

Seven Pillars of Faith at Work: Excellence

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Executive Summary

SURPASSING THE ORDINARY

Scripture: *Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. (Colossians 3:23 NLT)*

What is Excellence:

- Excellence does not equal perfection.
- Excellence is not achieved by doing everything with excellence.
- Excellence at work is not necessarily excellence in life.
- Excellence is being outstanding in what we do, taken from the Latin verb “to surpass.”
- Excellence is best defined by the people we know who are excellent.

How to be Excellent:

- In order to be outstanding in what we do, we must know our strengths, weaknesses, goals, and purpose of our work. We must surpass expectations of those we serve.
- We know a lot about how to plan for excellence. But it is always easier to know than to do. That’s why excellence is so rare. It takes hard work and clear, sustained focus.

Here’s why Excellence matters:

1. Thankfulness. *Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. (1Thessalonians 5:18 NLT)* We’ve been given much.

2. Witness. *So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. (2Corinthians 5:20 NLT)* People who display excellence get noticed by others.

3. Integrity. *And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. (Titus 2:7 NLT)* We have been given gifts, talents and opportunity, and those who pay us should expect us to do our best.

4. Influence. *Pharaoh asked ..., “Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph,... “I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt.” (Genesis 41:38-41 NLT)* People listen to those who display excellence.

5. Growth. *So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. (James 1:4 NLT)* As Christians, we are urged to grow into the full stature of Christ. Excellence only comes as we come to knowledge of ourselves and our mission, and we live out God’s calling in our lives.

Resources:

Book - *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey

Book - *Good to Great*, Jim Collins

Blog - www.fromsundaytomonday.org (this month: excellence)

Website – www.workmatters.org (Executive Summary, Podcast, Video, “Excellence” resources)