

THE PURSUIT OF

EXCELLENCE

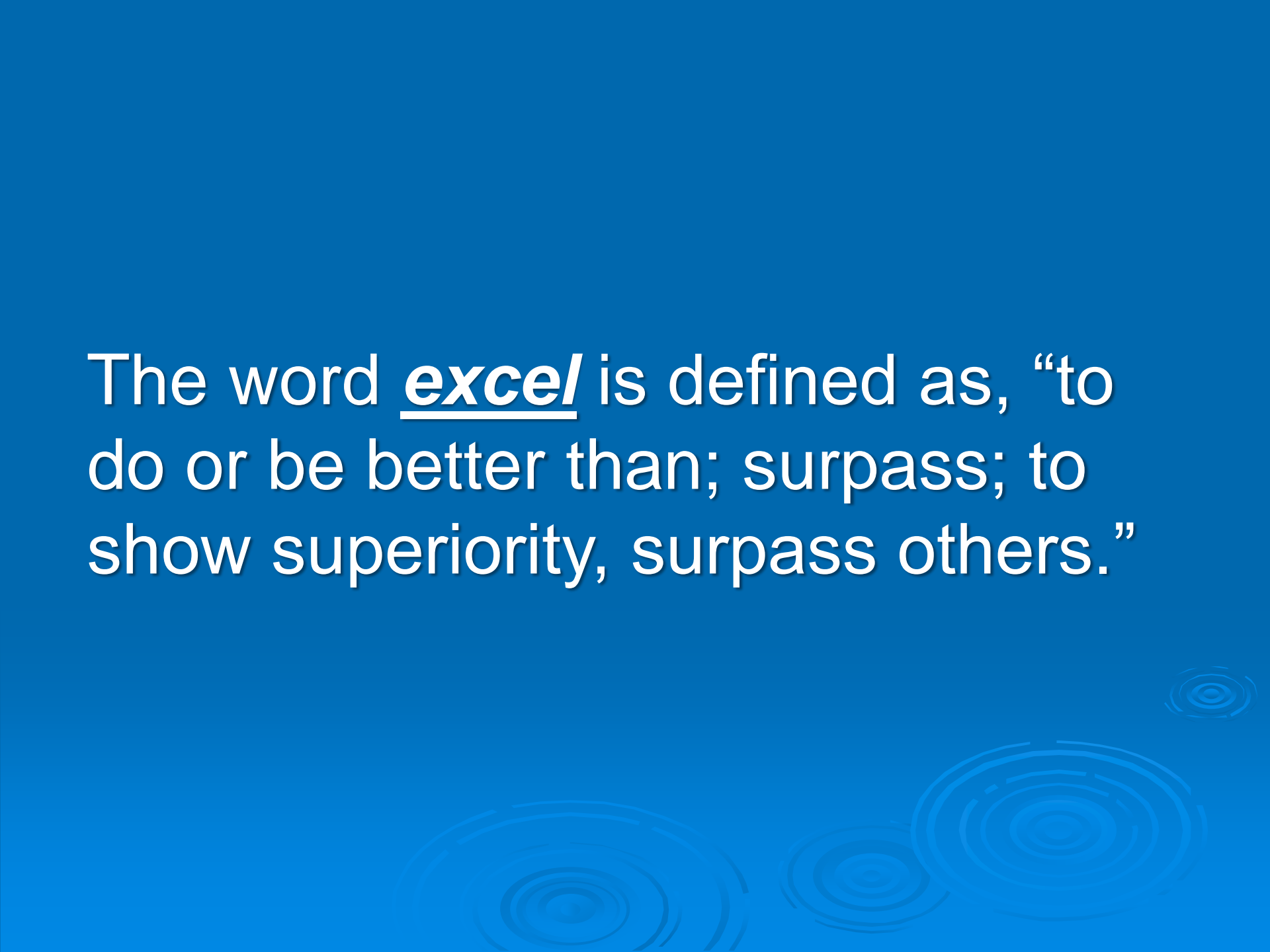


The Cambridge Dictionary has several definitions for pursuit; two of them are “the act of trying to achieve a plan, activity, or situation, usually over a long period of time,” and “an activity that you spend time and energy doing.”

