

Pursuing Excellence in Ministry

Summer Series



Pursue and Apply a Spirit of Excellence

Lesson Two



“We are repeatedly what we do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.”

Foundation Scripture
Daniel 6:3

Daniel 6:3, Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Definitions of Excellence

The quality of being outstanding or extremely good, distinction, quality, superiority, brilliance, and greatness.

Characteristics of an Excellent Spirit

Great character, integrity, honesty, compassion, humble, teachable, ever learning, great work habits, dependable, hopeful, surrendered to God, and Christ-like.

**Excellence is
understanding that the
small things are the big
things.**

Four Qualities that Launched Daniel to Success:

- 1. Character**
- 2. Conviction**
- 3. Courage**
- 4. Consistency**

Pursue and Apply a Spirit of Excellence

Lesson Two



**I. We Must PURSUE
Excellence in All Areas of Our
Lives.**

+ **Colossians 3:23**, Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] for the Lord and not for men.

+ **Proverbs 22:29**, Do you see a man diligent *and* skillful in his business? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

+ **Ecclesiastes 9:10**, Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol (the place of the dead), where you are going.

Enemies of Excellence:

Mediocre, average, procrastinator, low self-esteem, lazy, compromise, low motivation, poor communicator, prideful, complacent, arrogant, boastful, conceited, callous, inconsistent, mentality of grass is always greener on the other side, excuse-driven, unreliable, unforgiving, fearful, negative, doubtful, slothful, easily offended, faithless, rebellious towards God's Word, ignoring the Holy Spirit, and spirit of religion and tradition.

What Is Mediocre?

Average, ordinary, of only moderate quality, not very good, middling, middle-of-the-road, uninspired, undistinguished, indifferent, unexceptional, unexciting, unremarkable, and run-of-the-mill.

**Mediocre or average is
being the best of the worst
and the worst of the best.**

Jeremiah 29:11, For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

**Three Ways You Can Rise
Above Mediocrity to
Excellence:**

**1. Excel at Being WHO You
Are.**

2. Excel at Being WHERE You Are.

3. Excel WHILE You Can.

**II. We Must APPLY
Excellence in Every Area of
Life.**

Workplace:

Daniel's life and work was simply of a far superior standard than all the rest, because of God's spirit in him.

Appearance:

First impressions are lasting impressions. You are the temple of the living God.

Vehicle & Home:

**Take care of your car even if it's old.
Keep your home clean. If you're faithful
in the little things, God will make you
ruler over much.**

Stewardship of Borrowed Items:

**If you borrow something, return it in
better condition. Excellence =
Stewardship.**

Offense is the Enemy of Excellence

Philippians 1:9-10, And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.

Develop A Spirit of Excellence in Your Relationship with the Lord.

I Corinthians 12:31, But earnestly desire and zealously cultivate the greatest and best gifts and graces (the higher gifts and the choicest graces). And yet I will show you a still more excellent way [one that is better by far and the highest of them all—love].

A spirit of excellence is always love motivated; God is love.

Matthew 22:37-39, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

**“Excellence is not being
the best; but doing your
best.”**

Bible Study Follow Up Chat Questions:

- 1. What was your greatest takeaway from today's lesson?**
- 2. Can you name a habit(s) of excellence that you practice?**
- 3. How can you be excellent in all areas of your life?**
- 4. What is your definition of mediocrity?**
- 5. Name some places in life where you can demonstrate a spirit of excellence.**
- 6. In what way(s) can the spirit of offense be an enemy of excellence?**
- 7. How is your relationship with the Lord related to excellence?**