

**Pursuing God in 2009**  
**Consecration 2009**  
**Pursuing the Presence of God**

January 11, 2009

1. Consecration is an annual observance of CRC based upon the Old and New Testament practice.

*Exodus 32:29, Gen. 1.28*

*Heb 10:19-25*

*Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. NKJV*

2. The purpose of consecration is to fill ourselves with Him and rededicate ourselves to His service.

*Ex 28:41*

*You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests. NKJV*

3. The fast doesn't change God but it changes you!

*Is. 58.5 The fast that God chooses is about our own adjustment not a hunger strike!*

4. Fasting is expected of New Testament Christians.

*Matt 6:16 "When you fast... NIV*

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1. This week is the week that will count in establishing “spiritual muscle”. It’s like the last few repetitions in exercise that really hurt! 2  
[Tim. 2.3](#) Endure hardness
2. Pay close attention to your heart this week and issues that will surface as you pray. [Proverbs 4.23](#)
3. God’s direction will become clearer this week and you will sense victory but remain patient and faithful.  
[Heb. 10.35,36](#)

*35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. NASU*

## **Pursuing God in 2009**

### **Pursuing God's Heart**

The greatest issue is changing our perspective about God. Whether through wrong religious training, upbringing or just the various influences around us, most people think God feels negatively about them. When you walk into a relationship already fearing that the other party doesn't care for you, you lay a foundation of fear and mistrust.

My greatest concern is that you will ascertain that the reason we pray and fast is because God doesn't want to bless us and we have to beat ourselves up by praying every day for an hour and fasting to get God to like us!  
NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!

David's pursuit of the enemy began with the pursuit of God's heart or God's desire for him. The understanding of the desire of God led directly to the defeat of the Amalekites, his enemy.

"If you want your prayers answered you have to know what God's desire/will is. He always says "yes" to what He wants to do!" bcm

1. We need to pursue God before pursuing the things that we see before us!
  - The greatest issue for men - you can't fix everything!

Often we want to fix rather than listen. Go get them right now as opposed to being patient! Only mothers say, "You wait until your Dad gets home!"

- The greatest issue for women - you can't finish everything in one day!
  - David resisted doing the most human thing he could have done- pursue Amalekites now and pursue God later!
2. When we pursue the heart of God we get accurate information.
    - God will send "someone" to guide us when we're uncertain.  
The Egyptian guide is a type of the Holy Spirit.
    - Often when we run without knowing His heart we run wrong!

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Jonah ran but in the wrong direction.

- When we run without His heart we show up at the destination unprepared! [2 Sam. 18.27](#)

Ahimaaz – “my brother is angry” David says he is a good man and likely has good news but he had only his emotions and no accurate news.

Cushi – normally just means “Black or Ethiopian” He was second in the race but brought accurate news.

3. When we pursue the heart of God we get strength for the journey.

- The presence of God gives us what we need to endure!  
Fullness of joy translates into stamina to endure! Cushi was not the fastest but he “won the race” [Ps.16:11/Neh. 8.10](#)

- The desire of God becomes food or nutrition for us.  
[Ps 145:19](#)

*19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;  
He will also hear their cry and will save them NASU*

- *The power is released when my desire and His desire become one!*  
[Psalm 37.4 Give me the desires of my heart!](#)  
[Ezek 36:26-27](#)  
*26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;  
and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of  
flesh. 27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My  
statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. NASU*

4. When we pursue the heart of God, ultimately we win!

- Victory is not based on our abilities but upon His grace!
- Defeating the Aalekites and getting the spoil was really only a benefit of the battle!
- Leaving a record of how knowing the heart of God results in victory was really God's ultimate goal.