



Introduction : Again is A Gain

We are all hoping for a better 2019. But "better" requires something from us. Commitment will get you to the starting line. Consistency will get you to the finish line. Persistency will keep you moving forward. As you commit to consistency this year, you will run into obstacles. How can you persist through those obstacles to achieve the goals God has given you?

Discussion Questions

1. Talk about a time or situation in your life when persistence paid off. How long did it take to get where you were trying to go or achieve what you were trying to achieve?
2. What dream or goal are you currently pursuing? How long have you been pursuing that goal?
3. Read Luke 18:1-3
 - In this parable Jesus tells the story of a widow who faced some major obstacles in her pursuit of justice. What obstacles or villains are you facing in your life right now in pursuit of your goal? How are those obstacles holding you back?
 - **Consistency** is what you do. **Persistency** is why you do it. What is so important about identifying the "why" in your pursuit of something better?
 - What is the "why" in your current pursuit? How does the "why" affect the way you approach that pursuit?
4. Ideas often move through four stages: birth, death, resurrection, and ascension. Many of our pursuits get stuck in the "death" stage when God may have more in mind. What stage are you in right now?
5. Read Luke 18:1, 4-8
 - How does God's promise to the widow in verses 6-8 change the way you view your current situation?
6. What is one way you can apply the "persistency effect" in your life this week in order to move further toward your goal?

Moving Forward

Consider the goals and dreams God has placed on your heart for something better this year. There is no guarantee things will happen when and how you desire. But you can be assured that God has your best in mind and will work according to his timing. Take a few moments to write out a prayer you can pray every day this year. Ask God to give you the strength and faith you need to continue the pursuit.