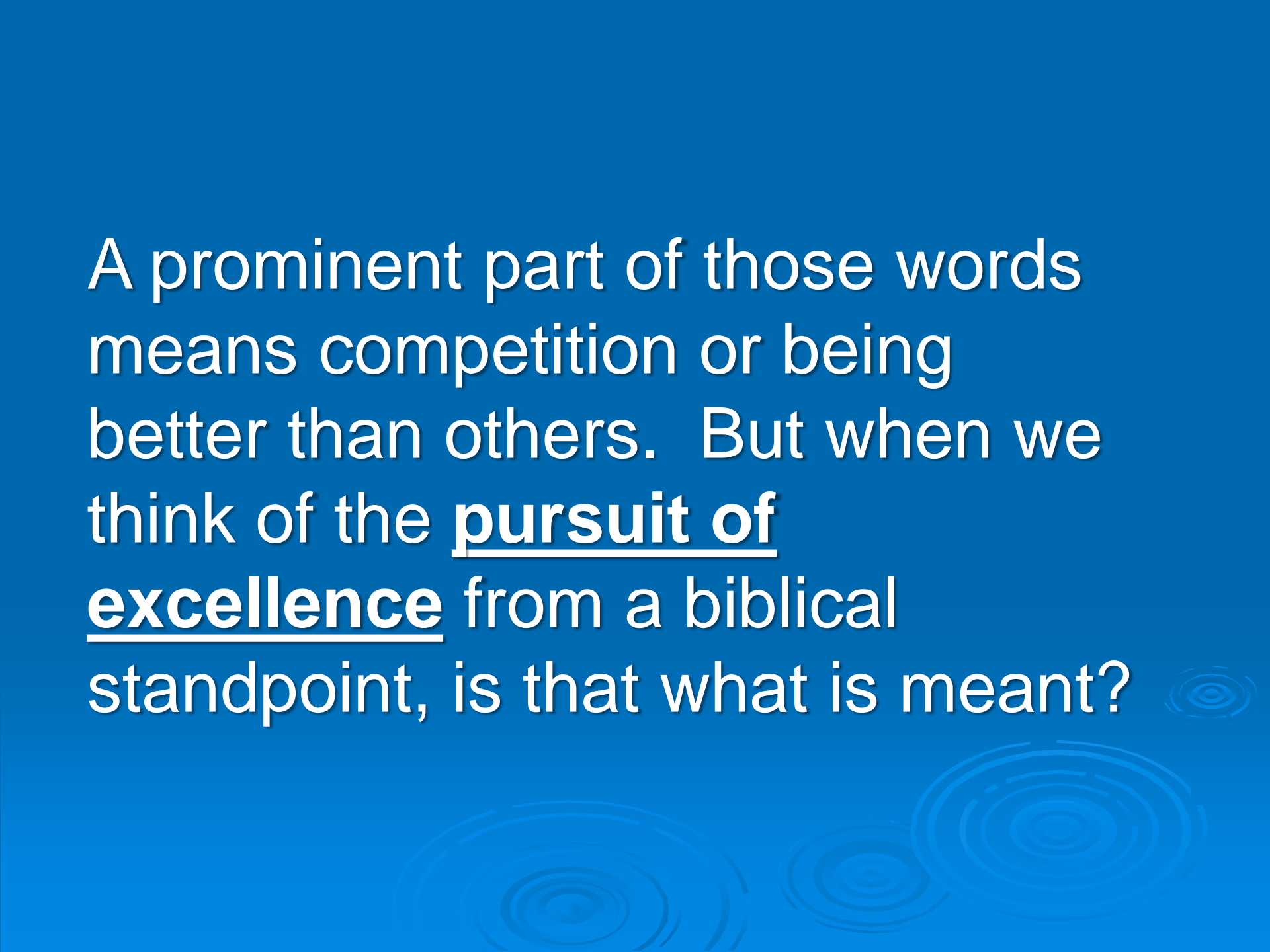
The American Heritage Dictionary
defines **excellence** as “The state,
quality, or condition of excelling;
superiority.”

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The word *excel* is defined as, “to do or be better than; surpass; to show superiority, surpass others.”



A prominent part of those words means competition or being better than others. But when we think of the pursuit of excellence from a biblical standpoint, is that what is meant?

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“**Success** means being the best.
Excellence means being your
best.”

