

## Competence

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10X

**Text: Proverbs 22:29, 2 Corinthians 3:5, Proverbs 16:3**

- ~ Competence includes your capabilities, your skills, and your track record. All are vital.
  - ~ Competence means keeping your head in a crisis, sticking with a task even when it seems hopeless, and improvising good solutions to tough problems when every second counts.
  - ~ Whenever you are asked if you can do a job. Tell ‘em, Certainly I can. Then get busy and find out how to do it.
  - ~ Love what you do. Get good at it. Competence is a rare commodity in this day and age.
  - ~ A moment of choice is a moment of truth. It’s the testing point of our character and our competence.
  - ~ Learn to do the common things uncommonly well.
  - ~ Trust has two dimensions: Competence and Integrity. We will forgive mistakes of competence. Mistakes of integrity are harder to overcome.
  - ~ The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water.
- Competence - the quality or state of having sufficient knowledge, judgment, skill, or strength and demeanor to do something well and with excellence; the ability to do something well; capable of performing a task or job effectively.

One of the key traits of those who are 10X is that they are competent and understand the value of competency. These are people who do things to the best of their ability and learn and sharpen their skills in areas in which they need to become competent. These people understand that dull pencils can still write but sharp pencils work much better and with greater clarity. Those that are 10X understand that all they do is to be done for the glory of God. **Colossians 3:17**

All of us have gifts, skills, talents, and abilities that God has given us. No matter where we find ourselves in life, God desires how He made us to shine. Benjamin Franklin – “Hide not your talents. They were made for use. What good is a sundial in the shade?”

We all admire someone who displays a high level of competence. It could be a craftsman or a tradesman where you can clearly see the level of detail and care in their work. It could be a world-class athlete or a successful businessperson.

We have all walked into a business and admired how organized and structured a place looks and the quality of the products and the attentiveness and professionalism of the staff. We have also been subjected to the opposite in the sloppiness, lack of attention and organization and obvious poor planning and attitudes.

Competency is a quality that you cultivate. There are several things that we can do:

- 1) Show up - someone said that 80% of success is showing up. To show up doesn't just mean to be present. It means to work hard and put in the effort. The saying "All things come to those who wait" is not really accurate. Sometimes we get the leftovers of the people who showed up first. Responsible people show up when expected but those who are 10X go further. They come ready no matter how they feel, what circumstances they face, or how difficult the challenge may be.
- 2) Keep improving - personal improvement is not about perfection. Highly competent people are continually learning and growing. Competent people are curious. They are not looking to fix what is not broken, they are just not content with average. There is a saying that the person who knows how will always have a job, but the person that knows why will always be the boss. Those who are 10X like Daniel and Joseph knew both the how and why. When they didn't know one or the other, they found out. Those who are 10X don't always have all the answers, but they do not stay content with not knowing. First, they seek God and then they ask questions of those who might be "in the know" we call these counselors and advisors. **Psalm 34:4-6**
- 3) Follow through with excellence - it is not perfection it is diligence to do things well. All competent people follow through. What separates the average baseball player or an average golfer is their follow through in the swing and their follow through to practice.

~ Willa A Foster – Quality is never an accident; it is the result of high intention, intelligent direction, skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.

Those who are 10X understand that living at a high level of excellence is always a choice. It is an act of the will. A deliberate decision.

There's a myth about highly talented people—that they are simply *born* that way. This is not true. You reach your potential when you are willing to practice. And not just practice often, but practice effectively. That's because you play to the level at which you practice. Consistently good practice leads to consistently good play. Those who are 10X understand this, and they apply it.

Practice enables development, where old skills are refined, and new skills are acquired. Practice is where the tension between where we are and where we ought to be propels us forward. In order to be successful, we must first buy-in to the reality that practice enables development.

Practice demands discipline - talent is not a matter of conditions; it is a matter of choice. Once the choice is made and practice becomes a habit, two things become obvious:

- 1) a separation between the person who practices and the one who doesn't
- 2) a winning spirit emerges, the harder you work, the harder it becomes to surrender.

To sharpen our talent through practice, we not only need to be open to change, we need to **pursue** change.

- Don't change just enough to get away from your problems—change enough to solve them.
- Don't change your circumstances to improve your life—change yourself to improve your circumstances.
- Don't do the same old things expecting to get different results—get different results by doing something new.
- Don't see change as something hurtful that must be done—see it as something helpful that should be done.
- Don't avoid paying the immediate price of change—if you do, you will pay the ultimate price of never improving.

- 4) Competent people accomplish more than is **expected**. For those good enough is never good enough. Those who are 10X are willing to go the extra mile. Those who are competent do the job and then some. Whether they are asked, or it is demanded. **Matthew 5:41-42**

This is all a matter of attitude. Most people are only willing to do just enough to get by. This is one thing that sets those who are 10X apart from the others, they desire to **exceed** expectations. Many Christians don't understand that this applies to all areas of life. Many want to see how close to the world they can live and still be right with God. Our heart should be to be so much like Jesus that the ways of the world hold no attraction to us.

What lifts successful people above the crowd, is found in four words: a little bit more. Those who are 10X pay their dues by doing all that is expected of them—plus a little bit more.

- 5) Those who are competent are able to **inspire** others. They realize that life is not about competition but about **motivation**. Those who are 10X inspire others to perform and execute at a higher level. This does not happen out of guilt, coercion, or anger but appeals to their desire to rise up. Those who are 10X are competent both in their ability and relationally.

When you think of those who are competent there are only three types of people:

- Those who can see what **needs** to happen.
- Those who can **make** it happen.
- Those who can make it happen when it really **counts**.

To make sure we are being competent there are some things we can do:

- ✓ Get our head in the game – if we have been emotionally detached, we need to reengage. Identify the source of your problem and resolve it.
- ✓ Redefine the standards. If you are not living at a 10X level of excellence it is time to reexamine your standards. It is time to set your expectations of yourself higher. Decide to live in a way that brings glory to God.
- ✓ Start with three ways or areas that you can challenge yourself and grow.

Those who are competent understand that you must be able to concentrate on what you are doing. The secret to concentration is elimination. You are no good to anyone if you are the “Jack of all trades and the master of none.” Those who are able to achieve things with excellence have learned to let go of many things and master the few things that are a part of their gifting, talents, passion, and strengths. Those who are competent understand their “sweet spot”. A great pitcher may only be an average hitter, but they are not on the team to hit home runs but to strike out batters. They may need to work on their batting but not at the expense of their pitching. Those who are 10X understand this concept.

Those who are 10X understand their fit. Just because you are great on a back yard grill does not mean you should be the head chef in a 5-star restaurant. Too often we talk about being well balanced in everything. The truth is if our goal is to be balanced, we will always be trying to keep our balance in areas of our life that we are not suited for. God never called us to be well-rounded but to be faithful to how He created us to be. Those who are 10X know the difference between the things that are weekend or part time enjoyment and the things that they should devote their life to.

Those who are 10X have learned to focus on what God has called them to do and eliminate the things in their life that steal from that and drain them. The Apostles learned this when it came to taking care of widows. Peter and the Apostles chose seven capable and competent deacons to care for their needs so that they could concentrate on Prayer and Teaching. This released other capable people to do what they were good at.

~ Someone said – You are the most valuable where you add the most value.

Those who are 10X realize that there is no correlation between being busy and being productive. Full schedules rarely equal maximum productivity. Actually, the opposite is true.

~ Devoting a little of yourself to everything means committing a great deal of yourself to nothing.

The most productive people have more discretionary time than the average person. They have purposefully created margins in their life in order to control their schedule instead of their schedule controlling them.