

2026  
Consecration  
January 2nd - January 31st



**Bishop E. Malone Porterfield, Sr. - Pastor**

Nehemiah 4:9, 17-18

**WATCHING, WORKING, WORSHIPPING**

**STAYING ALERT. STILL WORKING. BEFORE GOD.**

Grace, Mercy, and Peace be unto you from God our Father and The Lord Jesus Christ.

As we enter the sacred season of consecration for 2026, I am calling this house into a posture, not a performance. This year's theme, "Watching, Working, Worshipping," is not a slogan designed to impress—it is a mandate designed to shape how we live before God.

Nehemiah teaches us what it means to build while burdened, to guard while tired, and to worship while under pressure. The people prayed, they watched, and they worked—all at the same time. They did not retreat from the wall, nor did they lose reverence for God in the process. They stayed alert. They stayed engaged. And they stayed before the Lord.

This consecration is not about denying weariness; it is about giving weariness purpose. It is not about stopping the work; it is about doing the work with spiritual awareness. And it is not about louder worship; it is about anchored worship—undistracted, sincere, and rooted in obedience.

We are watching because gaps still exist. We are working because the assignment is not finished. And we are worshipping because nothing we build matters if God is not honored in it.

During this month, we will intentionally fast, pray, and realign our hearts. We will reduce distractions, sharpen our discernment, and recommit ourselves to God's presence and purpose. Consecration is not perfection—it is pursuit. And this house is choosing to pursue God together.

In His Service,

Bishop E. Malone Porterfield, Sr.

## **DECLARATION**

“2026 is the year of *Watching, Working, and Worshipping*.  
We are staying alert. We are still working. And everything we do is before God.”

## **FASTING, CONSECRATION, AND THE MISUSED TERM “DANIEL FAST”**

### **WHY LANGUAGE MATTERS IN SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE**

In modern church culture, the phrase “Daniel Fast” has become common language. It is well-intended, but biblically inaccurate. Scripture never records Daniel instituting or observing a fast that consisted of vegetables and water. What Daniel practiced was dietary obedience under consecration, not fasting.

The Bible is precise, and when we use spiritual language loosely, we risk reshaping obedience into preference. This consecration season restores biblical accuracy while preserving spiritual power.

### **WHAT DANIEL ACTUALLY DID — AND WHAT HE DID NOT DO**

#### **DANIEL 1:8–16 — CONVICTION, NOT FASTING**

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank...” (Daniel 1:8)

Daniel did not stop eating.

Daniel did not call this a fast.

Daniel did not abstain for affliction or mourning.

Daniel restricted his diet because the king’s food violated God’s covenantal law (Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14). The issue was defilement, not appetite.

Daniel ate daily.

Daniel drank water.

Daniel functioned fully in government training.

Daniel’s obedience produced clarity, health, and divine favor.

This was consecrated eating, not fasting.

*Calling this a “fast” misrepresents both fasting and Daniel.*

**WHEN DANIEL ACTUALLY FASTED  
DANIEL DID FAST—BUT NOT IN DANIEL 1.  
DANIEL 10:2–3 — A TRUE FAST**

“In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all...”

This passage reveals:

- A defined time period
- A posture of mourning and affliction
- Removal of pleasure, not merely restriction
- Spiritual urgency tied to revelation

This is fasting.

Daniel 9:3 further confirms it:

“And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes.”

Here fasting is explicitly named and paired with humility and repentance.

So Scripture shows two different disciplines:

- Daniel 1 — consecrated diet
- Daniel 9 & 10 — actual fasting

They are not the same.

**FASTING DEFINED (BIBLICALLY)  
FASTING IN SCRIPTURE ALWAYS INVOLVES AFFLCTION, NOT SUBSTITUTION.**

“Wherefore have we fasted... and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul...” (Isaiah 58:3)

“I humbled my soul with fasting...” (Psalm 35:13)

Fasting:

- Is temporary
- Is intentional affliction
- Is linked to repentance, crisis, or revelation
- Often involves no food at all, or severe restriction

To eat freely while calling it a fast removes its biblical meaning.

