Excel Return to His Excellence-Follow after His Excellence

1Co 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

Excel---To superabound (in quantity or quality), be in excess, be superfluous; (transitively) to cause to superabound or excel:--(make, more) abound, (have, have more) abundance (be more) abundant, be the better, enough and to spare, exceed, excel, increase, be left, redound, remain (over and above).

1. You can’t excel going off into a far country Luke 15 :13-17
   1. The decision of the younger son

Lu 15:13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread (<**perisseuo**> enough and to spare,) and I perish with hunger!

1. You can’t excel on your own working in the field
   1. The decision of the elder son

Ge 49:3 Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: 4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch. 1Ch 15:21 And Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obededom, and Jeiel, and Azaziah, with harps on the Sheminith to excel. Ps 103:20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. {excel..mighty in strength} Isa 10:10 As my hand hath found the kingdoms of the idols, and whose graven images did excel them of Jerusalem and of Samaria; Mt 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

1. You can excel in father’s care

1Co 15:58 ¶ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always **abounding** in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1. In coming and in returning you receive by faith His gifts
2. In service you must be faithful.

1Co 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

1Pe 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1Co 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Ps 62:12 Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

Mt 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Ro 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Ga 6:4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

**Touchstone**

The Touchstone for rejoicing, examine your life to see if it follows the pattern that Christ has shown us in His Word.

Christ hath left us an example that we should follow his steps.

* The only rule for a Christian is the word of Christ
* The only pattern for imitation is the example of Christ.
* We should not compare ourselves with others; they are not our standard.

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Jer 6:30 Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.

Ga 4:19 ¶ My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Jas 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1Pe 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Excellence

Job 37:23 Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.

Ps 8:1 ¶ <<To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David.>> O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

Ps 8:9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

Ps 16:3 But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.

Ps 36:7 How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

Ps 76:4 Thou art more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey.

Ps 141:5 ¶ Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities.

Ps 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

Ps 150:2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Pr 8:6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

Pr 12:26 ¶ The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

Pr 17:7 ¶ Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince. Pr 17:27 ¶ He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

Pr 22:20 Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

Song 5:15 His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.

Isa 4:2 ¶ In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Isa 12:5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.

Isa 28:29 This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.

Da 5:12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

Da 5:14 I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.

Da 6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Ro 2:18 And knowest his will, and **approvest** the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;

1Co 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

Php 1:10 That ye may **approve** things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Heb 1:4 ¶ Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Heb 8:6 ¶ But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Heb 11:4 ¶ By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

2Pe 1:17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Christian Character God’s love, God’s Grace for Christian Character There has to be a new nature, reflective nature, illuminating life

Silent prayer by itself does not edify

Speaking in tongues by itself does not edify as far as does not communicate to us the truth by itself without another gift working with it.

Gifts that edify the church.

The believer's zeal is not to be limited even if he has been misinformed and emphasizes the wrong gift. He is to straighten out his emphasis, keep his zeal, and direct his energy to edifying the church.

Keep your zeal.

The important gifts are those that are needed the most right now that build up faith for Christ.

Spiritual Gifts

1Co 14:1 ¶ Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

1. Returning to Love
   1. “Follow after charity”
      1. Follow
         1. To pursue
         2. To press forward
         3. Keep your eyes on Jesus
   2. “Desire spiritual gifts “
      1. Desire
         1. To covet earnestly
         2. To have warmth of feeling for
         3. To be ambitious
         4. To be zealous
      2. The more we love God and men, the more we desire the gifts of God so that we can minister and help more effectively.
   3. “rather that ye may Prophesy”
      1. Prophesy
         1. foretell events
         2. Divine will revealed and spoken,
         3. Speak under inspiration,
         4. Exercise the prophetic office

Tongues

Tongues are a sign to warn unbelievers; prophecy is a gift to edify believers.

To Prophesy—The gift of speaking under the inspiration of God's Spirit both *prediction and proclamation*

*1Co 14:22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.*

1Co 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

* + 1. Edification
       1. Building
       2. Building by faith a great structure
    2. Exhortation
       1. Comfort- intreaty-standing close beside
       2. Plead
    3. Comfort
       1. Consolation-consoling until they are consoled

2Co 1:4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

2—For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

4—He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

14—For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

18—I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

19—Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

1Co 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

If we will excel in spiritual gifts, we must seek the profit of the church.

Seeing ye affect so much to have spiritual gifts, seek that ye may get those by which ye may excel in edifying the Church.

* Seek that ye may excel
* Seek that you may be able to convey truth in a clear and plain manner;

seek to be distinguished for that. It is one of the most rare and valuable endowments of the Holy Spirit.

*"spiritual gifts"*

Are zealous; earnestly desire. Excel to the edifying of the church; abound in these gifts in such a way as to edify the church.

Seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. If you seek for spiritual gifts, seek rather those that will build up the church, such as prophesying and teaching.

The edifying of the church. The purpose that should be controlling.

1Co 14:26 ¶ How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

1Co 8:1 ¶ Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

*"spiritual gifts"*

***God is working out special purposes of His Love***

Zephaniah 2:11*—The LORD will be terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen.*

3:8*—Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.*

9*—For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.*

3:17*—The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy;* ***he will rest in his love****, he will joy over thee with singing.*

God’s Judgments on man are with Mercy and are for the purpose to cause true repentance not destruction.

The judgments of God become more and more severe as man refuses to repent.

* God will have no rival with our affections

1. Idolatry must be destroyed
   1. Giving our love to things in place of God.
      1. Wealth
      2. Pleasure
      3. Fame
   2. Giving time to things in place of worship.
   3. Self worship is Idolatry
2. Fear of evil must be destroyed
   1. Giving in to feelings is always dangerous.
   2. Going by the Principles of the bible is safe.

* God will have no indifference
  + Toward Him
  + Toward others
  + Toward the work of God
* God would have us follow love, excel

The only way we may avoid either becoming lukewarm or being contaminated with spiritual anemia is to continue to progress and to flow in the mainstream of the moving of the Holy Ghost.