

## Keep On Keeping On ... Consistency

Vol. 9, No. 7

Dr. John C. Maxwell

Intro:

The questions are different but the answer is the same...

- ◆ What will guard us against foolish extremes?
- ◆ What characterizes those who are habitually successful in sports, sales or some skill?
- ◆ What single quality in a business builds respect deeper than any other?
- ◆ What brings security in relationships?
- ◆ What strengthens confidence in leaders?
- ◆ What makes us choose a particular brand-name over all others?
- ◆ What's needed most by parents in the home?
- ◆ What draws you to the same restaurant time and again?
- ◆ What do you want most from your paperboy...or milkman...or postman?
- ◆ What will add more weight to your witness for Christ than anything else?

The answer is \_\_\_\_\_

That's the answer to all ten questions, and you know it's true. Steadiness... you can count on it. It will be there tomorrow just like it was yesterday...free from silly moods, sudden changes, or fickle fads. Early in the day or late at night, consistency stands firm. When pain or hardship bite, consistency doesn't bleed. When the majority is tired and irritable, consistency is stable and resilient. Not insensitive or boring, but reliable, faithful. Not opposed to change or reason, but trustworthy. Not stubborn, but solid. Yes, that's it: SOLID.

It's the stuff most mothers are made of when their little ones get sick. And missionaries who lose themselves in their labor even though it yields limited fruit. It reveals itself in faithful employees who show up on time, roll up their sleeves, and commit themselves more to doing the job than watching the clock. Diligence is its brother—dependability, its partner—discipline, its parent.

Proverbs 20:6 (GN) - "Everyone talks about how loyal and faithful they are, but just try to find someone who really is."

Psalms 21:1 (LB) - "Lord help. Godly men are fast disappearing. Where in all the world can dependable men be found?"

### Why Develop Faithfulness and Consistency?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son..."  
I Cor. 1:9 (KJV)

Deut. 32:3-4 (NIV) - "I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God. He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

- A. God faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Peter 3:9
- B. God faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ I John 1:9
- C. God faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ I Cor. 10:13
- D. God faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ Ps. 119:90

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

2. \_\_\_\_\_

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord...that he considered me faithful, putting me into the ministry." I Tim. 1:12 (KJV)

"For this reason I am sending you Timothy...who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ." I Cor. 4:17

3. \_\_\_\_\_

"A faithful man will be richly blessed..." Prov. 28:20

"Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble." Prov. 25:19

4. \_\_\_\_\_

"Every man who wants to really lead must be willing to grind."

(William Booth)

"I gave...Hanani...charge over Jerusalem; for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many." Neh. 7:2

"Who, then, is the faithful and wise servant? He is the one whom his master has placed in charge of the other servants." Matt. 25:45

5. \_\_\_\_\_

"To finish first you must first finish." (Rick Mears, Indy 500 winner)

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness.'" Matt. 25:21

### **Characteristics of Consistent People**

Unemployed pastor to a friend: "I can tell you one thing – I'm no quitter. I pastored three churches and stayed with all three 'til they died."

1. They have \_\_\_\_\_

A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished." Prov. 28:20

Staff: "Why do right values keep us consistent?"

2. They care for the \_\_\_\_\_

"I have no one like (Timothy) who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interest, not those of Jesus Christ. But...Timothy has proved himself...he has served with me in the work of the gospel." Phil. 2:20-22

3. They live a life \_\_\_\_\_  
 "...they were jealous and began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling his affairs so that they could complain to the king about him. But they couldn't find anything to criticize. He was faithful and honest, and made no mistakes." Dan. 6:4
4. They \_\_\_\_\_  
 "Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give." Prov. 25:14  
 "Whoever...does what he promises, no matter how much it may cost...will always be secure." Psalm 15:4-5
5. They \_\_\_\_\_  
 "Each should use whatever spiritual gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10
6. They \_\_\_\_\_  
 "If you haven't been faithful in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" Luke 16:11  
 "On every Sunday, each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week and use it for the offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you to earn." 1 Cor. 16:2
7. They \_\_\_\_\_  
 "(God says) I will raise up a faithful priest who will serve me and do whatever I tell him to do." 1 Sam. 2:35
8. They \_\_\_\_\_  
 "The things you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."  
 2 Tim. 2:2

### How To Cultivate Consistency

1. Live a life of \_\_\_\_\_

#### Convenience People

- 1.) \_\_\_\_\_ based
- 2.) What's \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) When I feel good then I'll \_\_\_\_\_ it
- 4.) Controlled by \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) \_\_\_\_\_ mindset
- 6.) Life & lips \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.) Looks for \_\_\_\_\_
- 8.) \_\_\_\_\_ influenced
- 9.) \_\_\_\_\_ during tough times
- 10.) This person \_\_\_\_\_

#### Committed People

- \_\_\_\_\_ based
- What's \_\_\_\_\_
- When I do it then I'll \_\_\_\_\_ good
- Controlled by \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ mindset
- Life & lips \_\_\_\_\_
- Looks for \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ influenced
- \_\_\_\_\_ during tough times
- This person \_\_\_\_\_

CHARACTER: "The ability to carry out a good resolution long after the mood in which it was made is past."

2. Understand the \_\_\_\_\_

The National Sales Executives Association survey unearthed these startling findings:

- ◆ 80% of all new sales are made after the fifth call to the same prospect
- ◆ 48% of all salespersons make one call then cross off the prospect
- ◆ 25 % quit after the second call
- ◆ 12% call three times and then quit
- ◆ 10% keep calling

The 10% who persist get payoffs. They collect the dividends on what the others invested.

3. Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_

### KEEPING ON

I've dreamed many dreams that never came true,  
I've seen them vanish at dawn,  
But I've realized enough of my dreams, thank God,  
To make me want to dream on.

I've prayed many prayers when no answer came,  
I've waited patient and long;  
But answers have come to enough of my prayers  
To make me keep praying on.

I've trusted many a friend who failed  
And left me to weep alone,  
But I've found enough of my friends true-blue  
To make me keep trusting on.

I've sown many seeds that fell by the way  
For the birds to feed upon,  
But I've held enough golden sheaves in my hand,  
To make me keep sowing on.

I've drained the cup of disappointment and pain,  
I've gone many days without song,  
But I've supped enough nectar from the rose of life  
To make me want to live on.

- Author unknown

4. Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_

5. Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: You were born for a purpose.

QUESTION: What has God given me?

My spiritual gift is \_\_\_\_\_

My responsibility at work is \_\_\_\_\_

My present opportunity is \_\_\_\_\_

My family needs most my \_\_\_\_\_

My greatest challenge is \_\_\_\_\_

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."  
I Cor. 4:2

NOTE: Success is finishing the course.