

Strive For Excellence Not Perfection



Strive For Excellence Not, Perfection

Posted: November 3, 2015

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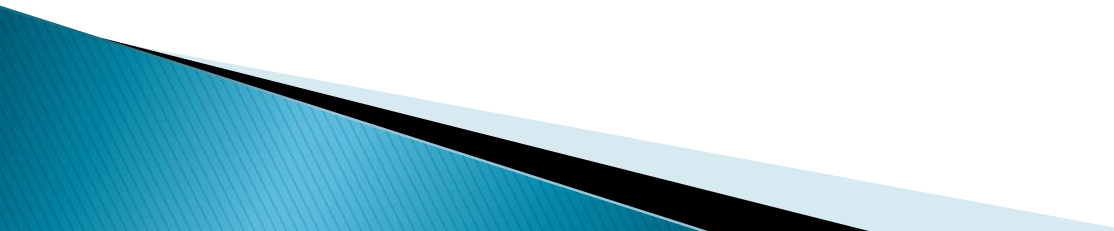
The title of this article is a quote from H. Jackson Brown, Jr. People often put the emphasis on perfection without realizing that perfection is impossible except in scientific laboratory experiments and mathematical applications. Most of the time, emphasizing perfection rather than excellence acts as an obstacle to progress. As such, we will explore the cons of perfection and the pros of excellence in this article, as it will enable individuals and institutions to strive for excellence and effectiveness.

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What Is Excellence?

Colin Powell said, “If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude.” Excellence is about being the best, striving to be better, with an eye to delivering quality goods and services. People are not born with excellence. They cultivate it over a period of time through hard work, wise work, and smart work. It emerges from continuous improvement over the past. It is a corollary of passion and performance.

Excellence differentiates extraordinary people from ordinary people. Those who strive for excellence will have longevity in their endeavors. It is both the yardstick and the benchmark. When you benchmark against other achievers, you tend to improve and grow.



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How to Achieve Excellence?

People first must develop the mindset that achieving excellence is a journey, not a destination. They must set their goals in order to achieve excellence. There are certain tips that will help you achieve excellence, irrespective of your area of interest. Here are some nuggets of wisdom for achieving excellence:



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Be Passionate:

When you do what you love, you do not feel that you are working any more, as you derive pleasure from it. Hence, you have to be passionate about whatever you do. In addition, involvement is essential for excellence. When you involve yourself, the sky is your limit.



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Spot Your Talents:

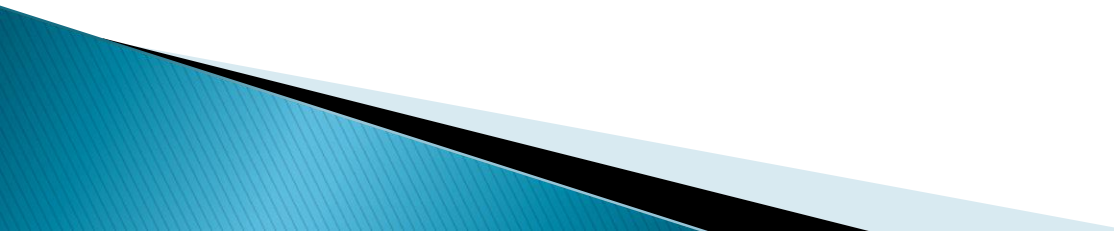
Once you know your passions, it becomes easy for you to hone them. Acquire skills and abilities in tune with talents. People often search for skills by ignoring their inherent talents. Hence, spot your talents and build your competencies and capabilities in and around them.



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Read Good Books:

Read good books and upgrade your knowledge constantly. Continuous learning broadens your horizons. Never become complacent with your existing knowledge. Keep reading good books that enrich you with the latest knowledge from multiple perspectives. Books provide diversified knowledge, information, and ideas that you can choose and that can help you grow. Constant learning is a boon. Reading good books by great authors will inspire you. If possible, note key points for future reference. Sometimes people think they know everything. There is always something that can be learned from each book, provided you have an open mind to learn and grow. In addition, different authors present content from different perspectives, thus enriching your knowledge.



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Work Smart and Wise:

You must learn to work smartly, wisely, and hard in order to achieve excellence. There is a difference between working hard and smart work. Working hard is all about perspiration without any planning and preparation. In contrast, working smart is about thorough preparation with a proper blueprint to proceed, along with perspiration. Hard work consumes a lot of time, money, and resources, while smart work conserves time, money, and resources.



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Share Your Knowledge:

Knowledge grows when it is shared. Develop an attitude to help and serve others. We brought nothing into this world and will take away nothing from this world when we die. What we can do is share our knowledge so people can benefit. Sharing your knowledge, writing articles, and mentoring others will sharpen your mind. You will get great pleasure when you see people growing in front of you.



