

## The Pursuit of Personal Holiness | Application


 **READ: 1 Kings 8:22-23, 59-61**

In this prayer of dedication, Solomon begins and ends with the importance of wholehearted devotion to God.


**|| PAUSE:** Take time this week to consider your level of commitment to the Lord.


 **Romans 12:1**

In view of God's mercy (**Romans 11**), God asks us to worship Him through the daily sacrificing of our will for His.

 **THOUGHT-PROVOKING:** Consider for a moment the influence God's mercy has had in your life. Where would you be today without it?

This verse reminds us that an appropriate response to God's gift of mercy is to personally surrender to Him, moment by moment, through the continual sacrificing of our lives or will, for His. In our human nature, it is counterintuitive to lose in order to gain. Yet, Jesus asks us to give up our earthly lives for greater eternal gain.


 **WRITE:** Are there any areas of your life, even subtle ones, in which you are asserting control rather than fully surrendering to Jesus? (Explain.)

 **ACTION:** Ask Him to reveal anything to your heart and mind that you might be withholding or reserving for yourself and commit to surrender your will in wholehearted devotion to His. If you struggle with consistently yielding your will to Christ,

- Ask the Lord to allow you to **see** those times you choose to pursue your will, rather than considering His.
- Ask the Lord to give you the **desire** to worship Him through genuine surrender and sacrifice.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to consistently **relinquish** your personal will for His perfect will throughout each day, surrendering all authority and control to Him.


 **Matthew 22:34-38**

Jesus asks us to respond to His love for us by loving Him with our entire being — every sense and faculty.

 Because you will only be able to take someone spiritually as far as you have gone yourself, begin today to become consumed in your entire being with the things of God.

 **Psalms 119:1-16**

These verses not only reveal that the Psalmist is consumed with the things of the Lord but also denote a lifestyle that is proactive in following His will. The making of disciples occurs as we reproduce truth in the lives of others. For this significant reason, we should be diligent in striving to learn, understand, and implement truth in our lives.

 What habits do you have in place that help keep your heart and mind focused on God throughout the day?

- ✦ Rather than view these verses as an overwhelming list of things we must do, realize that Almighty God in His amazing provision desires to equip us in every way to be effective for every good work (**2 Corinthians 9:8**).

Even though meeting His desires will take effort on our part, the work will be supernaturally achieved as we choose to rely on the Holy Spirit to do the work in us.

### **Philippians 2:5-8**


Please don't miss the enormously significant points in this passage of Scripture: We are reminded that attitude or mindset determines action. As His disciples, our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Imagine, the King of kings and Lord of lords, in humility, made Himself nothing. Jesus became a servant, the ultimate example of selflessness, so we would have a living example to follow. While on earth, Jesus forfeited all personal rights and privileges to fulfill His Father's will. He was obedient without reservation to the fullest extent—even unto death.


Our society continually asserts the rights and privileges of the individual.

- ✍ How does Jesus' example differ from that of our society?
- ✍ Do you have attitudes that need to change to better reflect Jesus? (Explain.)
- ✍ What will you do to facilitate these changes?

### **FISHING FOR MEN: Psalm 139:23-24; 1 John 1:9**

One who trains others in discipleship should be striving to remain free from temptation and sin.


 Develop a consistent habit of inviting the Holy Spirit to search your heart and life for any undesired behavior or offense.

 Repent in immediate obedience of undesired behavior and rejoice in God's freedom from sin and guilt.

### **John 3:30**

Christ becomes greater in your life as you allow His Word and character to permeate each area.

- ✍ In what ways are you becoming less, so God can become greater?

 **TO ENCOURAGE:** Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. (**Psalm 97:10**)