

DR. MARCUS ELLISON

WHY SETTLE FOR AVERAGE

WHEN EXCELLENCE
IS AN OPTION

- Excellence
- Very Good
- Satisfactory
- Average

A SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

PART VIII

Key Verse

Daniel 6:1-3 (NKJV)

1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, **to be over the whole kingdom**; 2 and over these, **three governors**, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, **so that the king would suffer no loss**. 3 Then this **DANIEL DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF** above the governors and satraps, **BECAUSE AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT WAS IN HIM**; and the king gave thought to **SETTING HIM OVER THE WHOLE REALM**.

Outline Of The Study

- *What Is Excellence*
- *Excellence Is A Choice*
- *Excellence Will Face Challenges*
 - *Excellence Requires Courage*
- *Excellence Overcomes The Culture*
 - *Excellence Is Contagious*
 - *Excellence Must Be Cultivated*
- *Excellence Requires Commitment*
- *Excellence Refuses To Compromise*
 - *Excellence Is Continuous*
- *Excellence Will Be Compensated*

Week One....

EXCELLENCE IS GENERATED BY A SPIRIT WITHIN A PERSON

*Excellence Is **Not An Activity**....IT IS AN ATTITUDE ~*

Steve Jobs

*Be A Yardstick Of Quality... Some People Aren't Accustomed To An Environment
Where Excellence Is Expected*

*The Motive of **WORLDLY EXCELLENCE** Is To **Please People***

THE MOTIVE** of **GODLY EXCELLENCE** is to **BRING HONOR AND GLORY TO GOD.

We Were Created In The Image Of God..... Therefore, We All Have The Potential To Be Excellent

Because Of The Name... Child Of God ~ There Is An Expectation To Be Excellent

We Must Cultivate A Spirit To Be Excellent

Week Two... Excellence Is A Choice

I AM EXCELLENT.... Not Because I Have To Be.... But Because I CHOOSE TO BE

Control The Choices... You Can Control

DON'T ALLOW FEAR TO ALTER YOUR CHOICE OF EXCELLENCE

THE WORD IS FOUNDATIONAL TO CHOOSING EXCELLENCE

A GODLY HOME IS FOUNDATIONAL TO CHOOSING EXCELLENCE

THERE IS A COST TO CHOOSING EXCELLENCE

Week Three....

Operating In Excellence Will Face Some Challenges...

#1 ~ Lack Of Confidence or Level of Self-Confidence

#2 ~ Competition Is With Self Not Others

#3 ~ Complacency and Comfort Will Become A Challenge

Week Four....

Excellence Requires Courage

Courage To Trust God Without Conforming

Courage To Trust What God Said Despite What I See

Courage To Continue Despite The Critics And Consequences

Week Five....

Excellence Overcomes The Culture

Take Time To Know And Understand The Culture

Study The System of the Culture... But Stand On The Truth

You May Not Escape The Culture...But You Can Excel In It

Week Six....

If Your Spirit Is Going To Be Contagious...

It Must Be Verbal and Visible

It Must Have Some Victorious Evidence

If Your Spirit Is Going To Be Contagious...

There Has To Be Some Involvement

It's Hard To Catch Someone's Spirit When You Receive INSTRUCTIONS WITHOUT INVOLVEMENT

When You Receive A Spirit That Is Contagious...

Your Cannot Just Take The Elevation... Without The Experiences

HOW IS YOUR SPIRIT AFFECTING YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Tonight...

Excellence Must Be Cultivated

Excellence Requires Commitment

Excellence Must Be Cultivated

The Cambridge Dictionary defines “**Cultivate**” as *to PREPARE...to DEVELOP... to IMPROVE by desired or intentional EFFORT...*

If you **CULTIVATE** something, you make a **SPECIAL EFFORT TO DEVELOP IT, BECAUSE YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO YOU...**

From a Biblical Standpoint ~ It Means To Direct Special Attention To... To Care For... To Devote Time... WITH A VIEW OF A VALUABLE RETURN

YOU DO NOT CULTIVATE SOMETHING... IF THERE IS NO EXPECTATION

Luke 13:6-9 (NLT)

6 Then Jesus told this story: “A man planted a fig tree in his garden and **came again and again to see** if there was **any fruit on it**, but he was always disappointed. 7 Finally, he said to his gardener, ‘**I’VE WAITED THREE YEARS**, and there hasn’t been **a single fig!** **Cut it down**. It’s just taking up space in the garden.’

