

EXCELLENCE



The American Heritage Dictionary defines **excellence** as “The state, quality, or condition of excelling; superiority.”

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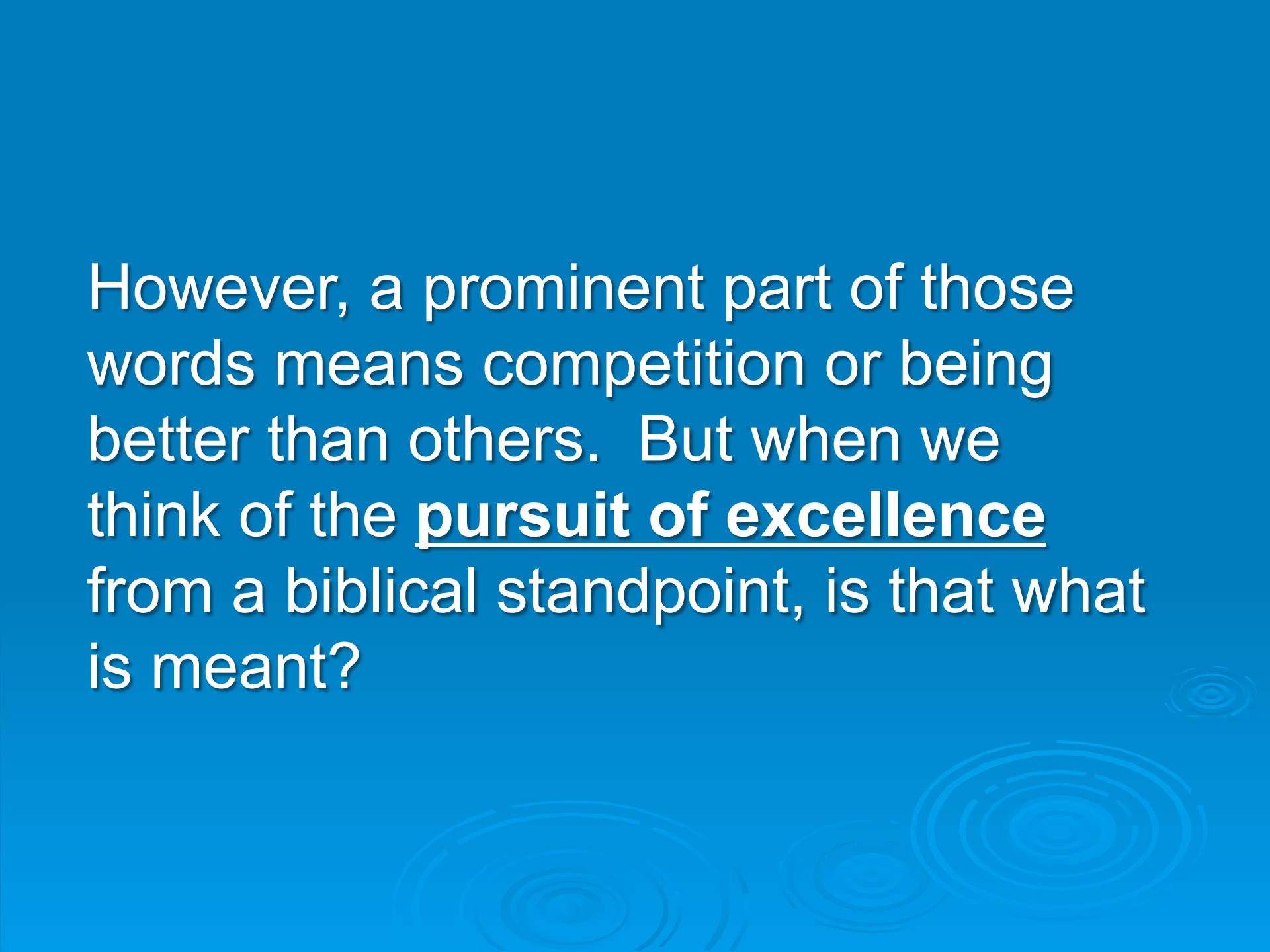
The word excel is defined as, “to do or be better than; surpass; to show superiority, surpass others.”

Synonyms for excel are:

- ***Surpass***
- ***Exceed***
- ***Transcend***
- ***Outdo***
- ***Outstrip***

Which all suggest the concept of going beyond a limit or standard.

However, a prominent part of those words means competition or being better than others. But when we think of the pursuit of excellence from a biblical standpoint, is that what is meant?



Success means being the best.
Excellence means being your best.”

