

## Consistency & Discipline - Zanga Schutte, May 21, 2023

Consistency is living in harmony with character, showing uniformity and trustworthiness in our actions and beliefs. Consistency also has sequential faithfulness—what I do today is in harmony with what I will do tomorrow. Others can anticipate our actions tomorrow by our actions today and yesterday. The challenge is to be consistently faithful, to live with consistent behavior that is pleasing to God and helpful to others. The Bible calls us to be consistent in our obedience to God, our faithfulness and love toward others, and our discipline of maturing in the faith. Consistency in the Christian life is closely tied to the discipline of developing an unwavering godly character.

### What does consistency look like:

Hebrews 13:8 NIV Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever.

Notes: Christ has been and will be the same forever. In a changing world, we can trust our unchanging Lord.

Jesus is the role model for consistency in, belief, character, action. Jesus never changes, God's Word never changes because, Truth never changes.

### How do we develop more consistency in our walk with God?

John 14:15 NIV "If you love me, keep my commands."

John 15:4 NIV Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Matthew 22:37-40 NIV <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Notes: We must Develop a desire to obey and please God. What he wants is our desire to obey, because that is the sign that we love and respect him, that we believe his way for us is best.

**Discipline** in the Bible is goal oriented—seeking to develop a godly person who will walk in God's ways.

We tend to think of discipline as keeping others in line, but at the heart of discipline is discipling, helping people become followers, particularly followers of Christ. "The purpose of God's discipline is not to punish us but to transform us."

Billy Graham once said: "God does not discipline us to subdue us, but to condition us for a life of usefulness and blessedness."

Deuteronomy 8:5 NIV Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.

Hebrews 12:9-11 NIV <sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it.

How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! <sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

### Stand Firm

1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 NIV <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Proverbs 3:3 NIV Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

**Let us be consistent in our walk with our Lord and let us discipline ourselves to be all we can be in Christ Jesus!**

**Amen & Amen**