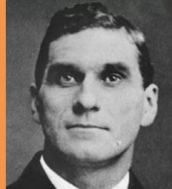


Consecration, Testing
Power, Victory
A Sermon by John G. Lake Pt 2
The Extent & Result of Dedication



The Extent of Jesus' Dedication

If you are questioning the extent to which Jesus dedicated Himself, you can see the fullness of it in the story of His temptation in the wilderness.

Satan tempted Him in the three (3) departments of His life:

First in the physical.

Second in the psychological.

Third in the spiritual.

First he tempted Him to turn the stones into bread for the satisfaction of His **physical** needs.

Then he tempted Him to get the acclaim of the multitude. A lot of preachers are doing that still. Satan set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, told Him to cast Himself down.. A **psychological temptation in the realm of the soul.**

The third was a spiritual temptation. Satan took Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, and said, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." By a spiritual flash, one of the marvels of the spirit, Jesus is permitted to view all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them in a moment of time. **He did not just let His imagination travel out (He didn't picture Himself as possessing them), but He saw them in their magnificence, and wonder and glory.** And Satan said, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

You see His **body** had been dedicated, and His **soul** likewise to God, **not to anybody else.** He was utterly given up to God.

I was talking with Mrs. Lake yesterday while we were out driving. I said, "Florence, the greatest sense of freedom that I ever experienced and the happiest days that I ever lived were after I had given away all I had." The night I preached my first sermon in the fullness of this gospel, I purposely gave away the last five dollars I had, to a widow. I just wanted to get rid of it. It was a wonderful thing to get the weights all off your soul.

Beloved, what are the difficulties that you are struggling over?

What is it that is keeping your soul down?
Why bless you, in most cases it is a mere trifle.

So when I did not have a cent, then the Lord took me to Africa. I do not believe that He would have ever told me to go if I had not obeyed Him. God said, "You are going to Africa," and I was totally broke. Most of you know the story of how I got there. We had a beautiful home in Africa. It was unusual in that it was built of wood. It was not as nice as our former woodshed in this country, but we were never so happy as we were there. The roof was of galvanized iron. I slept in the attic. Under that African sun in the summer time, it was seven times hotter than the Babylonian furnace, and just as soon as the sun set it was cooler than a refrigerator. But I slept in that attic and got some of the most beautiful things from God, and it was there that many of the truths I preach to you today were revealed to me.

First dedicate yourself to God. I wonder if you have done it? You old church people who have been taking pills and every other old thing, have you dedicated yourself to God? Get through with it all and give your body to the Lord. Make Jesus Christ your Physician forever; take Him as your only remedy.

The Result of Dedication

The result of that dedication was that you could not have kept Jesus from the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. God has been waiting for a long time for folks to do that. My, the heart of God responds to that sort of consecration. When Jesus stood by the waters of the Jordan and made that consecration, something took place in the soul of the Father and the flood-tide of heaven's glory came down – appearing as a Dove resting upon Christ. At least it looked to John as if a Dove rested upon Him. The Spirit did not come in little dribbles. "He giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him." It came down from heaven in fullness, out of the heart of God.

First, Jesus dedicated His all to the Father. The result was that the Holy Ghost descended upon Him and Jesus was filled with the Spirit. When you get filled with the Spirit, you will have something coming to you that is not all shouts and glory and happiness. Right away Satan got on the track of Jesus. He will get on yours too, if you make that sort of consecration. Somebody is filled with the Spirit and Satan knows there is going to be trouble for him. He must get on the job and side track that individual if he can.

So Jesus was led into the wilderness; not by the devil but by the Holy Ghost.

Isn't that a strange thing that the Holy Ghost led Him into the wilderness?
What for?
To meet the devil.
Why?

To try Him whether He was going to be an overcomer or not; to see whether He meant what He said at the Jordan. The devil said, "Did You mean the consecration that you made? Did You mean when you gave Your Body and Soul to the Lord at the Jordan, that it was forever?"

Most folks mean their consecration on the day they are baptized, and then forget it the first time that the devil appears, or they get a pain in the stomach. It was a forever business with the Lord Jesus.

Get that forever thing into your soul and spirit.

