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# Question Time

## Men of the Church: Will You Be Your Best?

by Charlie Booth

The call to serve the Heavenly Father goes to all men everywhere. It is a call to noble service and excellence in daily living. It is a call to be your best.

*In the corporate world, if you want to get ahead, it can't be done by simply being good at what you do. Being good will barely ensure that you will keep your job. Even if you are really good at what you do, chances for promotion are very slim. The only way that climbing the ladder of success becomes inevitable is by being outstanding at what you do.*

Becoming outstanding is done through the pursuit of excellence. It is achieved by raising your standards and demanding the best from yourself. Passion and determination are essential.

D & C Section 4, verse 1: “. . . therefore, if ye have desires to serve God, ye are called to the work, for, behold, the field is white already to harvest, and lo, **he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might**, the same layeth up in store that he perish not . . . faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualifies him for the work.”

God created you for **His** purposes. For years, the U. S. Army used the slogan, “Be All You Can Be.” God created you to be all **He** desires you to be.

Our secular world teaches that it is better to follow, not lead; to do just enough to get by, not excel; to be invisible, not stand out; and to buy all you can, rather than give all you can give. That is all nonsense, for none of it has **eternal** value.

Men, you are **not** created to be mediocre, are **not** made in God's image to just do the bare minimum, and are **not** qualified to be a follower of Jesus Christ if you laze around, living life as if it mattered only to you. **No! You are called to excellence!**

Pursuing excellence requires hard work and diligence. It may be exhausting and will often put you up against things beyond your abilities. Considering your weaknesses, this pursuit must include calling on God's strength. This is seen in the life of Paul. Totally committed to God's purpose for his life, Paul gave his all to be what God wanted him to be, seeking to bring men to Christ, but he did so by God's strength rather than his own.

In Philippians 4:13, Paul wrote, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*” He expressed the sense of noble purpose he felt in service to Jesus Christ. Yet he also expressed the way this nobility of purpose should be permeated with humility.

If a boy was asked what he thinks of when he hears the words “*strong man*,” the answers would probably be weightlifters, football players, and super heroes. But if we were able to ask Paul, “What is a strong man?” I imagine he would say something like this: “A strong man is one who humbly and fully commits himself to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Here is a quote from Evan Fry about humble service: “*Humanity needs the services of men of genius, men of brilliance, and outstanding ability, but most of the work of the world is done by men of lesser talents who, because of their spiritual greatness, minister devotedly with the humble gifts they have.*”

Commitment is key. Through the ages, great men of the church learned to refuse negative thoughts. Like them, you must seek the highest good for yourself and others. Avoid self-righteousness. Embrace humility, self-discipline and self-denial. Strive to serve others; learn of their needs. Dedicate your mind to gaining knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

You may become a strong man whether young, middle-aged or older, priesthood or non-priesthood. When you are able to combine two things, nobility of purpose and true humility, all things are possible. Negatives of the world will fade, and those who scoff because you are different will be of little consequence. You will find that “perfect brightness of hope” described in 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 13:29, when you press forward, ever forward, with steadfastness in Christ, and a love of God and of all men.

“*Therefore, I would that ye should be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent, may seal you His . . .*”(Mosiah 3:21)

Will you be your best?