

SERMON NOTES



July 16 - 17, 2016

“Faithfulness is an act of an excellent spirit.”

3 Ways To Build An Excellent Spirit:

1. Know who you are in Christ.

- Daniel purposed in his heart not to compromise.

Ephesians 1:11-12 (MSG)

¹¹⁻¹² It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

- Daniel and his three friend's names changed - identity and character.

Daniel 1:1-6 (KJV)

¹⁻² It was the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon declared war on Jerusalem and besieged the city. The Master handed King Jehoiakim of Judah over to him, along with some of the furnishings from the Temple of God. Nebuchadnezzar took king and furnishings to the country of Babylon, the ancient Shinar. He put the furnishings in the sacred treasury.

³⁻⁵ The king told Ashpenaz, head of the palace staff, to get some Israelites from the royal family and nobility—young men who were healthy and handsome, intelligent and well-educated, good prospects for leadership positions in the government, perfect specimens!—and indoctrinate them in the Babylonian language and the lore of magic and fortunetelling. The king then ordered that they be served from the same menu as the royal table—the best food, the finest wine. After three years of training they would be given positions in the king's court.

⁶ Four young men from Judah—Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah—were among those selected. The head of the palace staff gave them Babylonian names: Daniel was named Belteshazzar, Hananiah was named Shadrach, Mishael was named Meshach, Azariah was named Abednego.

Daniel 1:8 (KJV)

⁸ But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

2. Know God has a plan for your life.

Ephesians 1:11-12 (MSG)

¹¹⁻¹² It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

3. Give God your best.

- God sees your best even when others do not or appreciate you.
- God promotes you and gives you favor.

Colossians 3:23 – 25 (MSG)

²³⁻²⁵ Servants, do what you're told by your earthly masters. And don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you'll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. Being a follower of Jesus doesn't cover up bad work.

Daniel 6:3 (KJV)

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.

- *Excellent* means of high quality or of the best.
- Daniel was promoted and highly favored because of his excellent spirit.
- *Spirit* means attitude in Hebrew.
- Attitude determines our altitude in life.
- Having a wrong attitude limits God.
- God cannot bless you if you have a negative attitude.
- Our attitude must come from God not from the world.

2 Peter 1:5 (KJV)

⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge.

- Adding virtue (excellence) to your faith causes acceleration in your faith walk.
- God promotes character.
- When you have a promise of God in your heart, you are promoted.
- God promotes from "within."
- Promotion starts from within and what is going on inside you.

God's Eyes Are On Us:

1. Promotable
2. Unstoppable
3. Given favor in places we have never seen before
4. Designed your living
5. God is working everything out for your good.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can you build “excellent spirit” in your life?
2. What kind of act is faithfulness?

Resources:

If you would like to look at “**An Excellent Spirit**” sermon series in more depth, Church On The Rock bookstore has excellent resources available.

