

12. Stay Constant

"Thus saith the Lord, "Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." But they said, "We will not walk therein." Also I set watchmen over you saying, "Hearken to the sound of the trumpet." But they said, "We will not hearken." Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth; behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto My words, nor to My law, but rejected it" (Jeremiah 6:16-19).

Some people just want to be different--they don't want to be pushed into any particular mold. So they vacillate from one place to the next. For example, many people are excited about The Navigators when they first become involved. It's new; it's exciting; it's fresh. But then they become critical of the clichés and the traditions of the group. God's Word, on the other hand, is applicable for all time, because it is timeless.

And what happens when a person wants change for the sake of change is that he exchanges one mold for another. The beatniks of the fifties and the hippies of the sixties are examples of this. Desiring to be nonconformists, they created a new kind of conformity. And while God has created everyone individually and uniquely, He has also set standards and given the Christian instructions on how to be able to move forward for Christ.

- *Walt Henrichsen (from Many Aspire Few Attain)*

Stay Constant Daily Quiet Times

Date	Week 12
6-Aug	2 Timothy 2:15-16
7-Aug	Colossians 3:17
8-Aug	1 Corinthians 15:58
9-Aug	1 Chronicles 16:11
10-Aug	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
11-Aug	Joshua 1:8
12-Aug	1 John 3:7-8

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PART 1

Passage(s) to Study

Staying constant or steadfastness is perseverance under trials, but it is also faithfulness to God in the midst of them. We are to continue to press on in faith, to hope, to believe, to rest in God's faithfulness and His promises in His Word. Steadfastness is a "when the going gets tough, the tough get going" mentality. It's a one-step-at-a-time climb up a steep and high mountain with the goal of the summit in mind, in our case, walking with God for a lifetime.

Read: Joshua 24 and write down 5-10 observations that you make about Joshua's steadfastness and also the steadfastness of the Israelites. In light of verse 15, how is the challenge to commitment to Yahweh and steadfastness put before the people? How do they respond?

PART 2

Questions to Ponder

[Q] Have you ever considered where our steadfastness comes from? According to the following verses who are we to rely upon? What are the thoughts that stick out to you from these verses?

Read: Psalms 16:8; Psalms 55:22; Psalms 62:2; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 1:24

[Q] Many times afflictions and persecution lead men to turn to the right or the left in their walk with God. What does Romans 8:35-39 reveal about our source of strength during such trials?

[Q] What does James 1:2-4 tell us about what produces steadfastness (*in ESV*) and why it is necessary? Summarize in your own words.

[Q] Do you think it is important for us to remain constant or steadfast in our walk with God? Why or why not?

For further study: Read the book of Daniel and take note of the steadfastness in the face of persecution that is displayed by Daniel and in a separate instance by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. What fueled their commitment? What were the results? What lessons can you glean from their examples?

PART 3

Making it Stick

Write out 1-2 of the main things that God impressed upon you this week from your time reading the daily devotions on staying constant.

Write out in your own words a prayer to God asking him for a heart that stays constant and steadfast. A sample has been provided below:

Prayer: *O God, forgive us for wavering in our walk with You. Please draw me to yourself and create in me a deep desire to remain in you and steadfast in my walk for a lifetime. . In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Recommended resources:

"Ashamed of the Gospel" by John MacArthur