8 “The gardener answered, ‘**Sir, give it one more chance**. Leave it another year, and **I’ll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer**. 9 If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.’”

The Reason It Was CULTIVATED Was Because There Is An EXPECTATION

Many People Have The Desire For Excellence ~ But Are Not Willing To Develop The Drive Towards Excellence

Excellence Must Be Cultivated

Anything That Will Receive Elevation, Must Have Cultivation

There is No **PRODUCTIVITY WITHOUT CULTIVATION**

Genesis 2:4-5 (NLT)

4 When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, 5 **neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth.**
The Lord God had not yet sent rain to water the earth,
and **THERE WERE NO PEOPLE TO CULTIVATE THE SOIL.**

This Is A Principle

In Order To Have The Highest Productivity... There Must Be Cultivation

Cultivation is the **effort** a farmer makes **to ensure** that he will produce **as bountiful a crop as possible.** He plows the ground, fertilizes it, plants the seed, then he promotes further growth by watering, weeding, and so forth.
If the farmer is lazy, if he fails to cultivate his ground, if he does nothing to promote growth, **THEN WHAT OCCURS?**

Proverbs 12:11 (NASB)

11 He who **tills his land** will have plenty of bread, But he who pursues worthless things lacks sense.

Proverbs 20:4 (NIV)

4 **A sluggard does not plow in season;** so at harvest time **HE LOOKS** but finds **NOTHING.**

Ecclesiastes 11:4-6 (NLT)

4 Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, **THEY NEVER HARVEST.**
6 Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon, for you don't know if profit will come from one activity or another—or maybe both.

The Bible Is Filled With Principles For Us To Practice...So That We Can Be As Productive As Possible

Excellence Must Be Cultivated

To reach that *LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE*
An *Excellent Spirit* Has To Be *Cultivated*

God Cultivates An Excellent Spirit Behind The Scene

When Daniel Shows Up In Babylon, He Already Has The RIGHT SPIRIT!

In Chapter 1, He refuses to Eat From The Kings Table

In Chapter 1, He boldly asks for the challenge abide by God's Rules not the King's

In Chapter 1, He is seen as one who is ready to excel in the Babylonian Culture

In The Book Of Daniel, We See His Excellent Spirit On Display

But Behind The Scene, Growing Up In Jerusalem...Nothing Is Mentioned

Nothing Is Mentioned Of His Upbringing, Nothing Is Mentioned Of His Training

What Is Developed In The Dark... Will Be Demonstrated In The Light!!!

Cultivation Is Not Done On The Stage... But Behind The Scene!!!

Principle: Matthew 6:6 (NLT)

6 But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private.

THEN your Father, who sees everything, WILL REWARD YOU.

God Cultivates An Excellent Spirit Behind The Scene

This Is A Pattern Used By God ~ Cultivation Before Elevation

Luke 2:41-52 (NLT)

41 *Every year* Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. 42 *When Jesus was twelve years old*, they attended the festival *as usual*. 43 After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but *Jesus stayed behind* in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, 44 because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends.

45 When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there.

46 Three days later they finally discovered him *in the Temple*, *sitting among the religious teachers*, *listening to them and asking questions*. 47 *All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers*.

52 *JESUS GREW IN WISDOM AND IN STATURE AND IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND ALL THE PEOPLE.*

Jesus Shows Up At The Age Of 30.....

Luke 4:16-19 (NLT)

16 When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went *as usual* to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. 17 The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord *is upon me*, for he has *anointed me* to bring Good News to the poor. *He has sent me* to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free....

There Was A Time Of Cultivation Before Elevation

God Cultivates An Excellent Spirit Behind The Scene

This Is A Pattern Used By God ~ Cultivation Before Elevation

Biblical Example

- *Moses Grew Up In Pharaoh's House ~ Cultivating His Mind For The Culture*
- *Moses Was On The Backside of the Desert ~ Cultivating His Mind For Leadership*
- *Moses Was Chosen To Lead God's People Out Of Egypt... Through The Wilderness*

When People Don't See Your Cultivation ~ They Operate In Speculation About Your Elevation

WHY HIM???

