest Preacher Rev. Teresa Lynn Rushdan
January 31 Service of Consecration and Anointing 7:00PM