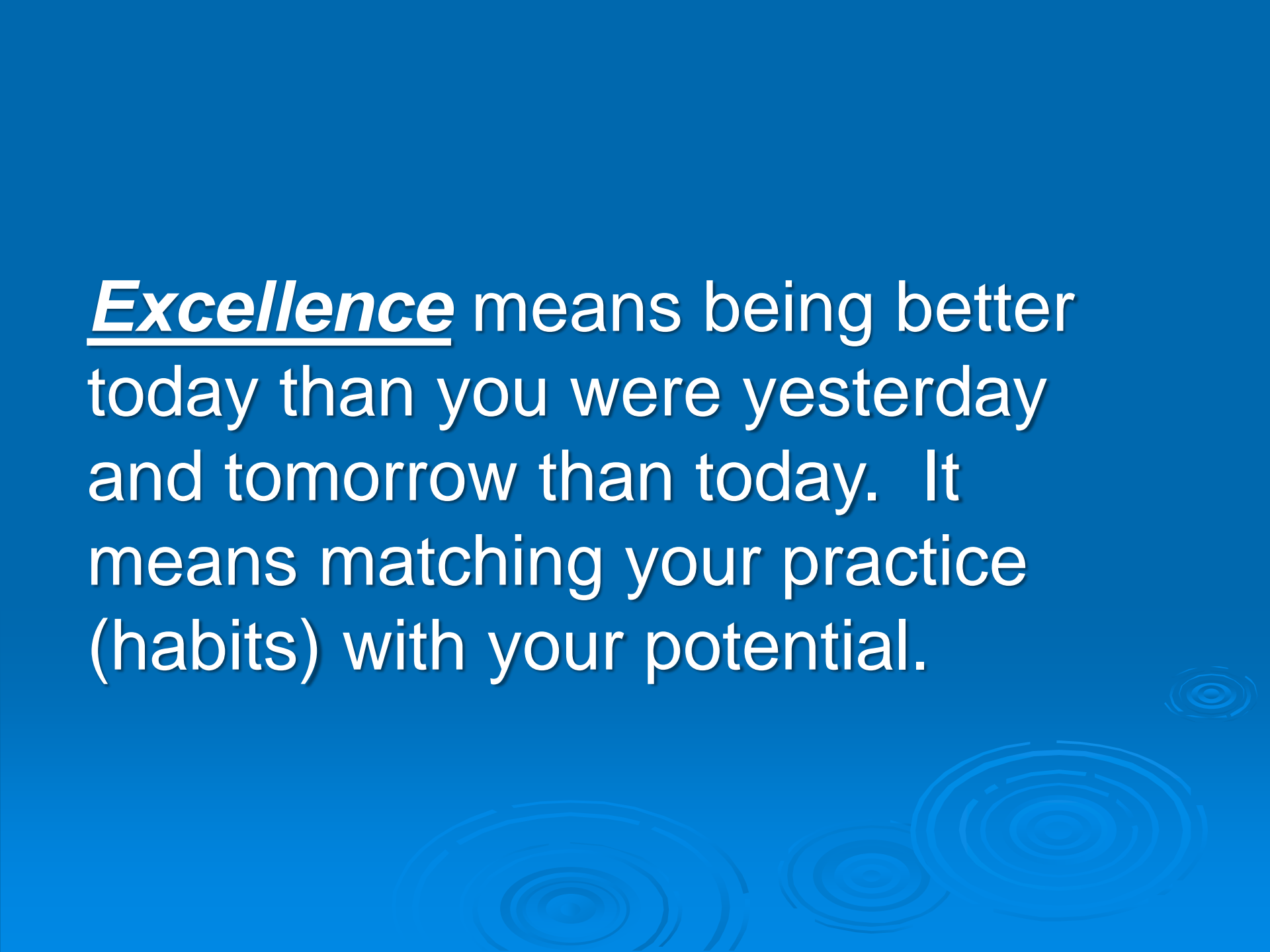
Brian Harbour, *Rising Above the Crowd*



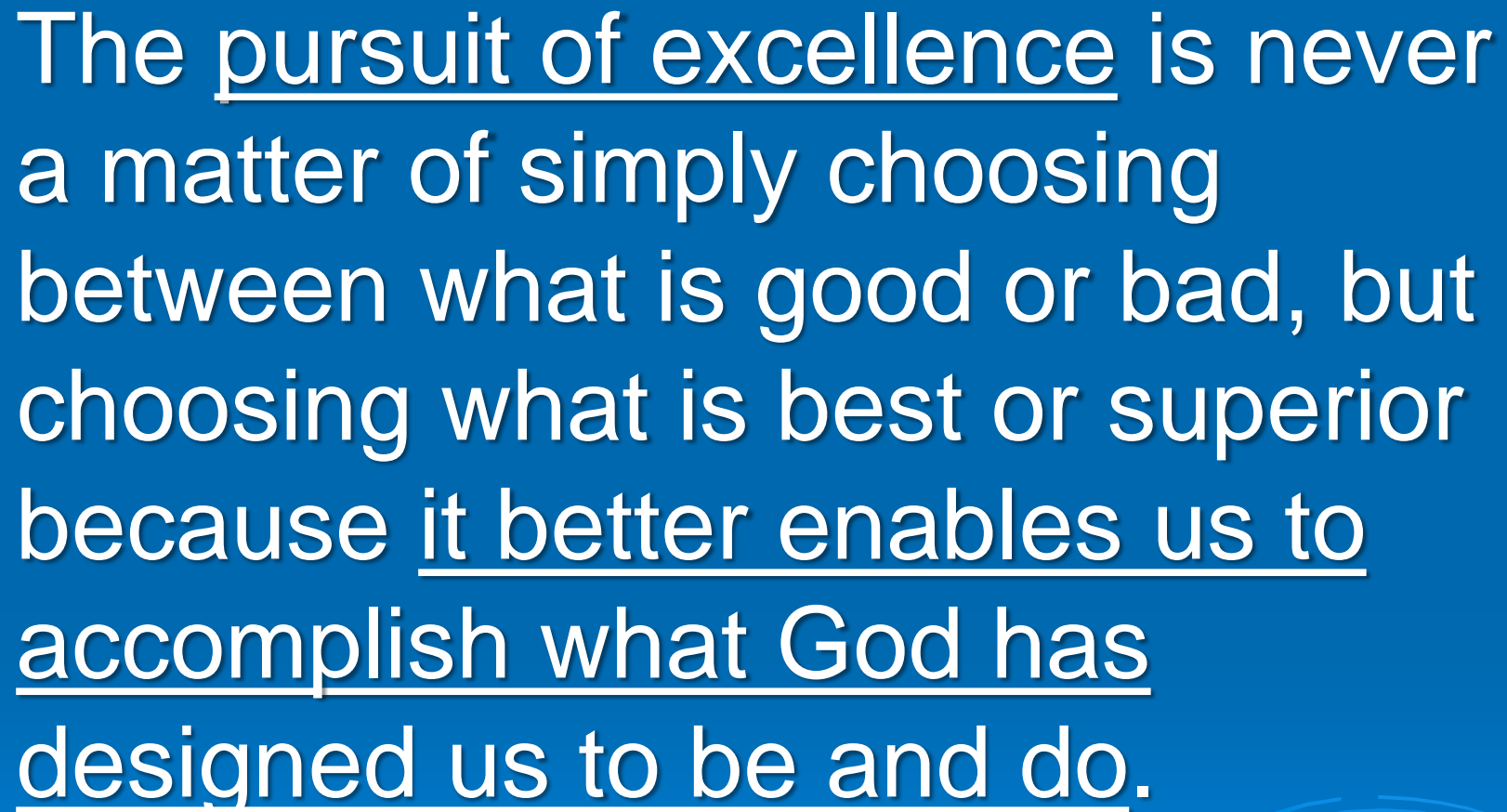
Success, to many, means being better than everyone else. It means exceeding the achievements of other people.