**WHAT IS CONSECRATION? (AND WHY THIS SEASON IS BOTH)  
CONSECRATION IS NOT FASTING—AND FASTING ALONE IS NOT CONSECRATION.**

**CONSECRATION IS THE POSTURE.  
FASTING IS ONE OF THE TOOLS.**

Consecration is the intentional, disciplined act of setting one's life apart for God's purposes. It is not an emotional moment, a seasonal tradition, or a temporary denial. It is alignment.

In Scripture, consecration always precedes weighty responsibility.

“Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” (Joshua 3:5)

Consecration answers one governing question:

Who has authority over my appetites, habits, rhythms, and responses—God or me?

**Key Dimensions of Consecration**

**Separation with Purpose**

Consecration is not withdrawal from life but restraint within life. It identifies what competes with God's authority—habits, consumption, environments, noise—and limits their influence so obedience becomes clear.

**Alignment Before Activity**

God aligns before He advances. Without consecration, effort becomes exhausting and fruit becomes shallow. Alignment ensures the work reflects the heart.

**Discipline Over Impulse**

Consecration trains restraint. Not because something is sinful—but because unchecked appetite dulls discernment. Discipline is maturity, not legalism.

**Sensitivity to God's Presence**

When distractions are reduced, discernment sharpens. Consecration increases awareness—of warning, direction, and divine timing.

## **HOW THIS CONSECRATION SEASON FUNCTIONS THIS HOUSE IS NOT PERFORMING A “DANIEL FAST.”**

We are practicing biblical consecration with intentional abstinence, and biblical fasting at appointed times.

- We abstain from certain foods as an act of consecration, not fasting
- We restrict consumption to retrain appetite and sharpen discipline
- We fast at designated times to humble the soul and seek God’s face

This mirrors Scripture accurately:

- Daniel 1 — consecrated living under pressure
- Daniel 9–10 — fasting under spiritual urgency
- Joshua 3 — consecration before movement
- Joel 2 — sanctification before assembly

## **WHY THIS MATTERS FOR THIS HOUSE**

**LANGUAGE SHAPES OBEDIENCE.  
ACCURACY PROTECTS AUTHORITY.  
DISCIPLINE SUSTAINS LONGEVITY.**

We are not following tradition—we are following Scripture.

We are not renaming diet—we are restoring definition.

We are not replacing fasting—we are honoring it properly.

*This consecration is not about food.  
It is about governance.*

And fasting, when we fast, will mean exactly what God intended it to mean.

## CONSECRATION GUIDELINES FOR 2026

Dates: January 2 – January 31, 2026

These guidelines are spiritual supports, not spiritual scorecards. They exist to create consistency and guardrails during a season when physical weakness and mental fatigue may increase. Structure helps sustain focus when motivation fluctuates.

### 1. Fasting as Submission

Fasting is the voluntary surrender of physical appetite to strengthen spiritual authority. By limiting food, we remind the body that it does not lead the life. Hunger exposes dependency—fasting redirects that dependency toward God. This fast is designed to build endurance, not extremism.

### 2. Prayer as Ongoing Connection

Prayer during consecration is not reserved for long moments only; it is woven throughout the day. Short, frequent prayers keep the heart attentive and the spirit anchored. This rhythm prevents emotional overload and spiritual drift.

### 3. Restriction as Protection

Limiting media, entertainment, and unnecessary engagement is not about isolation—it is about guarding attention. What repeatedly enters the mind eventually shapes the spirit. During consecration, restriction functions as spiritual protection.

### 4. Consistency Over Intensity

Consecration favors steady faithfulness over dramatic bursts. Missing a moment does not mean failure; abandoning discipline altogether does. The goal is sustained obedience, not perfection.

