



Soldiering: A Biblical Perspective

Lesson 5

Godly Excellence (Professional Excellence and the Christian Officer)

NOTE: As you work through this lesson, draw on the material and lessons of the previous six lessons and your own experience.

1. Definition. How do you define "Excellence?" What do you think are the essential characteristics of something that is excellent?
2. Spiritual Excellence. Military professionals aspire for professional excellence. As Christians, we should aspire for spiritual excellence as well. Daniel, an Old Testament prophet, provides an example of excellence in both areas. Read Daniel 1: 1-20; 5:5-1, 17-30; and 6:1-28. What do these passages teach concerning:
 - a. The Source of Excellence?
 - b. The Practice of Excellence?
 - c. The Rewards of Excellence?
 - d. The Perils of Excellence?
3. Godly Excellence. What does the Bible teach concerning Christ as the ultimate example of excellence (Hebrews 1:3-4, 8:1-6)?
4. God's Desire. What does the Bible teach concerning God's desire for excellence in our lives (Philippians 2: 13-16, Colossians 3:22-24)?
5. Resourcing for Excellence. Who provides the power for excellence in the Christian life?
 - a. Romans 5:10-11
 - b. Philippians 1:9-11
 - c. Philippians 4:13
 - d. Romans 8:11-15
6. Rewards of Excellence. How does the Lord reward those who are faithful to Him in the pursuit of excellence?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 3:12-15.
 - b. Matthew 25:19-21
 - c. Contrast with Matthew 25:24-30
7. Practical Application.
 - a. What opportunities are there for you to pursue excellence in your present or forthcoming assignments? Professionally and spiritually.
 - b. What specific steps can you take to prepare yourself to achieve excellence? Professionally and spiritually.

NOTE: In his pamphlet *Professional Excellence and the Christian Officer*, Lieutenant General William K. Harrison discusses professional and spiritual excellence. Additional copies are available from Officers' Christian Fellowship.