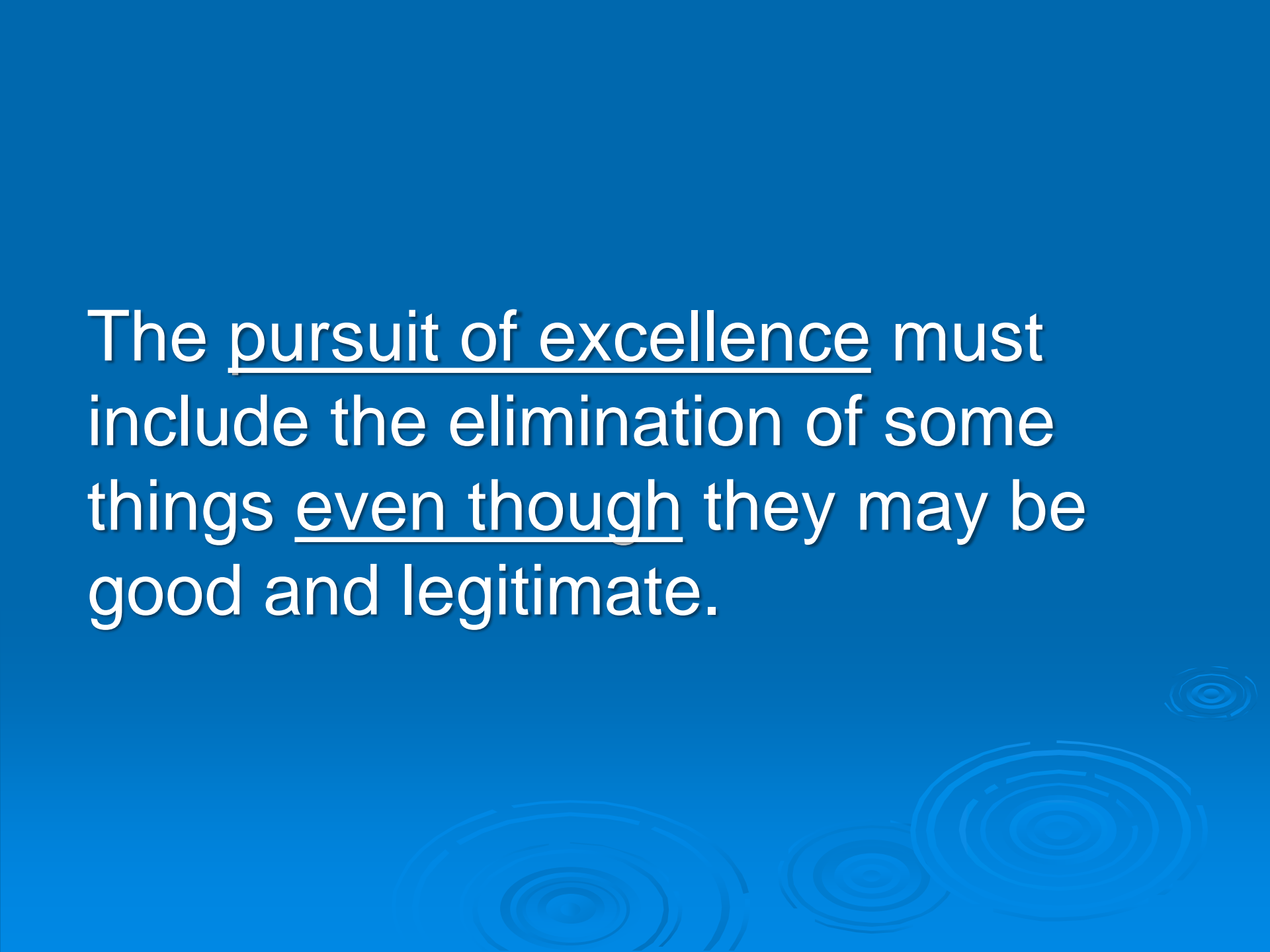
Excellence means being better today than you were yesterday and tomorrow than today. It means matching your practice (habits) with your potential.



The pursuit of excellence is never a matter of simply choosing between what is good or bad, but choosing what is best or superior because it better enables us to accomplish what God has designed us to be and do.

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The pursuit of excellence must include the elimination of some things even though they may be good and legitimate.



All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

1 Corinthians 10: 23-24

Imitate me, just as I also *imitate*
Christ.

1 Corinthians 11: 1

A decorative graphic consisting of several sets of concentric circles, resembling ripples in water, located in the bottom right corner of the slide. The circles are light blue and vary in size and opacity, creating a subtle background element.

Not that I have already attained,
or am already perfected; but I
press on, that I may lay hold of
that for which Christ Jesus has
also laid hold of me.

