

Launching Text: Romans 8:35-37 Who (or what) shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors (we are champions) through Him (Christ Jesus) that loved us.

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think of you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Rev 1:6 And He (the Lord) hath made us kings & priests.

{Amplified} James 4:10 Humble yourselves [with the attitude of insignificance] in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you [yes, He will lift you up, and promote you and make your lives significant].

Ezek 22:30 And I sought for a man (a significant one) among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before Me and the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

PREACHING TEXT: Phil 1:9-10 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;<sup>10</sup> That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.<sup>11</sup> Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God

Intro: Some believe that they could live the excellent life if it just wasn't for all the problems and that big old devil. But the devil is not the problem for the believer for God gives us power over him. The Word says in Luke 10:19 that God gives his children authority and power to tread and trample over all the agents and the power of them and nothing can hurt you. [hurt=Greek=adikeo=ad-ee-kah'-o meaning to do unjust to, to be an offender of, to cause to suffer, to injure]. *The big problem for the believer is the flesh and the choices we make.* The problem is the mind set-----change your mind which will change your destiny.

Prov 23:7 teaches that as we think in our heart, so are we.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (which is God's destiny for you for a spiritual mind will produce a path of excellence).

### 1. EXCELLENCE COMES THROUGH GOD-LIKE CONVICTIONS ( or faith)

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God): for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

1-Tim 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1. Positioned Faith Mark 11:22 Have faith in God

#### 2. Pronounced Faith

Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith.

#### 3. Purposed Faith

Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto (and not about) this mountain...

#### 4. Persistent Faith

Mark 11:23...and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass....

5. Pleasing Faith Mark 11:23 ....he shall have whatsoever he saith

### 2. EXCELLENCE COMES THROUGH GOD-LIKE COMMUNICATION (or words) (The ABCD's of Words)

#### 1. Acceptable Words

Ps 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. *(The measure of Acceptable Words: (fair, friendly, foul-less & faith-filled)*

#### 2. Blessing Words

Ps 34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Rom 12:14 Bless them that persecute you: bless and curse not.

#### 3. Corruptless Words

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt (useless, putrid, obscene, negative, unproductive, or ungodly) communication proceed out of thy mouth but that which is good to the use of edifying that it might minister grace unto the hearers.

Mat 12:36 But I (Jesus) say unto you, that every idle (useless, barren, unprofitable, obscene, negative, ungodly, unproductive, or ungodly) word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

#### 4. Declarative Words

Job 22:28 (After we get to know God, live in peace, receive the Word of God and put it in our heart, put sin far away from us, delight ourselves in the Lord, stay in His presence, pray unto God, pay our vows to God and man, then) Thou shall also decree a t, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light (revelation from God) shall shine upon thy ways.

Mat 16:19 (Jesus says) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven (God's way of doing things) and whatsoever thou shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. [Bind=Greek=deo=tie up—be in bonds to]

[loose=Greek=loo'o=to destroy, break up, melt, dissolve, put off forever]

HOW? With our lips, like Jesus. Heb 1:3 (Jesus upholds all things by the Word of His power)

### 3. EXCELLENCE COMES THROUGH GOD-LIKE CONVERSATION (life-style, walk, & manner of living)

1-Pet 1:15-16 But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (living) because it is written be ye holy for I am holy.

Phil 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere (truthful) without offense till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God.

Joshua 22:5 But take diligent heed to do the commandment of the Lord and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments, & to cleave unto Him, & to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

1. Walk in Christ Col 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.
2. Walk in the Spirit Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
3. Walk Circumspectly Eph 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly (perfectly) not as fools, but as wise.
4. Walk By Faith 2-Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith and not by sight.
5. Walk Honestly 1-Thes 4:12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without ----lacking nothing.
6. Walk Humbly Micah 6:8 He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.
7. Walk in Love Eph 5:2 Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath love us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor.  
1-John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God and everyone that loves is born of God. He that loves not knows not God for God is love.  
1-John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loves not his brother abides in death.
8. Walk in the Light 1-John 1:7 If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with the other and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.
9. Walk in Wisdom Col 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

Our Walk Controls The Blessings: Ps 84:11 ....no good thing will He withhold from them who walk uprightly.

#### 4. EXCELLENCE COMES THROUGH GOD-LIKE CHARISMA (or spirit & liveliness & living to the best of your ability)

Ecc1 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, (where we will all go should the Lord tarry His coming).  
Phil 1:10 That ye may approve (only) things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere (living in truth) and without offence (sin) till the day of Christ (when we stand before Him in judgment).

##### 1. Loving To The Best of Your Ability

Mat 12:37-39 Jesus said unto him (them), Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself.

##### 2. Laboring To The Best of Your Ability

Col 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as men pleasers: but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

Col 4:1 Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

##### 3. Living To The Best of Your Ability

Col 4:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men;

John 4:24 God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit (liveliness) and in truth.

#### 6. EXCELLENCE COMES THROUGH GOD-LIKE CLEANLINESS (or purity)

Prov 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

1-Tim 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins; Keep thyself pure

Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

Ps 24:3-5 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing of the Lord.

1. Clean Mind Prov 23:7 For as he thinks in his heart so is he.....

2. Clean Mouth Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good....

3. Clean Morals Ps 101:2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way.....

4. Clean Mood Phil 4:4 Rejoice always and again I say rejoice. 1-Thes 5:18 In everything give thanks....

5. Clean Motives Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not to your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

6. Clean Methods Mat 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth (in me) as it is in heaven.

Heb 10:9 ....Lo, I come to do thy will. O God.....

Closing: All of the above will be fulfilled when do the following for the EXCELLENT LIFE-STYLE:

1. Seeking —Isa 55:6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.
2. Submitting—James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God; resist the devil & he will flee from you.
3. Sacrificing—Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ---Luke 9:23....deny self...
4. Saturating—With the Word and with the Spirit  
Job 23:12...esteem the Words of His mouth more than my necessary food  
Eph 5:18 Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit.

**LIVE TO MAKE GOD LOOK GOOD!**