

Better Way Apostolic Church- Bible Class

Subject: The Power of Consistency: I Samuel 31:11-12

When we are generous we will use our blessing to make a lasting difference in people's lives.

So if you want to change your life, you need to do three things:

- Focus on changing your actions, not your circumstances
- Accept and plan for your weaknesses, instead of toughing it out
- Periodically review your results to fine-tune or re-think your approach if needed

God has called us to walk in Holiness Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Ephesians 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

1 Timothy 4:12-13 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.¹³ Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Titus 2:3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 1:15-16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

2 Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Power of Consistency: 5 Rules by Eric Holtzclaw

Are you stopping short of the finish line? Consistency is the difference between failure and success. Here's why.

Throughout life, I've strived to stay consistent about consistency. Even the best business plans will fail without a dedication to consistency.

If I say I'm going to do something, I do it. If I say I'm going to be somewhere, I'm there. If I initiate a new business process or initiative, I follow through. In my experience, consistency is a must as you build and grow your business or your spiritual walk with God.

Here's why:

1. Consistency allows for measurement.

Until you have tried something new for a period of time and in a consistent manner, you can't decide if it works or not. How do you measure effectiveness if what you are measuring isn't performed consistently?

I typically give new initiatives, processes, and organizational structures at least six months before judging them a success or failure. It's often minor tweaking instead of major overhauls that make the difference.

2. Consistency creates accountability.

I ask my employees to be accountable for their deliverables and goals. They should expect the same in return from my leadership. I put a priority on making time for and being available to my team. I work to establish consistent and recurring meetings when a project or aspect of the business requires attention.

The simple fact that there is a set time to report on progress is often the catalyst that moves an initiative along to a successful end.

3. Consistency establishes your reputation.

Business growth requires a track record of success. You can't establish a track record if you are constantly shifting gears or trying new tactics. Many efforts fail before they get to the finish line, but not because the tactic was flawed or goals weren't clear. The problem is often that the team simply didn't stay the course to achieve the objective.

4. Consistency makes you relevant.

Your employees and your customers need a predictable flow of information from you. All too often I see businesses, both small and large, adopt a campaign or initiative only to end it before it gains traction. It's effective to run many advertisements, numerous blog entries, weekly newsletters, or continual process changes throughout a year.

5. Consistency maintains your message.

Your team pays as much or more attention to what you do as to what you say. Consistency in your leadership serves as a model for how they will behave. If you treat a meeting as unimportant, don't be surprised when you find they are doing the same to fellow teammates or even customers.

When something doesn't work, I look back at what happened and ask some serious questions. Did we shift gears too quickly? Did part of the team not deliver on a commitment? Or was the expected outcome off base from the start? Most of the time, the reason tracks back to lack of consistency.

CONSISTENCY

IN WHAT AREAS OF LIFE IS CONSISTENCY IMPORTANT?

BIBLE READING: 1 Samuel 31:1-13

KEY BIBLE VERSE: When the people of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, their warriors traveled all night to Beth-shan and took the bodies of Saul and his sons down from the wall. They brought them to Jabesh, where they burned the bodies. (1 Samuel 31:11-12)

GOD EXPECTS CONSISTENT OBEDIENCE.

Consider the difference between the last judge of Israel and its first king. Saul, the king, was characterized by inconsistency, disobedience, and self-will. He did not have a heart for God. Samuel, the judge, was characterized by consistency, obedience, and a deep desire for God's will. He had a genuine desire for God.

When God called Samuel, he said, "Yes, I'm listening" (3:9). But when God, through Samuel, called Saul, he replied, "You must have the wrong man!" (9:21). Saul was dedicated to himself; Samuel was dedicated to God.

KEY BIBLE VERSE: Now the LORD said to him, "Since you have not kept my covenant and have disobeyed my laws, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants." (1 Kings 11:11)

GOD EXPECTS CONSISTENT FAITHFULNESS.

Solomon didn't turn away from God all at once or in a brief moment. His spiritual coldness started with a minor departure from God's laws (3:1). Over the years, that little sin grew until it resulted in Solomon's downfall. A little sin can be the first step in turning away from God. It is not the sins we don't know about but the sins we excuse that cause us the greatest trouble. We must never let any sin go unchallenged. In your life, is an unchallenged sin spreading like a deadly cancer? Don't excuse it. Confess this sin to God and ask him for strength to resist temptation.

GOD EXPECTS CONSISTENT FOLLOW-THROUGH ON OUR PROMISES.

Solomon's powerful and glorious kingdom could have been blessed for all time; instead, it was approaching its end. Solomon had God's promises, guidance, and answers to prayer, and yet he allowed sin to remain all around him. Eventually it corrupted him so much that he was no longer interested in God. Psalm 127, written by Solomon, says, "Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is useless." Solomon began by laying the foundation with God, but he did not follow through in his later years. As a result, he lost everything. It is not enough to get off to a right start in building our marriage, career, or church on God's principles; we must remain faithful to God to the end (Mark 13:13). God must be in control of our life from start to finish.

KEY BIBLE VERSE: The LORD's plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken. (Psalm 33:11)

WE MUST REMEMBER GOD'S CONSISTENCY.

"The Lord's plans stand firm forever." Are you frustrated by inconsistencies you see in others, or even in yourself? God is completely trustworthy-his intentions never change. There is a promise that good and perfect gifts come to us from the Creator who never changes (James 1:17). When you wonder if there is anyone in whom you can trust, remember that God is completely consistent. Let him counsel you.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CONSISTENCY?

KEY BIBLE VERSE: "Yes, I know," Boaz replied. "But I also know about the love and kindness you have shown your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers." (Ruth 2:11)

CONSISTENCY IN GOOD QUALITIES BRINGS AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION.

Ruth's life exhibited admirable qualities: she was hardworking, loving, kind, faithful, and brave. These qualities gained for her a good reputation, but only because she displayed them consistently in all areas of her life. Wherever Ruth went or whatever she did, her character remained the same.

Your reputation is formed by the people who watch you at work, in town, at home, in church. A good reputation comes by consistently living out the qualities you believe in-no matter what group of people or surroundings you are in.

KEY BIBLE VERSE: Those who trust in the LORD are as secure as Mount Zion; they will not be defeated but will endure forever. (Psalm 125:1)

CONSISTENCY BASED ON TRUST IN GOD DEVELOPS A LIFE NOT EASILY SHAKEN.

Have you ever known people who were drawn to every new fad or idea? Such people are inconsistent and therefore unreliable. The secret to consistency is trust in God because he never changes. He cannot be shaken by the changes in our world, and he endures forever. The fads and ideas of our world, and even our world itself, will not last.

KEY BIBLE VERSE: To discipline and reprimand a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child. (Proverbs 29:15)

CONSISTENCY IS A KEY IN PERSONAL AND PARENTAL LIFE.

Parents of young children often weary of disciplining them. They feel like all they do is nag, scold, and punish. When you're tempted to give up and let your children do what they want, or when you wonder if you've ruined every chance for a loving relationship with them, remember-kind, firm correction helps them learn, and learning makes them wise. Consistent, loving discipline will ultimately teach them to discipline themselves.