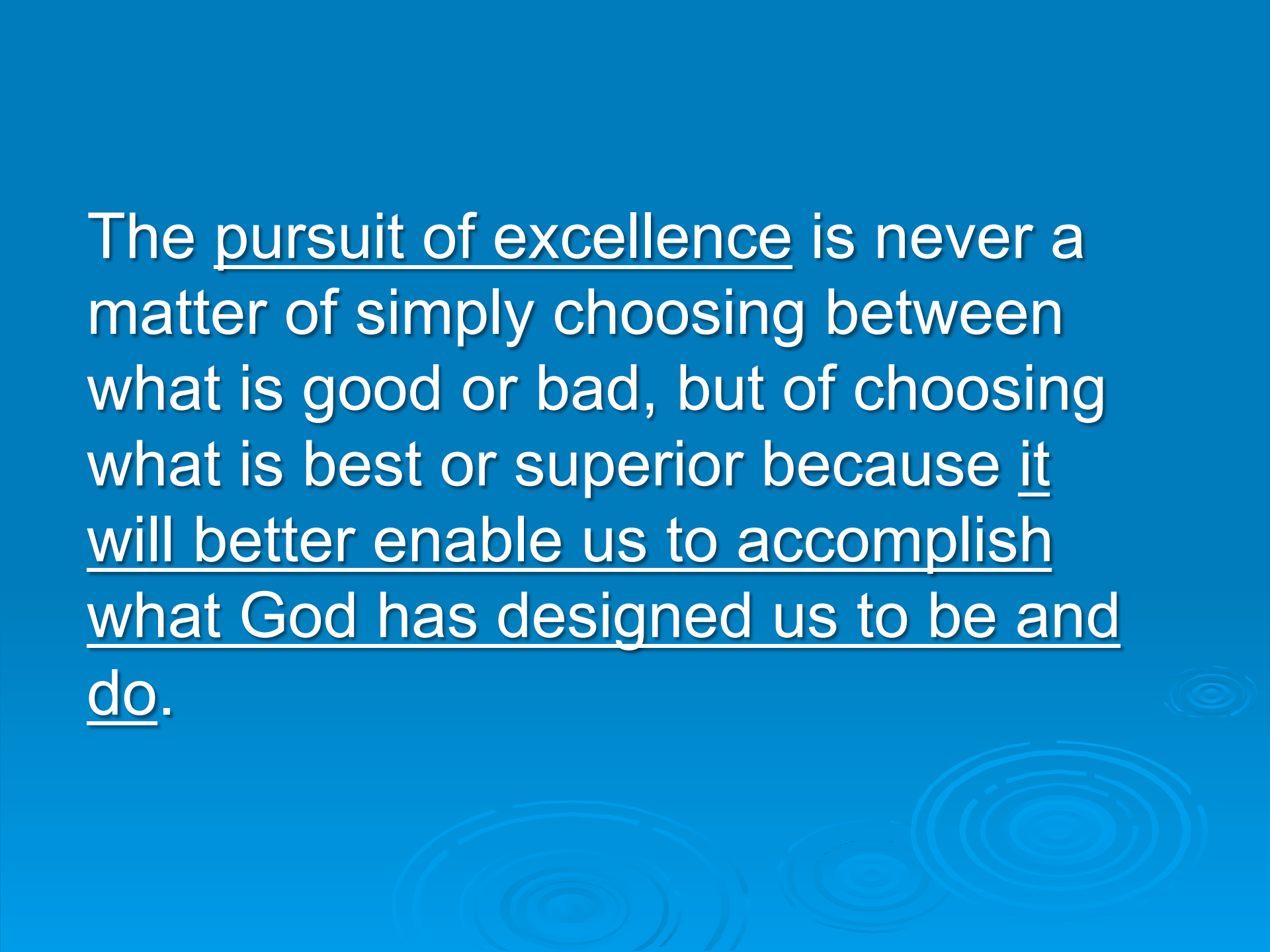
Brian Harbour, *Rising Above the Crowd*

Success, to many, means being better than everyone else. It means exceeding the achievements of other people.

