

Culture of Hope: Relentless Pursuit of Excellence

Reflect

1. Think of someone who exhibited excellence in their work. What made their work excellent?
2. What is one thing *you* have done excellently? What made it excellent?
3. What do you think holds us back from pursuing excellence in all areas of life?

Read Your Bible

- 1 Kings 7:13-22
- Matthew 25:21

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. According to 1 Kings 7:13-14, how does Hiram display excellence?
2. In 1 Kings 7:15-22, the tops of the pillars are higher than humans can easily see—yet God sees. How did Hiram decorate them?
3. Why should we practice excellence in all we do—even when others aren't looking?
4. According to Matthew 25:21, why is it important to do everything, even small things, with excellence?
5. What does it mean to “relentlessly pursue” excellence?
6. In what areas of your life have you been lazy?
7. What are some ways you can seek excellence in all you do?

Conclusion

We relentlessly pursue excellence to show gratitude for the gifts God gave us. When King Solomon asked the metalworker Hiram to build bronze pillars for God's temple, he didn't cut corners. He built two

additional pillars as free-standing monuments to the power and the glory of God. He adorned the top of the pillars with intricate pomegranate and lilies—too high for humans to appreciate—as an act of worship. One thousand years later, when the Chaldeans destroyed the temple, they toppled the pillars. They discovered hundreds of intricate pomegranates carved into the bronze and carried them back to their country. Hiram’s excellence became a witness to an unbelieving nation that God is worthy of worship. How can our excellence inspire others to know our great God?

Pray

Heavenly Father, You know all and see all. Help us, whatever we do, to work at it with all our hearts, as if working for the Lord, not for human masters (Colossians 3:23). Help us, Holy Spirit, to be faithful in the little things, so that You can trust us with greater things. Let us have a holy discontent in our church to seek excellence in all we do to honor You and make a difference in people’s lives. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.