

Bible Study Series
The Biblical Significance of Excellence
II Corinthians 8:7 (KJV)

I. The Biblical Meaning of Excellence

1. Striving for God's Standards

Excellence is a concept that is often associated with exceptional quality, outstanding performance, and surpassing expectations. In the Bible, we are called to Pursue Excellence in all aspects of our lives, not just for personal gain, but to honor and glorify God.

God's Word emphasizes the Importance of excellence in everything we do.

Look at **Colossians 3:23 (NIV)** "***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.***"

This verse reminds us that our pursuit of excellence should be rooted in our devotion to God rather than seeking approval or recognition from others.

Psalm 119:34 (ESV) "***Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.***"

Excellence involves going above and beyond, consistently striving to do our best, and continuously growing in our faith and character. It is not about being perfect, but rather about embracing a mindset of continuous Improvement and a Commitment to God's standards.

Notice what Proverbs 22:29 says, "***Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.***"

This verse highlights how excellence can open doors of opportunity and position us to make a lasting impact for the Kingdom of God.

In this Lesson, we will explore the Biblical Principles and Teachings that guide us towards excellence in various areas of our lives. Through an understanding of God's Word, we can discover how to embrace excellence as a reflection of our faith and a

way to bring glory to God. So let us embark on this journey to understand the biblical meaning of excellence and how we can apply it to our daily lives.

II. The Biblical Meaning of Excellence

Excellence is a concept that holds great significance in the Bible. Throughout its pages, we can find numerous references that encourage us to Strive for excellence in various aspects of our lives.

III. What is Excellence?

Excellence, in biblical terms, refers to the pursuit of perfection, both in character and deeds. It entails giving our best efforts and dedicating ourselves wholeheartedly to the tasks at hand. The Bible teaches us that whatever we do, we should do it ***“as unto the Lord”*** (Colossians 3:23), and with a Spirit of Excellence DANIEL 6:3 (KJV) SAYS, ***“Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him...”***

Excellence involves going above and beyond the minimum requirements, striving for greatness, and surpassing mediocrity. It is about pursuing God’s standards rather than settling for worldly standards. When we pursue excellence, we glorify God through our actions and attitudes.

IV. Examples of Excellence in the Bible

The Bible provides us with numerous examples of individuals who exemplified excellence in their lives. One such example is Daniel from the Old Testament. He distinguished himself by his exceptional wisdom, integrity, and faithfulness to God. Daniel’s commitment to excellence set him apart from others and earned him favor in the eyes of both God and men.

Daniel 1:20 (NIV) “...Daniel was found to have a keen mind and a greater understanding than any of the other wise men... In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.”

Another biblical figure known for his excellence is Joseph. Despite facing numerous trials and setbacks, Joseph remained faithful to God and excelled in every position

he held. His integrity, work ethic, and commitment to righteousness distinguished him as a man of excellence.

Genesis 39:6-10 (NIV) *“Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, ‘Come to bed with me!’ But he refused... ‘How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?’... And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.”*

V. The Pursuit of Excellence

As followers of Christ, we are called to pursue excellence in all areas of our lives. This includes our relationships, work, ministry, and personal growth. When we pursue excellence, we reflect the character of God and become effective witnesses to His love and grace.

Pursuing excellence requires intentionality, discipline, and a deep desire to continually grow and improve. It involves setting high standards for ourselves and refusing to settle for mediocrity. Through prayer, studying the Word, and relying on the Holy Spirit, we can develop the mindset and character traits necessary to pursue excellence.

VI. Rewards for Pursuing Excellence

There are several rewards for pursuing excellence from a biblical perspective:

- **Glorifying God:** When we give our best in everything we do, we bring glory to God and honor His name.
- **Impact on Others:** Our pursuit of excellence can inspire and motivate others to do the same. It creates a positive influence and encourages those around us to pursue greatness.
- **Spiritual Growth:** Striving for excellence challenges us to rely on God’s strength and grace. It deepens our dependence on Him and cultivates spiritual growth.
- **Effective Ministry:** Excellence enables us to serve others more effectively and make a greater impact in the Kingdom of God.

Conclusion: The biblical meaning of excellence calls us to live a life that surpasses average expectations. It is a call to dedicated service, pursuing perfection, and reflecting God's character in all areas of our lives. As we seek to live in excellence, may we always remember the words of the Apostle Paul, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord" (Colossians 3:23). Let us strive for excellence, knowing that through our pursuit, we bring glory to God and bless the world around us.