

# Our Responsibility to Excellence



By Pastor Nkechi Ene (Mrs.)

[Part 2]

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,  
10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.

Philippians 1:9-10 [NKJV]

The first thing about a valuer is that he follows the right procedure. The second thing is that he has expertise and is well trained. This expertise does not necessarily come from just experience but training. The difference between a goldsmith whose expertise is based on experience and the one who went to school to acquire the required training is that, if the one who has only experience is asked why gold turns a certain colour under the heat, he will say, "When I was an apprentice, I always saw it like that. And my master said when it turns that colour, it means it is twenty four carat gold." But the one who went to school for proper training with the information will tell you that it is because of certain chemical reactions. So a good valuer has information and knowledge in what he is doing.

Let us go back to our opening text.

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10 That you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.

Philippians 1:9-10 [NKJV]

The two main Greek words for knowledge are: *gnosis* and *epignosis*. *Gnosis* is sense knowledge, human knowledge or normal knowledge. *Epignosis*

is revelation knowledge. It is the word translated "knowledge" in Philippians 1:9. You can grow in revelation knowledge. And that is how you can approve the things that are excellent and live a lifestyle of excellence according to the light of God's Word and not go out of the circle of revelation knowledge in whatever you do. Whatever you do comes back to the amount of revelation knowledge you have.

A Church or a people that operate in revelation knowledge are useful to God as valuers. But if a Church or a people do not operate in revelation knowledge or read the Bible and receive revelation for the different areas of their lives, then they are hopeless to God as valuers. God cannot use them to set up the standard of heaven on earth. If you operate in: "Bless me Lord, bless me", or "Touch me Lord, touch me," or "I need to feel you Lord, I need to feel you," you cannot be a valuer. You are just marking time. Therefore, the only way you can approve things that are excellent and live a lifestyle of excellence is to discover in the Word of God what His standard is in that specific area and live according to it.

Have you ever wondered why when adverse circumstances come against some Christians, they cease to be Christians and act like native doctor worshippers? They are not operating in excellence because excellence carries through

a situation. And if what you have is not of high value it cannot carry you through. Having a goose bump feeling or falling under the anointing is a temporary affair. It will not carry you through. Excellence comes by taking out time to discover and by training yourself. That training does not just come by experience or apprenticeship. You have to train yourself by the books. You have to train yourself by the Word of God.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:2 [NKJV]

The renewing of the mind takes place by the revelation knowledge of the Word of God. The only way you can approve the perfect will of God is when your mind is renewed. A valuer is skilled and has expertise in what he has been called to do and we have a responsibility of living a life of value. It means that every Christian is held to a high standard by God. And if that does not make you sit up then I don't know what will.

If I work in a Company as a Christian, God expects that what I do should be of higher value and quality than that of the unbeliever who is working with me and is being paid the same salary.

If my marriage is going through the same thing as that of the unbeliever, God expects a higher standard for my marriage. He is expecting a marriage that will carry through the storms and situations because people are watching me to see what is gold and what is not. I can't afford to do it anyhow.

Businessman, people are watching you. If someone else is cutting corners, God expects a higher standard of you as a Christian. It's tough but He expects it! He will not expect you to fly off the roof of a building because He has not given you wings to fly and He does not want to kill you, so He will only expect something from you that He has given you the ability to do. And He has given you the ability to be a valuer. Hallelujah.

### A Valuer Has Proven Expertise



*If a valuer of proven expertise says, "This is twenty four carat gold," then that is what it is.*

When a valuer does his work his decisions normally stand. If a valuer of proven expertise says, "This is twenty four carat gold," then that is what it is. Nobody is going to turn it around. The good thing is that God does not give you the responsibility of being a valuer for you to stay in your room. There is a time of showing forth your expertise. The Bible says, "Where the word of a king is, there is power; and who may say to him, 'What are you doing?'" [Ecclesiastes 8:4].

If God is giving a reference in music and you become that reference ten years from now: if you say, the best way to become a great singer is to always sing with your mouth turned to the left, then watch it. People will be singing with their mouths turned to the left. What you say will stand. The most interesting thing about this is the fact that it influences the choices of others.

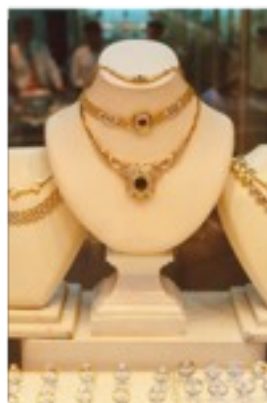
This should put awe in you and not pride because you understand that literally you have the destiny of people in your hands. That is what it means to know what is good or bad. As a Christian, people might be watching you. It might even be in your home. Maybe your parents have been persecuting you since you got born again and you think they don't recognize that you are a Christian, then one day if you lie and it is found out that you lied, it will be as if Jesus lied. It means they know that you are like Jesus. They knew all along quietly. Ten years later after your mother has tried to stop you from going to Church without success, one day she comes to you and says, "My daughter what do you think about such and such a thing?" And you

tell her what to do and she does it and gets the right result. But if you are not aware of your responsibility, then when she comes to you, you'd most likely say, "Why are you asking me? Am I not just a child, I do not know!" You influence the lives of people. That's why the Bible says that if you cause the little ones to fall it would be better for you to have a big stone hung on your neck and be thrown into the sea [Matthew 18:6]. You are a reference.

As a Christian, whether you hold a big position in the Church or not, you can't afford to do just anything. I'm not referring to a situation where people say you are not a Christian because you wear lipstick and trousers. I mean if in a situation, where somebody watches you and says "If this one is a Christian," then you won't catch me alive in a Church. Then you are a poor reference. I am not talking about a one day mistake.



The valuer is comfortable with his final judgment or decision. Romans 14:22 says, "...Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves." Remember the four options we mentioned in Part 1 of this article? People of high morals will never see wrong and call it right. They will not see right and call it wrong. The Bible says blessed are you when your approach to marriage does not condemn you. Blessed are you when your approach to finances does not condemn you. Blessed are you when your approach to what you say you believe does not condemn you. The Bible did not say blessed are you when nobody condemns you.



Thank God for giving us the responsibility to approve what is of better value and to approve only what matters; to approve only the things that will carry through. We must walk in the consciousness of this responsibility. We must be references of excellence in all we do. We must bring the kingdom of heaven down here to us on earth.



If you have not learnt anything in this article, you must learn that you cannot just talk about excellence. The first and primary way is to make a lifestyle of it: a lifestyle that is based on revelation knowledge. You have to

train yourself in it and be comfortable in the decision and value you give. This is the responsibility you have been given. Hallelujah.

The end.