

# RANSOMED HEART

LOVE GOD. LIVE FREE.

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February 2016

Dear Friends and Allies,

I'm so excited about prayer I have to share this passage from my new book, *Moving Mountains* with you...

Last week Stasi and I were helping some friends consecrate their new home—which is a *very* good idea and something that requires focused intention to do well. But in their enthusiasm they jumped straight into praying for “peace” and “laughter” and all the good things they hope will fill their home in the years to come. Only, they hadn't first brought their home under their authority, and under the authority of Jesus. The blessings of the kingdom of God cannot flow until we first bring things under the rule and jurisdiction of Jesus Christ.

But in our eagerness to see good happen, Christians often jump straight into praying, without first pausing and aligning ourselves with Jesus—like a trombone player who simply starts playing her part without waiting for the conductor; or an athlete who skips all his normal stretches and warm-ups and tries to hurl himself into the game from a cold start. This might be the number one error made by earnest folk. Remember—*there is a way things work*. We are in a collision of kingdoms, and it takes intentionality to bring things under and into the kingdom of God. In teaching healing prayer, Agnes Sanford used this wonderfully simple analogy:

If we try turning on an electric iron and it does not work, we look to the wiring of the iron, the cord, or the house. We do not stand in dismay before the iron and cry, ‘Oh, electricity, *please* come into my iron and make it work!’ We realize that while the whole world is full of that mysterious power we call electricity, only the amount that flows through the wiring of the iron will make the iron work for us.

The act of consecration is “repairing the wiring,” the first step, before God's protection and provision can flow. It is the fresh act of dedicating yourself—or your home, a relationship, a job, your sexuality, whatever needs God's grace—deliberately and intentionally to Jesus, bringing it fully into his kingdom and under his rule. It seems so obvious, now that we state it, but you would be surprised how often this vital step is overlooked (and then folks wonder why their prayers don't seem to be effective).

When I come into my office to write, I don't start banging away on my keyboard; that would be utterly foolish and, frankly, a bit arrogant. This book is far too important; I want it fully under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Plus, the enemy jams the process any way he can. So first—after my daily prayers—I turn on some worship music, get down on my knees, and worship God in my office; I worship Jesus “over” my office and the book I am writing. Then I pray something like this:

*I consecrate my life again today to the Holy Spirit—I consecrate my gifting and my writing; I consecrate this book—every word, every paragraph, every page, all of the structure, the flow, the stories, the very spirit of it. I consecrate this office and my computer. I bring this all under the rule of Jesus and under the filling of the Holy Spirit. And I call forth the creative life rule of Jesus Christ throughout my office today, throughout my gifting and all of my writing, in Jesus' name.*

Trust me—it makes a difference. The Scriptures respect the power of consecration.

Because of the collision of kingdoms, consecration is usually the first act of effective prayer; until this occurs it is hard to see anything else good happen. For example, it is essential in healing prayer, where we are invoking the power of God, his radiant life, into a body in order to overcome sickness and restore health. We first need to make sure the wiring—the channels for the power of God—are clear. Therefore we first consecrate that body, as Romans urges us: “Offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness . . . Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship” (6:13; 12:1).

There are *multitudes* of application for consecration. We always consecrate every time we use a hotel room. (My goodness—you have no idea what has happened in that room over the years!) Every time they step into the pulpit the minister of God (whoever they may be, whatever their title) will want to consecrate themselves afresh—their message, their gifts, and their calling—so that the power of God might flow through them. The artist would want to do the same, as I consecrate myself, my office, my work every time I begin to write. You’ll want to consecrate your job, your finances, my goodness—even a vacation. *Especially* vacations, anniversaries, any opportunity for joy; surely you have discovered by this point that the enemy opposes joy. You want to bring it all under the kingdom of God on a regular basis. Joy is opposed, friends; it doesn’t just happen because you hope it will.

In an age of epidemic sexual brokenness and devastation like ours (has there ever been an age like this?) the consecration and healing of our sexuality is urgent. Unbelievably, for most folks, the idea has never crossed their minds; they have never even thought to “consecrate” their sexuality and their sexual intimacy with their spouse to God. But then, that leaves it open to the ravages of sin, this dark world, and the evil one. Think of consecration as “aligning” and “enforcing”—aligning yourself, or the subject in question, with Jesus and all the laws of his kingdom, then *enforcing* his rule and those laws over the matter in question.

As I said, this is an excerpt from *Moving Mountains*, my new book on prayer! We are already hearing *incredible* stories of how the book is empowering the prayer life of our friends and allies. I hope it helps you, and there is so much more in the book I know will help you too! The book is available now, online or wherever you get your books.

Offered in love,



John