



Message Date: 27/09/2026 Lighthouse Meeting Date: 29/09/2026	Message Title: The Law of Consistency Minister: Pastor Chuka Nwafor
Key Texts: Hebrews 12:2, Jeremiah 17:9, Galatians 5:7, Hebrews 3:19, Philippians 3:14, Matthew 13:44, Ruth 1:14, 16, Philippians 3:8, Mark 10:21-22, Mark 10:29-30, Luke 6:38	Sub Text:

Please read the entire document and bible texts before you begin to discuss and answer the related questions. This will help you grasp the overall context of the message, however, remember the bible is not a discussion book but a decision book. God honours and empowers your decisions not your discussions.

Theme Scripture Focus:

Mark 8:34-37 AMP

Jesus called the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]. [35] For whoever wishes to save his life [in this world] will [eventually] lose it [through death], but whoever loses his life [in this world] for My sake and the gospel's will save it [from the consequences of sin and separation from God]. [36] For what does it benefit a man to gain the whole world [with all its pleasures], and forfeit his soul? [37] For what will a man give in exchange for his soul and eternal life [in God's kingdom]?"

"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." Hebrews 12:2

INTRODUCTION:

Nothing great happens overnight. Every testimony you admire, a lasting marriage, a growing ministry, a life that finished strong, was built on the principle of dedication and consistency and perseverance - one day at a time.

Yet Scripture reveals an uncomfortable truth: the human heart is deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9), and without a compelling reason to persevere, motivation fades. This is why some believers, though they once "ran well," quietly lose their way (Galatians 5:7). They lose sight of what is worth enduring for. Here is a saying worth remembering tonight: if where you are going to is not greater than what you are going through, you will eventually give up. Those Israelites who began their journey but failed to enter was purely because of unbelief and loss of vision of the promise which leads to a failure of faith. (Hebrews 3:19). What you see will determine how you walk. It is as the bible teaches in proverbs Proverbs 29:18 AMP

Where there is no vision [no revelation of God and His word], the people are unrestrained; But happy and blessed is he who keeps the law [of God]. According to Hebrews 11:8-10,13-16 AMP' By faith Abraham, when he was called [by God], obeyed by going to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went, not knowing where he was going. [9] By faith he lived as a foreigner in the promised land, as in a strange land, living in tents [as nomads] with Isaac and Jacob, who were fellow heirs of the same promise. [10] For he was [waiting expectantly and confidently] looking forward to the city which has foundations, [an eternal, heavenly city] whose architect and builder is God. [13] All these died in faith [guided and sustained by it], without receiving the [tangible fulfillment of God's] promises, only having seen (anticipated) them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. [14] Now those who say such things make it clear that they are looking for a country of their own. [15] And if they had been thinking of that country from which they departed [as their true home], they would have had [a continuing] opportunity to return. [16] But the truth is that they were longing for a better country, that is, a heavenly one. For that reason God is not ashamed [of them or] to be called their God [even to be surnamed their God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob]; for He has prepared a city for them.

Ruth chose a different path from Oparh because she had seen and connected with the God of Naomi even when there was nothing physically or materially worth pursuing in Naomi. Ruth 1:16-18 AMP But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people will be my people, and your God, my God. [17] Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD do the same to me [as He has done to you], and more also, if anything but death separates me from you.” [18] When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more. Ruth's loyalty was way beyond her relationship with Naomi on a natural plane, hence her unwavering loyalty even in the face of personal loss.

Most people leave you when they feel their personal interest and agenda will be sacrificed or compromised. Oparh and Ruth are a representation of two types of people in your life or in all of us. All relationships are either Fleshly or Spirit bound relationship which only the fire of trials and adversity will reveal. This is clearly revealed in several stories in the bible such as with David, Paul, and even our Lord Jesus Christ. Some people are simply blood sucking leeches who are with you until they can no longer benefit from you.

The only thing that kept the saints of old going was the eternal prize of to be won in Christ. Paul said Philippians 3:12-16 AMP Not that I have already obtained it [this goal of being Christlike] or have already been made perfect, but I actively press on so that I may take hold of that [perfection] for which Christ Jesus took hold of me and made me His own. [13] Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, [14] I press on toward the goal to win the [heavenly] prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. [15] All of us who are mature [pursuing spiritual perfection] should have this attitude. And if in any respect you have a different attitude, that too God will make clear to you. [16] Only let us stay true to what we have already attained. And Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him (Hebrews 12:2).