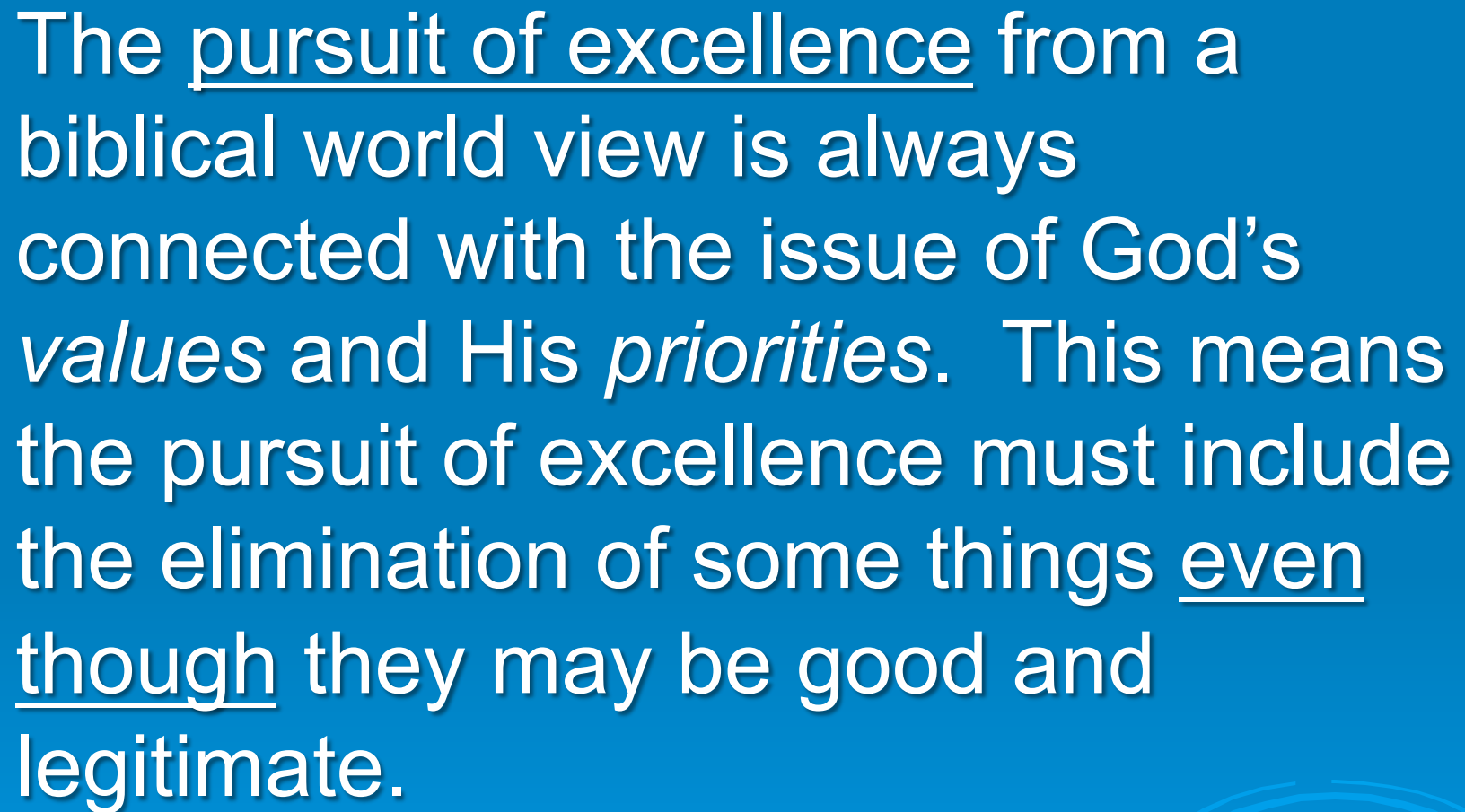
Excellence means being better today than you were yesterday and tomorrow than today. It means matching your practice (habits) with your potential.

Biblically speaking, the pursuit of excellence refers to pursuing and doing the best we can with the gifts and abilities God gives. In other words, giving our best to the glory of God.

The pursuit of excellence is never a matter of simply choosing between what is good or bad, but of choosing what is best or superior because it will better enable us to accomplish what God has designed us to be and do.



The pursuit of excellence from a biblical world view is always connected with the issue of God's *values* and His *priorities*. This means the pursuit of excellence must include the elimination of some things even though they may be good and legitimate.



²³ All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.


²⁴ Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

1 Corinthians 10: 23-24

¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.

1 Corinthians 12: 12-14

The Pursuit of Excellence
is not a matter of chance;
it is a matter of choice.


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QUITTING
is NOT an
OPTION



QUIT
Mediocrity

Choose
Excellence

The background features several faint, concentric circles in a lighter shade of blue, scattered across the bottom right portion of the slide, resembling ripples on water.

³⁷ Jesus said to him (*a lawyer*), “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22: 37-40

⁸ These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from Me.

⁹ And in vain they worship Me, teaching *as doctrines* the commandments of men.

Matthew 15: 8-9

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The pursuit of excellence
is a matter of the heart.



¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

1 Timothy 6: 11

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¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6: 11-12

¹⁴ Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God;
Hebrews 12: 14

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Why?



Why NOT?



“We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act, but a
habit.”

Aristotle

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⁹ 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; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 2: 9-10

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1 Peter 2: 9-10

1⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

1⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

1 John 4: 18-19

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Pursue Excellence



¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3: 17



¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

1 Thessalonians 5: 14-15

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1 Thessalonians 5: 14-15

19 Therefore let us pursue the things
which make for peace and the things
by which one may edify another.

Romans 14: 19

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**Make sure your
worst enemy is
not living
between your own
two ears.**

- Excellence means being our best.
- Excellence means being better today than we were yesterday and better tomorrow than today.
- Excellence means matching our practice (habits) with our potential.

We are to be the best we can be as we daily serve our Lord. We are called to seek His will and purpose. We are called to be the people God has called us to be. Let us be a people PURSUING EXCELLENCE.



**DON'T
LOOK
BACK
YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
THAT
WAY.**

One string.









EXCELLENCE

A close-up photograph of a compass rose on a light-colored surface. The word 'EXCELLENCE' is printed in a large, serif font, arched across the top of the image. A silver compass needle with a red arrowhead is positioned, pointing towards the word 'EXCELLENCE'. The compass rose has several points, with the largest ones representing the cardinal directions.

Is a
Direction,
not a
Destination.

Hear (Rom. 10:17)

Believe (Hebrews 11:6)

Repent (2 Cor. 7:10)

Confess (Phil. 2:9-12)

Baptized (Acts 2:38)

Live Faithful (Rev. 2:10)