



Lesson Three

“An Excellent Spirit”

Objective: *To understand the spirit of excellence and to incorporate it into our lives and ministry in order to reflect and represent the excellent nature of God.*

I. The Spirit of Excellence

Excellent: *very good of its kind : eminently good : first class*

Excellence: *the quality of being excellent*

The Law of Excellence: *An uncompromised, progressive commitment to quality and superior performance at the highest and best of one’s capability, which causes **success acceleration, speaks in one’s absence, summons attention, is the source of attraction, and causes superior appearance.** There must be a private resolve for excellence before public resolve will last.*

a. _____ is excellent. (Job 37:23; Psalm 8:1; Psalm 105:2; Isaiah 28:29)

The call to excellence is clearly seen in Scripture and is set forth as a mandate and not an option. Excellence is the distinguishing factor between the righteous and the unrighteous.

Ps 16:3 NKJV *As for the saints who are on the earth, "They are the **excellent ones**, in whom is all my delight."*

Prov 12:4 NKJV *An **excellent wife** is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rotteness in his bones.*

b. The heroes of faith were all men and women of excellence.

c. An excellent reputation summons favor

Reputation: overall quality or character as seen or judged by people in general
b : recognition by other people of some characteristic or ability: a place in public esteem or regard : a good name

These heroes of faith were all summoned out of obscurity, favored and promoted because of their reputation of excellence.

- Ruth - 2:5-12
- David – 1 Sam 16:18

1 Sam 16:18 MSG *One of the young men spoke up, "I know someone. I've seen him myself: the son of Jesse of Bethlehem, an excellent musician. He's also courageous, of age, well-spoken, and good-looking. And God is with him."*

Prov 22:29 NKJV *Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.*

Prov 18:16 NKJV *A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.*

It's not just having a gift that counts. A gift or a talent is like a seed. Excellence is having a gift, developing it to excellence and allowing God to use it to glorify Himself. It sets us above mediocrity and those with a "get by with just what's required mentality." Excellence goes above and beyond ordinary. It stand outs. It brings us into the company of other great people and promotes us.

- **Daniel - 5:1-6:3**
- **Joseph - Genesis 41:38-44**
- **Esther – Esther 2:8-9 & 12-17**

1. She didn't _____ about her situation. Many of the heroes of faith simply made the best out of an awful situation without complaining. Refusing to complain causes us to keep a proper mindset because many times, out of difficulty comes promotion. (This is a test – its only a test)

2. She _____ her master. Pleasing her master, gave her favor and an edge over her competitors. She received extra beauty treatments and the best place to live with servants.

3. She was _____. 12 months of preparation - being prepared is excellence. She didn't go in before she was ready.

4. She received _____. In Esther's case, she needed more than just good looks to please the king above others. She needed advice from those who knew him and the customs of the land. She relied on the advice from her custodian about what to take in, what to wear, how to smell; wear her hair, etc. Seeking advice, wisdom and counsel from others is excellence.

Prov 11:14 AMP *Where there is no wise guidance, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*

II. Excellence in Leadership Serving

Scripture declares that the kingdom of God should set the standard for excellence in our society.

Prov 12:26 KJV *The righteous is more excellent than his neighbor*

Col 3:323-24 *whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, 24 Knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [and not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [real] reward. [The One Whom] you are actually serving [is] the Lord Christ (the Messiah).*

Impactful ministry is the direct product of impactful leadership and team members. Ministry that remains relevant to contemporary needs addresses those needs effectively and efficiently with a commitment to EXCELLENCE in ministry. We can fulfill our assignment by **maximizing our resources** and making an impact on our community.

a. Great leaders are _____.

Judges 3:31 NKJV *Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel.*

The story of Shamgar serves as a powerful illustration of maximized leadership in action. Although he is little known among the judges of Israel, he is listed among the most noble champions, because **he maximized himself as a leader**. He accomplished this incredible feat of slaying six hundred Philistines by **using what he had, working where he was, doing all he could, and leaving the results to God**. Wow! These are the attributes of maximized leadership... overcoming adversity in the face of less than optimum conditions.

2 Sam 23:11-12 NKJV *And after him was **Shammah** the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines. 12 But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the Lord brought about a great victory.*

Maximized leaders make the most of what they have in people, in resources and in time. Learning how to get the most out of present resources is the defining character trait of outstanding leadership!

A Maximizer in leadership is an individual who courageously faces ministry difficulties, devastations, and discouragements that could derail purpose and diminish performance with a victorious conviction.

b. Excellence in leadership is _____ through the following:

1. Elimination of _____ - Excuses in all forms must be put aside, along with its cousin, blame!

2. Educational Explorations – Taking steps towards excellence by exploring educational opportunities that show us better ways of doing things. Keeping up with cutting edge technology and methods that could make us more efficient and effective as leaders makes us Maximizers in leadership.

3. Effectiveness _____ – Making honest assessments of our effectiveness in accomplishing goals and objectives. Maximizers must have the strength of character to make honest inspection of their work effort to determine if desired results are being accomplished. If not, we tweak it and then re-tweak it!

4. _____ Execution – Implementations of excellence standards with excitement and a sense of purpose creates a positive atmosphere that is contagious. Keeping a good attitude is something we have to personally stay of top of. It requires a commitment to always handle people through the love of God with the tender hands of compassion and never the rough hands of duty. We accomplish this by the following:

a. Valuing _____ – People are why we are here! People need to feel valued, accepted and loved.

b. Being _____ – Good manners go a long way with reaching people. Smile, look people in the eyes, watch out especially for VIP's who may need assistance even if it's not your department, introduce yourself, shake hands (rather than hug – this can make some people feel uncomfortable – unless they lean into you for a hug first). Show love and concern and give people your undivided attention. Put yourself in their place, how do you think they feel being new? Perhaps find a VIP or a loner and have them sit with you during breakfast or service or both.

c. Following _____ – Guidelines for the purpose of every department have been carefully thought out. Being on time and at your post with a great attitude, following the set guidelines ensures that Xceleration Church's purpose is being fulfilled. We are always open to changing guidelines that are discussed with proper leadership persons that will cause us to be more efficient. We absolutely value and depend on your honest input!

d. Remaining _____ – Faithfulness is excellence in action! God gives us a grace to stick with it, even when things become difficult. Refuse to go AWOL... or just not show up to serve when others are depending on your faithfulness to your department. Always make sure your spot is filled if you encounter an emergency or a valid reason that you cannot fulfill your scheduled time of serving.

e. Overcoming _____ – Don't ever think that the devil will not try to take you out through the mistakes or offenses of others. We all have opportunity to become offended from time to time. A Maximizer is willing to forgive and overlook the immaturity and offenses of others and keep their hearts uncluttered from offense, bitterness and resentment.