Historical/Biblical Context

Ruth is set during the turbulent era of the judges, when famine drove Naomi's family from Bethlehem to Moab, a nation historically hostile to Israel. After roughly ten years in a Hebrew household, both Moabite daughters-in-law had been exposed to the worship of Yahweh. Yet at the border, their choices diverged: Orpah returned to her people and gods, while Ruth clung to Naomi, revealing the difference between religious familiarity and personal conviction.

In Philippians 3, writing from prison, Paul renounced not merely his past failures but his impressive religious credentials, showing that faithfulness to Christ may require surrendering even our proudest achievements. Mark 10 reinforces this truth: what we surrender to God: identity, possessions, or achievements, is never truly lost.

KEY POINT ONE: A Reward Worth the Race

Consistency is sustained by vision, not willpower. It is vision (revelation) that produces genuine faith

Nothing sustains consistency like a clear picture of what lies ahead. Like a mother who endures the pain of pregnancy for the joy of her child to be, Paul pressed towards the prize (Philippians 3:14). Consistency is more than gritted teeth; it is a heart fixed on a reward greater than the present cost. John 16:21 AMP

A woman, when she is in labor, has pain because her time [to give birth] has come; but when she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of her joy that a child has come into the world.

Scripture Focus: "For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross, despising the shame." Hebrews 12:2

Digging Deep/Life Application: Is my vision strong enough to carry me through what I am facing, or has my "why" become too small?

KEY POINT TWO: The Treasure That Loosens Your Grip

When you see something of true worth, everything else naturally becomes secondary.

Matthew 13:44-46 AMP

"The kingdom of heaven is like a [very precious] treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again; then in his joy he goes and sells all he has and buys that field [securing the treasure for himself]. [45] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, [46] and upon finding a single pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

A man who has genuinely seen something valuable will sell everything he owns without hesitation, because in his eyes those possessions have already become worthless compared to what he has found, the tragedy is that many who call themselves Christians have never had that kind of encounter, which is why earthly things still feel more real and valuable to them than heaven. What a person clings to, and how easily they let other things go, reveals exactly what they have or have not truly seen of God.

Scripture Focus: "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." Matthew 13:44

Digging Deep/Life Application: What am I still gripping tightly that reveals I have not yet truly seen the treasure of knowing Christ, and what would it look like to loosen that grip today?

KEY POINT THREE: Nothing Is Guaranteed Apart From God's Grace and Mercy

Both Orpah and Ruth were raised in the same household, heard the same worship, and said the same "Amen," yet only Ruth clung to Naomi while Orpah kissed her goodbye and returned to her people and her gods, proving that shared religious exposure is not the same as a personal, unshakable encounter with the living God. Ruth had nothing tangible to gain, no promise of prosperity, no husband, no land, yet she stayed, because what she had seen of God through Naomi's life was worth more than what she could see behind or even ahead in the natural sense.

Scripture Focus: *"But Ruth clung to her... Ruth said: 'Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you.'" Ruth 1:14, 16*

Digging Deep/Life Application: If following God stopped being convenient or offered me nothing visible in return, would I still cling, or would I quietly turn back like Orpah?

KEY POINT FOUR: Count It All Loss

The Press (continued pursuit of Christ) requires holding every achievement and possession loosely compared to the joy and excellency knowing Christ.

Paul had every credential the flesh could boast of pedigree, position, religious performance, yet declared it all as loss and rubbish compared to knowing Christ, because at the foot of the cross every title, degree, and accolade is leveled to zero. The rich young ruler walked away sorrowful because he held onto his possessions instead of exchanging them for the very eternal life he claimed to be seeking (Mark 10:21-22) a costly reminder that what we refuse to let go of will often be the thing that stops our consistency in its tracks.

Scripture Focus: *"I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord... and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ." Philippians 3:8*

Digging Deep/Life Application: If Christ asked me today to lay down the one achievement, title, or possession I am most proud of, would I walk away sorrowful like the rich young ruler, or would I let it go?

KEY POINT FIVE: You Can Never Lose With God

Nothing given up in faithful pursuit of God is ever truly lost.

Most professing Christians have an underlying fear of total and unreserved commitment to Christ because of the underlying fear of losing out in the rat race of things of the world. This was the sad condition of the rich young ruler who clung to his earthly riches and lost out in his eternal wealth and home in the kingdom of God.

