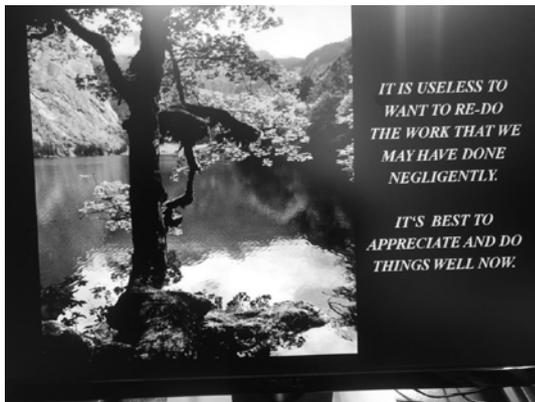


Complacent or Committed?

Daniel 1:8 NKJV

The Bible says, 'Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with...the king's meat.' Daniel had settled the issue, before the challenge arose. The three Hebrew children already knew what they were going to do, fiery furnace or not: '...Our God...is able to deliver



us...and He will...But if not...we do not serve your gods...' (Daniel 3:17-18 NKJV). What do you believe about God? If you think He might fail you, you'll never totally commit yourself to Him. Commitment grows! You can't make big commitments until you've first made small ones. The three Hebrew children first said no to the king's food; later they were able to say no to worshipping his idols. You don't get that kind of faith suddenly. Most of us can look back over the years and identify a point at which our lives changed significantly. Because of a readiness within us, we made a choice that would affect us from that point forward. But before you can make a real commitment to anything you must overcome three problems:

1. **The security problem.** Insecure people fear taking risks; they depend on themselves rather than on God.
2. **The success problem.** When you've had some success you want to guard it, so you start living defensively.
3. **The satisfaction problem.** The lukewarm Laodicean church said, 'I am... increased with goods, and have need of nothing' (Revelation 3:17).

So ask yourself, 'Am I complacent or committed?'

Scripture Study: Acts 10 – 11; Matt 9:1 -13; Ps 118:19 - 29; Prov 15:33

EXCELLING AT WHAT YOU DO

The Bible identifies five characteristics of people who excel and make it to the top:

1. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL WORK WITH ENTHUSIASM. Emerson once said, “Nothing great has ever been accomplished without enthusiasm.” Regardless of whether the job is big or small, give it your best. Great performers give their best effort, no matter the size of the audience: “Whatever your task is put your whole heart and soul into it, as work done for the Lord, and not merely for men.” Colossians 3:23.

2. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL SHARPEN THEIR SKILLS. They never stop developing ... growing ... learning ... improving. “If the axe is dull and it’s edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.” Ecclesiastes 10:10. It takes more than desire to excel, it takes skill! Remember: You’re never wasting time when you’re sharpening your “axe.”

3. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL KEEP THEIR WORD. They are reliable. They can be counted on to do what they say they’ll do. So they excel because people of integrity are rare in our society: “Everyone talks about how loyal and faithful they are, but just try to find someone who really is!” Proverbs 20:6 GN.

4. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE. Even under pressure ... or change ... or unrealistic demands, they don’t allow themselves to become negative. Complainers never excel at anything except complaining. “Do all things without grumbling or arguing ... and you will shine out like a light in a dark world.” Philippians 2:14–15. And remember: “If your boss is angry with you, don’t quit! A quiet spirit will quiet his bad temper.” Ecclesiastes 10:4 LB

5. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL DO MORE THAN IS EXPECTED. This is a secret that every successful person has discovered. You’ll never excel by doing what is required – the bare minimum. Jesus said, “If anybody forces you to go a mile with him, do more, go two miles with him.” Matthew 5:41
