

Add Some Flour

Pastor just finished "Summer of Miracles Series"

He shared that kingdom life comes from a disciplined/consistent life with Christ. Kingdom living should be apart of our everyday life.

It's About the Intimate walk with Jesus

Consistency is the backbone of Christianity. Growth in life requires consistency.

PRAY

2 Kings 4:38-41 (NIV)

³⁸ Elisha returned to Gilgal and there was a famine in that region. While the company of the prophets was meeting with him, he said to his servant, "Put on the large pot and cook some stew for these prophets."³⁹ One of them went out into the fields to gather herbs and found a wild vine and picked as many of its gourds as his garment could hold. When he returned, he cut them up into the pot of stew, though no one knew what they were. ⁴⁰ The stew was poured out for the men, but as they began to eat it, they cried out, "Man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it. ⁴¹ Elisha said, "Get some flour." He put it into the pot and said, "Serve it to the people to eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

Consistency as a topic seems insignificant until inconsistency hits your personally.

It's easy as believers with our faith to not major or constant faith, because sometimes we go to God when only we have a need. Going to God is never a bad idea.

Don't be encounter rich and relationally poor. Get to a point where your relationally Rich.

I believe in moments of faith – but moment after moment after moment build an unwavering – total sold out consistent trust.

It's this consistent trust that takes our little faith to great faith. It's what builds our Faith.

Consistency will even give you direction. It also has the ability to steer you.

Consistent Direction is more important than speed. We have this speed mentality in our culture.

It's good to go fast but going fast in the wrong direction will get you nowhere quickly.

Consistency will produce direction for you purpose.
Hebrews say's that God is consistent.

God is the same yesterday / today / forever. We serve a consistent God!

God constantly:

provides for us
protects us
renews us

is with us always
directs us
forgives us

releases grace
accepts us
loves us

We see consistency in creation:

Sunrise/sunset
High tide/low tide
Night/day /Seasons

We have a heartbeat
We breathe

Our Spiritual growth in life requires consistency. We have to determine, that our total dependency is on Christ... **Tell that to my Behavior.**

Sometimes the hardest person to work on is yourself. **Behavior never lies.**

****How long you go without something reveals how much of it you think you need****

We need a prayer life – Looks like -praying without ceasing

We need a word life – Looks like -meditate day and night on the Word

We need a worship life – Looks like -continually offer the sacrifice of praise

We need a church community life – Looks like - don't forsake the assembly

Elisha is back from Gilgal, and famine was in the land.

He is with a group of prophets and tells his servant to put a large kettle and make some stew.

Verse 39 (NIV)

³⁹ One of them went out into the fields to gather herbs and found a wild vine and picked as many of its gourds as his garment could hold. When he returned, he cut them up into the pot of stew, though no one knew what they were.

Elisha is having a prophet conference, providing lunch during a famine.

He was sent to gather herbs/veggies but found a wild vine and brought back wild gourds.

This servant got distracted and found a wild vine.

****Distractions are the enemy of consistency**

****Distractions come across appealing sometimes**

The devil doesn't need to destroy you if he can distract you.

Definition of distraction: A pulling apart, to cause a separation. A pulling apart of the mind in different directions.

The enemy playbook is to distract you from living for the things that matter most. Purpose of making a stew is to enjoy eating it.

What wild vine is keeping you from your purpose?

What distraction is keeping you from an **Intimate walk with Jesus?**

Consistency with Christ produces a Firm Stance.

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT) – Be on guard and STAND FIRM in the FAITH

1 Peter 5:9 (NLT)– STAND FIRM against him and be Strong in the FAITH

A person who Stands Firm is committed to the task.

Military def: Holding your position consistently on the front line.

What's the point of taking ground if we don't be consistent with standing our ground.

The reason why distractions are so attractive is because we haven't fully committed to the assignment we have been given.

I want to encourage you to sell out to your Godly assignment and purpose.

The enemy knows he can't destroy you – all he can do is try to slow you down with distractions.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLT) “Dear brothers and sisters be strong and immovable, always enthusiastic about the Lord's work, (your purpose) for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.”

There are ingredients you can put in your pot today.

Ingredient #1 to be consistent - Be strong and steady and enthusiastic.

Stay focused – your focus determines your Destiny.

Re-read verse #39 (NIV)

³⁹ One of them went out into the fields to gather herbs and found a wild vine and picked as many of its gourds as his garment could hold. When he returned, he cut them up into the pot of stew, though no one knew what they were.

Notice that he filled his garment with a lot of the wrong stuff.

Sometimes when you're distracted a lot of wrong things may start to seem real good to you.

We tend to compromise and justify, and SETTLE FOR LESS.

But it will really bring death to your kettle pot.

Ingredient #2 to be consistent – fill your garments with what God wants you to gather.

- Fill your garments with praise – remove distraction of heaviness.
- Fill your robe of righteousness with amazing grace.
- Fill your garments with God’s love that bind us together.

