



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Greatness – Gaining Virtue (Phillipians 4:8)

JANUARY 12, 2022

Dave DePue, Pastor / Kansas Capitol Commission / dave.depue@capitolcom.org

How are you and God getting along?

*Joseph, a son of Jacob (Genesis, Chapter 37) was one of the only two leaders whom God reported no fault with. At seventeen, Joseph was sold into slavery and taken to a distant land. The young man was virtuous in each of his assignments and God blessed him with promotions, up to governor of the nation. **What virtues are you practicing in your life?***

INTRODUCTION

Excellence is one of the common synonyms for the term “virtue.” The many traits involved are demonstrated in our habits or practices. Scripture calls these practices our “walk”. Today, this would be called a lifestyle. The result is a reputation. **What have you heard observers say about your lifestyle?**

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. (NKJV)

The Apostle Paul used this exhortation after delivering a gentle critique to a couple team members and requesting several others to encourage those two colleagues. **How have you handled feedback on your actions?**

STARTING NEW

Ephesians 2:12-13 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. (KJV)

Trusting in Christ is adoption into the king’s family. We become as princes and princesses. Blessings now and eternity promised. God’s Spirit gives us the power to live. **Is your life a daily adventure?**

BUILDING YOUR LEGACY

1. **Practice honesty in small deeds** (Acts 6:3). Young Abe Lincoln walked miles to return a few coins to a widow after learning that he had given incorrect change from her purchase. Lincoln earned the nickname, “honest Abe”.

2. **Be truthful in what you say and do** (John 8:33). Perhaps the most famous story of truthfulness is of young George Washington and the axed cherry tree. Strong character traits empowered Washington to rise to leadership of a new nation.

3. **Be loyal to those who serve you** (Ruth 1:16). A young widow named Ruth was known in the community for loyalty to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth married a businessman named Boaz. They raised up a son named Obed, who’s son Jesse was father to David, who became the legendary king of Israel.

4. **Practice servant leadership, grow a team** (John 15:15). William Wilberforce helped form a group of friends who transformed England’s corrupt culture of the early 1800’s. Slavery was outlawed, and their many reforms brought England into a golden age with fifty years of prosperity.

5. **Show compassion, be forgiving** (Luke 15:20). A young helper named John Mark deserted the Apostle Paul while they were traveling. Their partner, Barnabas, restored the relationship and Mark grew to be a trusted companion, later writing the Book of Mark.

6. **Be bold in the face of adversity** (Esther 4:16). The young queen of Persia, Esther, risked her life to intercede for the exiled Jewish people in Persia when they were threatened with genocide. The evil plot was exposed, and the nation prospered.

A PRAYER

Father God: Thank You for adopting me into Your family, adding me to Your kingdom. Please help me to gain the virtues reflective of a child of God. Send people into my life who will give me feedback and encouragement. Please prosper the work You give me to do. Bless my life during my season here on earth. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen!