



DEVELOPING INNER EXCELLENCE

EXCETTING

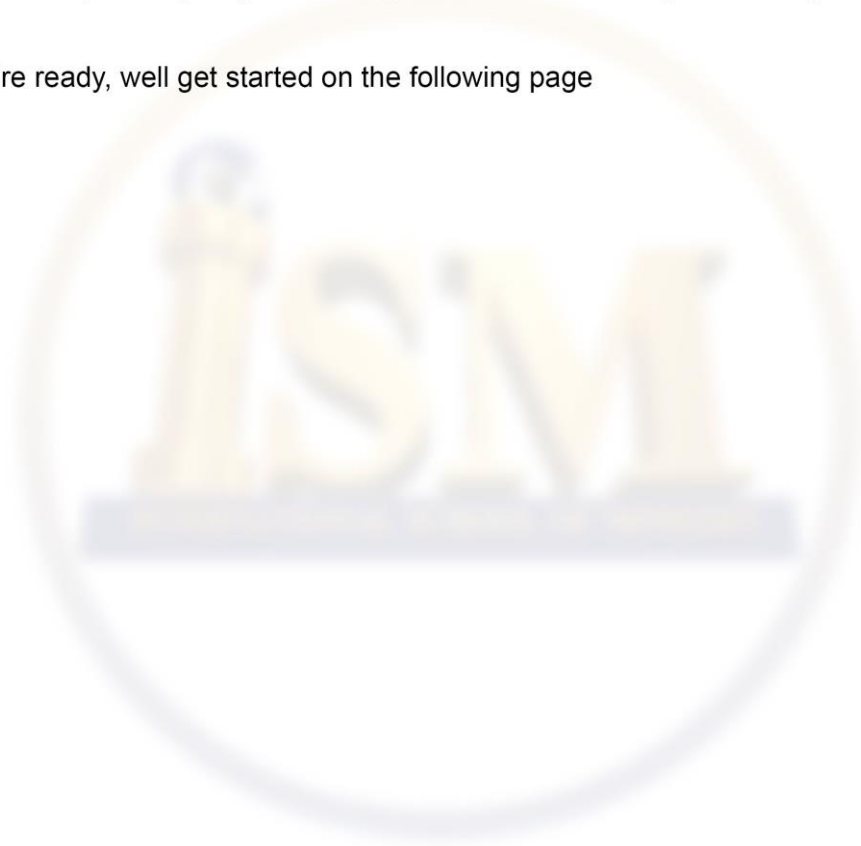


DEVELOPING INNER EXCELLENCE

WELCOME TO THIS READING COURSE

We are confident that an insightful learning experience awaits you. We encourage you to be armed with adequate materials to make your own notes and chronicle the inspirations that will come to you as the Spirit of God ministers to you uniquely. Be sure to read patiently so you can acquire full understanding of the subject matter.

If you're ready, we'll get started on the following page





Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you would have understood the following:

1. As a Christian and a minister, the Lord has called you to a life of excellence.
2. Important and practical steps to developing inner excellence as a Youth Leader.

Definition of Terms

Before we go into the main discourse, we will consider the definitions of key terminologies to enhance your knowledge of their accurate meanings.

- **Excellence:** *the quality of excelling, possessing good qualities in a high degree, eminently good – first class.*
- **Inner:** *of or relating to the mind or spirit.*
- **Develop:** *to create or produce especially by deliberate effort over time. It also means to make active or promote the growth of a thing or person.*

Introduction

The Bible says in Proverbs 17:27 **“He that hath knowledge spareth his words; and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.”** ‘Understanding’ here means discernment – discretion. The day you received the Holy Spirit, you received an excellent spirit to live in you. Now that He lives in you, He is mingled with your spirit causing you to be excellent as well. Isn’t that amazing?

From this union, a lot has been deposited into your spirit. The Apostle Paul makes this clear in his first epistle to the Corinthians: **“But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”**¹

From the foregoing scriptures, it is evident that a seed of excellence has been deposited in your spirit; you have something unique in you, but you have to decide to develop it. There are those who are going to impact this world and there are those who will merely witness others do so. Developing inner excellence will place you among the former. You have to deliberately invest in and train your inner being (your spirit and mind) to grow in excellence such that you can pass on the same character trait to the young people that you lead.

¹1 Corinthians 6:17

Steps in Developing Inner Excellence

Let's begin to look in detail at those steps you should take in cultivating the excellent spirit that the Lord has placed inside of you.



