

Rejoice - A Study of Philippians by Ps Larry Elliott

Part 5

Philippians 1:10-11 NKJV "that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

Two weeks ago we spoke about JESUS having begun a good work in us; the original Greek is the word an EXCELLENT WORK...

Then last week we were reminded that we must be established in Christ's Righteousness and not our own.

Our two Verses today 1:10&11 mention both these things.

Today I want to speak about having an excellent spirit about us.

Philippians 1:10-11 AMPC "So that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, and approve and prize what is excellent and of real value [recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the moral differences], and that you may be untainted and pure and unerring and blameless [so that with hearts sincere and certain and unsullied, you may approach] the day of Christ [not stumbling nor causing others to stumble]. May you abound in and be filled with the fruits of righteousness (of right standing with God and right doing) which come through Jesus Christ (the Anointed One), to the honor and praise of God [that His glory may be both manifested and recognized]."

Notice Paul defines what Excellence is and what it does and the AMP gives Clarity: "So that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, and approve and prize what is excellent and of real value [recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the moral differences]

Excellence covers so many areas of life: Because of this you will find that you may excel in one area but you might still be mediocre in another.

Philippians 1:10-11 TPT "This will enable you to choose the most excellent way of all— becoming pure and without offense until the unveiling of Christ. And you will be filled completely with the fruits of righteousness that are found in Jesus, the Anointed One— bringing great praise and glory to God!"

So we must decide in which areas we need to pursue excellence in our lives.

And that's what an EXCELLENT SPIRIT is; it's not that we are perfect; it's our hearts pursuing God's BEST for our lives in different areas where He's busy training or stretching us.

Excellence is a moving target, what is excellent today, can be mediocre next week.

🤔 **Think: You see God is excellent, so He always gives us His Best.**

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And as His representatives, we should be too. So we can say this: EXCELLENCE IS DOING THE BEST we can in everything that we put our hands to & IT'S important.

Philippians 1:10-11 NKJV "that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

A Picture of Biblical Excellence

- 1. Wise Choices**
- 2. Sincerity of Heart**
- 3. Behaviour**
- 4. Harmless but Powerful**
- 5. Fruitful (become a package people want to open)**

1. Wise Choices

To make wise choices we must each define what excellence means to us.

Excellence:

- Always doing your best and Conducting yourself with the highest quality that you are capable of right now
- Excellence is not always having a new car, but it's keeping your old car clean
- **Excellence is a journey, it's something we receive at our New Birth through Christ (I'll share in next point), but then it's something we must develop and grow into by grace.**

Excellence firstly is IMPARTED TO YOU THROUGH JESUS & then Learnt, Taught, Modeled and Mentored.

2 Peter 1:5-8 AMPC "For this very reason, adding your diligence [to the divine promises], employ every effort in exercising your faith to develop virtue (excellence, resolution, Christian energy), and in [exercising] virtue [develop] knowledge (intelligence), **v6** And in [exercising] knowledge [develop] self-control, and in [exercising] self-control [develop] steadfastness (patience, endurance), and in [exercising] steadfastness [develop] godliness (piety), **v7** And in [exercising] godliness [develop] brotherly affection, and in [exercising] brotherly affection [develop] Christian love. **v8** For as these qualities are yours and increasingly abound in you, they will keep [you] from being idle or unfruitful unto the [full personal] knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)."

Once Excellence is defined we can then evaluate ourselves often as to where we are, because Today's excellence will be next week's mediocrity

Remember that Excellence empowers us:

- a) To see the things that distract us and
- b) To make the right choice to remove those things.

Anything that takes our eyes away from JESUS reduces our capacity to be excellent.

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Excellence brings rewards because it DRAWS US INTO A CLEAR VISION of what CHRIST IS LIKE and who God wants you to be, and having that Vision produces a life of pleasure, fulfillment and confidence in what we are doing.

Hebrews 11:25-26 NKJV "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward."

Excellence is the ability to stop choosing bad things, and choose good things and then PRESSING for what's BEST.

2. Sincerity of Heart

Excellence means living with sincerity.

Greek=eilikrinēs

To be pure & transparent

- To be found pure when unfolded and examined by the sun's light
- To be without wax, an allusion to flaws been covered up by wax, until carefully examined by looking through it in sunlight.

None of us measure up when held up to the Sunlight, but we are held up in the light of HIS SON, Jesus Christ. You see our sincerity comes from Christ's Excellence not our own.

Hebrews 1:4 NKJV "having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent (surpassing everything) name than they."

Our lives are hidden in Him and the life we now live we live by Faith in Jesus.

1 Peter 1:22-23 NKJV "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, **V23** having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,"

Sincere here is another Greek Word Anupokritos, and means to be "without hypocrisy" in other words we don't live from behind a mask, we are the real deal, with all our flaws we are motivated to be genuine and sincere in doing our very best in whatever we set out to accomplish.

We are not settling for mediocre, (half way up the mountain living) but we also know we are not always there, we don't have a perfect performance, but we are on our way....and until we get there JESUS has us covered.

2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

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3. Behaviour

Philippians 1:10-11 NKJV “that you may approve the things that are excellent, **that you may be sincere and without offense** till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Highlighted area covers three areas:

Sincerity / Behaviour / being Harmless

We are daily growing in our obedience and through excellence we learn to not stumble into sin as much & not allow how we live to cause others to stumble as well

I Corinthians 12:31 NKJV “But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.”

As we make excellence a way of life, we will sense God's joy and be good examples to the world.

I Corinthians 13:1 NKJV “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

Love is an integral part of an excellent Believers behaviour.

I Corinthians 13:13 NKJV And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

You must sow excellence in order to reap an excellent harvest.

We can't expect excellent results in life when we don't live a life of excellence.

4. Harmless but POWERFUL

Philippians 2:15 NKJV “that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”

To be harmless, means to be spotless or righteous and again we know it's not our righteousness but Christ's that has been imparted to us at Salvation.

Hebrews 7:25-27 NKJV “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.”

Excellence comes from hanging around with JESUS and letting Him rub off on us, that makes us LIGHTEN UP and let's Jesus SHINE.

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Less is More

I must Decrease so Christ may Increase

You can't be good at everything

Decide what you want to be good at. Decide to pursue excellence in your life every day

So I encourage you to do your best with any project or activity that God places in your path.

Be diligent.

Don't leave things undone, but finish what you start to the best of your ability.

Set your mind to be steadfast and determined.

Commit yourself to excellent results.

Diligence is a path that leads to excellence

Proverbs 4:20-24 NKJV "My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you."

5. Fruitful (become a package people want to open)

Philippians 1:10-11 NKJV "that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

The end of goal of Excellence is bringing Glory and Praise to God.

For excellence to be able to GLORIFY GOD completely it must show up on the outside in our day to day Lives.

We have to develop godly habits to express what God's grace has done in us

Thoughts, Words and Actions must line up, that's truly what a sincere person looks like.

Proverbs 16:23-24 NKJV "The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips. Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones."

Yes I can be EXCELLENT, Excellence develops Inspiration

Inspiration produces energy and drive to start, but it only lasts so long

How to you keep inspiration going:

Sound / View / Associations

If you're excellent you never have to promote yourself, it will do it for you, and others will seek you out

 **Prayer Starter: God, I want to live a life of excellence. Strengthen me and help me to do my best in every situation with steadfastness, diligence and determination.**

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