

Five Realizations That Will Change Your Life

John 15:1-8

We live in a world of what's new and what's next. When it comes to living a life of purpose and progress, consistency can be underrated. The greatest catalyst for change can often be found in the most mundane routine. In any endeavor frequency is the key to sustaining flow. You don't thrive over a lifetime because you had a lucky moment. The real key to change comes when you cooperate with God to change your life.

1. If you resist the monotonous, you'll miss the miraculous.

In the waning hours just before His arrest, Jesus spoke some of the last words He would ever speak on Earth. As Jesus surveyed all the analogies, He could use to describe the process by which God makes change in the lives of His children, He says, "OK, think of your God as a gardener." Jesus is the true vine. We are the branches, and God is the gardener.

2. Repeat the right things until the routine is the reward.

One of the most deflating mindsets to bearing fruit is the notion that the reward is based purely on results. It's as if my routine is simply a means to an end. The only sense of growth comes from the accomplishment of the goal, and the accomplishment is based on the end results. Embrace the routine! Jesus is the vine not the vending machine.

3. To change your life you must change your pattern.

Determination alone can't change a condition that decisions create. You can't believe your way out of problems that were created by carnal *patterns* of behavior. In Romans 12, the Apostle Paul warns us to resist being shaped by the *pattern* of this world. If you want to change your product, you must change your *pattern*.

4. This may take a while.

Fruitfulness and faithfulness are inseparable. God created us to be fruitful (Genesis 1:22), and we are, therefore, driven by that aspiration. Being fruitful is described in Psalm 1 as being like a tree that is planted by the streams of water that produces fruit in its season. That implies that there may be some seasons that may not *seem* fruitful, but, if you are planted in the right soil, there will always be something growing in your life that will be worthwhile.

5. Your success is only as sustainable as your source.

The secret to sustainable success is to have a *constant*. What is your constant? God calls you for a purpose, and that calling never changes. Core convictions chaperon you when circumstances shake you. When your whole world is spinning, they remain stable. God's *counsel* through His Word is the rock upon which you stand. Your spiritual success will only be as strong as your support system. Jesus is the vine, but, to stay attached to Him, you need to be growing with some other good fruit.