It all begins with a decision to be an excellent person – not just an excellent youth leader, but an excellent person in all ramifications. Cultivate dissatisfaction for mundaneness and mediocrity; decide not to accept anything that is short of excellence or is half-measured. In 2 Peter 1:3 (AMPC), we are told that we have been called to a life of excellence, **“For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the [full, personal] knowledge of Him Who called us by and to His own glory and excellence (virtue)”**. That is the life that you have been called to live.

Live up to the standard of life to which you have been called. It is not okay to be excellent in some things and not excellent in others. Choose to be an all-round excellent personality. Be excellent in your outward appearance and communication knowing you represent the Kingdom of God. Be excellent in your ministry administration and accountability. Be excellent in caring for the spiritual needs of the young ones you lead, and every other aspect of life

*An Excellent Spirit
is the Outworking of
the Righteousness
of God in a Man's
Spirit
-Rev (Dr) Chris
Oyakhilome Dsc
Dsc DD*

and ministry. In verse 5 of the above scripture, Peter the apostle admonished **“For this reason...employ every effort in exercising your faith to develop virtue (excellence, resolution, Christian energy)...”** ² It is your responsibility. Make a personal choice to be an excellent person privately and publicly.

¹2 Peter 1:5 AMPC

2



INVEST IN YOUR MIND THROUGH MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD

Your mind is a very important aspect of your humanity, capable of determining the very quality of life you live on earth. In other words, whether you live an excellent or mundane life is dependent on the deposit and the character of your mind. Therefore, you must invest God's Word into your mind. Start first by getting acquainted with the scriptures through study and even memorization (memorizing scriptures is not only for those in the children's church).

Subsequently, think only on what the Word says to think on; manage your mind with the Word of God. Philippians 4:6 AMPC says **"For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them]"**. Meditation on the scriptures is not the same as memorizing them even though it could start as memorizing them.

*The way to
transform, improve,
and upgrade your
life is by renewing
your mind.*

*-Rev. (Dr.) Chris
Oyakhilome DSc.
DSc. D.D*

It is contemplating the Word of God, also speaking it repeatedly – muttering it under your breath – and then speaking it aloud until it sinks into your consciousness, drowning everything that opposes the Word being meditated upon. That way, your whole being is affected by the Word, producing and stirring up excellence in you. One way to achieve this is to schedule a special time every day when you give attention

to meditating on the scriptures. Plan for it; set your phone's alarm to remind you. You must be intentional about investing God's Word into you, but it does not stop there.

3



INVEST IN YOURSELF THROUGH FELLOWSHIP WITH THE HOLY

What could be more desirable than a real in-depth relationship with the Holy Spirit! This should be one of your greatest desires, and it's possible! To have a real fellowship with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues is very important because prayer is not just requesting something from God, it is also fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit. Ordinary words in your human language will not accomplish this for you. You need to spend quality time speaking in tongues, sometimes for hours. At such moments of fellowship with the Holy Spirit, your spirit is conditioned to function at its purest and most efficient capacity. It is fine-tuned to be very productive. Don't allow yourself to become too lazy and weak to pray.

Prioritize the ministry of the Holy Spirit by always being full of the Spirit.³ Jesus said "men ought always to pray and not to faint."⁴ Prayer is what a minister does, not what he teaches; therefore, schedule time for yourself to pray daily. Let your life be bubbling through prayer. When you are a minister that has the training and foundation of prayer, you develop stamina against the days of test that will surely come; you are developing excellence for the day it will be required and you do not want to be found wanting. It could be an attack on your salvation, ministry, finances, health, etc. Remember that we are talking about developing inner excellence; what you are developing is in your inner man – your spirit and its mind.

*If you are prayerful,
you become a
stable person.*

*-Rev.(Dr.) Chris
Oyakhilome DSc.
DSc. D.D*

The scripture says in Jude 1:20 AMPC **"But you beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit;"** As you pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit will take the Word of God that you have meditated upon to work on your personality, such that when you are done praying, your personality is transformed to become a better version of you and then you will find out that your desires are aligned to His. This also, in no small way, will help you develop inner excellence.

³Ephesian 5:18, ⁴Luke 18:1

CULTIVATE DISCIPLINE

Working on the potential within your personality is very essential in developing inner excellence. One major thing you ought to build inside of you is discipline – self-control. Without discipline, excellence is likely to elude you. You have to make up your mind to control your immediate gratification and impulses to delay it for long-term gain. For example, the Lord has instructed you to go into a period of fasting and praying of which you are to break the fast at certain times each day. Even though you feel very hungry every morning as you fast; you need to control your desires to abstain from food and focus on praying and studying the Word at such times. If you can control your appetite for food during your period of fasting, you will be able to control a lot of other things.