### 5. Personal Responsibility Within Corporate Unity

While this is a corporate consecration, each person must steward their own discipline honestly. Avoid comparison. Avoid competition. Consecration is personal work done within a shared season.

**Fasting Instructions:** • Water-only fast from midnight until 12 noon, 3 PM, or 6 PM • At least one day per week, extend the fast to 6 PM • Only water during fasting hours (no juice, coffee, soda, or flavored drinks)

**Post-Fast Practice:** • Resume normal eating after fasting hours • Maintain discipline, gratitude, and restraint

**Media & Distraction Restrictions:** • Limit social media, entertainment, and unnecessary engagement • Replace scrolling with Scripture, prayer, and reflection

**Daily Prayer Commitment:** • Dedicate at least one minute every waking hour to prayer • Morning, noon, and evening prayer focus is encouraged • Pray with the posture of watching, working, and worshipping

## DAILY PRAYER DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

The daily devotional focuses are designed to shape your inner posture throughout the month. These are not motivational themes; they are spiritual disciplines. Read the Scripture slowly. Sit with the prayer focus. Allow it to surface areas that need attention.

Some days will feel strong. Others may feel dry. Both are part of consecration. Growth often happens quietly, beneath the surface, long before visible change appears.

The daily focuses below are designed to be read prayerfully, not rushed. Sit with the Scripture. Let the prayer focus guide your conversations with God throughout the day. These themes are cumulative—they build spiritual muscle over time. If a particular day resonates deeply, linger there. Growth during consecration is not linear, and there is grace for the pace God sets for you.

### **January 2 – Staying Alert Before God**

Scripture: Nehemiah 4:9 Prayer Focus: Ask God to awaken spiritual discernment and guard every gap in your life.

### **January 3 – Guarding the Wall**

Scripture: Proverbs 4:23 Prayer Focus: Pray for protection over your heart, mind, and purpose.

### **January 4 – Hands to the Work**

Scripture: Nehemiah 4:17 Prayer Focus: Commit your labor to God and ask for strength to remain faithful.

### **January 5 – Worship in the Work**

Scripture: Colossians 3:23 Prayer Focus: Ask God to sanctify your daily responsibilities as acts of worship.

### **January 6 – Discernment Over Distraction**

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:8 Prayer Focus: Pray for clarity to recognize and resist spiritual distractions.

### **January 7 – Endurance Without Burnout**

Scripture: Isaiah 40:31 Prayer Focus: Ask God to renew strength while remaining at your assignment.

### **January 8 – Unity on the Wall**

Scripture: Ephesians 4:3 Prayer Focus: Pray for unity, trust, and cooperation within the body.

### **January 9 – Strengthened Hands**

Scripture: Nehemiah 6:9 Prayer Focus: Ask God to strengthen your hands for the work ahead.

### **January 10 – Worship Without Weariness**

Scripture: Psalm 95:6 Prayer Focus: Renew reverence and joy in worship, even while tired.

### **January 11 – Watching the Times**

Scripture: Matthew 16:3 Prayer Focus: Pray for understanding of the spiritual season you are in.

### **January 12 – Faithfulness in Small Assignments**

Scripture: Luke 16:10 Prayer Focus: Commit to consistency and diligence in unseen places.

### **January 13 – Guarded Speech**

Scripture: Psalm 141:3 Prayer Focus: Ask God to watch over your words and responses.

### **January 14 – Worship That Anchors the Soul**

Scripture: Hebrews 6:19 Prayer Focus: Pray for worship that stabilizes you through pressure.

### **January 15 – Courage to Continue**

Scripture: Joshua 1:9 Prayer Focus: Ask God for courage to stay the course.

### **January 16 – Focused Vision**

Scripture: Proverbs 29:18 Prayer Focus: Pray for renewed vision and spiritual focus.

### **January 17 – Strength in Cooperation**

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:12 Prayer Focus: Thank God for divine connections and shared labor.