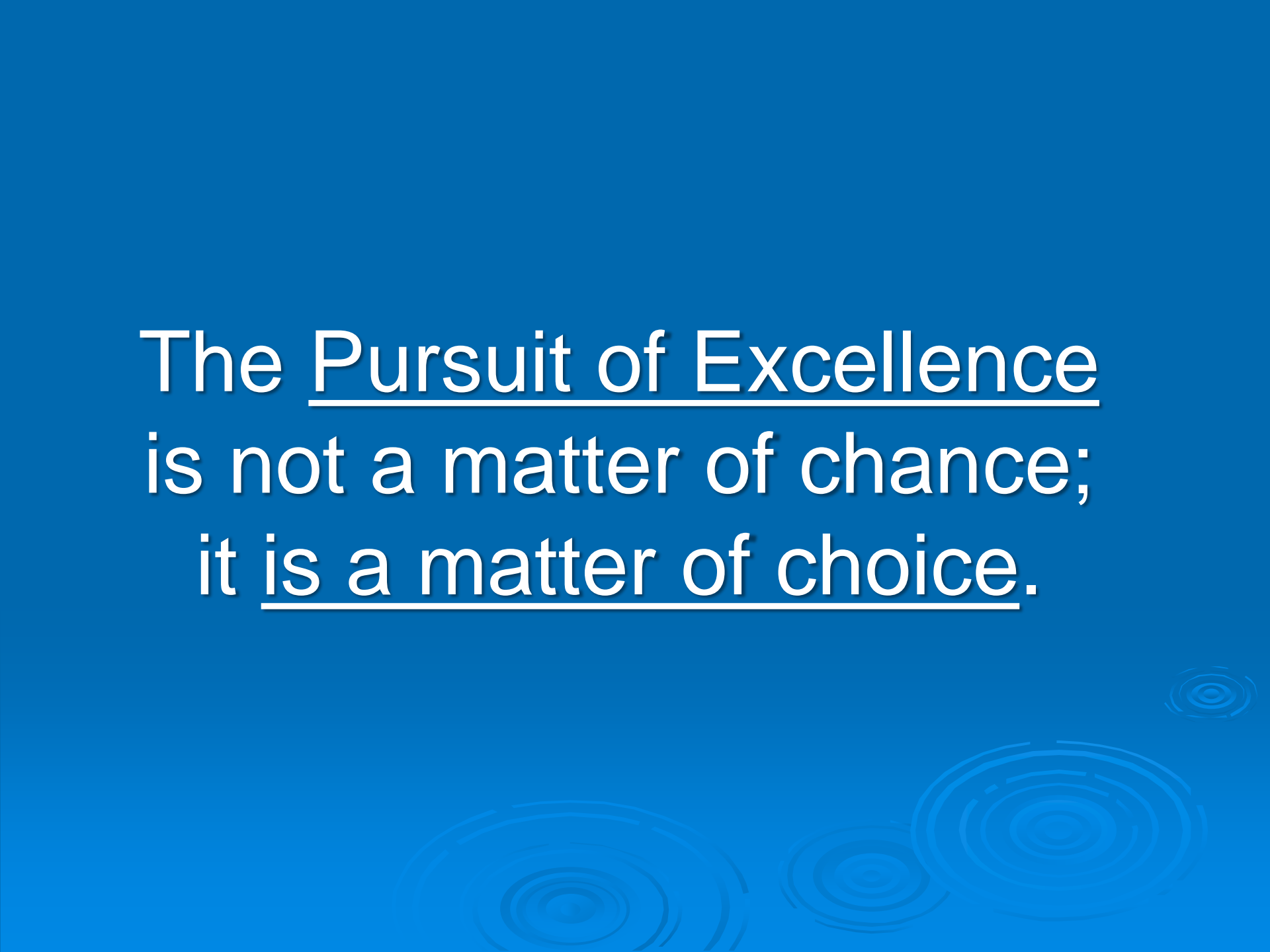
Philippians 3: 12



Yet indeed I also count all things
loss for the excellence of the
knowledge of Christ Jesus my
Lord, for whom I have suffered
the loss of all things, and count
them as rubbish, that I may gain
Christ,

Philippians 3: 13

The Pursuit of Excellence
is not a matter of chance;
it is a matter of choice.

The background is a solid blue color. In the lower right quadrant, there are several faint, concentric circles of varying sizes, resembling ripples in water or a stylized graphic element.

QUITTING
is NOT an
OPTION



These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from Me.

And in vain they worship Me, teaching *as doctrines* the commandments of men.

Matthew 15: 8-9

The Pursuit of Excellence
is a matter of the heart.



But you (my son), O man of God,
flee these things and pursue
(imitate Christ in) righteousness,
godliness, faith, love, patience,
gentleness.

1 Timothy 6: 11

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For consider Him who endured
such hostility from sinners against
Himself, lest you become weary
and discouraged in your souls.