Cultivating discipline is about learning to tame your appetite in everything and do what you should do, rather than do what you feel like doing. For example, how do

*Understanding of
the Scriptures helps
a man to be more
disciplined .*

*-Rev. (Dr.) Chris
Oyakhilome DSc.*

you spend your church or even your personal finances? You ought to cultivate the discipline not to blow up everything you get. Spend less than you earn. Set financial goals and save towards them (as an individual and for your youth ministry). The Lord will require you to do certain things with the finances and you should be ready for it.

Furthermore, remember that the young people you are dealing with are to some degree vulnerable and they trust you; do not be a leader that is indisciplined towards your members of the opposite gender – rule over your passion (sexual and emotional). Reuben was described as unstable as water because he could not refrain himself from his sleeping with his father's concubine (Genesis 35:22). He was indisciplined and therefore could not excel. Be 'restrain-able' and controllable. Do not be one that is described as 'doing what he wants'. As a child of God, discipline – self-control is already a fruit of your recreated human spirit **“Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence)…”**⁵ – it's your innate ability; all you need to do now is to bring it out from within you; give it vent and make it stronger by confessing and practicing it often.



Another character side-by-side discipline that you must cultivate is reliability. Become a reliable or a dependable person. When things are committed to your trust, make up your mind to make a success of it. Do not be someone that fails at doing something when it should be done or fails people generally; that is not excellence. Your work should be that people are able to trust you because their previous experience with you in handling a certain task was a good one. Do the right thing the first time so that more can be committed to your care; this is a feature of an excellent spirit. Paul, the apostle was given the mandate of taking the gospel to the Gentiles, and even though the other disciples disregarded his message because of his ministry to and acceptance of the Gentiles, he magnified his office. **“For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentile, I magnify mine office:”**.⁶ Paul took the responsibility God committed to him seriously and promoted it. The Lord could rely on Paul. He ended up being one of the greatest apostles with so much revelation of the Lord Jesus and the new life in Christ which he shared in his many epistles to the Church today.

*The ability to take on more because of your performance is an excellent spirit. -
-Rev. (Dr.) Chris Oyakhilome DSc.
DSc. D.D*

People around you may look down on your ministry because you are dealing with the youth whom they think cannot contribute so much to the gospel, but you have been sent as a minister to these young people- magnify your office! Make a success out of the lives of those you have been sent to. Prove that young people, with their strength and passion for Christ, can accomplish so much in the gospel. Prove that it is only a matter of time before these young people will become agents of change in society. Set big goals and drive all of them to accomplish big things for God. Take your ministry into the schools and everywhere young people are in your city or community; leave no stone unturned. Prove your ministry, so that the Lord can entrust bigger territories to you. Be like Paul, do what you do so well that you cannot be ignored.

⁵Galatiana 5:23 AMPC, ⁶Romans 11:13

6 **Dissociate Yourself from Negative People**

You need to develop filters not to listen to unwholesome communication if you must develop inner excellence. Psalms 1:1 says **“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”** There are people whose spirits have been wrongly brought up. They complain and murmur against authority in the house of God. Associating with such people can only corrupt your spirit. When Paul the apostle said *“Beware of dogs”*⁷ he was not referring to sinners but people in the house of God whose hearts are not perfect towards God and are carnal in their ways. The scripture above says you are blessed for not associating with them. These are not strangers but people you are familiar with. Satan is smart enough not to use strangers.

Understand that there is a fight for your spirit and if you want to live an excellent life, you should watch the kind of people you listen to and move with. In your journey of developing inner excellence, examine your associations (your circle of friends) and check if their lifestyle is consistent with God’s Word. You ought not to move with people who murmur or complain, otherwise, you can’t expect to live an

If you want things to work for you, don’t complain about things that you cannot fix.
-Rev. (Dr.) Chris Oyakhilome DSc.

excellent life. It’s not possible. The scripture says in Philippians 2:14 **“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”** Remember that it was because of murmuring that some of the Israelites were destroyed and God’s judgment against them was recorded in the scriptures for our learning so that we do not make the same mistakes they made.⁸

⁷Philippians 3:2, ⁸1 Corinthians 10:10-11

ACTION NOTE

01

CHOOSE
TO BE
EXCELLENT



INVEST IN YOUR
MIND THROUGH
MEDITATION
ON GOD'S WORD

02

03

INVEST IN YOURSELF
THROUGH FELLOWSHIP
WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT



CULTIVATE
DISCIPLINE

04

05

BE
RELIABLE



DISSOCIATE
YOURSELF FROM
NEGATIVE PEOPLE

06



CONCLUSION

We have all been called to live a life of Excellence but it is possible to live below that life if you do not decide for it. But remember that it all starts with a decision from you to be a truly excellent person from inside out.

