Excel Still More

Shawn Jeffries · 1 Thessalonians 4:1–12

INTRODUCTION

- Finally, then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that as you receive from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God, just as you actually do walk, that you excel still more.
- Have you been excelling and growing and striving to do that better each and every day? Or have you been just doing enough to get by?
- They did not need to walk around with a it is good enough mindset. Instead, they needed to excel. They needed to excel still more.

1 Excel in Matters of Holiness

1 Thessalonians 4:2–8; Job 31:1; Proverbs 4:23

- For this is the will of God, your sanctification. That is that you abstain from sexual immorality.
- That word holiness that Paul uses there means to be set apart. It means to be sanctified.
- We do this first by becoming more and more sold on what the scriptures teach about morality.
- We got to guard our marriages if we're going to excel in our holiness. And we also have to guard our eyes.
- Job says that he had made a covenant with his eyes that he would not gaze upon a virgin.
- We have to excel still more in our holiness because we serve a perfectly holy God.

2 Excel Still More in Our Love for the Brethren

1 Thessalonians 4:9–10

- Now, as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you. For you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.
- Philadelphia is a word that speaks to how brethren treat each other. It speaks to brotherly kindness and affection.
- There's always room to become more patient with brothers and sisters and to become kinder and more caring and respectful.
- But for that to take place, we have to have humility. We have to be humble.
- A church can be practicing brotherly love, but that doesn't mean they need to stay where they are.

3 Excel in Our Influence With the World

1 Thessalonians 4:11–12; Matthew 5:16

- Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you.
- We should avoid being gossips. We should avoid being busybodies.
- Working with our hands helps us have influence with the outsiders.

- The first step in effective evangelism is living right. Living right at all times, living as a true Christian at all times.
- By the way we live our lives, we can send a message to the world. We can let the world know that we're not like everybody else.

4 Excel in Our Gratitude for Our Blessings

1 Thessalonians 1:2–10; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:3

- We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers.
- Instead, he begins it with words of gratitude. He begins it with thanksgiving. He is thankful for these brethren.
- We fail to be thankful for the blessings God has given us every single day.
- We have to stop the grumbling and the complaining and the whining about everything we think is wrong with our lives, and we got to be thankful.
- No matter how bad things get for us in this life, the Lord took care of our greatest need 2,000 years ago when he died on the cross.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Are you living that life? Are you living a spiritually transformed life in Jesus Christ? Have you even begun that process?**

MY NOTES