

Consistency in our Christianity

“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:46-47).

“Day by day...” That’s the emphasis I want you to see in the passage above. The early church was all about serving Jesus daily. They had an everyday religion, or better yet, an everyday, 24-7 relationship with the Lord. We could say they sought to be consistent in the living out of their Christian faith. These brothers and sisters of old certainly give us a good pattern to follow, for as God’s people, we should seek to be consistent in our Christianity.

The reasons that we should desire a more consistent walk with the Lord are numerous... For one, God Himself is the most consistent being in the universe. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17). Therefore, if we want to best reflect God’s image as His image-bearers into this world, a consistent walk is imperative. Secondly, an inconsistent walk with the Lord fools your own soul and the souls around you. No one likes a hypocrite... And we need to make sure that we aren’t looking at one in the mirror every day. Our Sunday religion needs to invade every detail, decision, and dark corner of our everyday life. Therefore, a consistent walk with the Lord should be a continual goal for every Christian.

If the race of faith was illustrated by the tortoise and the hare, I think that would be a fair point... Many start off on this race of faith with much excitement and bunny-like energy, only to become complacent, lazy, and unproductive somewhere along the way. The steady day by day step of faith is the one that endures and eventually wins the race of faith like the tortoise. For faithful, day-by-day consistency always trumps spurts of spiritual intensity... Isn’t this somewhat like what Jesus speaks of in His parable of the soils? Yes, you can receive the Word with initial joy, but what do you do when challenges arise? Or what about when the continual cares of this world begin to overwhelm you to the point of choking you out like a weed in a garden? In faith, do you allow the Word to take root downward, which eventually brings fruit upward? Or do you so prove to be unfruitful like the seed that was sown on the rocky soil?

Dear Christian, take a deep, long look into your heart and see where you are lacking in consistency. Make sure your faith isn’t up and down like a roller coaster. Make sure you aren’t one person one day and a different person when the crowd and scene change. Peter was this way for a time, and Paul was bold enough to call him out on it (Galatians 2:14). Our daily character is truly Christian when we walk consistently like Christ, no matter if it’s raining, shining, or somewhere in between. And so, like a spiritual tortoise, take those day-by-day steps of faith and watch God use your consistency in Him for His glory!

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis