

Consistency

A. Definition

1. Webster: Consistency is steady conformity to character, profession, belief or custom; steady continuity; free from irregularity
2. General: Keep doing what you are supposed to be doing without change, interruption, wavering, or giving up.
3. For a Christian, consistency is of utmost importance in areas of reading the Bible, **attending church**, praying, affirmations, **Godly conversations**, standing in faith, growing in the Fruit of the Spirit, confessing sins, tithing.

B. Receiving from God

1. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. (1st of the two Power Twins) Heb 11:6 a
 - a) Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen. Heb 11:1
 - Substance is essential nature or fundamental quality (i.e., it does not change).
 - b) Faith is leaning with your entire personality on God with absolute trust. Heb 6:12 Amp
 - Entire means having no element nor part left out (i.e., it has no interruptions).
 - Absolute trust means no wavering and no giving up.
2. God rewards those who diligently seek Him. Heb 11:6 c
 - a) Diligent: Persevering application. **Note:** disciples get set free by continuing. John 8:31-32
 - b) Diligence: Steady, earnest and energetic application and effort
A share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most **ardent zeal and intense exertion.** Mt 11:12 Amp
3. Ask in faith without wavering for double-minded men receive nothing from God. Jam 1:6-8

C. Growing in God

1. Love
 - a) God is love and God never changes. He is consistent 1 John 4:8
 - b) Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Cor 13:7
2. Patience (2nd of the two Power Twins)
 - a) Patience is joyful (i.e., cheerful despite opposition) endurance (continued application).
 - b) Patience is waiting **without wavering** for the manifestation of God's promise Heb 6:12
or something even better after the Prayer of Faith has been prayed. Mark 11:24
3. Fruit of the Spirit – get on the escalator Gal 5:22-23
 - a) Increase in Love, joy, peace - Patience, gentleness, goodness – Faith, humility, self-control. The **spiritual** foundation is Love.
 - b) The **personal** foundation is Self-control, which is restraint over one's own impulses, emotions or desires – *on a consistent basis.*

D. Clinging to God

1. Jesus is our Living Hope. Hope is confident expectation (i.e., not wishy-washy). 1 Pet 1:3
2. Obedience is hearing and willingly obeying all the time (i.e., consistently). (17x). Ex 15:26; Ex 23:25
3. Spiritual Warfare
 - a) Exercise of your will – Every time you resist sin, it strengthens your will; every time you give in, it strengthens the will of the demons. Resist consistently.
 - b) Confusion in mind – The demons don't really care what you do as long as you obey them. **Fear, confusion and distraction are the enemies of consistency.** Check your thoughts against the Word of God consistently and diligently.
 - c) Iniquity in heart - Iniquity is a crooked way of thinking, which comes from ungodly beliefs in your heart. What you think in your heart must be consistently validated against Truth (i.e., against what Jesus said).

The Winning Attitude

A. Conqueror

Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. 1 John 5:4
 We are more than conquerors (super-conquerors). Rom 8:37
 If you have a **fervent burning** desire and, when you pray, you believe that you have already received it, then you will have it. Mark 11:24 (different translations)

B. Success (Walter Wintle)

If you think you are beaten, you are. Pro 23:7 as you think in your heart, so are you.
 If you think that you dare not, you don't. Mt 9:29 according to your faith, be it done unto you.
 If you'd like to win, but think that you can't, it's almost a cinch you won't. Luk 8:50 fear not, only believe.
 If you think you'll lose, you're lost.
 For out in the world, we find SUCCESS begins with a person's will. James 5:16b The effective fervent prayer of a righteous ...
 It's all in the state of the mind.
 Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster one;
 But sooner or later, the one who wins is the one who thinks, "I can." Phil 4:13 I can do all things thru Christ Jesus.

C. Winners (Nancy Sims)

Winners take chances. 2 Cor 5:7 We walk by faith
 Like everyone else, they fear failing, 2 Tim 1:7 No spirit of fear but of power
 but they refuse to let fear control them. Matt 11:12 Seek with most ardent zeal and intense effort
 Winners don't give up. Phil 3:13 Forgetting those things which are behind ...
 When life gets rough, they hang in until the going gets better. Phil 3:14 Press toward the mark for the prize
 Winners are flexible. Pro 24:16 A just man falls but rises
 They realize that there is more than one way (*to their goals*) Ps 37:24 for the Lord upholds him
 and are willing to try others.
 Winners know that they are not perfect.
 They respect their weaknesses while making the most of their strengths.
 Winners fall but they don't stay down.
 They stubbornly refuse to let a fall keep them from climbing ...

D. Persistence (A secular quotation by Calvin Coolidge)

(*In seeking success,*)
 Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Heb 6:12 Faith with patience
 Talent will not; nothing is more common than Mt 19:24 ... for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God
 unsuccessful men with great talent.
 Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.
 Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.
 Persistence, determination alone are omnipotent John 8:31-32, Heb 11:6
 (*in achieving your destiny*).