### **January 18 – Worship Before Results**

Scripture: Habakkuk 3:17–18 Prayer Focus: Worship God without waiting for outcomes.

### **January 19 – Spiritual Alertness**

Scripture: Romans 13:11 Prayer Focus: Ask God to keep you awake and aware in this hour.

### **January 20 – Faithful to Finish**

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7 Prayer Focus: Pray for grace to finish well.

### **January 21 – Obedience Over Emotion**

Scripture: John 14:15 Prayer Focus: Commit to obedience regardless of feelings.

### **January 22 – Worship as Warfare**

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20:22 Prayer Focus: Use worship to confront spiritual resistance.

### **January 23 – Discipline of the Watch**

Scripture: Mark 13:37 Prayer Focus: Pray for discipline to remain spiritually vigilant.

### **January 24 – Laboring Together**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:9 Prayer Focus: Ask God to strengthen teamwork and mutual respect.

### **January 25 – Rest Without Retreat**

Scripture: Matthew 11:28–30 Prayer Focus: Receive rest without abandoning assignment.

### **January 26 – Integrity on the Wall**

Scripture: Psalm 15:1–2 Prayer Focus: Commit to integrity in every area of life.

### **January 27 – Worship in Silence**

Scripture: Psalm 46:10 Prayer Focus: Learn to worship through stillness and surrender.

### **January 28 – Strengthened Resolve**

Scripture: Galatians 6:9 Prayer Focus: Ask God to prevent weariness from weakening resolve.

### **January 29 – Guarding the House**

Scripture: Nehemiah 7:3 Prayer Focus: Pray for protection over your home and church.

### **January 30 – Faithful Until Completion**

Scripture: Philippians 1:6 Prayer Focus: Trust God to complete what He started.

### **January 31 – Worship Before God**

Scripture: Nehemiah 12:43 Prayer Focus: Offer thanksgiving and worship for grace to endure.

## **SPECIAL FASTING INSTRUCTIONS**

Fasting is the voluntary surrender of physical comfort to heighten spiritual awareness. It teaches the body that it is not in charge and reminds the soul where true sustenance comes from. During fasting, irritability, fatigue, and emotional sensitivity may increase. This does not indicate failure—it reveals what normally remains hidden.

Approach fasting with wisdom. Drink water consistently. Rest when needed. Avoid spiritual comparison. This is a personal journey undertaken within a corporate season.

Fasting is not a hunger strike to force God's hand; it is an invitation to submit our natural appetites so our spiritual sensitivity can increase. Scripture consistently connects fasting with humility, clarity, repentance, and renewed strength. During this consecration, fasting should be approached thoughtfully and prayerfully, not competitively or carelessly.

Key Scriptures: Isaiah 58; Matthew 6

Fasting Must Be Accompanied By: • Prayer – morning, noon, and evening • Self-denial – resisting distractions and excess • Confession – seeking renewal and alignment

Hourly Prayer Practice: • One minute of prayer every waking hour • Focus on gratitude, repentance, discernment, and intercession

## PURPOSE OF CONSECRATION

The purpose of consecration is formation, not momentary inspiration. It shapes how believers function long after the fast ends. Consecration stabilizes the soul so that faithfulness does not collapse under pressure.

### 1. To Strengthen Spiritual Alertness

Consecration trains the believer to remain watchful without becoming anxious or suspicious. Spiritual alertness allows us to discern threats, distractions, and opportunities without reacting emotionally.

### 2. To Sustain Faithful Labor

Working while consecrated prevents resentment and burnout. It reminds us that our labor is not self-generated—it is assigned. Consecration realigns our work with purpose rather than pressure.

### 3. To Anchor Worship in Obedience

True worship is not limited to music or moments. Consecration anchors worship in obedience, integrity, and reverence. Worship becomes how we live, not just how we sing.

### 4. To Prepare the House for Endurance

This consecration prepares the church to function in seasons where results may be delayed and demands may increase. Endurance requires spiritual depth, not emotional hype.

