

## RESOLVED—I Am Consistent (small group questions)

### SMALL TALK

1. Talk about something in your life that you excel in (a hobby, career, etc.) and describe how you achieved success.

### VIEWPOINT

2. **Read Daniel 1:3-7.** What excuses could Daniel have made to be inconsistent in his faith? What does he choose instead? (Daniel 1:8)
3. **Read Daniel 6:4.** What were the observable character traits seen because of Daniel's consistency and resolve?
4. **Read Daniel 6:10 and 1:8.** How does his resolve in 1:8 determine his actions and consistency in 6:10?
5. **Read Daniel 6.** How were the reasons Daniel's enemies could set a trap for him also the reasons that their plan failed?

### GETTING PERSONAL

6. What excuses have you made that are keeping you from being consistent in your faith walk?
7. What do you need to pre-decide that will set your direction to take steps closer to where God wants you to be?

### MAKING PROGRESS (THIS WEEK)

8. Today can be day one of a consistent faith walk. What can you do today to honor God?

## RESOLVED—I Am Consistent (sermon notes)

resolve implies an expressed or clear decision or determination to do or refrain from doing something.

1. I am resolved.
2. I am ready.
3. I am consistent.-Todays title
4. I am devoted.
5. I am kind.
6. I am faithful.

week 1-What do you value?

AGAIN: When your values are clear, your decisions are easier. You're Not RE SOLVING repeatedly, it is already PRE-SOLVED, and that is why you are resolved. Connecting the dots increases your RESOLVE

last week-Are you battle ready?

- • Pre-decide to be faithful
- • Pre-solve your pressure-points
  - ASK others to PRAY
  - Experience God for yourself
  - Magnify the scenarios
  - DRAW the line. Train and be strict with yourself, for God's sake and yours.
- QUESTION- are we to pursue spiritual excellence? or is the spiritual life just letting go and letting God without any action on our part towards consistency in spiritual growth (explain)its supernatural not magic and it requires diligence and discipline on our part

OPEN- JOKE-Football coach

lets consider 4 points today from Daniels story that I believe will help us move towards being consistent in our faith walk and in life

## 1. Admit the Challenge

**“An excuse is a way of promising ourselves that we will have the same issue over and over again.”**

**Henry Cloud**

Daniel could have had every excuse(but we heard none of them)...taken out of his routine, his people, his comfort zone... exiled...etc DAN 1

The Apostle Paul talks about this challenge - Romans 7 NLT15 I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.....18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.[d] I want to do what is right, but I can't. 19 I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.

Paul admitted the struggle and reminds himself and us the hopeless state **we were in (not now)** before Gods amazing grace was ours through Christ and Him crucified...

VS 25:Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord....

Excuses are what confine us to our current situation. Excuses are the false reasons that hold us back from taking action and result in inconsistencies.....

Unsuccessful people almost always have this one habit in common; it's the habit of making excuses. Some call this malady

excusistis, which is a predisposition that leads us to search out and find an excuse for just about everything that happens to us. It's a serious ailment, and it's the trademark of the unsuccessful person.

I looked up—adjective:

1. acting at variance with one's own principles or former conduct."

**Similar words-**

erratic changeable unpredictable variable varying changing  
inconstant unstable irregular fluctuating unsteady unsettled  
uneven contradictory paradoxical capricious fickle flighty  
whimsical unreliable undependable mercurial volatile ever-  
changing protean chameleon-like  
blowing hot and cold up and down peaky labile flatulent....  
(sorry) fluctuant

All of these words/descriptions are contrary to Gods nature in which we have been called to emulate

Hear these words-Consistency is not perfection...Being resolved is staying the course, a steady determination over the long haul... not doing it perfectly

Philippians 3:12-14NLT

**12** I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. **13** No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it,<sup>[a]</sup> but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Before you make your next excuse, ask yourself this: *What can I do to resolve my inconsistencies*

Admit the challenge but resolve inconsistencies and eliminate excuses (excuses are really unbelief)

## 2. Commit to your WHY

**“If it is important to you, you will find a way. If not, you will find an excuse.”**

**Anonymous**

Knowing your “why” sets the course towards the way

*Daniel 1:8 ESV*

*8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.*

**Successful people do consistently what other people do occasionally**

Resolved..Committing to your why....“There’s a difference between interest and commitment. When you’re only interested in doing something, you do it only when it’s convenient and easy. When you’re committed to your why, even in difficult times you accept no excuses; only results.” –

Daniel resolved not to defile Himself, his **WHY** was that he believed in and trusted his God, he believed God heard his prayers and he was committed to faithfulness in GODS ways in everything that he did—, his words, his actions, his Character, and how he invested his time, talents and treasures were all consistent with his WHY.

## Consistency: Definition

According to the dictionary, consistency is being in the habit of doing the same thing on a regular basis. Consistency is the act of living by the same principles. It is the practice of being the same when it comes to attitudes, behaviors, beliefs, and characteristics.

Consistency is adhering to the same principles in a steadfast and unwavering way. Consistent people are those who achieve things of value and meaning in their lives by not keep changing their opinions about what they want. Consistency is one of the keys that help people succeed in their daily lives when it comes to their work, their relationships, and most importantly their worship.

When you are consistent, you are also committed, and your commitment shouldn't change with life's changing circumstances. Some people give up instead of being steadfast and consistent when things don't go well with them. Those are the times when it is evident if a person is consistent or not. Consistent people will keep going, but inconsistent people will give themselves excuses to give up.

