

FIRM FOUNDATION CLASS



How To Be Used By God Lesson 12

HOW TO BE USED BY GOD

Everyone wants to be used by God. The purpose of this lesson is to give the new convert some keys in how he may be effectively used by God.

I. **BE SURRENDERED** - *Romans 12*

Romans 12 is one of the most practical chapters in the Bible because it describes what real consecration is. Consider:

A. **The Language of Consecration** - "I beseech you."

Paul pleads with his hearers to surrender all to God *after* they have been saved. We must all hear this divine call to surrender if we are to be used. Amos heard the call in the fields, Peter heard it by the sea, Matthew heard it by an outside office, Esther heard it in the Queen's chair, Isaiah heard it as a priest in the temple, Samuel heard it as a child, and Jonah heard it in the stomach of a great fish. But the fact is - they all heard it. Do you hear the voice of God beseeching you to a life of complete surrender?

B. **The People of Consecration** - "Brethren"

Non-believers have nothing to offer God but their sins; God has cleaned up the believer's life. He now wants us to give it back to Him.

C. **The Motive of Consecration** - "By the Mercies of God"

Because God has justified and sanctified our lives, we should give our lives back to Him,

D. **The Character of Consecration** - "Present Your Bodies a Living Sacrifice"

The Old Testament burnt offering in Leviticus was symbolic of the complete sacrifice that a Christian should make. Every part of the sacrifice was to be completely burned. It was a sacrifice in detail. The Christian's living sacrifice should be the same. Nothing should be withheld.

E. **The Spirituality of Consecration** - "Your Spiritual Service of Worship"

True spirituality is a continuation of our dedication to God. We are to "present" once and for all our all to God; but true spirituality will continue to present a total surrender daily.

F. **The Commands of Consecration** - "Don't Be Conformed; Be Transformed"

Don't be conformed. We cannot let the world pour us into its mold if we are to be effective Christians. We must be the salt of the earth. We cannot have the same value system. We must not put the world's approval before God's.

Be transformed. The Greek term for transformed is one from which we get our word metamorphosis. It speaks of the amazing change from a worm to a butterfly. We are to be changed from the inside until there is a change in every part of our lives.

G. **The Outcome of Consecration** - "That You Might Prove What the Will of God Is"

When we make a total surrender to God, then, and only then, do we find the good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

H. **The Ministry of Consecration** – *Romans 12:3-8*

1. Prophecy
2. Ministry (Service)
3. Teaching
4. Exhortation
5. Giving
6. Ruling (Administration)
7. Showing Mercy

When one surrenders to God, there is some form of service in which he can be used. All have at least one gift. Some are mentioned in 1 *Corinthians 12*; *Ephesians 4*.

I. The Practicality of Consecration - Romans 12:6-15

Consecration will work its way out into daily living. Paul gives a list of about 25 things to guide the surrendered Christian in actions and attitudes.

J. The Individuality of Consecration - I beseech YOU!

Usually only one thing, a person, a job, or a situation stands between being a useful Christian and a Christian in name only. Consecration is reasonable. Have you fully surrendered that you might be fully used?

II. BE SPIRIT FILLED - Ephesians 5:18-21

There are five practical reasons why you cannot be used fully until you are filled with the Spirit as commanded:

A. You Cannot Speak As You Should Without It - Ephesians 5:19; Acts 1:8

The early Christians "could not help but speak" of what they had seen and heard. They were filled and they began to speak. We can tell how much one loves Jesus by his inability to keep quiet about it.

B. You Cannot Sing Like You Should Without It - Ephesians 5:19

Singing is a sign of joy. Every Spirit-filled believer is happy. He has a song in his heart if not on his lips. Joy is a characteristic note in the book of Acts.

C. You Cannot Submit Without It - Ephesians 5:21

Pride does not want to submit to anyone or anything. However, in the heart where Jesus, the meek and lowly One resides, all pride must be dispelled. Note that verse 21 does not speak to ladies only, but also to the men.

D. You Cannot Share Like You Should Without It - Acts 4:32

The early church in Acts was a sharing church. They had all things common. They sold their lands to distribute to the poor. A Spirit-filled person cannot be a selfish person.

E. You Cannot Shine Without It - Acts 7:55

Stephen is described as a man "full of faith and the Holy Ghost." When he was being martyred, his face shone like an angel until Saul was convicted and later saved. He could shine because the Spirit of Christ was shining through him.

If we are going to be used by Christ, we must " . . . tarry . . . until . . . endued with power from on high" (*Luke 24:49*). This was the key to the disciples' usefulness. Let it be a key for ours also.

III. BE EQUIPPED WITH THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD - Ephesians 6:10-20

To be used of God one must not go into battle without being fully prepared any more than one should go out on a football field without the proper equipment. The proper equipment for the Christian includes:

A. The Girdle of Truth - Ephesians 6:14

1. One must be truthful with God.
2. One must be truthful with others.
3. One must be truthful with himself.

B. The Breastplate of Righteousness - Ephesians 6:14

Righteousness is both an inner principle and an outer practice. If we put on righteousness, we must have our hearts cleansed by the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and we must have outward behavior corresponding to our Lord.

C. The Feet Fitted With the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace - Ephesians 6:15

Our feet are for going. The Gospel is for telling. The fitting of our feet with the Gospel is to have attitudes, or actions, which are ready to tell others the Good News that Jesus died for their sins.

D. The Shield of Faith - Ephesians 6:16

The shield is the instrument that wards off the darts of the enemy. The whole Christian life is one of faith from beginning to end, - *Romans 1:17*. We are saved by faith. - *Ephesians 2:8*. We stand by faith. - *Romans 5:2*. We are sanctified by faith. - *Acts 26:18*.

E. The Helmet of Salvation - Ephesians 6:17

The helmet protects the head. Salvation is for the head as well as the heart. God has given us the spirit of a "sound mind." Salvation saves the soul, but it also protects our heads. If we desire to do the will of Christ, we will know of the doctrine. - *John 7:17*; *1 Timothy 2:15*.

F. The Sword of the Spirit - Ephesians 6:17

The Bible is our sword. We should have knowledge of it in order to have our sword sharp. It will only cut as you know how to swing it. - *Hebrews 4:12*.

All of these pieces of armor are keys to usefulness. We dare not go into battle without our shield, without our sword, or without any other part of the equipment.

IV. BE FULL OF LOVE - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

If Christ is to be seen and if we are to be useful, we must be loving. All of us can mature more and more in this area. " And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight," (*Philippians 1:9*). The ultimate goal of our love should be characterized by the 14 things mentioned in *1 Corinthians 13:4-7*.

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| A. Love is patient. | H. Love does not take account a wrong suffered. |
| B. Love is kind. | I. Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness. |
| C. Love is not jealous. | J. Love rejoices in the truth. |
| D. Love does not brag. | K. Love bears all things. |
| E. Love does not act unbecomingly. | L. Love believes all things. |
| F. Love does not seek its own. | M. Love hopes all things. |
| G. Love is not provoked. | N. Love endures all things. |

V. BE RUGGEDLY HONEST

" Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (*Psalms 139:23-24*).

We must let God search our hearts and then be honest with ourselves when we find problems. If we are honest with God and ourselves, we can truly be honest with others.

VI. BE YOURSELF - 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

As a member of the body of Christ, you will be unique. Don't try to pattern your life by other Christians, but by what Christ would say to you through His word. You can be a vital part of the body of Christ without being identical with the other members.

There are many keys to usefulness. We have only studied six. Ask God to show you how you can be more useful in your home, in your neighborhood, and in your church. It may be surprising what He shows you!