Numbers 12:1-8 (NIV)

*1 Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite.
2 "Has the Lord spoken ONLY THROUGH MOSES?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the Lord heard this. 3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)
4 At once the Lord said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, "Come out to the Tent of Meeting, all three of you." So the three of them came out. 5 Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the Tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When both of them stepped forward, 6 he said, "Listen to my words: "When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. 7 But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord.*

They Did Not Understand The Seasons Of Cultivation To Get To This Place/Position

God Cultivates An Excellent Spirit Behind The Scene

This Is A Pattern Used By God ~ Cultivation Before Elevation

*When People Don't See Your Cultivation ~ They Operate In Speculation About Your Elevation
HIM???*

Matthew 13:53-57 (NLT)

53 When Jesus had finished telling these stories and illustrations, he left that part of the country.

*54 He returned to Nazareth, his hometown. When he taught there in the synagogue, **EVERYONE WAS AMAZED** and said, "Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?"*

55 Then they scoffed, "He's just the carpenter's son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas.

*56 All his sisters live right here among us. **WHERE DID HE LEARN ALL THESE THINGS?"***

57 And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

This Is Why It Is Hard For Excellence To Be Explained

*When People Your Spirit Of Excellence On Display
They Will Think It Happened Overnight!!!*

After Cultivation... Chaos and Conflict Will Test Your Commitment Excellence Require Commitment

*In Chapter 1 ~ There Is The Threat of Danger... If You Don't Eat The Royal Food
What Will You Do?*

*In Chapter 2 ~ There Is The Threat of Danger.... If You Don't Interpret The Dream
What Will You Do?*

*In Chapter 3 ~ There Is The Threat of Danger.... If You Don't Bow To The Culture/King
What Will You Do?*

*In Chapter 5 ~ There Is The Threat of Danger... If You Tell The King The Truth About His Downfall
What Will You Do?*

*In Chapter 6 ~ There Is The Threat of Danger... If You Continue To Pray To God
What Will You Do?*

*If You Have Not Been Cultivated... **YOU WILL COMPROMISE** In The Face of Conflict, Chaos, and Controversy*

*Elevation Will Always Face Examination
“The Testing of Your Faith Produces Something.....”*

After Cultivation... Chaos and Conflict Will Test Your Commitment

Your Commitment Has To Be Rooted And Grounded In Something Concrete

Psalms 37:5 (NLT)

*5 Commit everything you do **TO THE LORD**. Trust **HIM**, and **HE** will help you.*

Proverbs 16:3 (NLT)

*3 Commit your actions **TO THE LORD**, and your plans will succeed.*

Example

Going on vacation... Get in this swimsuit

In A Wedding.... Get in this dress

Go To A Reunion.... I must Look Good

Vs.

This Body Is My Temple ~ Let Me Take Care Of It ~ Lord I Want To Discipline Myself To Be In Good Health and Prosper

The Challenge Of Commitment To Excellence

Why Didn't You Do It With Excellence?

- Last Time They Didn't Pay Me Enough ~ So That's All They Got From*
 - Last Time They Didn't Seem Grateful ~ So....*
 - Last Time They Talked About Me Behind My Back*

*Your **COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE** Can't Be To or Because of Others ~~~~~ **IT IS TO THE LORD***

IN CONCLUSION....

What Are You Doing To Cultivate A Spirit Of Excellence?

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR EXPECTATION FOR SUPERIOR RESULTS?

DO YOU HAVE THE DESIRE...

BUT AREN'T WILLING TO DEVELOP THE SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE?

*ARE YOU SO FOCUSED ON THE STAGE
THAT YOU CAN'T WORK BEHIND THE SCENE?*

DON'T ALLOW THE CONFLICT TO STOP YOUR COMMITMENT!!!

If You Have The Desire

If You Are Willing To Be Developed

God Will Give You The Platform For It To Be Demonstrated

Final Thought....

What's Keeping You From Operating In Excellence?

Who Is Keeping You From Operating In Excellence?

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SUN. OCT. 8TH
11AM

THE
GREATNESS
CODE


*"Not so with you. Instead, whoever
wants to become great among
you must be your servant..."*

*For even the Son of Man did not
come to be served but to serve and to
give his life as a ransom for many."*

Mark 10:43, 45

MT. OLIVE B.C. OF GREENWOOD

C E L E B R A T E S

144th CHURCH *Anniversary*

CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Deuteronomy 7:9

Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations...

2:30 PM



Guest Speaker

PASTOR CRAIG B. COLLIER, SR
GALILEE B.C.
SHREVEPORT, LA



"WHAT GOD HAS DONE"

"WHAT GOD IS DOING"

"WHAT GOD WILL DO"



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023

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