

# Ch 5: Consecration

## Steps to Christ

### Part 1: First 2 Pages

God wants to transform our lives and set us free from the chains of sin, but this requires an entire transformation of our beings. The only way that this can occur is if we surrender our lives fully to God so that He can renew us.

#### Discussion Questions

1. God does not force us to serve Him. Can you think of examples in the Bible where God gave people a choice to serve Him or not?
  - a. Adam and Eve
  - b. People living before the flood
  - c. Other
2. What are some examples of things that can draw our hearts away from God?
  - a. The love of money
  - b. Reputation
  - c. Worldly honor
  - d. A selfish life
  - e. Other
3. Legalism is when people try to make themselves holy. The only way in which we can be transformed is through a power outside of ourselves - God's. What are some ways in which legalism can seep into your life?
  - a. Trying to earn heaven
  - b. Seeking to repay God for salvation
  - c. Saying I need God's power but not relying on it
  - d. Other

#### Activity

Fill a cup with water and notice how clear the water is. Now add some dirt to the water, mix it in well, and leave it sitting in the counter. Then command the water to become clear. Finally, dump the water out and fill it with clean water. Discuss how the cup/water could not clean itself and needed your help and how this is related to sin in our lives.

### Part 2: Rest of Chapter

Without surrendering to the Holy Spirit, we cannot offer true confession. Jesus helps us to acknowledge our sin without diminishing it. He gives us the strength to humble ourselves and live in the new life he has given us.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What are some examples of things that you know God wants for your life?
  - a. Telling the truth
  - b. Staying away from drugs and other harmful substances
  - c. Being loving/caring to the world around you
  - d. Other?
2. Why do you think that we can have such a hard time giving up our sinful lives/ways?
  - a. God seems boring?
  - b. Sin can be very appealing?
  - c. Our habits?
  - d. Friends?

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- e. Other
- 3. Our ability to choose (will) is the most powerful tool that we have at our disposal. When we choose Jesus and His ways, we are given supernatural power to live new and loving lives. What are some examples of miracles that Jesus does in our lives when we surrender our wills to Him?
  - a. We become more patient
  - b. We no longer want to fight with our siblings
  - c. Addictions are broken
  - d. Other

### Activity

Search YouTube.com for videos of a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly. Discuss your favorite part of this process and compare it to the transformation that God makes in our lives.

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## Chapter 5: Notable Quotes Activity

Locate and underline the quotes below in your copy of *Steps to Christ*. Read them at least 2x. Which of them do you think is the most:

- a. Reassuring
- b. Amazing
- c. Exciting
- d. Thought provoking?

Are there others that caught your eye?

*God desires to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an entire transformation, a renewing of our whole nature, we must yield ourselves wholly to Him. (p.43)*

*God does not force the will of His creatures. He cannot accept an homage that is not willingly and intelligently given. (p.43)*

*There are those who profess to serve God, while they rely upon their own efforts to obey His law, to form a right character, and secure salvation. Their hearts are not moved by any deep sense of the love of Christ, but they seek to perform the duties of the Christian life as that which God requires of them in order to gain heaven. Such religion is worth nothing. (p.44)*

*But what do we give up, when we give all? A sin-polluted heart, for Jesus to purify, to cleanse by His own blood, and to save by His matchless love. And yet men think it hard to give up all! (p.46)*

*It is a mistake to entertain the thought that God is pleased to see His children suffer. All heaven is interested in the happiness of man. (p.46)*

*Many are inquiring, "How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?" You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. (p. 48)*

*By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith. (p. 48)*

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