

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND DEDICATION

Consecration, an act by which a person or a thing is separated from secular or profane use and dedicated permanently to the sacred by prayers, rites, and ceremonies. While virtually all cultures and religions have some form of purification rite, consecration is especially associated with Christianity and Judaism.

Dedication, the quality of being dedicated or committed to a task or purpose.

(Excerpts from the book, “Answered Prayer Guaranteed by Frederick K.C. Price)

3. The Prayer of Consecration and Dedication

In Luke 22:41–42, we see outlined the *prayer of consecration and dedication*: And He [Jesus] was withdrawn from them [Peter, James, and John] about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” Jesus knew that God was the Creator and Ruler of the universe. If there was any way man’s salvation could be accomplished, God would know how to do it. Jesus was looking at separation from the Father for the first time ever—not just in His earthly life but through all eternity. He was praying, in essence, “If there is any other way to do this, let’s do it that way.” But the key for Jesus, and for us, is, “Nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” You pray that God’s will be done only when you don’t know that will or do not know if an alternative path that appears is equally “correct” or godly. Sometimes we want our Jordans to be cut off before we get there, but that’s not faith. I was ministering in a denominational church when God began to deal with me about leaving that church and starting an independent ministry. But even though I was certain God was telling me to leave, He didn’t give me explicit instructions on where to go. In

other words, God didn't say, "Frederick, thou shalt go to Hollywood and startest thy ministry there," or "Frederick, take thyself and thy family to Compton, and there shalt thou teach." (Actually, God doesn't speak in King James English to modern Americans, but I just used that for effect.) Like Abraham, I had some marching orders but no specific direction. So I prayed the prayer of consecration and dedication: "Father, if it is Your will that I go to Los Angeles to start a church, I'm willing to go to Los Angeles; but if it's Your will that I go to Santa Monica, then I will go there." In the absence of direct instructions, the prayer of consecration and dedication says you will allow God to set your direction or make your decisions. You might say, "Shouldn't God be making all my decisions?" No! You don't want to make all your children's decisions for them. They must learn to decide things on their own, but you hope that they make the right decisions out of the full spectrum of options they have. God doesn't want to control us like puppets—He wants us to be mature Christians capable of making the kinds of decisions Jesus would make if it were up to Jesus. The prayer of consecration and dedication works when you have two (or more) godly alternatives before you, and you are not getting a clear sense at that time of which road, as it were, God wants you to take. Yogi Berra once said that he came to a fork in the road and took it! Well, when the direction is unclear—but any of the options appear to be legitimate, righteous options—that is the perfect time to say, "Lord, if it be Your will, I'm going to go with Option A." Believe me, He will let you know if you are taking the wrong fork in the road. Just think about Abraham—he had no idea where he was going. We don't have a lot of information about his journey, but you know there had to have been times where one pass ran over a mountain and another across a river, and Abraham had to say, "Lord, which direction should I go? Your will be done."

When I started Crenshaw Christian Center, God did not show me the whole picture. He doesn't show us the whole picture because it would not take any faith then—all you would have to do is follow the map. When Joshua led the children of Israel across the Jordan, God instructed them that the priests bearing the ark of the covenant should “stand in the Jordan” (Josh. 3:7–8). Joshua then passed on the words of the Lord:

“And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream” (v. 13). Notice that they had to actually get in the water before God did anything about the water. Sometimes we want our Jordans to be cut off before we get there, but that's not faith. So, to review, when you pray a prayer of consecration and dedication, you would always use the phrase “If it be Your will.” But if you are praying a petition prayer or prayer of faith, you *never* use “If it be Your will,” because that would be saying to God that you do not know what God's will is for you. That is why you must know what God has promised you, whether it's healing, prosperity, or whatever, and not be in the dark.

The Prayer of Consecration vs. The Prayer of Faith – Kenneth E. Hagin

By Rev. [Kenneth E. Hagin](#)

Some people think you ought to end every prayer with the phrase, “If it be Your will.” When you question them about it, they'll say that Jesus prayed that way. But He didn't pray this way every time He prayed. He just prayed that way on one occasion and for

one kind of prayer ([Luke 22:42](#)). For example, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus didn't stand at Lazarus' tomb and say, "Lord, if it be Your will, raise up Lazarus."

No, Jesus said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. And I knew that you hear me always. .." ([John 11:41,42](#)). Then Jesus told Lazarus to come forth, and Lazarus came forth out of the grave. The prayer Jesus prayed was a prayer to change something. Anytime you are praying a prayer to get something or to change something, never put an "if" in it. "If" is the badge of doubt. Should you pray that way, you're using the wrong rule, and your prayer won't work. It's that simple.

What kind of prayer did Jesus pray, using the phrase, "If it be Your will"? It was the prayer of consecration and dedication. Then there are other kinds of praying that will require the use of the word "if" when we don't know exactly what the will of God is in that situation. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus knew the will of God. However, Jesus prayed a prayer of consecration to God's will, "Saying, Father, if You be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but yours, be done" ([Luke 22:42](#)). Jesus wasn't praying a prayer to change something. He was praying a prayer of consecration and dedication. We use the phrase, "If it be Your will" in our prayers because we want to be available to do what Jesus wants us to do. We should be willing to go anywhere and do anything God has called us to do, whether it is to pastor, to be a missionary, or to be anything else He wants us to be. Therefore, in a prayer of dedication and consecration, we are to pray, "Lord, if it be Your will" or "Lord, Your will be done."

However, when it comes to changing things and receiving something from God according to His Word, we do not pray, "If it be Your will." We already know God's will because we have God's Word for it. It is God's will that our needs be met. God wants to give us what we need. And we receive our needs met by faith.