

*"Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" - Genesis 41:38*



# Maximizing Your Potential

Reclaiming the Spirit of Christian Excellence in Our Generation

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# Reclaiming the Spirit of Christian Excellence in Our Generation

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- *For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption (Acts 13:36 ESV)*
- Unique calling to serve our generation
- Christians in 21<sup>st</sup> century America uniquely positioned to influence global events
  - Generational Turmoil
  - Spiritual Deficit in Leadership (Judges 17)
  - Moral Decadence

# Reclaiming the Spirit of Christian Excellence in Our Generation

## ▶ OUR GENERATION IS DYING FOR OUR LEADERSHIP....

*“Our research has led us to conclude that the men who are most active in their churches are those most likely to be employed, married, and out of jail. And this varies somewhat by denomination. Pentecostal churches have a slight edge in fostering good outcomes for men compared to mainline black churches, perhaps because the men in those communities tend to participate more actively, according to data from the General Social Survey.”*

2008-2014 US National General Social Survey

# As The Father Is... So Are His Children

▶ [3] His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence (2 Peter 1:3 ESV)

▶ Excellence defines God's Glory (Job 38)

▶ [20] For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20 ESV)

▶ We are called to be like Him through KNOWLEDGE of His EXCELLENCE

▶ [29] Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men. (Proverbs 22:29 ESV)

# Divine FAVOR: The Makings Of A Generational Change-Agent

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➤ *The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. (Genesis 39:2–4)*

➤ Activating divine favor through PURITY and hunger for HOLINESS

➤ *[9] No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.*

*(1 John 3:9 ESV)*

# Keys to The Christian Professional's Success

## Reflecting Jesus — Our Attitude to Work is a Reflection of our Faith

➤ *[23] Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24 ESV)*

## Excellence: Surpassing Ordinary Standards

➤ Excellence in the small things — the opposite of mediocrity

➤ *[3] Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. (Daniel 6:3 ESV)*

➤ **The Protestant Work Ethic** — Hard Work + Discipline+ Frugality + Excellence = Success.

# Keys to The Christian Professional's Success

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## ➤ 1) Godly Perseverance & Tolerance for Enduring Adversity

➤ *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:11–13)*

➤ *23 The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way;  
24 though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.  
25 I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. - Psalm 37:23-25*

# Keys to The Christian Professional's Success

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## ➤ 2) Don't Just Dream - Be the Answer

➤ Insights without solutions is not enough (Gen. 41)

➤ *[33] Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. [34] Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years. [35] And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. [36] That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.” (Genesis 41:33-36 ESV)*

➤ Never Leave A Positive Vacuum



# Keys to The Christian Professional's Success

## 3) Kill the Twin Evils of Doubt and Inferiority Complex

► I'm African [Black] ... "I don't qualify" ... "I don't want the promotion" ... "I'm too young" ... "I'll mess up" ... "Why me?" ... "I'm not smart enough" ... ... ???

► *[9] you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; [10] fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:9-10 ESV)*

► Be like David – Recognize an Opportunity and Seize It in Faith

► *"The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." (1 Samuel 17:37)*

# Keys to The Christian Professional's Success

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## ➤ 4) Look The Part And Shoot for The Top

*[14] Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had **shaved** himself and **changed his clothes**, he came in before Pharaoh.*

*(Genesis 41:14 ESV)*

### ➤ Every Profession Has its Protocols and Pathways to Success

- Pay Attention to the Patterns and Presentational Styles of The Best In Your Profession
- Seek the Counsel of Good Mentors
- Diversify Your Skillset: ASK to Explore Rotational Opportunities

# How Is Divine Favor Sustained Over a Lifetime?

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## 1) Integrity & Humility (Issues of the HEART)

➤ [10] For *“Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; [11] let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. [12] For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”* (1 Peter 3:10-12 ESV)

## 2) Financial Stewardship

➤ [10] Bring the *full tithe* into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby *put me to the test*, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. [11] I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. [12] Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 3:10-12 ESV)

## 3) Honor Your Parents

➤ [12] *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long* in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12 ESV)



***And whatever he did, the LORD made it  
succeed. (Genesis 39:21–23)***