

# Consistency

## Consistency

- steadfast adherence to the same principles
- the condition of cohering or holding together and retaining form; solidity or firmness.
- adherence, attachment, firmness, steadfastness, steadiness

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“Godliness is never accidental. Neither is victory coincidental. Both of them stem from up-front, daily resolve. ...Integrity depends on consistency...Life becomes so much simpler when there aren’t so many costume changes...The lifeblood of integrity is becoming the same person no matter where we are – no matter who’s around.”

– Beth Moore

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*Seeking God is not an accident and living for Jesus is intentional. So, how do you do that? First, you must know Jesus as your savior. That makes you a new creation.*

## 2 Corinthians 5:17(ESV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

## 2 Corinthians 5:14–20 (Peterson’s Wild Paraphrase)

Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.



Colossians 3:1–14 (ESV)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.



When you begin to live for Jesus your life should not and cannot be the same as it was before; nor should you want it to be. Does this mean you will automatically not want to do the things you used to do? No, it means that you learn the character of Jesus, fall in love with Him, and you will then want Jesus more than you want those other things ...this is a process; an intentional, daily walking it out, process.

So, how do you get to know the character of Jesus? I know this will sound too simple but here it is: **PRAY, READ YOUR BIBLE AND BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS...ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.**

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.





#### Ephesians 4:21–24 (Amplified)

Assuming that you have really heard Him and been taught by Him, as [all] Truth is in Jesus [embodied and personified in Him],

Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion;

And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude],

And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.

#### 2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT)

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

#### James 5: 13–18

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.



Remember that everything you do and study is training you...what are you allowing to train you: the Word of God or everything else? This is where the first step is made...this is where consistency begins. If you do not read your Bible and pray then you will not be consistent in any other area of your life. You will have no foundation to work from. But, you must also add action to this; believe and practice what you are reading.

Going back to the quote by Beth Moore...if you don't want to change costumes all the time and if you want to be the same person regardless of who is around then you must have a constant or a stabilizing factor...that has to JESUS.

If you have Jesus you always know where to go, there is a standard by which to measure all things.

Studying scripture also ensures that you know the will of God and the truth. How can you take your thoughts captive and renew your mind if you don't even know the difference between the truth and the lies? How can you have reassurance and emotional control if you have no hope? How can you make it through bad days without faith? All good things come from Jesus!

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So, as you learn the character of Jesus and grow you will not always get it right. That brings us back to- REPENTANCE, MERCY, & GRACE.

God does not expect perfection but He does expect you to be walking forward toward maturity and learning these lessons that you are daily being taught.

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIV)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

*\*JD Says – Mercy when we struggle, grace to keep up and able to do it, and knowing we cannot do it without Christ.*