



MOVING IN EXCELLENCE

***Discussion Guide &
5 Day Devotional***



DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Moving in Excellence | Pastor Eric Youman | Sunday 1.12.25

Summary

The sermon emphasizes the importance of moving in excellence as a reflection of God's expectations for us. Using the story of Daniel from Daniel 6, Pastor Eric illustrates how Daniel's excellent spirit distinguished him and brought him favor, even as a slave in a foreign land. The sermon challenges believers to strive for excellence in all areas of life, as mediocrity is not acceptable in the kingdom of God. It highlights that excellence requires commitment, diligence, discipline, sacrifice, and going above and beyond, ultimately attracting God's favor.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with open hearts and minds, ready to receive what You have for us today. We ask for Your guidance and wisdom as we discuss how to move in excellence in our lives. Help us to be receptive to Your word and to apply it in ways that honor You. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you strive to do with excellence in your daily life?

Key Verses

- Daniel 6:3
- Colossians 3:23
- Titus 2:7
- 2 Corinthians 8:7
- Romans 12:2

Questions

- What does it mean to have an 'excellent spirit' like Daniel?
- How can we apply the concept of excellence in our personal and professional lives?
- Why do you think God values excellence so highly?
- What are some challenges you face when trying to move in excellence?
- How can we support each other in striving for excellence?
- What role does discipline play in achieving excellence?
- How can we ensure that our pursuit of excellence is for God's glory and not for personal gain?
- What steps can you take this week to move towards excellence in a specific area of your life?

Life Application

This week, identify one area in your life where you can improve and commit to taking specific actions to move in excellence. Share your progress with the group next week.

Key Takeaways

- Excellence is not an option; it is God's expectation.
- Excellence requires commitment, diligence, discipline, and sacrifice.
- Mediocrity is acceptable in the world but not in the kingdom of God.
- Excellence attracts God's favor.
- Moving in excellence involves going above and beyond in all areas of life.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the insights and challenges You've presented to us today. As we leave this place, help us to carry the spirit of excellence into every aspect of our lives. May our actions reflect Your glory and draw others closer to You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Moving in Excellence: 5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Called to Excellence

Devotional

Have you ever wondered why some people seem to stand out effortlessly? It's not about natural talent or luck - it's about their commitment to excellence. As believers, we're called to a higher standard. Not because we're trying to prove something to the world, but because we represent the King of kings. When we understand that God has placed His treasure within us, it changes how we approach everything we do. Just like a fine jewel deserves a worthy setting, the presence of God in our lives deserves to be displayed through excellence in all we do. This isn't about perfectionism; it's about consistently giving our best as an act of worship.

Bible Verse

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." - 1 Peter 2:9

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life have you settled for mediocrity when God is calling you to excellence?

Quote Mediocrity is okay for the world, but not for the kingdom.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me recognize the treasure You've placed within me. Give me the courage to rise above mediocrity and pursue excellence in all I do. Let my life be a reflection of Your glory. Amen.



Day 2: The Spirit of Excellence

Devotional

Excellence isn't just about what we do - it's about who we are. Daniel's story teaches us that true excellence flows from within. Even as a captive in a foreign land, he distinguished himself through his excellent spirit. This wasn't just about being good at his job; it was about maintaining unwavering integrity and commitment to God's standards regardless of his circumstances. When we cultivate an excellent spirit, it affects everything we touch. It's not about comparing ourselves to others or meeting worldly standards - it's about honoring God with our very best in every situation.

Bible Verse

"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." - Daniel 6:3

Reflection Question

How might your attitude and approach to daily tasks change if you viewed them as opportunities to honor God rather than just duties to complete?

Quote Excellence is not an option. It's God's expectation.

Prayer

Lord, develop in me an excellent spirit like Daniel's. Help me see beyond my circumstances and maintain high standards that honor You. May my life reflect Your excellence in all I do. Amen.



Day 3: The Cost of Excellence

Devotional

Excellence comes with a price tag. It demands commitment, discipline, and often sacrifice. But here's the beautiful truth - while the cost might seem high, the rewards are immeasurable. When we choose excellence, we're choosing to invest in something greater than ourselves. It means saying no to some things so we can say yes to what's best. It means pushing through when others might quit. It means maintaining high standards even when no one is watching. This journey isn't easy, but it's worth every step.

Bible Verse

"For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."
- Hebrews 12:11

Reflection Question

What sacrifices might God be asking you to make in pursuit of excellence in your spiritual life or daily responsibilities?

Quote Excellence requires sacrifice. There's some things that you gonna have to give up.

Prayer

Father, give me strength to embrace the cost of excellence. Help me see beyond temporary discomfort to the lasting fruit it produces. Grant me perseverance when the path gets challenging. Amen.



Day 4: Excellence and God's Favor

Devotional

When we commit to excellence, we position ourselves for God's favor. This isn't about earning God's love - that's already secure. Rather, it's about creating space for God to work powerfully through our lives. Think about it: when we give our best, we demonstrate trust in God's investment in us. We show that we value what He's entrusted to us. This attitude of excellence opens doors that talent alone never could. It attracts opportunities and influence, not for our glory, but for God's purposes.

Bible Verse

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." - 2 Corinthians 4:7

Reflection Question

How have you experienced God's favor when you've pursued excellence in different areas of your life?

Quote Excellence attracts God's favor. And for some of y'all, you don't need money. You don't need advice. Listen, you don't need a relationship. You need God's favor on your life.

Prayer

Lord, help me understand that Your favor is worth more than any earthly success. Guide me in pursuing excellence not for my glory, but for Yours. Let Your favor rest upon my life as I honor You with my best. Amen.



Day 5: Beyond the Minimum

Devotional

Excellence means going beyond what's expected or required. It's about doing more than the minimum, not because we have to, but because we want to honor God. This mindset transforms ordinary tasks into opportunities for extraordinary impact. When we consistently go above and beyond, we demonstrate that we understand God's investment in us deserves our absolute best. It shows we're not just doing things to get by, but we're driven by a deeper purpose - to glorify God in everything we do.

Bible Verse

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." - 2 Timothy 2:15

Reflection Question

In what specific ways can you go above and beyond this week to demonstrate excellence in your work, relationships, or spiritual life?

Quote Excellence requires going above and beyond.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, give me the vision to see beyond the minimum requirements. Help me to pursue excellence not out of obligation, but out of love for You. May my life demonstrate the extra mile mentality that brings glory to Your name. Amen.