

Reading: I Corinthians 15:57,58

Topic: Spiritual Growth Through
Becoming Consistent

INTRODUCTION: One of the components in becoming successful in any endeavor is to _____
consistent in doing the _____ things that bring good results. (natural & spiritual)

I. CONSISTENCY IN NATURAL LIFE:

A. Health:

1. There are certain things that we can do on a consistent basis that will _____ us to maintain a good healthy body:
 - a. Eat good wholesome _____ on a regular basis.
 - b. Get some kind of _____ on a regular basis.
 - c. Get the proper amount of _____ consistently.
2. Doctors say that if we will take care of our natural _____ on a regular basis that there will be a good chance that we will remain _____ and healthy for the long term.
3. In addition, there are many people who desire to _____ weight and it can be done but it takes strong will power to change and to maintain a healthy eating regimen on a _____ basis.
4. If one becomes ill with some disease or _____, doctors will prescribe medication which will help the patient recover, but only if taken in the prescribed _____ manner.

B. Lessons From Nature:

1. The earth and the creation that God has set in _____ operates on a system of _____ patterns that mankind can depend upon:
 - a. The day & _____ cycle. Gen. 1:14-16
 - b. The changing _____ of the year. Gen. 8:22
 - c. The forces of what we call _____ i.e. sun, rain, wind, storms, etc.
2. In Yellowstone National Park in the state of Wyoming, USA, there is a geyser that is _____, "Old Faithful," because it erupts consistently every 44 _____ to two hours and draws many tourists.
(photo)

C. Maintenance Consistency:

1. Almost all of the mechanical machines and devices that one purchases requires some _____ of consistent maintenance in order to _____ future problems:
 - a. Automobiles – require _____ changes, periodical maintenance checkups, etc.
 - b. Appliances – dryers require regular _____ of the lint filter, washers require regular cleaning of the detergent dispenser, dishwashers require cleaning of the interior _____, etc.
2. Many of the problems that arise with mechanical devices are due to the _____ of consistent maintenance, and not just regular _____ from usage.

II. CONSISTENCY IN SPIRITUAL LIFE:

A. The New Birth:

1. Many of the people who hear the Gospel and believe it and _____ it by repenting of their sins, being baptized in Jesus' Name and receiving the _____ of the Holy Ghost have no spiritual background.
2. The New Birth experience is their first encounter with any _____ activity, thus they will not have spiritual _____ established in their lives.

B. Forming Spiritual Habits:

1. It is vital to the survival of any new believer to grasp the importance of establishing a _____ of a daily spiritual routine to _____ and grow their newfound faith. I Th. 3:13
2. The basic spiritual vitamins of daily _____, reading the _____ of God and going to the House of God weekly are absolutely essential to the survival of spiritual life.
3. The success or failure of a spiritual _____ will depend upon the establishing of consistent spiritual habits that will bring _____ and stability. 2 Th. 2:16,17

III. CONSISTENCY – OR NO?

A. The Determining Factor:

1. Jesus told an illustration concerning a certain _____ tree that was not producing any fruit, and the owner of the vineyard ordered it to be _____ down and removed because of no production. Lk. 13:6-9
2. This tree was in the same soil, with the same conditions as the other _____ in the vineyard and it was using up the nutrients but not producing any _____.
3. The caretaker of the _____ asked for one more year to try to get the tree to produce the _____ that it was supposed to – cultivating, fertilizing and nourishing it.

B. Stable or Unstable:

1. The cause of most backsliding and spiritual _____ is the inconsistency of the individual to cultivate daily spiritual routines of the _____ spiritual vitamins necessary to sustain spiritual life. Ps. 78:8,37
2. Just as the physical body will fall sick because of improper _____ so also the spiritual life will become weak and vulnerable to _____ when not taken care of. Mt. 13:22
3. Unfortunately some people do not put a priority on their spiritual _____ and as a result they do not have any pattern of consistent spiritual _____ for it and it slowly dies. 2 Tim. 4:10

C. Discipline Required:

1. The person who chooses to be physically _____ must choose the discipline of exercise, along with the proper eating regimen and good hours of _____ each night.
2. Likewise, the person who desires to be strong spiritually must discipline themselves to give _____ to the daily _____ vitamins. James 5:8
3. One of the definitions of the word “discipline” is “to _____ oneself to do something in a controlled and habitual way,” thus realizing that the responsibility for my spiritual life falls upon _____. I Pt. 5:10

CONCLUSION: Just as salvation is a _____, so also is our _____ of spirituality – we choose whether our spiritual life will be _____ or weak, or whether it will _____ or die. If we choose to be disciplined in the daily walk with God, our spiritual lives will flourish and _____ to be successful. Heb. 3:14