

CONSISTENCY WITH GOD

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To be consistent is to be unchanging over time. It is to be coherent, meaning, to be reasonably or logically harmonious (in agreement to or with something, in this case, the word of God). To be consistent is to be reliable, meaning, to be able to maintain a particular standard or repeat a particular task with minimal variation.

God is interested in His people being consistent in their love, commitment, service, tithing, giving, sacrifice and obedience. The Christian's life should be consistent (coherent) with the teachings of the Bible. The life of the believer must be in agreement with the Bible which he claims to believe in. God wants all believers to be dependable, reliable and faithful. He wants us consistent so He can continue to bless and use us according to His perfect will.

2 Tim 2:2

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

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The problem of many Christians is lack of consistency in their service, commitment, tithing, giving and obedience. And that makes them undependable and attracts many setbacks and problems to their lives. Many are so inconsistent in their walk with God that people doubt their conversion and testimony.

Daniel was so consistent in his life and testimony that the leaders of Persia knew he will not change his lifestyle for anything or anyone, even when his life was endangered. His commitment to God and His law was total that nothing comes in between. This is what God wants from all His children. He wants us to be so consistent that all (believers and unbelievers alike) can predict our response and reaction to issues and matters because of our dogged commitment to Him and His words.

Dan 6:1-5

6:1 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, 2 with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. 3 Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. 4 At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. 5 Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

NIV

The three Hebrew young men who were Daniel's companions were so sold out to God that they were willing to give up their lives rather than bow before a molten image. Their action was consistent with their testimonies as Jews. In fact the Jews knew that they would not bow to any image or god except the LORD God of Israel. The whole exercise of proclaiming Nebuchadnezzar as God and commanding of all peoples to bow before the image of gold was a plot to get rid of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They could do so because these men's lives were so consistent and vivid that you can't miss it. In the same way, the believer is expected to be so consistent in his walk with God that the unbeliever knows what the believer will say yes to and what he will say no to.

Dan 3:13-30

13 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, 14 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? 15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." 19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual 20 and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. 21 So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. 22 The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, 23 and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king." 25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." 26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, 27 and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. 28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be

turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

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The Lord Jesus Christ was so consistent with His life and testimony that no one could accuse Him of sin or any wrong doing. His life was in agreement with His teachings and the Law and Prophets. He didn't live a double life. His life was so transparent that the people could see it to be able to tell if He was a holy man of God or not. By so doing, He set us an example that we should follow in His steps.

John 8:45-46

45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! 46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

NIV

1 Peter 2:21-25

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

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IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT CONSISTENCY WITH GOD

1. Consistency proves your love for God and commitment to Him and His work.
2. Consistency is an expression of enthusiasm and zeal for God and what He stands for.
3. Consistency reveals how much God's word has affected or is affecting a man.
4. Consistency reveals the yieldedness of a man to God.

BENEFITS OF CONSISTENCY

1. Consistency strengthens the bond of love and fellowship between a man and God.
2. Consistency guarantees a place in the heart of God.
3. Consistency makes God's eyes to be on you all the time.
4. Consistency is what makes life with God worth living.
5. Consistency makes going to heaven a reality.

CONCLUSION

1. Let your life be consistent with your testimony (confession of faith in Jesus Christ).
2. Let your life be consistent with the teachings of the Bible.
3. Be so consistent that people can predict your response to issues and matters.
4. Be consistent in attending Church meetings, Services, Bible studies, Vigils, House prayer meetings and Soul winning activities.

5. Be consistent in reading your Bible and praying.
6. Be consistent in tithing and giving no matter the needs you may have.
7. Be consistent in practicing the principles and laws of God that cannot be changed or set aside.
8. The very principles of God you were practicing, and things you were doing before your breakthrough or things changed for you, don't stop doing them. Keep doing them. If you have stopped, go back to it immediately or you will regret it soon.
9. Be consistent. Let God trust you enough to commit things into your hands and boast about you like He boasted about Job, because he knows how you will respond or react to things that he permits to come your way.

Job 1:8-12

8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." 9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." 12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

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