## Codex Oblatus (Sample)

The Manual of the Offered Life

Formation for the One Who Belongs to the Altar

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## Table of Contents

SECTION I — THE call of oblatus	Error! Bookmark not defined.
1 – the meaning of oblatus	Error! Bookmark not defined.
2 – Consecration as Identity, Not MOment	Error! Bookmark not defined.
3 – The King who Calls for Fire	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4 — The Mercy That Makes Surrender Possible	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Section II: The Anatomy of the Offering	Error! Bookmark not defined.
5 – The Altar	Error! Bookmark not defined.
6 – The FIre	Error! Bookmark not defined.
7 — THE COST	Error! Bookmark not defined.
8 — THE YIELDED BODY	Error! Bookmark not defined.
9 — THE YIELDED MIND	Error! Bookmark not defined.
10 — THE YIELDED WILL	Error! Bookmark not defined.
SECTION III — THE FORMATION OF AN OBLATUS	Error! Bookmark not defined.
11 — RHYTHMS OF THE OFFERED LIFE	Error! Bookmark not defined.
12 — THE INTERIOR POSTURES	Error! Bookmark not defined.
13 — THE MARKS OF THE CONSECRATED	Error! Bookmark not defined.
14 — THE RESISTANCE OF THE FLESH	Error! Bookmark not defined.
15 — THE JOY AND WEIGHT OF BEING SET Apart	Error! Bookmark not defined.
SECTION IV — THE FIRE OF TRANSFORMATION	Error! Bookmark not defined.
16 — WHAT THE FIRE BURNS	Error! Bookmark not defined.
17 — WHAT THE FIRE FORMS	Error! Bookmark not defined.
18 — WHAT THE FIRE PROTECTS	Error! Bookmark not defined.
19 — WHEN THE OFFERED LIFE IS TESTED	Error! Bookmark not defined.
20 — THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PAIN THAT KILLS A Bookmark not defined.	ND FIRE THAT FORMS <b>Error</b>
SECTION VI — THE OBLATUS ACTIVATIONS	Error! Bookmark not defined
ACTIVATION 1 — THE ALTAR INVENTORY	
ACTIVATION 2 — THE CLEANSING OF THE INNER CO	
defined.	
ACTIVATION 3 — THE RENUNCIATION OF MIXTURE	
ACTIVATION 4 — THE FIRE PRAYER	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Error! Bookmark not defined.	ACTIVATION 5 — THE OFFERING CEREMONY
Error! Bookmark not defined.	ACTIVATION 6 — THE DAILY YIELD
Error! Bookmark not defined.	SECTION VII - APPENDICES
ON & THE OFFERED LIFE <mark>Error!</mark>	APPENDIX A — SCRIPTURE MAPS: CONSECRATION &
ed.	Bookmark not defined.
Error! Bookmark not defined.	APPENDIX B — THE DAILY OBLATUS RHYTHM
Error! Bookmark not defined.	APPENDIX C — THE INNER ALTAR DIAGRAM
SError! Bookmark not defined.	APPENDIX D — CONSECRATION DECLARATIONS
Error! Bookmark not defined.	APPENDIX E — OBLATUS GLOSSARY
DING Error! Bookmark not defined.	APPENDIX F — PRAYERS OF SURRENDER & YIELDING

## CHAPTER 1 — THE WAY OF THE OFFERED LIFE

## Excerpt for The Altar Room (Free)

Consecration begins long before fire ever touches the altar. It begins in the quiet recognition that you no longer belong to yourself. The soul that comes to God in truth does not negotiate ownership; it yields it. And this is the foundation of Oblatus — the life that is not merely inspired by God but given to Him. *Oblatus* means "to bring near, to present, to offer," and it carries the weight of priestly surrender, the posture of those who refuse a partial devotion.

In Romans 12:1, Paul urges believers to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice," a phrase that loses force in English. *Present* in the Greek (*paristēmi*) is not an invitation to "lift your hands" or "give God your heart." It is the formal act of placing oneself entirely into the custody of God — to be used, assigned, shaped, filled, or poured out at His discretion. It is the voluntary transfer of ownership, a legal turning over of the inner world.

Most believers come to God for transformation, but few come for transfer.

The offered life confronts the illusion that you can be shaped by God while still directing your own path. It is impossible. The altar is the place where the will dies, where self-rule breaks, where preference yields, and where obedience becomes the language of love. Before God changes a person, He first claims them. In Scripture, every man God used significantly was first brought to the point of offering:

Abraham placed Isaac on the altar before he ever carried covenant.

Moses removed his sandals — symbol of self-governance — before receiving assignment.

Isaiah's lips were cleansed before his commission was declared.

Jesus Himself was led to the waters of baptism — the burial of the will — before ministry began.

Offering precedes transformation.

Surrender precedes fire.

Presentation precedes glory.

To live as *Oblatus* is to live with no competing ownerships. No hidden clauses. No reserved rights. No private rooms in the heart where God has no say. It is the recognition that you are not simply *saved* — you are *presented*.

But this offering is not violent; it is voluntary. God never drags a life onto the altar. He calls. He invites. He asks, "Will you be Mine?" And the soul that answers "yes" discovers that consecration is not loss — it is liberation. What dies on the altar is only what was killing you. What burns is only what was binding you. What God consumes are the places where fear dictated decisions, where pride guarded access, where wounds distorted identity.

The altar is not punishment; it is purification.

The greatest barrier to consecration is not sin — it is self-protection. The instinct to hold onto autonomy, to retain control, to keep one part of the life untouched by the hand of God. But every untouched place becomes an unhealed place. Every defended place becomes a divided place. And every divided place becomes a doorway for the enemy to whisper.

This is why God calls for everything. Not because He is demanding, but because He is a healer — and you cannot be healed in the places you refuse to offer.

Ask yourself:

Where have I withheld surrender?

Where is my obedience slow? Where do I negotiate with God? Where have I allowed partial offering to feel sufficient? These questions do not condemn; they clarify. They reveal where God is inviting you deeper into the offered life. Oblatus is the doorway into all true formation. The altar is the threshold of transformation. Surrender is the seed of holiness. Offering is the birthplace of fire. When you present your life — truly present it — you step into a realm where God is free to reorder, reshape, reassign, and refine. This is not the casual Christianity of comfort; it is the ancient path of the priests, the narrow way of the consecrated, the life patterned after Christ who offered Himself wholly — not in part. To walk in Oblatus is to say: "Not my will. Not my way. Not my timeline. Not my terms.

Yours."

This is the essence of consecration.

This is the identity of the offered one.

This is the opening chapter of a life set apart.