

# CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

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COMMITTED & CONSECRATED

9

SERIES



In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on commitment and consecration.

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# City of <sup>the</sup> Living God



*“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”* (Heb. 12:1, NKJV).

Our lifestyle has a direct correlation with our personal relationship with God. When we become part of God’s family, we enter into a covenant with him much like a marriage. There are certain behaviors and actions that can affect our relationship with Him. The Apostle Paul encouraged the Christian believer to abandon anything that can hinder or jeopardize our walk with God.

# BURNING SHIPS

On April 21st, 1519, the Spaniard Conquistador Hernan Cortez sailed into the harbor of Vera Cruz, Mexico with about 600 soldiers. This was his final attempt to conquer the Aztec empire. Two prior expeditions failed to conquer them. Cortez understood that the only way he could win the fight against the Aztecs was if he had fully committed men that would not retreat to the ships.

He understood the road ahead of them was going to be rough and dangerous. So, in order to prevent his men from abandoning the battle and retreating, he commanded his men to burn their entire fleet of eleven ships. His soldiers watched as their only means of retreat was destroyed. From that point on they realized that there was no turning back or retreating; their only option was to go forward and conquer.

As believers, if we are going to live this Christian walk and live victoriously, we have to burn those past ships that call to us to retreat or give in to temptation. The Apostle Paul says:

## **Philippians 3:4-6**

*“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.”*

## **Luke 9:62**

*“But Jesus said to him, No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

## **Hebrews 11:24-46**

*“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not*

*fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.”*

## BURNING OUR SHIPS

- We need to clean out our rooms/homes of anything that would inhibit our walk with God.
- Proudly proclaiming your identity as a Christian.
- Avoiding those places and people that are prone to bring temptation.

### 2 Corinthians 6:14-16

*“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.”*

## BUILDING FENCES

The word, hedge, is translated as a thorn hedge, wall or fence. Basically, it means that a wall is constructed by whatever material to protect us from external dangers and threats. The use of the word, hedge, fence, or wall is evident throughout the Bible:

### Ecclesiastes 10:8

*“He who digs a pit will fall into it, and whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent.”*

## **Matthew 21:33**

*“Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.”*

## **Ezekiel 13:5**

*“You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle on the day of the LORD.”*

Identifying things that conflict with God’s plan in our lives will start to help create fences in our lives to protect us from those threats. The Holy Ghost living within us will start to reveal things that we need to do to maintain that close walk with Him (John 14:26). Listening to Him will be vital for becoming all that He has planned for us in our life.

Some things will be obvious, while others the Lord will reveal in time. Obvious activities that would affect our relationship with God are:

Visiting websites or social media posts that are provocative and are not conducive to a Christian life.

- Listening to when they start doing or saying something that is unholy.
- Attending parties with immoral behaviors such as sex, alcohol, and drugs
- Fellowship with friends that bring temptations with them.

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Concerning unholy environments, the Apostle Paul warns us, *“Neither give place to the devil”* (Eph. 4:27).

Don’t give the devil any territory that he could get into your life. Make sure you build a hedge about you to keep him out of your life. It is so

important to listen to God's Spirit when it admonishes you to stay away from unholy behaviors and actions that will harm your relationship with Him. There are consequences when those fences are not built to protect you from those threats.

**Proverbs 6:27**

*"Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?  
Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared?"*

**What are some examples of ships that  
need to be burned in your life?**

**What things has God impressed on you  
to give up?**

**Why are boundaries so important in  
your life?**



**For more Information**

**Paul Baumeister**

**P.O. 2366, Elk Grove, CA 95759**

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