There never was a time in history, when the world needed a demonstration that the Lord could keep people forever, under every condition, as much as it does today.

Jesus had thus dedicated His Body, Soul and Spirit to God forever, and Satan tried Him to the finish on each point.

A woman recently saved was afterward in despair. Everything had gone wrong from the time that she was converted. She was married to a wretch of a man. He told her if she were going to be a Christian he was through, and away he went. The next thing she knew her best friend went insane. Then her mother gave her heart to God, and she had not been a Christian for a week before her husband came home and said, "What has happened to you?" She told him that she had found God. He said, "Goodbye!" and that was the last they saw of him. Then she had her mother and the insane friend to care for. She was distracted and driven.

One day in the agony of her despair, she was ready to throw up her hands. She said, "O God, after all I have experienced there is nothing else for me to do. I am going back into the world." About that time the Spirit said to me, "Go over to Salmon Street right away." I drove over and met her. As she came down the steps I reached out my hand and asked, as I saw the cloud on her face, "Well, how is it?" She replied, "Don't mention it. It is hell! Is this what folks get for being Christians?" I said, "I do not know dear sister, but one thing is dead sure, when you get through this you will know whether you are a Christian or not." Then I urged, "Dear little woman, this is not the time to throw up your hands in the midst of the battle. Any fool can do that. You win this battle, and then go and backslide." She answered, "All right, I will stick to this battle for two weeks." I said, "That is a bargain."

At the end of two weeks I said, "Now dear sister, you go and backslide." She smiled and said, "I don't think so."

The little insane friend was healed.

The dear old mother was healed.

Some friends discovered what was going on and filled their house with the sick, and they were healed.

It pays to go through.

- First Jesus dedicated all His Being, Body, Soul and Spirit to God the Father.
- Next, the Holy Ghost from heaven came upon Him.
- He entered the temptation filled with the Spirit.
- He returned from the battle in the power of the Spirit.

I prayed for the Baptism of the Holy Ghost for nine months, and if a man ever prayed honestly and sincerely in faith, I did. Finally one day I was ready to throw up my hands and quit. I said, "Lord, it may be for others, but it is not for me. You just cannot give it to me." I did not blame God.

One night a gentleman by the name of Pierce said, “Mr. Lake, I have been wishing for a long time you would come over and we would spend a night in prayer together. We have been praying for the Baptism for a whole year and there is not one of us baptized yet. Brother, I do not believe that you are either, so we can pray for one another.”

I was so hungry to pray, so I went with all the intentions of praying for the rest, but I had not been praying five minutes until the light of God began to shine around me. I found myself in a center of an arc of light ten feet in diameter – the whitest light in all the universe. So white! Oh how it spoke of purity! The remembrance of that whiteness, that wonderful whiteness, has been the ideal that stood before my soul, of the purity of the nature of God ever since.

A Voice Spoke Out of the Vision of Light

Then a Voice began to talk to me out of that light. There was no form. And the Voice began to remind me of this incident and that incident of disobedience to my parents, from a child; of my obstinacy, and dozens of instances when God brought me up to the line of absolutely putting my body, soul and spirit upon the altar forever. I had my body upon the altar for ten years, and I had been a minister of the Gospel. But when the Lord comes, He opens to the soul the depths that have never been touched in your life. Do you know that after I was baptized in the Holy Ghost, things opened up in the depths of my nature that had remained untouched all my life, and that which was shadowy, distant, and hazy became real. God got up close and let His light shine into me. A short time after, I received the Holy Ghost.

You have been sticking away off in the background. You have been following Him a week or two, and then back off. Beloved, you will never get anywhere that way. God has a hard time jarring us loose, and getting us out where we will **step out on God and stand.**

Jesus went through that awful testing.
Supposing He had weakened?
Supposing He had gone off and bought a box of pills?

He would have been a blemished Lamb.
Just **once** would have rendered His consecration valueless.

When He went into the Wilderness He HAD THE SPIRIT,
but after He went through the testing, the SPIRIT HAD HIM.

Do you get it?

A lot of folks **have** the Spirit of God.
Every child of God has the Spirit in a degree,
but after they have gone through with God
then
the Spirit has them.