

THE SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE — PART 2

Excellence That Stands Out

Daniel 5:11–12

Daniel's life teaches us that excellence is not about trying to impress people or proving that we are better than others. ***Excellence is allowing God to develop our character, abilities, wisdom, and faithfulness so that our lives can make a difference when opportunities arise.***

Daniel lived in Babylon, surrounded by a culture that did not share his convictions or devotion to God. Yet he continued to grow, remained faithful, and developed the gifts God had placed within him. Then one night, King Belshazzar faced a crisis. Mysterious handwriting appeared on the wall, and none of the king's wise men could explain what it meant.

That is when the queen remembered Daniel. She described him as a man with **“an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding,”** and the ability to solve difficult problems. Then she said something powerful: **“Now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.”**

Daniel did not suddenly become excellent when the crisis happened. He had been developing his life long before that moment arrived. The crisis simply revealed what had already been built within him.

Public excellence is often the visible result of private preparation.

1. EXCELLENCE STANDS OUT THROUGH PREPARATION

Daniel reminds us that preparation begins before the opportunity arrives. We cannot wait until the door opens to begin developing ourselves. God often uses ordinary seasons to prepare us for extraordinary opportunities.

David experienced this before facing Goliath. Long before anyone knew his name, David was faithfully caring for sheep. In those quiet fields, God was developing his courage, faith, and ability to face difficult situations. What looked like an ordinary season was preparation for what was coming.

The same is true in our lives. The responsibilities we have today may be preparing us for opportunities we cannot see yet. Our workplace, home, ministry, education, relationships, and daily responsibilities can all become training grounds where God develops us.

That is why we should take responsibility for what God has placed in our hands. We keep learning, welcome corrections, develop our abilities, follow through on commitments, and give our best even when nobody is watching.

Private habits build the capacity for future opportunities.

Never underestimate what God may be developing in you during an ordinary season. What feels small today may be preparing you for something greater tomorrow.

2. EXCELLENCE STANDS OUT AS A SOLUTION

When Babylon faced a problem, Daniel had something to offer.

He had developed wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and the ability to solve difficult problems. His gifts were not developed simply for himself. They became useful to others.

First **Peter 4:10** teaches us that God has given each of us gifts and that we should use them to serve one another. This means there is something God has placed within each of us that can bless someone else.

You may have the ability to lead, teach, organize, encourage, communicate, solve problems, serve, create, or bring wisdom into difficult situations. Whatever God has placed within you, do not leave it undeveloped.

Excellence does not mean being good at everything. It means faithfully developing what God has entrusted to you so that you can use it to make a difference.

Think about a toolbox. You may have a job that needs to be completed, but good intentions alone will not finish the work. You need the right tools. In the same way, opportunities in life often require us to develop new tools, greater wisdom, stronger discipline, better communication, deeper knowledge, or greater responsibility.

Growth requires humility. We must be willing to ask questions, receive feedback, adjust, and move beyond what is comfortable.

What God has placed in you is not just for you. Someone else may benefit from what God is developing in you.

3. EXCELLENCE STANDS OUT THROUGH TRUST

Daniel was not only gifted; he was dependable.

Daniel 6:4 tells us that his enemies tried to find something they could use against him, but they could not because Daniel was faithful. His character supported his gifting.

That matters because talent may get someone's attention, but dependability builds trust.

Jesus said in **Luke 16:10**, **"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much."** Faithfulness is developed in everyday details of life. We build trust by keeping our word, taking responsibility, admitting when we are wrong, following through, treating people with respect, and remaining consistent.

At home, people should be able to depend on us. At work, people should know that we will follow through. In ministry, others should know that when responsibility is placed in our hands, we will handle it faithfully.

Proverbs 22:29 says, **"Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings."**

Daniel lived that, Scripture. His excellence created a reputation that spoke for him before he entered the room.

Excellence builds trust, trust creates influence, and influence gives us opportunities to make a greater difference.

MAKE EXCELLENCE A LIFESTYLE

Excellence is not something we turn on when people are watching. It becomes part of how we choose to live.

It can be seen in simple things: showing up prepared, keeping commitments, arriving on time, treating people well, taking responsibility, continuing to learn, and giving our best wherever God has placed us.

Daniel did not become excellent when opportunity came knocking. He was ready because excellence had already become part of his lifestyle.

The decisions we make today are shaping who we will be tomorrow.

"NOW LET DANIEL BE CALLED"

There is something inspiring about those words: **"Now let Daniel be called."**

When the kingdom faced a problem, someone remembered Daniel. They remembered his wisdom. They remembered his ability. Most importantly, they remembered that he could be trusted.

That gives us a powerful question to consider:

When the opportunity comes, what will my life have to offer?

When your family needs wisdom, when your workplace faces a challenge, when your church needs someone to step forward, or when someone around you needs help, will you be ready?

This is why we are growing up now. This is why we develop now. This is why we remain faithful now.

Excellence is not about becoming more important than someone else. **It is about becoming someone God can use, people can trust, and others can benefit from.**

OUR PRAYER

Our prayer should be simple:

“Lord, develop an excellent spirit in me.”

Develop my character. Increase my wisdom. Strengthen my discipline. Sharpen my abilities. Teach me to remain faithful in the ordinary responsibilities of life. Give me humility to learn, courage to receive correction, and a desire to serve others with what You have placed within me.

Help me become someone who can be trusted at home, at work, in the church, and wherever You place me.

When opportunities come, help me be ready. When people need help, make my life useful. When responsibility is placed in my hands, help me remain faithful.

And when the moment comes, may my life reflect everything You have been developing within me.

Build a life that God can use, people can trust, and others can benefit from.

That is **excellence that stands out.**