

**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
**AIRCREW MANUAL**  
 Training For A Successful Mission  
**IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE**

Most men want to rise up to the next level, to be better husbands, fathers, friends, godly men in the community. Often what happens is that we strive for perfection but never rise up to the next level.

**WARM UP**

“I want to become an excellent father”, I said to a close friend. “I know that I am doing a good job and that my children are developing well. They are good at school, they are involved in the church, and people speak well of them, but I want to rise to the next level. Tell me, what do you think I need to work on to become an excellent father?” My friend answered, “You are doing a great job, you spend time with them, you discipline well, you encourage, you...” “You don’t understand,” I interrupted, “I can get anyone to say these things, but as a friend I want you to be frank with me.” My friend replied, “I am telling the truth when I say you are doing a great job, but if you want to go from good to excellent - only the Holy Spirit can do that”.

**BACKGROUND**

There is a life that is dominated by sinful man, whose focus and centre is self, whose only law is its own desires. In different men this life will be differently described. It may be passion-controlled, or lust-controlled, or pride-controlled, or ambition-controlled. Its characteristic is its absorption in the things that human nature without Christ sets its heart upon. In this reading St Paul calls us to be men whose lives are dominated by the Spirit of God.

**READ** Romans 8:1-13



**QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTION**

1. What happens when we strive for perfection?
  
2. How can we overcome the sense of guilt that drives us to be better?

**CONSIDER THIS**

It had been a long day when Martin Luther King Jr. stepped to the podium. All day long men had jockeyed for position on the speaking platform and as each spoke, the crowd dwindled. At the tail end of the day when all others had had their say, King stood up and spoke. With trembling voice he declared, “I have a dream”. This was the beginning of his famous sermon that is entrenched in human history. Was it because he spoke last to a dwindling crowd? No, it was because his desire was to serve and allow the Spirit of Christ to work within him.

3. How can we let the Spirit of Christ be our driving force?
  
4. What motivations in your life need to be cleansed by the Holy Spirit?
  
5. What should we ask the Holy Spirit to increase in our lives?

**WRAP UP**

Together pray that Christ’s Spirit may be your motivation in life.



**IT’S TIME FOR PRAYER**

**MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER**

Each day I will pray that Jesus will direct my life by his Spirit. I will encourage others to seek the Spirit of Christ.