### 5. To Establish a God-Governed Life

Ultimately, consecration establishes order. God governs decisions, reactions, priorities, and pursuits. Life becomes less reactive and more responsive to the Spirit.

This season teaches us how to watch carefully, work faithfully, and worship sincerely—before God, for the long haul.

## FASTING AND LENT: A NECESSARY DISTINCTION

Biblical Fasting Is God-Directed, Not Calendar-Driven

In Scripture, fasting is never fixed to an annual religious season created by men. Biblical fasting is always responsive, situational, and obedience-driven—not ceremonial repetition.

God's calendar is already established. He set appointed times, feasts, and seasons that mark His redemptive work (Leviticus 23; Exodus 23:14–17). When God called His people to fast, it was because of repentance, crisis, warfare, mourning, or preparation—not because a religious calendar rotated back around.

Examples:

- Esther 4:16 – A fast called in response to imminent destruction
- Joel 2:12–15 – A fast proclaimed because judgment was approaching
- Acts 13:2–3 – Fasting before commissioning leadership
- 2 Chronicles 20:3 – Fasting during national threat

In every case, God initiated the moment, not tradition.

Biblical fasting is an act of humility before God, not a ritualized seasonal obligation.

“Is this not the fast that I have chosen...?” (Isaiah 58:6)

## **LENT: A CHURCH TRADITION, NOT A SCRIPTURAL MANDATE**

Lent, as it is commonly practiced, is not found in Scripture. It developed centuries later within the framework of the Roman Catholic Church and later spread through Western Christianity, including English and European church structures.

Its framework is:

- Fixed to a liturgical calendar
- Observed annually
- Focused on temporary abstinence
- Followed by a return to former indulgences

While often well-intended, Lent operates on a cycle God never established.

Scripture never instructs believers to observe a recurring season where pleasures are surrendered for a short time—only to be reclaimed afterward.

That pattern runs contrary to biblical transformation.

### **TEMPORARY ABSTINENCE VS. LASTING TRANSFORMATION**

This is where the concern becomes spiritual, not historical.

Lent often encourages people to:

- “Give something up”
- Endure restraint temporarily
- Resume the very behavior afterward

Scripture warns against this exact pattern:

“The dog is turned to his own vomit again...” (2 Peter 2:22)

“When the unclean spirit is gone out... and returns...” (Matthew 12:43–45)

Biblical consecration does not rehearse restraint—it reorders desire.

God is not interested in borrowed discipline.

He is after surrendered governance.

### **FASTING VS. LENT: THE CORE DIFFERENCE**

Biblical Fasting

- Initiated by God or spiritual necessity
- Not fixed to an annual cycle
- Often includes complete abstinence from food
- Leads to repentance, direction, humility, or empowerment
- Ends with change, not relapse

Lent (as traditionally practiced)

- Fixed to a church calendar
- Repeats annually regardless of spiritual condition
- Emphasizes partial or selective abstinence
- Often focuses on symbolic sacrifice
- Frequently ends with a return to former habits

One reshapes the inner man.

The other risks managing behavior without transforming appetite.

## **WHY WE DO NOT OBSERVE LENT — BUT WE DO FAST AND CONSECRATE**

As a house, we honor God's calendar, not inherited religious cycles.

We fast because:

- Scripture commands humility through fasting
- God still calls His people to seek Him deeply
- Spiritual clarity often requires physical restraint

We consecrate because:

- God demands alignment before assignment
- Discipline precedes discernment
- Obedience must outlast emotion

Our fasting is purposeful.

Our consecration is comprehensive.

Neither is seasonal performance.

“Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” (Joshua 3:5)

That command was not annual.

It was timely.

And it required lasting posture—not temporary sacrifice.

**Fasting is an act.  
Consecration is a posture.**

**Fasting restrains the flesh.  
Consecration governs the life.**

**We do both—not because a calendar demands it, but because God does.**