Spirit of Excellence in Leadership

Reading Assignments: Daniel 1:17-20, 5:11-12, 6:1-3, 1st Kings 10:1-10 and Philippians 1:10 (AMP)

Do you see a man who excels in his work? He shall stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men. (Proverbs 22:29 NKJV)

Excellence is not a gift. It must be pursued. It must be sought after. God will give you the desires, but you must cultivate what God has put within you. Don’t expect excellence to be a gift of the Spirit. If you are given to slothfulness and an attitude of masking your lack of the pursuit of excellence behind the phrase… “If God wants it done, He will be sure to get it done”. Are you positioning yourself for a great lack of excellence? To excel means “to go beyond, to be superior.” Excellence is being the best we can be with God’s Grace.

Excellence is the gap between average and exceptional. It’s the ability to exceed expectations and consistently deliver superior quality. In developing habits of excellence, leaders gain influence and stand out from the crowd.

Excellence is important in any area of life but it is vital in leadership, especially leaders in the Kingdom of God. The quality of work is unlikely to rise above the quality of the leader. This is why we the leaders of EOM must develop and maintain a quest for personal excellence.

What does excellence in a spiritual leader looks like? And what areas of excellence should a spiritual leader pursue?

1. Personal walk with God-Mark 1:35

Whether you are an Apostle, Bishop, Pastor, Evangelist, Teacher or just a janitor. We must make our heart for God the first priority of our lives. You can be excellent in bringing forth vision, executing projects, developing budgets, working with people and any number of other skills, but if you don’t have a walk with God, you are not walking in the Spirit of Excellence. Guard your walk with God like you guard nothing else. Protect it, Value it, Make time for it. Don’t miss this point, your walk with God is not only measured in time spent with Him, it is also measured in your obedience to Him.

1. Having the Right Spirit- Daniel 6:3

The defining and distinguishing mark of Daniel’s life was “an excellent spirit”. When it comes to any area of leadership, a right spirit is of greater value than both education and experience; mind you both of those are of great value. But the quality of your spirit trumps it all. A right spirit is the result of being filled with the Holy Spirit. The first martyr Stephen, was such a man. “And ….. they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 6:5)

Stephen could have had any level of training, but nothing would have substituted for the Holy Spirit’s fullness in his life as he preached Christ, in words and example to his persecutors.

1. Passion for Souls (Acts 17:16)

Our hearts must remain stirred for souls; that’s why we entered the ministry in the first place. Too many leaders however have easily allowed their compassion and witness to decline, because they get caught up with the glitter and glamour, but not the leadership of EOM. One of the convicting aspects of the Apostle Paul’s ministry was his continued burden for souls. As spiritual leaders our example in passionately sharing the gospel should challenge others, our families, friends, and especially those we lead.

1. Healthy relationship with the Senior Leader-(Numbers 11:28 AMP)

If you are not the senior leader, make it your goal to know and reflect the heart of your leader as you serve in a local church or EOM. Work to understand your leader’s vision, and pursuer it. Work to catch his heart for others and communicate it to them. You are to encourage unity and spiritual health in your local church or EOM, when you strengthen your relationship with your senior leader, you send a very strong message to anyone who is out to cause division that there is no weak link in this chain.

1. Execution of Responsibility-

A frustrated spiritual leader is one who loves to dream, plan and strategize but lacks the skills to execute. He or she has great vision, but lives in a last minute world of stress and unfulfilled expectations. Sooner or later (usually sooner) these types of leaders lose the respect of the team they lead. Clear thinking and vision driven leaders are vital but we must ensure we see the entire thing through or have the blue print so clear that everyone in leadership can complete the vision.

6. Discipline: only the disciplined person will rise to his full potential. A leader is able to lead others because he has conquered himself. Disciple is the root word of discipline. Therefore a disciple must be a disciplined person. Those that walk in the spirit of excellence must first pass the test of being disciplined.

1. Punctual
2. Taking responsibility for your action
3. Do all business deals above board
4. Desire to be used of God

In the secular world, excellence in leadership is connected to a desire for personal advancement and promotion on the job. In the life of the spiritual leader, excellence in leadership is connected to a deep hunger to simply be used of God. The key is not for you to be lords over God’s people but to serve others from a spirit of humility and love, to make a difference for Christ and to change your community for the glory of God.

1. Faithfulness:

There is a need for faithful men who can be trusted. In leadership there is no place for those who do not have faithfulness woven into the fabric of their character. Faithfulness is a quality described as being true or trustworthy in the performance of your duty. This is especially true in the fulfillment of promises, obligations or vows. Fulfillment becomes the key word because a faithful leader finishes the job no matter what it is, how long it takes and how distasteful it may be. Spiritual leaders do more than calculate, structure, and use available assets; we rely on God, that is why we reach beyond the resources at our disposal to lay hold on the resources of God.