



## Consistency & Continuing

Many of us when we got born again or came to Charis Bible College, we were on fire for the things of God until the end of 1<sup>st</sup> year and some until the end of the first semester, but shortly after that, we realize that we have lost our zeal, passion, and fire 🔥. What happened? **Many start but few continue and therefore few finish.** The harvest is not in the starting, but in the finishing, but you can't finish if you do not continue.

*2 Timothy 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;*

One of the lacking traits in the body of Christ is consistency, constancy, or continuity. Most people can do something once or twice, but they won't do it continually. We need to be men and women of continuity and consistency.

One of the things that are lacking in the body of Christ is continuing in the things we have learned of the Lord. The difference between those who succeed and those that fail lies in continuing in the things that have been taught.

- The maturity of a person can be seen in their consistency.
- It is the people who are consistent that are dependable, and many times go places others never go.
- If you want to gain muscle, **you do not do that by shrinking back.** You need consistency and continuity to get to a place of having muscle. Even so, to keep those muscles, we will have to continue in the art of exercise.

A. One of the most powerful truths I have come to learn is that we train or practice the way we

play, and we play the way we train or practice. We have to take our training as seriously as the game itself. If we don't train well, we won't play well. If we want to experience continual victory, we need to be consistent. We should not wait for the day of temptation to put on our exercise (practice) or our "A-game." *This is stressing the need for consistency and continuity regularly.*

- a) If we live like this, we will be consistent men and women of God. Our daily walk with God and the continuity we walk in every day will be the same that will either cause us to win or lose in the time of difficulty and pressure.

## **B. God—the best example of consistency and continuity. God is consistent.**

God is a constant and consistent God. The Lord Jesus is our very example of consistency. He does not flip and flop. He is and was consistent in every aspect of His life

- a) Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.
- b) Malachi 3:6 For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

### **i) Love**

His love for us is consistent on our best day and our worst.

### **ii) Never leave us nor forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5).**

- He has **promised never to leave us nor forsake us**. This is consistency.
- This consistent God lives inside of us and therefore, we can be consistent as well.

### **iii) Jesus and the Cross**

- If the Lord was not consistent, **He wouldn't have gone to the cross**.
- His actions of kindness, life, and grace were not sporadic. They were constant and consistent.

- This is the same occasion we ought to rise to.

c) **Seed in the ground.**

- When we plant a seed, we need to let it continue in the ground for it to bring forth fruit. If we keep digging it out to check on its progress, it can never grow.

**Areas to continue in:**

You can't continue in what you do not have. Continuity is intentional. It won't happen naturally by itself.

2 Peter 1:13 *Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;*

One of the goals to continue is so that we do not depart from what we have been taught. Whatever you do not continue in, you won't thrive in.

Everything you believe will be tested and tried, not by God, but life will.

**1. The Word**

- John 8:31-32; *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

- We need to continue in the Word, yet not just the Word but the Word of the Lord. If we do, we will become disciples, and the truth that we know will set us free. It is the truth that we know that makes us free. Even so, the revelation of the truth that we know.
- A lack of stability in our lives comes down to a lack of continuity and consistency.

b) James 1:25 *But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

- i) If we do not continue, we will become forgetful hearers and won't be doers of the Work.
- ii) There is a blessing attached to continuity in the Word. This is not saying our work shall be blessed which is a true statement, but rather this is saying that we shall be blessed **IN** our deed. There is a blessing **on or of** our work (Deuteronomy 28:12) and one that is released while **IN** our work—as we do it.

The greatest threat to tomorrow's success is today's success. We need to keep learning and **keep on keeping on**.

## 2. Seeking the Lord

We need consistency in the area of seeking the Lord. See my teaching on "*Seeking the Lord*."

1 Chronicles 16:11 "*Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.*"

- a) We can seek the Lord sporadically or when our back is against the wall. We need to develop a consistency of seeking the Lord at all times.
- b) One of the greatest temptations of a Christian is distractions.

## 3. Walking in Love, Brotherly love

We live in a time where love has been defined contrary to the Word. You will face a challenge and pressure of you fitting into all these so-called love movements.

There is a ditch of love which is Universalism.

- a) John 15:9 *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*
- b) Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.

#### 4. Giving

2 Corinthians 8:7 *“Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.”*

- a) The grace spoken of here is the grace of giving. **We can't bound in something we don't continue in.** If we are to abound in giving, we ought to be faithful.
- b) We can just be sporadic givers. If we give sparingly, we shall also reap sparingly.
- c) 2 Corinthians 9:8 *“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*
  - i) Godliness and every good work.

#### 5. Prayer

- a) Acts 1:14 *These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.*
- b) Luke 6:12 *And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*
- c) 1 Thessalonians 5:17 *Pray without ceasing.*
- d) *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

—Daniel 6:10

- i) Daniel continued in prayer, thanksgiving, and communion with God even at a time of hardship. We have no excuse not to continue.

- ii) Although this was still daytime, it was midnight for Daniel. His life was on the line, yet he gave thanks. This is a powerful lesson we need to learn. When our back is against the wall, it is not time to complain, but rather to give thanks. We have to be intentional. Giving thanks played a major role as one of the keys to his victory.
- iii) “Aforetime” indicates that he continued in this not just on this day of trouble but in a daily basis. He was a man of prayer and thanksgiving.
- iv) What you do when the pressure is off is exactly what you will do when the pressure is on. If you don’t pray, if you don’t give thanks “aforetime,” you will respond similarly when the heat is turned up.

