

# The Power of Consistency

Here's an area that I believe a lot of people struggle with and that can account for where they're at: lack of consistency.

I want to talk today about the power of consistency. I really believe that an adjustment in this area can absolutely transform anyone's life. As we will see today, consistency is one of the most important keys to spiritual growth, to experiencing breakthroughs and to flourish.

Consistency is a deliberate effort to stay the course, to be steady, unchangeable, immovable, constant, firmly fixed in a position.

With that in mind, let us look today at our opening text:

## Opening Text: Genesis 49:22-25

### 1. Consistent Joseph

In this passage, Jacob the great patriarch of the 12 tribes knows that the time to be with his Maker is at hand and call his sons to prophesy over each one of them. Here, he speaks over his son Joseph.

Joseph is described as someone flourishing in life: V.22 "*Joseph is a fruitful bough by a well, his branches run over the wall*".

Looking at his story, we see how he went through a lot since he received his dream from God. Verse 23 attests to his struggles: "*The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him*". However, in spite of the attack, verse 24 says that "*his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob*".

The key word here is '*remained*'. Joseph didn't quit, Joseph remained. He remained the same, he remained strong, he remained faithful to the assignment, he remained pursuing the dream, and was never moved from the source of his power: the Mighty God of Jacob.

Verse 22a says that he remained like a *branch by the well*. He remained by the source of his life. He understood the source of his power and didn't move from it.

He didn't lack 'staying power', he didn't change course, he was constant and unwavering. He knew his identity, he embraced his assignment and never moved from where he was in God. Joseph's life is such an example of stability and consistency and of the blessings that followed as a result.

### 2. Unstable Reuben

What a contrast we find in his brother Reuben:

**Genesis 49:4** "*unstable as water, you shall not excel*".

Because of his sin, Reuben lost his birth right and because his instability, he was not going to excel. He was described as someone ‘*unstable as water*’.

- a) Unstable, in other words, uncertain, unreliable, always changing, unpredictable, fluid, wobbly, lacking substance. Someone unstable can’t be trusted with an assignment.
- b) Being ‘unstable’ has all sorts of ramifications, one of them being, unanswered prayer:

**James 1:6-8** <sup>6</sup> *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.* <sup>7</sup> *For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;* <sup>8</sup> *he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

So the key to do well, excel and flourish in life is consistency. We need to be unwavering and single-minded:

### **1 Kings 18:21 NIV**

<sup>21</sup> *Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”*

### **3. A consistent God**

**James 1:17** - *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

**Malachi 3:6** – *“For I am the Lord, I do not change”*

**Psalms 102:27** - *But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.*

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

### **4. The call to consistency**

God calls us to be a branch planted by the well, a people planted in the house of God who will flourish in the courts of our God (Psalms 92:13).

There are so many scriptures in the Bible that use synonymous words to emphasize consistency like *steadfastness*, being *immovable*, being *constant*, having *patience*, *persevere*, “*stand and having done all to stand, stand therefore*”.

Consistency will always lead to blessing. Being unstable like water will never cause us to excel.

Another important word we find in the Scriptures is ‘*continue*’:

- Romans 11:22 says to *continue in God’s goodness*,
- Colossians 1:23 says to *continue in the faith and not be moved away from the hope we have received*,
- Colossians 4:2 says ‘*continue earnestly in prayer*’,

- 1 Timothy 4:16 says to *continue in the good doctrine we have received*,
- Hebrews 13:1 says to *continue in brotherly love*

God wants continuity in our relationship with Him and in how we give ourselves to spiritual things. The early church did that: **Acts 2:42** - *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

### **Conclusion:**

#### **Here's some areas to be consistent:**

a) Your prayer life:

**Luke 18:1-3 The Message:** *Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** - *pray without ceasing,*

Daniel prayed 3 times a day (Daniel 6:10)

b) The Word

Jesus said that if His words abide in us we will ask whatever we desire and it will be done for us (John 15:7).

c) Service

**1 Corinthians 15:58** - *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, - always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

d) Fellowship

As we saw in Acts 2:42, the early church did not forsake their assembling together but *continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

If we get the basics right and we stick to them on a consistent basis, there will be blessing, growth and we will flourish!