

## PURSUE EXCELLENCE “Strategy For Living” Matthew 5:16

*“In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”* Matthew 5:16

**Excellence: Being a quality person who brings glory to God.**

*“Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.”* Daniel 6:3 (NIV)

### PURSUE EXCELLENCE

#### 1. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL WORK WITH ENTHUSIASM.

*“Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.”* Colossians 3:23 (NLT)

The Bible says that laziness is a problem that we need to eliminate from our lives. Proverbs has a lot to say about it.

*“Lazy people are a pain to their employers. They are like smoke in the eyes or vinegar that sets the teeth on edge.”* Proverbs 10:26 (NLT)

*“One who is slack in his work is a brother to the one who destroys.”* Proverbs 18:9 (NIV)

#### 2. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL SHARPEN THEIR SKILLS.

*“Do you see a man who is skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; ...”* Proverbs 22:29 (NIV)

*“Intelligent people want to learn, but stupid people are satisfied with ignorance.”* Proverbs 15:14 (GNT)

*“Intelligent people are always open to new ideas. In fact, they look for them.”* Proverbs 18:15 (NLT)

Where do you learn?

- **God’s Word** *“Despise God’s word and you’ll find yourself in trouble. But obey it and you’ll succeed.”* Proverbs 13:13
- **Wise people**—Iron sharpens iron. *“Get all the advice you can and you’ll succeed. Without it you will fail.”* Proverbs 15:22

- **Critics**—Learn from them.

*“... If you accept criticism, you’re on the road to fame.”* Proverbs 13:18

- **Failure**—It is a great teaching tool.

*“A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never prosper but if he confesses them and forsakes them he gets another chance.”* Proverbs 28:13

*“Don’t call it a failure. Call it an education.”*—Thomas Edison

#### 3. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL KEEP THEIR WORD.

*“Everyone talks about how loyal and faithful he is. But just try and find someone who really is!”* Proverbs 20:6 (GNT)

*“Depending on an unreliable person in a crisis is like trying to chew with a loose tooth or walk with a crippled foot.”* Proverbs 25:19 (GNT)

*“Obey your masters not only when their eye is on you but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.”* Colossians 3:23

#### 4. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.

*“Do all you have to do without grumbling or arguing, so that you may be ... blameless, ... shining there like lights in a dark world.”* Philippians 2:14-15 (Ph)

*“If the boss is angry with you, don’t quit! A quiet spirit can overcome even great mistakes.”* Ecclesiastes 10:4 (NLT)

*“Hot tempers cause arguments, but patience brings peace.”* Proverbs 15:18 (GN)

Select and choose the **right friends**.

*“... ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’”* 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

#### 5. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL DO MORE THAN IS EXPECTED.

*“If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles.”* Matthew 5:41 (NLT)

Genesis 24 – The story of Eliezer and Rebekah.

*“And the quality of each person’s work will be seen when the Day of Christ exposes it. For that Day’s fire will reveal everyone’s work; the fire will test it and show its real quality. If ... (it) survives, the builder will receive a reward. But if ... (it) is burnt up, then you will lose it; but you yourself will be saved ... ”* 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 (GNT)