One of the most powerful truths I have come to learn is that we train or practice the way we play, and we play the way we train or practice. We have to take our training as seriously as the game itself. If we don’t train well, we won’t play well. If we want to experience victory in times of hardships, we need to continue training well and just as hard when the pressure is off. We should not wait for the day of temptation to put on our exercise (practice) or our “A-game.” This is stressing the need for consistency and continuity regularly.

## 6. Fellowship

It is possible to have a relationship with God, but not have fellowship with Him. Relationship is by virtue of blood and inheritance while fellowship is by choice. It’s like a child born in the family and a child adopted into the family. Adoption is by choice, but a child biologically born into a family does not choose it.

Although we have a relationship with God, it is not synonymous to fellowship. We need to fellowship with the Lord constantly.

a) *Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

- i) Many are despising the gathering of brethren way before coronavirus. We need a habit to continue in fellowship and the assembling of brethren.

- ii) It's one thing to gather together, but it is another thing to continue doing so.
- b) Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
  - i) Assembling of each other. This is talking about the body. You can't assemble alone.

## 7. Grace of God

Grace is God's unmerited, unearned, undeserved, unconditional love, favor, healing, forgiveness, power, provision, faithfulness, strength, gifts, mercy, and help toward us.

Our relationship with God is based on the righteousness of Jesus, not our own righteousness. We need to continue in this revelation of the grace of God.

- a) Acts 13:43 *Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, **persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.***
  - i) It is possible to start in the grace of God, but not continue in it. Grace is God's unmerited favor. A good example of this is Galatians. Our **default** in our soul and body is not the grace of God, but rather performance. If we do not continue in the grace of God, we will end up in self-righteousness and performance.
  - ii) If you aren't in grace, you are in performance. If you aren't in light, you are in darkness. Everything we receive from the Lord is by His grace through faith. We can't earn it through our good deeds, performance or self-effort.

- Grace is strength (2 Cor. 12:9).
- Grace is provision (2 Cor. 9:8).
- Grace is power (Acts 4:33).
- Grace builds us up and gives us our inheritance (Acts 20:32).
- Grace gives us gifts (Rom. 12:6).

- Grace gives us consolation and hope (2 Thess. 2:16).
- Grace is faith and love (1 Tim. 1:14).
- Grace is mercy and help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).
- Grace is multiplied unto us through the knowledge of God (2 Pet. 1:2).
- Grace labors abundantly (1 Cor. 15:10).
- Grace lives holy (Titus 2:11-12).
- Grace brings boldness (Romans 15:15).
- Grace causes us to think soberly (Romans 12:3).
- Grace is not works or performance (Romans 11:6). It is either by grace or by works but not both.

## 8. Fear of the Lord

a) Proverbs 23:17 *Let not thine heart envy sinners: but [be thou] in the fear of the LORD all the day long.*

- i) We need to be in the fear of the Lord all day long (all the time), not just a part of the day or just at certain times. This is speaking of continuity in fearing the Lord.

## 9. The faith

We saw earlier that we need to continue in the grace of God. This verse reveals that we need to continue not just in the grace of God but also in the faith. We need to continue in the balance of grace and faith—not just grace and not just faith, but the balance of both.

a) Acts 14:22 *Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to CONTINUE IN THE FAITH, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*

- i) There are many faiths, but there is one “the faith.”
- ii) “The faith” is referring to the relationship with Jesus through faith. We need to continue in this.



b) Colossians 1:23 *If ye CONTINUE IN THE FAITH grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;*

i) When we continue, we get grounded and settled. We become unmovable.

ii) The faith—Salvation through the preaching of the gospel.

## 10. Teaching and preaching Word of the Lord.

a) Acts 15:35 *Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.*

i) Paul continued in teaching and preaching the Word of the Lord. You do not have to be in the fivefold calling of a teacher to teach.

## 11. Fasting.

Food and things of this world.

a) Acts 27:33 *And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.*

b) Romans 2:7 *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:*

## 12. Goodness of God

a) Romans 11:22 *Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*

i) God is a good God, the devil is bad and evil.

ii) Continue to be grounded and rooted in the goodness of God.

- iii) Every day we will encounter a challenge not to continue in the goodness of God. Things will come at you to say, "God is not good."

### 13. Well doing

- a) Galatians 6:9-10 *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

i) Sowing

- b) 2 Thessalonians 3:12-13 *Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.*

i) Work

### 14. Unity

- a) Acts 1:14 "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."
- b) For unity to prevail we need to continue in it.

### 15. Prayer and thanksgiving.

- a) Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

i) Not just prayer, but in *thanksgiving*.

- b) *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

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## 16. Continue in rejoicing and joy

a) 1 Thessalonians 5:16 *Rejoice evermore.*

- i) Rejoicing and Joy should not only happen when things are going well. We can rejoice and be joyful even when the entire world around us is falling apart. Amid all difficulty and hardship, the goodness of God is still present and unchangeable.

## 17. Faith, Charity, Holiness, and sobriety.

a) 1 Timothy 2:15 *Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety*

- i) Sobriety means Soundness of mind or self-control.

Hebrews 12:1-3 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the*

*author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

- i) We are all in our own race. You are the only one running and if you finish, you have won. And because you are the only one in the race, you are in the leading position.
- ii) Continue running. No prize is given midway.

## 18. Son & the Father

- a) 1 John 2:24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.
  - i) Continue in the Son and in the Father.

Finally,

Matthew 10:22 "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

Revelations 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.