Hebrews 12: 3

The background features several decorative elements consisting of concentric circles in a lighter shade of blue, resembling ripples in water. These circles are scattered across the lower half of the slide, with one prominent set in the bottom right corner and others in the bottom center and left.

Therefore strengthen the hands
which hang down, and the feeble
knees, and make straight paths
for your feet, so that what is lame
may not be dislocated, but rather
be healed.

Hebrews 12: 12-13



Pursue peace with all *people*, and
holiness, without which no one
will see the Lord: ...

Hebrews 12: 14



looking carefully lest anyone fall
short of the grace of God;

Hebrews 12: 15



**So, how can we
achieve excellence?**



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



“We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act,
but a habit.”

Aristotle

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You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Matthew 5: 14-15



But you *are* a chosen generation,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
His own special people, that you
may proclaim the praises of Him
who called you out of darkness
into His marvelous light;

1 Peter 2: 9

who once *were* not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 2: 10

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There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.

1 John 4: 18-19

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And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3: 17

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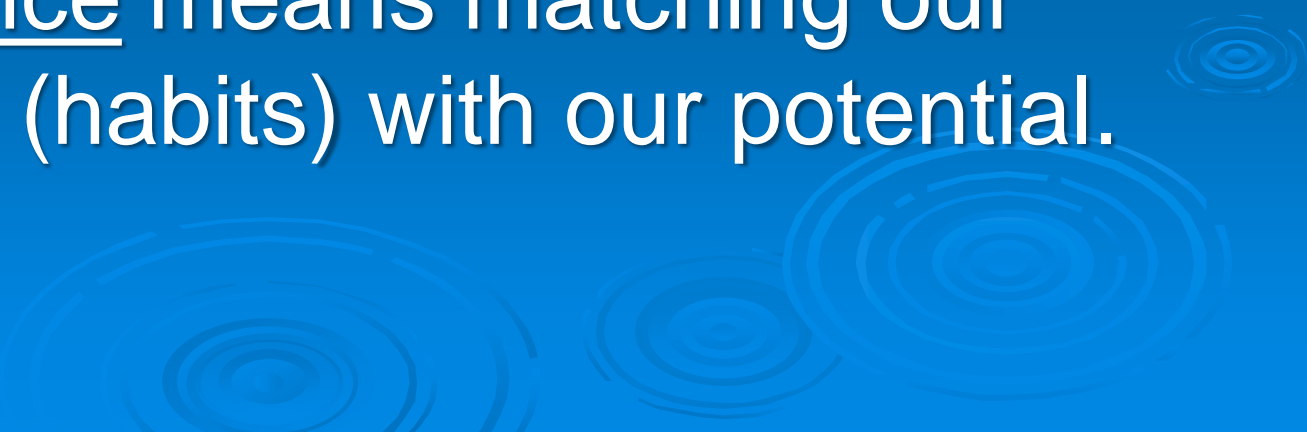
Now we exhort you, brethren,
warn those who are unruly,
comfort the fainthearted, uphold
the weak, be patient with all. See
that no one renders evil for evil to
anyone, but always pursue what
is good both for yourselves and
for all.

1 Thessalonians 5: 14-15

Therefore let us pursue the things
which make for peace and the
things by which one may edify
another.

Romans 14: 19

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- Excellence means being our best.
 - Excellence means being better today than we were yesterday and better tomorrow than today.
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- 

We are to be the best we can be as we serve our Lord, daily.

We are called to seek His will and purpose.

We are called to be the people God has called us to be.

Let us be a people PURSUING EXCELLENCE.

Remember.



**DON'T
LOOK
BACK
YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
THAT
WAY.**

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

Philippians 3: 13

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I press toward the goal for the
prize of the upward call of God in
Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3: 14









EXCELLENCE

A close-up photograph of a compass rose. The word 'EXCELLENCE' is printed in a large, serif font, arched across the top of the image. A silver-colored metal needle with a red arrowhead is positioned over the compass rose, pointing towards the word 'EXCELLENCE'. The background is a light, neutral color.

Is a
Direction
that we all
should be
Pursing.

Hear (Romans 10:17)

Believe (Hebrews 11:6)

Repent (2 Corinthians 7:10)

Confess (Philippians 2:9-12)

Baptized (Acts 2:38)

Live Faithful (Revelation 2:10)