

There is a lot we do on the weekly, things we have done for years that have become part of our strategy & calendar... Weekly outreach, weekly concerts, weekly services, established ministries... etc. But have you ever thought; how can we improve this? How can we make it better? How can we make it more excellent?

In the scripture we are going to look at: David observes the tabernacle (*Gods fancy tent*) and makes an observation for excellence- **2 Samuel 7:1-2** Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies all around, <sup>2</sup> that the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.”

### I ISSUE OF FAMILIARITY:

A- One of the greatest inhibitors to excellence is familiarity-

1. In life we get used to things... peoples quirks, building oddities, piles of junk...
  - a. Whatever it is, in any area of life; certain things become familiar to us... *Its just the way it is...*
2. Text: David looks at Gods tabernacle and thinks; Why do I have an established home, and God lives in a tent?
  - a. **2 Samuel 7:5-6** “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling... This is just the way its been since the exodus from Egypt... this was familiar to David
  - b. But that isn’t needed anymore; They were moving through the desert, on their way to the promised land, but time has passed, things have been established, the tent isn’t needed anymore... David observes; *we can do better.*
3. But familiarity stunts this innovative thinking-
  - a. Ever had the realization of something odd, that you forgot about, and then someone new asked about it and you thought... oh man, I got used to that! (Building things/people/program)
  - i. It became familiar to YOU... but its weird or hindering or unappealing to others.
  - b. Doing repairs or minor changes in the churches I’ve taken; people praised, because they got familiar w the damage

B- So; We need to guard against familiarity...

1. By resolving things when you notice them; write it down, note what needs changing, then apply it. Take action
  - a. David
2. By being open to new ideas or concepts: Creating a culture that welcomes new ideas.
  - a. Some men get offended at new ideas, they take it personal, in that they stunt creativity...
3. By analyzing success and failure: Do you ever try to identify why something works or why something didn’t work?
  - a. Many times people just accept the results... good or bad... its static to them... they just move along...
  - b. Instead put attention to WHY: **John 4:25** Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.
    - i. Jesus is speaking on initiative; don’t wait for good results, actively pursue it... too often people settle in familiarity

### II DRIVING EXCELLENCE:

A- So, we need to think why wouldn’t men pursue excellence:

1. It takes a lot of Work: Excellence takes work; time, energy, resources... It doesn’t just happen.
  - a. Some men don’t want to put in the work. They are lazy towards excellence & settle for *this will do.*
  - b. **Proverbs 19:15** Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger... Want/desire/lack
2. Driving excellence is Uncomfortable: It stretches you beyond your limits and into things that may be uncomfortable
  - a. Many men don’t like to feel unsure, they like security and familiarity... But they also stay the same.
    - i. I have learned a lot by asking questions and applying myself... at times it was uncomfortable.
3. Driving excellence is sometimes humbling: David was told to move forward with his ambition by Nathan, but God said his son would build the Temple... That was a humbling moment; his idea executed by someone else.
  - a. BUT; David was willing to accept that and HELP his son with excellence.
  - b. See; Sometimes aren’t willing to be excellent unless it only benefits them, their name, their ego.
    - i. Some men would rather hinder excellence so that others will look bad/fail... Thats strange thinking-
    - ii. Ive seen disciples and pastors refuse to humble and help... *let them figure it out like I had to...* that’s pride

### III EXCELLENCE IN YOU:

A- I believe this is something to ask God for-

1. A mistake guys make is that this kind of thinking is just a personality or preference for some people.
  - a. **1 Samuel 18:14** KJV And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.
    - i. Behaved wisely carries the idea of intelligence, using wisdom, excellence... and God blessed it.
  - b. **Daniel 6:3** Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm... Daniel did things with excellence and it was appealing-
2. So if you struggle in this arena; ask God for an excellent spirit... ask God for eyes for excellence and wisdom to apply it
  - a. I believe this is something God would want to answer and put into you.
3. **Are there things you have noticed that we could do more excellent? What have you done about it? What will you do?**