

Why do many men say they are called/begin to do right – but fail to follow through? A problem of instability. Our script: What is needed is to be steadfast.

I. THE CURSE OF INSTABILITY

A. Instability is the mark of our generation: People fail to continue doing anything right/good

1. They start well – with emotion/enthusiasm; But they fail to continue over time

a. *Luke 8:13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.* Jobs/hobbies/resolutions – fitness/finances

2. But very true in the things of God: Many men to begin to seek God's will/do God's will – but fade/stop

a. *2 Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers... Won't keep their word/won't do what they say/agreed to*

1. Up/down - back/forth - Hot/cold - here/gone - enthusiastic/indifferent

B. This causes many problems *James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

1. **Personal frustration:** Men know they have this tendency – hate it, but it depresses them

a. *Then any time God deals with them, they think: Why try? It won't last*

2. **Lack of productivity and success:** Inconsistent people fail to accomplish anything real

a. Will not continue the effort required over time to accomplish their desires/intentions

1. *Proverbs 28:19 He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.*

3. **Negative impact on other people:** Inconsistent people frustrate those around them – and do damage

a. *They let people down b. They set bad examples for family/converts c. Cause their wives to not believe*

1. *Proverbs 27:8 As a bird that wanders from her nest, so is a man that wanders from his place.*

a. Make the family vulnerable spiritually b. Can cause our words/intentions to be despised

4. **Fail to to achieve God's will for their lives:** *Matthew 22:14 for many are called, but few are chosen*

a. Not that they aren't called, or are evil: *They just won't keep making right decisions/actions over time!*

II. CAUSES OF INSTABILITY

A. **It's possible instability can be a spiritual curse:** *A steadfast spirit – suggests there can be an unstable spirit?*

1. A healthy home life provides stability: Unhealthy home/lack of home has spiritual effects

a. *Some learn instability by example b. Some had rejection produce damage – that caused instability*

B. **Fantasy produces instability:**

1. **Unrealistic view of life:** I am excited/decide to do right – it will automatically happen *I'm there!*

a. *Fail to take into account the realities of life: Emotion/tiredness/resistance/assault*

2. **We view setbacks incorrectly:** *All or nothing...if I miss a day, I am a failure – no point in trying any more; Quit!* a. You have to allow for the unexpected – and not let it become your whole identity

3. **We set unrealistic goals:** We set goals that are far too large – based on where we are at now

a. *Haven't been reading my Bible at all: I will ready 20 chapters a day! (in 3 bad days we're 60 chapters down!)*

b. *I will pray for 3 hours a day!*

C. **Emotional immaturity produces instability:** Many live by their emotions

1. They base their decisions/actions on their feelings – rather than what is right/good

a. *V58 immovable...some let emotions move them/determine their choices/actions*

2. You will not feel good all the time – so what then? *Do you back off/quit?*

a. *Numbers 14:1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. So let's quit/go back!*

III. CURING INSTABILITY

A. We need to take our instability/inconsistency to God

1. **It requires honesty:** *This is who I am/what I am like – unstable!*

2. **We need to ask for God's help in this area:** *Psa 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

a. *We may need to repent: I don't want to be this way!* b. *A right spirit: Steadfast – constant/unchanging/fixed*

3. **God wants to give us stability:** *Eph 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that you being rooted and grounded in love*

B. But there are some things we need to do to cooperate with God: Enable Him to give steadfastness

1. **Make up your mind – with wisdom:** *Psalm 57:7 My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed:*

a. *Take into account what will be required b. Take into account that feelings/circumstances will change*

2. **Set realistic goals:** It is always better to start small – and build up from there

a. *Read some every day: A chapter or 2 b. Pray some every day: 10-15 minutes*

3. **Take control over your emotions:** You can! Do things you don't feel like – to train your emotions

a. *1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. God will help – if we become steadfast!*