"Developing an Excellent Spirit – Part II"
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(Psalm 8:1 KJV) O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!
Who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

- God is a God of excellence.
- There is excellence in everything that He does.
- God never does anything half-way.
- God does everything right, every time!

**When you operate in an Excellent Spirit:**

*Excellence in God is Always Noticed*

**Example - Daniel**  (Daniel 5:10-12 KJV)
(v.10) Now the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: and the queen spoke and said, O king, live forever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:
(v.11) There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;
(v.12) Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.

- What was the Queen saying?
  - She was saying, “There is a man with an excellent Spirit in your country. Your father recognized the excellent spirit in this man and used him mightily. You father gave him a high position. You should bring him here to interpret this situation.”
  - The Israelites were captives.
  - They were slaves.
  - God had already blessed Daniel with one King and now God was making a way for Daniel with the second King.
  - Why? Because he operated in Excellence!

- When you go to work
  - How do you do your job?
  - Do you just barely do it?
  - Do you do the minimum?
  - If I asked your boss, what kind of worker you are; what would the say?
  - Would they say that you are an excellent worker with and excellent Spirit?
  - Or would they say that you are just OK?
  - **OK is not good enough for God!**

*Sharing a Living Faith with a dying and decaying world.*
Here at the church
  - How do fulfill your assignments from Pastor?
  - Do you do them in excellence or do you just barely do it?
  - Do you simply do the minimum?
  - If I asked the Pastor; how do they fulfill their assignments?
  - What would he say?
  - Would he say that you operate in excellence, or would he say that you do an OK job?
  - **OK is not good enough for God!**
  - God is more than OK, God is Excellent!
  - His name is Excellent!
  - You are called by His Name!
  - You must operate in Excellence!

Daniel understood this.

Daniel did everything in the spirit of Excellence.

His commitment to excellence meant that the Queen stood before the King to speak of his excellence.

**When you operate in excellence, you don’t have to go around bragging on yourself.**

**People will speak about you, for you!**

**Example - Jesus**  *(Mark 15:2 KJV)*

- *(Mark 15:2 KJV)* And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it.
- Jesus did not go around bragging about Himself.
- He let the people do the talking.
- Pilate was the Governor. The Governor told Jesus that He was the King, Jesus did not have to say it Himself.
- Your excellence will bring you before great people. When it does, then you can let the people do the talking for you!
- *(Proverbs 18:16 KJV)* A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

**Example - Solomon**  *(2 Chronicles 9:1-6 MSG)*

*(v.1)* The queen of Sheba heard of Solomon's reputation and came to Jerusalem to put his reputation to the test, asking all the tough questions. She made a showy entrance--an impressive retinue of attendants and camels loaded with perfume and much gold and precious stones. She emptied her heart to Solomon, talking over everything she cared about.

*(v.2)* And Solomon answered everything she put to him--nothing stumped him.

- Solomon operated in the Wisdom of God.
- That Wisdom made him operate in Excellence in every area of his life.
- Not only was his wisdom impressive, but his house was impressive too and everything that ran in the house!
(v.3) When the queen of Sheba experienced for herself Solomon’s wisdom and saw with her own eyes the palace he had built,

(v.4) the meals that were served, the impressive array of court officials, the sharply dressed waiters, the cupbearers, and then the elaborate worship extravagant with Whole-Burnt-Offerings at The Temple of GOD, it all took her breath away.

• This was a Queen of a nation.
• She was rich herself.
• She had servants.
• She had maids.
• She had waiters.
• She had a palace.
• But the way that everything looked and the way that everything was done in Solomon’s house TOOK HER BREATH AWAY!

(v.5) She said to the king, "It’s all true! Your reputation for accomplishment and wisdom that reached all the way to my country is confirmed.

(v.6) I wouldn’t have believed it if I hadn’t seen it for myself; they didn’t exaggerate! Such wisdom and elegance--far more than I could ever have imagined.

• She was from Ethiopia.
• Solomon lived in Israel.
• She heard about Solomon’s Excellence all the way over in Africa!
• He had a reputation for Excellence!
• What kind of reputation do you have?
• And then the WAY that everything was done was EXCELLENT!
• No matter what you have:
  o It should be clean!
  o It should look good!
  o And when people see that way that you do things they should say, WOW!
  o Why? Because you are not doing it for people! You are doing it for God!
  o (1st Corinthians 10:31 KJV) Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Application:

1. Excellence can be seen!
2. People should see excellence in the way that everything is done (at church and at home).
   a. Clean.
   b. Orderly.
   c. Timely.
3. You represent God in everything you do
   a. At work.
   b. At church.
   c. At home.
   d. You are not doing it for man! You are doing it for God!
Excellence in God is Always Rewarded

Example - Daniel  (Daniel 5:29 KJV)
(v.29) Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

- God gave Daniel the ability to interpret the vision
- Daniel operated in Excellence
- Daniel was immediately promoted to become the 3rd highest person in all of Babylon!
- Why? Because Excellence is always rewarded

Example – The Parable of the Talents  (Matthew 25:28 BBE)
(v.28) Take away, then, his talent and give it to him who has the ten talents.

- The one given 5 talents made 5 more – He was rewarded!
- The one given 2 talents made 2 more – He was rewarded!
- The one given 1 talent did not do anything – He was chastised!
- The one with 10 wound up getting 11.
- If you don’t like the results you are getting, check what you are doing!

Application:
4. God will promote those that operate in Excellence.
5. God’s promotions come at work, at home, and in the church.
   a. You can have a good name at work and make more money.
   b. You can have peace at home.
   c. You can operate in wisdom for ministry at church.
6. Excellence requires work.
   a. It is always easy to be lazy.
   b. Laziness is never rewarded by God.

God has lots of things for you to do – as a Church and as a People – but you cannot achieve God’s success without Excellence!