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Solicit Continuous Feedback:

Continuous feedback is essential for excellence. As feedback is the breakfast of champions, people must take feedback from others without any false ego. Feedback spots the chinks in the armor. It helps people to know their weaknesses so they can work toward improvement. In fact, continuous improvement paves the way for excellence.



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Manage Constraints:

There will be several constraints and obstacles in the path to achieving excellence. Some are internally created by human errors, and many are externally created by forces beyond human control. Hence, learn to manage both external and internal forces and factors that prevent you from achieving excellence.



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Excellence vs. Perfection

Do not confuse excellence with perfection as it is easy to achieve excellence, but tough to achieve perfection. Michael J. Fox once remarked, “I am careful not to confuse excellence with perfection. Excellence, I can reach for; perfection is God’s business.” Perfection is a phobia. When you emphasize perfection too much, you tend to make more mistakes, resulting in failures. However, when you emphasize excellence, you tend to be comfortable as you find it easier to execute and deliver.

Excellence paves the way for improvement, while perfection paves the way for stagnation, limiting one’s creativity and innovation. People often fail to deliver goods when emphasis is laid on perfection. However, excellence tolerates mistakes and failures, thus allowing people to explore and experiment, and, in turn, paving the way for excellence. Excellence is feasible and possible, while perfection is a fantasy and often difficult to attain. Excellence is pleasure, while perfection is pressure.

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Quote From:

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

There is a growing interest in excellence on the part of organizations. For instance, McKinsey’s Tom Peters and Robert Waterman published a book, “In Search of Excellence—Lessons from America’s Best-Run Companies.” The book was famous for **the 7S framework, where 7S stands for strategy, structure, systems, staff, skills, style, and shared values.** It was researched at 43 of the Fortune 500 list of top-performing companies in America. In addition, Jim Collins’ book, “Built to Last,” was researched at 18 companies.

Currently, companies crave excellence to beat their competition and stay ahead of others. Excellence is the only thing that makes people walk on their toes to deliver amazing results.

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Remember This:

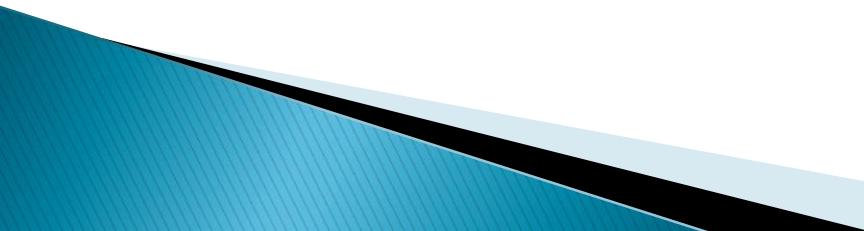
1. You Must A Have Relationship with God
2. Always Ask For God's Forgiveness in Jesus Name
3. Utilize God's Holy Spirit for Guidance
4. Demonstrate God's Fruits of The Spirit / Characteristics
5. Utilize God's Motivational Gifts
6. Utilize God's Ministry Gifts
7. Utilize God's Manifestation Gifts
8. Do Not Place any Limitation on God or Self

Philippians 4:13 Living Bible (TLB)

¹³ for I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power.

Philippians 4:13 New International Version (NIV)

¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength



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PROPHECY: Reveals truth by exposing sin, so that fellowship with God can be restored and/or maintained

SERVING: Demonstrates love by meeting practical needs, usually through tangible work

TEACHING: Discovers and validates truth so that the Church maintains accuracy

EXHORTING: Encourages Christians to grow spiritually by teaching, discipling, and counseling others

GIVING: Conserves and shares resources in order to meet needs.

ORGANIZING: Carries out projects by recruiting workers, organizing tasks, or delegating responsibilities

MERCY: Demonstrates God's love and compassion by responding to hurt

Motivational Gifts

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Ministry gifts are the tools God uses to build up the Church. They are practical, essential, can-do types of gifts such as those described in Ephesians 4:11–13:

“He gave some,
and some,
and some,
and some,
and

Apostles;
Prophets;
Evangelists;
Pastors
Teachers;

Ministry Gifts

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“The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit

- the **Word of Wisdom**;
- to another the **Word of Knowledge** by the **same Spirit**;
- to another **Faith** by the **same Spirit**;
- to another the **Gifts of Healing** by the **same Spirit**;
- to another the **Working of Miracles**;
- to another **Prophecy**;
- to another **Discerning of Spirits**;
- to another **Divers Kinds of Tongues**;
- to another the **Interpretation of Tongues**;
- but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will” (I Corinthians 12:7–11).

Manifestation Gifts