

# EXCELLING AT WHAT YOU DO

## WORK AND PLAY

### TIMELESS

Every four years the Olympics – both the Summer and Winter games – provide us with dramatic displays of the pursuit of excellence. The talented and well-trained athletes who participate represent the world's peak performers in each category. While they compete in different events, they all share some common traits. What are the characteristics of men and women such as these that excel at what they do?

From my experience, I have discovered that there is no better resource than the Bible to identify five traits of those who make it to the top:

BY: Rick Warren

### *People who Excel at Work with Enthusiasm*

Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson once stated, "Nothing great has ever been accomplished without enthusiasm. Regardless of whether the job is big or small, give it your best." Great performers give their best effort, no matter what the size of the audience. "Whatever your task is, put your whole heart and soul into it, as work done for the Lord, not merely for men" (Colossians 3:23).

### *People Who Excel Sharpen their Skills*

They never stop developing, growing, learning, or improving. It takes more than desire to excel; it takes skill. "If the ax is dull, and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success" (Ecclesiastics 10:10). Remember – you are never wasting time when you are sharpening your "ax."

### *People Who Excel Keep Their Word*

They are reliable. They can be counted on to do what they say they will do. So they excel because people of integrity are rare in our society. Reliability beats talent in the long run. "Everyone talks about how loyal and faithful they are, but just try to find someone who really is!" (Proverbs 20:6).

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## *People who Excel Maintain a Positive Attitude*

Even under pressure, or facing change, or dealing with unrealistic demands, they don't allow themselves to become negative. Complainers never excel at anything – except complaining. "Do all things without grumbling or arguing...and you will shine out like a light in a dark world" (Philippians 2:14-15). Remember: "If the boss is angry with you, don't quit! A quiet spirit will quiet his bad temper!" (Ecclesiastics 10:4).

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## *People who Excel Do More than is Expected*

This is a secret that every successful person has discovered. You will never excel by only doing what is required – the bare minimum. Jesus said, "If anybody forces you to go a mile with him, do more, go two miles with him" (Matthew 5:41).

## ***IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THE RIGHT FILTER***

There used to be a saying, "Pictures don't lie." In reality, that statement itself is false. A skilled photographer can create a variety of unusual effects to distort images. As one example, positioning someone in the foreground and the Eiffel Tower in the distant background could make it appear in a photo as if that person were holding the celebrated landmark between his or her thumb and forefinger. Today, through the use of special graphics software, photographic images can be manipulated in many ways, even to the extent of placing individuals alongside people they have never met, or showing them in locations where they have never been. By using such software, a trained computer technician could take the image of an Egyptian pyramid and make it appear to be sitting on the floor of America's Grand Canyon, or balanced atop the Great Wall of China. One common – and more legitimate – tool for creating a variety of photographic effects is the lens filter. There are many types of filters that can produce a variety of results: starbursts or crisscross lights at night, distinctive soft-focus effects, or a simple colored tint giving a photo a vintage appearance. Regardless of which filter is used, these can affect how we view the image captured through the lenses. Recently I saw a documentary that discussed a different kind of "filter" – the worldview that we use every day, consciously or not, to interpret what we see and hear, and in a general sense, govern how we approach life. Our individual worldviews help to shape our values and establish our priorities. They also influence how we react to situations and events that occur in our lives every day.



## *Having the right Filter Continued*

This is how C.S. Lewis, the British celebrated thinker, scholar and author, described his own worldview, the spiritual filter that governed his life: “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen; not only because I see it, but also because by it I see everything else.” Lewis was saying that upon discovering what he understood to be the truth, it colored – or filtered – every aspect of

his life. Someone else expressed this thought in a slightly different way: “Once you see the truth, you cannot un-see the truth.”

What is the filter that you utilize as you experience and observe life around you, drawing conclusions about what you see? Whether we realize it or not, we all employ such “filters” – they consist of the beliefs that motivate us,

affecting the goals we seek to achieve, values we hold most important, and the biases that we form over the years. Here are some things the Bible says about a worldview anchored in a strong faith in God:

“For I know the plans  
I have for you,  
declares the Lord,  
'plans to prosper you  
and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope  
and a future'”

## *God Has a Plan*

Those who believe in God and seek to faithfully follow Him can trust that He has a clear, specific plan for every aspect of their lives.

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to pros-

per you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’” (Jeremiah 29:11).



## *God is in control*

Even in those times that seem most desperate, that appear most hopeless, God is still actively working to fulfill His purpose – in keeping with the best interests of His people. “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

## *God knows what is best*

We may strategize carefully, confident that we know what to do, but God often will overrule, guiding us toward even better outcomes than we could have hoped or imagined. “In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps” (Proverbs 16:9).

# ZANATI LINK PEOPLE SOLUTIONS



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## **BACKGROUND on ZANATI LINK PEOPLE SOLUTIONS**

*Zanati Link People Solutions was founded in 2004 and our original focus was in the recruitment of Contractors, Temporary workers, the provision of payroll solutions as well as Permanent placements across the board. However, as time went on, our involvement with Human Resource issues, broadened to include Human Resources Consulting. This has been inclusive of outplacement support, Workshop Facilitation as well as Labor Relations Consulting, which includes arbitration, mediation and conciliation. We have dealt with Industrial Relations issues in plant environments and consult from a wide and reputable pool of labor law practitioners. We are a GENERALIST Recruitment Consultancy. Zanati Link People Solutions was founded in 2004 and our original focus was in the recruitment of Contractors, Temporary workers, the provision of payroll solutions as well as Permanent placements across the board. However, as time went on, our involvement with Human Resource issues, broadened to include Human Resources Consulting. This has been inclusive of outplacement support, Workshop Facilitation as well as Labor Relations Consulting, which includes arbitration, mediation and conciliation. We have dealt with Industrial Relations issues in plant environments and consult from a wide and reputable pool of labor law practitioners. We are a GENERALIST Recruitment Consultancy.*