

WORD

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

- **Choosing what is best**

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ . . .”

Philippians 1:9,10

Pursuing excellence is a matter of choosing what is the best. Paul prays for the Philippians to have an overflow of knowledge and understanding so that they may decide what is best and be without fault when they face Christ at the end of their lives.

This should be our daily prayer. With a lifetime of decisions to be made before us, it would be good if we make decisions according to what God’s will is for our lives. When we make decisions with eternity in mind, we will be persuaded to weigh things according to God’s standards and values.

“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive.

1 Corinthians 10:23

Pursuing excellence may mean that we give up some things that may be good and legitimate to obtain what is best. Just because it is legitimate, it does not mean it should be chosen or pursued.

- **Doing it with all your might**

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.”

Ecclesiastes 9:10

The author of Ecclesiastes encourages us to do give our best in every opportunity given us to work using all the gifts and abilities that God gave us. He did not just focus on work, but goes on to say that enjoyment is one of the benefits we get when we do the work God has called us to do. If something is worth doing, then it is worth doing well.

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- List a few things in your life that are permissible but you know are not beneficial to your soul and body. On a separate list, jot down things that can bring you good but you find hard to do.

- What does the saying, “Good is the enemy of the best” mean to you?

- How do you know if you have given your best and your all in a task or responsibility?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- What tasks do you need to do but do not enjoy doing? Why do think you feel this way about these? What can you do in the next days to change this feeling?

- How would you rearrange your priorities so you can better pursue biblical excellence in your roles in the family, community, and at work?

- In what areas in your life do you need to pursue excellence more? What practical steps can you take to do this?

PRAYER

- Pray that God will give you a new perspective in every challenging task before you. Ask God for the grace, wisdom, and ability to finish each task excellently.
- Ask God to help you change perspectives from mediocrity to pursuing His standards. May this mindset of excellence reflect in every area of your life.
- In your group, pray for pressing concerns at work, that God will give you the ability and the favor to change things for the better. Believe God for breakthroughs this week.