



## THE CALL TOWARDS AN INWARD SEPARATION

In the Old Testament, a word that we come across frequently is "sanctify." It means 'to separate'; it also means to make holy, to consecrate and to set apart. One could see a separation in the lives of saints and priests of old. The Lord would like to bring forth a 'setting apart' in our lives as well. The life of Abraham clearly shows the nature of this setting apart for and unto God. It was something that was very much inward. He heard the call and set out in search of that call. He embarked upon a course that was totally different and out of this world. There was a separation in Abraham's inner-most being. This separation was like the dividing of the light from the darkness by God; like the division between heaven and earth. There was an immediate response from Abraham because God did a work in his depths. He followed an extraordinary path. Let us not forget that Abraham and others went through great pressures, strain and tremendous adversity. As a pioneer, he pressed forward taking a unique path. The saints of old set their lives upon a course that was altogether different from the ways of this world.

We often think that separation was a principle that God had laid down for them and not for us. However, that is not so. We are 'set apart' and separated from the system and life-styles of this present world. It begins with an inward work. First, the Holy Spirit does a work within and then there is an outward manifestation in our lives. Our new life in Christ demands a separation from the things of this world; there is a need for total consecration. We have to undertake a spiritual journey that is totally different from that taken by the people of this world. It is



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## VERSE

*"...but sanctify  
Christ as Lord in  
your hearts, "*

**1 Peter 3:14**

altogether contrary to the paths and courses that people of the world take.

One thing we learn from the lives of these great men of faith in the Bible is that they reacted sharply and promptly whenever they touched anything earthly. Whenever they consciously or unconsciously came in contact with something that was devoid of heavenly principles, they reacted to that inwardly. The moment their inner man perceived that they were not right before God in some way, they took immediate action to reclaim restoration of their heavenly path. The only things they cared to do was to get back to the path they had lost as soon as possible. It is emancipating to see this in the Word of God. We too should walk in this way these days. When we touch something unclean, when we come in contact with something that is not in God's will for us, we should immediately halt in our tracks. Then we should take stock of our conduct and review our lives in the light of the Word of God and the nudging of the Holy Spirit. In this way we must get back to rightness in God from the place of our deviation.

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