When Peter reminded Jesus that the disciples had given up everything to follow Him, Jesus assured him that nothing sacrificed for the gospel's sake goes unrewarded. Ruth herself, a foreign widow with nothing, ended up favored, provided for, and written into the very lineage of the Messiah.

Mark 10:28-30 AMP Peter started saying to Him, "Look, we have given up everything and followed You [becoming Your disciples and accepting You as Teacher and Lord]." [29] Jesus

said, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, there is no one who has given up a house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, [30] who will not receive a hundred times as much now in the present age—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms—along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

John 12:24-26 AMP I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone [just one grain, never more]. But if it dies, it produces much grain and yields a harvest. [25] The one who loves his life [eventually] loses it [through death], but the one who hates his life in this world [and is concerned with pleasing God] will keep it for life eternal. [26] If anyone serves Me, he must [continue to faithfully] follow Me [without hesitation, holding steadfastly to Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]; and wherever I am [in heaven's glory], there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

Scripture Focus: "There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time... and in the age to come, eternal life." Mark 10:29-30

Digging Deep/Life Application: Is there a sacrifice I made for God that I've quietly begun to resent or regret, and can I trust today that it was never actually a loss?

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Perseverance and consistency is not about gritting your teeth until Sunday comes around again, it is about fixing your eyes on a treasure so real that everything else naturally loosens its grip on you. Ruth had no promise of reward when she clung to Naomi, yet she became the great-grandmother of King David because she had seen the God behind the grief. Paul had every earthly credential yet counted it all as rubbish because he had seen the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. The question tonight is not whether life will give you reasons to quit, it will. The question is whether what lies ahead of you is greater than what you are currently walking through. If Christ truly is your everything, let your consistency prove it. You cannot lose with God.

Satan has no real interest in your death. What he is really after is to steal, kill and destroy your devotion and value to God, making you useless and irrelevant to the purposes and kingdom of God. The dead and the useless are the same, they are worthless and irrelevant to the purposes of God. Satan will use any and all means necessary including legitimate and valid reasons and excuses as long as the end result remains the same. Don't be an Oparh, be a Ruth and remain relevant to the Kingdom.

PROMISES OF GOD FROM THE MESSAGE

1. THOSE WHO ENDURE FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE THEM WILL NOT LABOR IN VAIN. "FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM, HE ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND HAS SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD." HEBREWS 12:2

2. WHOEVER LOSES THEIR LIFE FOR CHRIST'S SAKE WILL TRULY FIND IT. "WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND IT." MATTHEW 16:25

3. A GRAIN THAT FALLS AND DIES DOES NOT REMAIN ALONE, IT PRODUCES A RICH HARVEST. "UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS INTO THE GROUND AND DIES, IT REMAINS ALONE; BUT IF IT DIES, IT PRODUCES MUCH GRAIN." JOHN 12:24

4. NOTHING GIVEN UP FOR THE GOSPEL'S SAKE GOES UNREWARDED, NOW OR IN ETERNITY. "THERE IS NO ONE WHO HAS LEFT HOUSE OR BROTHERS... WHO SHALL NOT RECEIVE A HUNDREDFOLD NOW... AND IN THE AGE TO COME, ETERNAL LIFE." MARK 10:29-30

5. WHATEVER YOU GIVE TO GOD WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU IN OVERFLOWING MEASURE. "GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU: GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER, AND RUNNING OVER." LUKE 6:38

6. GOD REWARDS THOSE WHO WHOLEHEARTEDLY COMMIT THEMSELVES TO HIM. "THE EYES OF THE LORD RUN TO AND FRO THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH, TO SHOW HIMSELF STRONG ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHOSE HEART IS LOYAL TO HIM." 2 CHRONICLES 16:9

7. WITH GOD, WHAT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH BECOMES POSSIBLE. "WITH MEN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT NOT WITH GOD; FOR WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE." MARK 10:27

PRAYERS: PRAYER POINTS OF GOD FROM THE MESSAGE

1. Lord, renew the picture of Christ and the glory of what lies ahead of me so that it becomes greater than what I am passing through today.
2. Father, give me a genuine encounter with You that makes every earthly thing I'm clinging to feel light by comparison.
3. God, let my devotion to You be personal and unshakable, not borrowed from someone else's experience.
4. Lord, help me release whatever achievement, title, or possession competes with knowing You fully.
5. Father, remind me daily that everything I lay down for Your sake is seed, not loss, and that I cannot lose with You.

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over." Luke 6:38

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