Duet 11:14 “ I will send rain on your land in it’s season, both autumn and spring so that you may GATHER grain (abundant blessing), New wine (joy in life) Olive oil (new anointing)”.

It’s a reflection of God’s will to abundantly bless every area of your life.

PS 104:15 “It’s this wine that gladdens the heart of man, the oil to make your face shine and reflect, and bread that sustains your heart.”

FILL YOUR GARMENTS WITH THE RIGHT STUFF

Re-read verse -39 (NIV) “Came and sliced them into the pot of stew, and they did not know what they were. 40 “Then they served it to the men to eat. Now it happened, as they were eating the stew that they cried out and said, “Man of God, there is death in the pot, and they could not eat it.”

Listen, nobody knew what they were, but they cut them up anyway.

Everyone watched.

The servant didn’t know what it was when he gathered it.

The ones watching didn’t know what it was either.

I think I would have interrupted & said “What in the world are you putting in the POT.”

Gourds don’t look right to begin with yet alone what a wild vine gourd looks like.

Ingredient #3 to be consistent – Beware of spending too much time with those who struggle with the same things you do.

They struggled with not knowing what it was, (Fear produced) They all cried out complaining together. It’s killing us.

- Show me your friends, I’ll show you your future.
- Spend some time with others that will speak up and correct or encourage you.
- Consistency is having your eyes fixed on Jesus.
- Consistency is seeking 1st the Kingdom of God, and all other things will be added.

Read verse #41 Elisha said, "Get some flour." He put it into the pot and said, "Serve it to the people to eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

Elisha was consistent with his faith in God, he didn't miss a beat. "GET SOME FLOUR" (This was his big speech) 3 words.

This was during a famine – it's said by theologians that this meal was for the 100 prophets. They didn't want to eat, even though they were extremely hungry.

Elisha has a consistent peace that the situation can be shifted to see our God move.

It came from this trust / consistency with God. "Add some flour" (Represents GOD'S WORD)

Consistency in your relationship with Christ, does not fall apart easily under any circumstance.

Jesus told a story about a wise man that built his house on the rock and a foolish man who built on the sand.

Storm came: one stood, the other fell apart.

Wisdom did not prevent the storm

But we can choose to be consistent - it will produce a strong firm foundation.

I have decided to not fall apart easily and ADD SOME FLOUR- CONSISTENCY

1 Peter 1:24-25 (MSG)

Just think: a life conceived by God himself! That's why the prophet said,

The old life is a grass life, its beauty as short-lived as wildflowers; Grass dries up, flowers wilt, God's Word goes on and on forever.

Learn to bloom consistently wherever you are planted.

Word is life and medicine

Word works mightily in me

What happens when you add flour to a stew? It thickens it; changes the consistency of what's in the vessel.

God is calling us to be set apart not to fall apart. ADD Some FLOUR to your Life.

Definition of consistency –

*The holding together of a substance (faith)

*Uniformity in image (Paul said: imitate me as I imitate Christ)

Consistency needs to shape me. It has shaping power.

Consistency to shape a marriage, career, future.

Don't be consistent with inconsistency.

Reaching our destiny requires consistency.

Ingredient #4 to be consistent – Add spiritual disciplines to your daily routines

How long will you go without spiritual disciplines reveals how much of it you think you really need.

Intimacy with God is defined by closeness. If God is consistent with me, I want to be consistent with him.

Draw close to God and He will Draw closer to you.

I want to pursue Christ not with just informational knowledge, but with pursuing a RELATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

Jesus himself even got alone with the Father.

Example – every restaurant has a menu.

We don't go out to eat and just read the menu and hear the weekly special.

We don't go just to hear the waitress or waiter just tell us about what's available.

We don't just review it, listen to it and then leave and go home.(That would be CRAZY)

I want to order up and have an experience.

Spiritual discipline added to your vessel/pot will declare **Psalms 34:8 (NLT)**– “taste and see that the Lord is good the joy's of those who trust in Him.”

IT TAKES CONSISTENCY- ADD SOME FLOUR.

A Consistent walk with Christ has shaping power:

- Consistent sacrifice shapes our worship/praise
- Consistent giving shapes our harvest/blessings
- Consistent forgiveness shapes our relationships
- Consistent faith shapes our perspective on life

I want it to shape:

- **The way I act (attitude)**

Philippians 2:5 (NLT) "You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had."

The way I talk (words)

Psalms 19:14 (NLT) "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you."

- * **The way I think (thoughts)**

Philippians 4:8-9 (NLT) "And now dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting this into practice all you learned and received from me, everything you heard and saw me doing."

Ingredient #4 to be consistent – **Serve what's in your vessel to people.**

Being consistent will affect those who are around us and watching us.

My prayer for the year is simply you may be the only Bible that people read.

Abraham and Isaac.

CLOSE.