

**A Night of Impartation
Carrying the Ministry Forward in 2024
Serving to a Standard**

I. Let This Mind Be In You...

- A. The Apostle Paul said to his beloved partners in the Gospel in Philippi, *“Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”* Then he said, *“Let this mind (attitude) be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 2: 2,5
- B. Psalm 133 reveals the necessity and power of unity. Unity is oneness, sameness, harmony, and agreement.
- C. We will accomplish *far more* being of the same mind and heart than we will with a good portion of our ministry and ministers operating out of their own minds and thoughts.
- D. My goal, my prayer, is that as I share my heart, you will open yours. Do your very best to let my heart become your heart; be willing to *change your mind, ways, and habits* to be in harmony with my heart so that we can run our race in this church/ministry together in perfect unity.
- E. The Bible teaches in Ephesians that every believer is to strive earnestly to both keep and protect the unity of the faith. Let’s do that this year.

II. Serving TO A STANDARD

- A. I want us to have this mindset: We are not just serving. We are not coming in and just serving “willy nilly” or “by the seat of our pants.” We should serve to a standard. The question then becomes, “What’s the standard? And who sets the standard?” The answer...
 - 1. In the setting of standards, I am guided by this thought: “There is nothing too high for the Most High.” Whatever the “best” is in that area of ministry, that is where the standard should be set. **Excellence is the standard.**
 - 2. Leadership, guided by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, is authorized to set the standard.
- B. In our ministry, it’s not just our greeters, music, and preacher that speak to the people...our standard preaches to visitors every service. That’s why it is important to set a high standard and let it speak.

III. The Spirit of Excellence

Some Notable Quotes

"Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character."

Unknown

*"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal,
and nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude."*

Unknown

"Excellence drives talent, not the other way around."

Dr. Dennis Hattabaugh

*"You cannot get into the more of what God has for you except you come through the
gate of correction."*

Dr. Dennis Hattabaugh

"Being satisfied with where you are aborts your future."

Dr. Dennis Hattabaugh

*"People around you who don't want to reach become a yoke, and the anointing
breaks the yoke."*

Dr. Dennis Hattabaugh

"Demanding excellence in others will reveal their hearts."

Dr. Dennis Hattabaugh

- A. My heart for this ministry is that our church operates in such a way as to bring honor and glory to our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. My desire is that we project the proper representation of our God to the people who come onto this campus.
- B. For our church to be able to reach its highest potential in God, from the top to the bottom, and all the way around, we need to be people of excellence, order, and organization. Every department of this ministry is important and worthy of excellence.
 - 1. Of course, my hope is that each of you would *individually* see the value of each of those traits and strive to develop them *for your own sake and benefit*. However, I want everyone to understand (whether you are on staff, one of the deacons, a department head, or a helps minister) that I have an expectation that we serve to a standard in this ministry.

2. Why? Why *demand* an excellent standard? I demand an excellent standard because I cannot see anything “less than” about our God, His Kingdom, or His Church from His Word. I demand it of myself, and I expect it of you because our God is worthy of our very best, the people we serve are worthy of our best, and importantly, only by achieving greater measures of excellence, order, and organization, will our ministry be able to produce the fruit I’m convinced God wants us to produce.

Colossians 3:22-24 God’s Word

²² Slaves (*Servants*), always obey your earthly masters. Don’t obey them only while you’re being watched, as if you merely wanted to please people. Be sincere in your motives out of respect for your real master. ²³ Whatever you do, do it wholeheartedly as though you were working for your real master and not merely for humans. ²⁴ You know that your real master will give you an inheritance as your reward. It is Christ, your real master, whom you are serving.

Now notice the next verse...

1 Corinthians 14:12 KJV

Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, **seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.**

SEEK = pursue, endeavor to obtain, be zealous, be diligent

EXCEL = to superabound in both quantity and quality, to be over and above, to be in excess, to increase exceedingly

3. These two verses reveal that as believers, our service should be done...
 - a. “as unto God, and not unto men.”
 - b. “wholeheartedly, with all that we are, unto God’s glory.”
 - c. “we should SEEK (pursue diligently) to EXCEL (to be over and above, to cause to superabound) to the EDIFYING (building up of the church).”
- C. If anything is worthy of the very highest of the high, the very best of the best, it is God’s House, God’s people, and God’s cause. Let’s launch out and seek to stir ourselves toward excellence.

IV. Developing in Excellence

A. The example of Daniel

1. Daniel is said to have had an “excellent spirit” in him.

- a. Daniel 5:12
- b. Daniel 6:1-3

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; ² and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel *was* one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. ³ **Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit *was* in him;** and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

2. Notice these statements...

- a. "...Daniel distinguished himself."
- b. "...the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm."

3. Excellence is A DEVELOPED MINDSET.

- a. In other words, **excellence is connected to the way you think.**
- b. We all have a mindset, and **that mindset carries over into EVERYTHING we do.**
- c. To develop in excellence requires one to be willing to change.
 - *Leadership note: Being unwilling to change is disqualifying for leadership in the ministry. To be unwilling to change is to deny growth and development. Deal with yourself...and be ever willing to change.*
- d. An enemy of excellence is *complacency* (a good-enough attitude)
 - When you stop reaching, you stop stretching, you stop growing, and that opens the door to complacency.

4. Daniel had an excellent spirit IN HIM. That means excellence was who he was. It's not just something he did at work.

- a. For Daniel to have achieved this, he must have worked on himself diligently. Having an excellent mindset does not happen automatically.
 - The only way to develop in excellence is to embrace DILIGENCE and DISCIPLINE.

- b. READ EXCERPT: *Spirit of Excellence* by Rev. Richard Roberts, pg. 45
- 5. Daniel was promoted to the highest position in five kingly administrations. They saw something that made Daniel stand out. The excellent spirit in him made him VALUABLE to those kings.
 - a. Excellence of spirit will be a key to this ministry RISING UP and being PROMOTED BY GOD.
 - b. Excellence is ATTRACTIVE.
 - We want this ministry to be attractive to all who are exposed to it.
 - From the greeters to the children's ministers, from the café to the condition of the restrooms...IT ALL MATTERS.

Each one of you should practice Romans 11:13 when you come to church...

"Paul said, 'I magnify my office (function).'"

V. Magnifying Your Function

- A. The ministry of helps is a ministry office. As an office of ministry, it is worthy of being magnified.
 - 1. In the church, **be VISION MINDED, not POSITION MINDED**. It should not matter much to you *where* you serve, or *how* you serve, but *that you serve*, in order to advance the VISION.
 - 2. Understand, in the helps ministry, you are *stepping into an anointing, not bringing one*. Because that area of service is NEEDED, there is already AN ANOINTING FOR THAT. It's not your individual anointing; it's the anointing that IS ON THIS MINISTRY.
 - a. Wherever you are asked to serve, use your faith to STEP INTO the anointing that IS ALREADY THERE so that supply can be brought to the ministry.
 - b. Eccl. 9:10 says, "Whatever presents itself for you to do, do it with all your might...." (might = strength, capacity, resources)
 - c. Be invested in your helps ministry position. Elevate your supply.

- B. To fulfill and magnify your office of ministry, developing in excellence is a vital necessity, but so is developing in ORDER and ORGANIZATION.
 - 1. Staff, deacons, and department heads especially, make sure you are putting your life in divine order...that you are organized.
 - a. Your time
 - b. Your priorities
 - c. Your goals
 - d. Your vision (no vision = no assignment for faith to fulfill)