1 Corinthians 15:58 AMP

**58** Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord [always doing your best and doing more than is needed], being *continually* aware that your labor [even to the point of exhaustion] in the Lord is not futile *nor* wasted [it is never without purpose].

**GOD EXPECTS CONSISTENCY  
BECAUSE HE IS CONSISTENT**

The Apostle Paul in 1 Cor 9 describes his “why” and the consistency required to be resolved....**24** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. **25** Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. **26** So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. **27** But I discipline my body and keep it under control,<sup>[b]</sup> lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

(only if time)God gives Joshua his “why” and states the consistency that will give him success.... **5** No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. **6** Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. **7** Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success<sup>[a]</sup> wherever you go. **8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

With a God inspired “WHY” and through His spirits leading there is Power in Consistency –

Imagine a leaky faucet. Regardless of how hard you twist the knob, it still drips. One drop at a time. Incessantly – drip, drip, drip. The consistency becomes an annoyance pretty quickly. But put in the right environment and given enough time, that same dripping with that same consistency, can have an immense

amount of power. That's how canyons are made. Not all at once, but through the power of consistency. Dripping isn't that exciting, but what it lacks in flash it makes up for in effectiveness. There's a lot to be said for the power of consistency. One of the issues we must deal with though is the daily nature of it all, there's only so many ways you can "spice up" the habits that characterize consistent growth in Christ. There will be many days when you won't feel like reading the Bible. you won't feel like praying. you won't feel like memorizing Scripture or serving or doing any of the other practices of spiritual development. Its tempting to think of spiritual growth as some grand adventure completely free of the daily grind. While it's true that at times growing in Christ will feel amazing, it's also true that many times it won't. In the end, what we'll find is that consistency wins over excitement time and time again. You do the same spiritual practices because you genuinely believe that the Bible is the Word of God. You truly believe God hears you when you pray. The alternative to this kind of consistency is a life driven by experience. If that's the case, your spiritual development is like a yo-yo moving up and down with the flippancy of emotion.

When you opt for consistency over excitement, you are developing the kind of practices that will carry you through the seasons of spiritual dryness all of us will encounter. In other words, your roots are growing deep. When we integrate the same, repeated practices into our lives, day after day, we will find that when eventually we don't feel anything; when we are suffering; when we simply can't pray any more, that our roots will have extended well past the shallows.

One of the side benefits of this kind of spiritual discipline is that it will work into other areas of life as well. You'll find, I believe, that



not only are you disciplined “spiritually;” but physically, emotionally and mentally.

Time and consistency is a powerful ally. Drip, drip, drip. One drop at a time. And slowly, the landscape/our character changes.

### 3. **Embrace the path**

Difference between Embrace and Accept

**I know of nothing which I would choose to have as the subject of my ambition for life and to be kept faithful to my God till death.**

**C. H. Spurgeon**

60-65 years between Chap 1 and Chap 6

\*\*\*\*(READ chap 6?paraphrase)

*Daniel 6:10 NLT:*

*But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down **as usual** in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, **just as he had always done**, giving thanks to his GOD **as he had always done**, giving thanks to his God.*

(why? he had resolved)he knew the consequences but....he knew that his GOD was faithful in the good and the not so good..

though he slay me yet will i trust him(Job)...Chris story....

Shad, Meshack, To bed we go....even if, never the less

The beautiful thing about this adventure called faith is that we can count on him never to lead us astray.

Charles Swindoll

#### 4. Represent the one and true living GOD

the old question..is there enough evidence...do you have God honoring consistency in your words actions and character?...do you have God honoring consistency in how you invest your time, your talents, and your finances?...if you confess to be a Christian you need to realize people are watching!!

*Daniel 6:4 NLT*

*Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. **He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy.***

Daniels enemy's could trap him because of his spiritual consistencies, and the same reason that they could trap him was the same reason their plan failed....

**Inconsistency on the part of pastors and the faithful between what they say and what they do, between word and manner of life, is undermining the Church's credibility.**

Pope Francis

and I would add Christs credibility...God help us to never misrepresent you!!

even the pagan King Darius saw Daniels consistency,,I think he believed Daniel would be delivered.....

Daniel 6:16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!”

Daniel 6:23 The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God.

Daniel 6:25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel,

for he is the living God,  
enduring forever;  
his kingdom shall never be destroyed,  
and his dominion shall be to the end.

27

He delivers and rescues;  
he works signs and wonders  
in heaven and on earth,  
he who has saved Daniel  
from the power of the lions.”

28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Spiritual consistency and success is not defined by the day we step into eternity but instead by honoring God today with todays consistencies....then you get up tomorrow and do it again....and again next week and next year until He calls you home and you hear the words well done good and consistent (faithful) servant. Consistency in our spiritual life is only possible by Gods spirit in us, empowering and leading us in this pursuit.

We can and do make a difference in this world, often when we are least aware of it. We *are* light and salt. Though perhaps we think that nothing we do can make a difference in world affairs, who knows how our Christian actions, our being salt and light, our friendship evangelism, can and will ripple out from us into the world, as God uses us as his ambassadors.

Daniel wasn't about being famous or having power and position it wasn't about his glory, but it was all about demonstrating who God was to those around him. and in the same way by Gods strength working through us we can be consistent in our faith walk and bring HIM glory

Face the Challenges, Commit to your "WHY", Embrace the path, and Represent the one true and living GOD....Be consistent in your RESOLVE

Closing Prayer

Prayer team

next week I am devoted.....

