

WORK WORSHIP

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**“Work becomes worship
when you dedicate it to God
and perform it with an
awareness of his
presence.”**

Rick Warren

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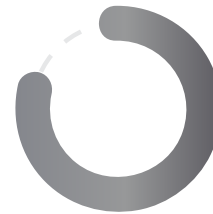
Objective

In this seminar you will be introduced to six Biblical foundational principles of work, four career errors people make with respect to work, and three practical steps that will help you discover how to experience the purpose and presence of God at your nine-to-five job.

Why Are So Many People Unhappy in Their Work?



_____ % of our adult
life will be spent on the job



_____ % of people who go
to work everyday hate their jobs.



_____ % of people describe
themselves as spiritually
hungry – have a deep spiritual
longing for God.



_____ % of professing
Christians have a positive
winsome influence at work.

There are many problems in the workplace. Millions of people are unsatisfied and working a job they hate. We believe the primary cause of discontentment is because our culture has lost the _____ of work.

WORK: A FAITH-FILLED WORLDVIEW

"Work is not a punishment, but an activity where we not only provide for our needs but also gain self-worth by the activity of our hands. Most importantly, when we are in alignment with how we were created, we have the ability to restore the world around us through our efforts. I believe it is no accident that thirty-four of Christ's fifty parables in the Bible are set in the marketplace. In the book of Acts alone, thirty-seven of forty miracles are performed in the marketplace. Jesus found His greatest opportunity to help in the marketplace, and that need and opportunity is still very much with us today."

– Robert Dickie, III

NOTES:

The Definition of Work

According to the Bible, work is _____ by design and encompasses all occupations, _____, _____, _____ or Christian work, and even avocations through which we can express the _____ and the _____ of God.

The Purpose of Work

"The purpose of work is _____ and _____ to others."
– Richard Baxter

"The purpose of work is to _____ and _____."

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10 ESV

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**“Beauty without virtue is like a rose without scent.”
Danish Proverb**

A Person of Character

Let`s face it: It`s not easy to become a person of character. It takes a good heart, but it also requires wisdom to know right from wrong and the discipline to do right even when it`s costly, inconvenient or difficult.

Becoming a person of character is a lifelong quest to be better.

1. A person of character values honesty and integrity, and pays whatever price is needed to be worthy of trust, earning the pride of family and friends and self-respect.
2. A person of character plays fair even when others don`t and values no achievement unless it was attained with honor.
3. A person of character has strong convictions, yet avoids self-righteousness.
4. A person of character believes in the inherent dignity of all people and treats everyone with respect, even those whose ideas and ideologies evoke strong disagreement.

5. A person of character deals with criticism constructively and is self-confident enough to take good advice, admit and learn from mistakes, feel and express genuine remorse and apologize graciously.

6. A person of character knows what's important, sacrifices the now for later, is in control of attitudes and actions, overcomes negative impulses and makes the best of every situation.

7. A person of character willingly faces fears and tackles unpleasant tasks.

8. A person of character is consistently and self-consciously kind and empathetic, giving generously without concern for reward.

9. A person of character feels and expresses gratitude freely and frequently; is not defeated by failure, or dissuaded by disappointment.

10. A person of character seeks true happiness in living a life of purpose and meaning, placing a higher value on significance than success.

—Michael Josephson

The Six Biblical Foundations Principles

1. The _____ of work is God. (Gen. 1:1, 26-30; 2:15)
2. All work has _____ and _____. (Col. 3:17)
3. God has a _____ for each person's life. (Ps. 139:13-14; Eph. 2:10)
4. Work is a stage for _____ and _____. (Mat:28:19; 5:16)
5. Our work needs to be _____ to glorify God. (Ps.16:3; Pr. 22:29)
6. God is the final _____ on our work. (Mat. 6:19-21)

Four Career Errors

1. _____ (_____). (Heb. 13:5)
2. _____. (Prov. 16:18-19; Matt. 23:25-26; I Sam. 16:7)
3. Lack of _____ (_____). (John 15:5; Heb.11:6)
4. _____. (Prov. 14:18; I Cor. 3:10-15)

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How to Experience the Purpose and Presence of God at Work

1. _____

Prayer for the Company

Father, I pray for [company name] _____.

I thank You for this organization and for the opportunity to be a part of it.

I am grateful for the chance to earn the income this company provides for me and my family, and for the blessing it has been to me and all its employees.

Father, I thank You that _____ enjoys a good reputation, and that it is perceived well in the minds of its customers and vendors.

Thank You that it prospers and makes a profit, that You give it favor with its members, and that You continue to provide wisdom and insight to those within it who occupy important decision-making positions. It is my prayer that _____ will continue to thrive and prosper.

Thank You for increased sales and expanded markets. Thank You, Father, for the creativity that is evident in the different areas of the company: new product ideas and new servicing concepts; innovations and techniques that keep this organization vibrant, alive and thriving.

I ask You, Lord, to bless _____ and cause it to be a blessing to the markets it serves, as well as to all those whose lives are invested in it on a daily basis.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Scripture References:

1 Timothy 2:1-3; Proverbs 3:21 3 John 2; Psalm 115:14
Joshua 1:8; Proverbs 8:12 Psalm 5:12; Malachi 3:12 AMP
Proverbs 2:7; Hebrews 6:14

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Prayer for Personal Productivity

Father, my heart's desire is to give my very best to You and to [company name] _____ . Therefore, I ask you to please help me experience an increase in personal productivity. Please help me become as efficient and effective as I need to be.

Lord, I ask for Your help in planning my day, paying attention to my duties, staying focused on my assignments, establishing priorities in my work, and making steady progress toward my objectives.

Give me insight, Father, and help me to see any habits I may have that might tend to make me non-productive. Reveal to me ways to better handle the tedious tasks I must perform so I can achieve the greatest results possible. Help me to organize my efforts, schedule my activities and budget my time.

From books, by Your Spirit, through the people who work with me, or by whatever means You choose Lord, reveal to me what I need to know and do in order to become a more productive and fruitful worker.

When I become frustrated with my progress, help me Father, by the power of Your Spirit, to do whatever is necessary to correct the situation so I can once again function with accuracy and proficiency.

Thank You, Lord, for bringing all these things to pass in my life.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Scripture References:

Psalm 118:24; Psalm 119:99 AMP Proverbs 16:9 AMP;
Proverbs 9:10 AMP Proverbs 19:21 AMP; 1 Corinthians 4:5
Ephesians 1:17

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How to Experience the Purpose and Presence of God at Work

2. _____
- Be _____ with the _____. (Ex 31:3)

3. _____
- _____ the Lord. (Col 3:22-24)
 - Keep your _____ on.

"The two most important days in life are the day you were born and the day you discover the reason why."

Mark Twain

"God speaks to us in the language of our design."

Jon Sommer

"If we accept the concept that God gave us our patterns and our desires, it seems to follow that if we are committed to Him, then He has already written His will for us in our hearts."

Lee Ellis

"If you are aware of your pattern, and seek to employ it in an occupation that honors God... you will then see how He is using you to be a blessing to others and a light to the world."

Lee Ellis

"And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship."

Exodus 31:3

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men....For ye serve the Lord Christ."

Colossians 3:23, 24b

References:

-Robert Dickie, III. Robert. Love Your Work: 4 Practical Ways You Can Pivot To Your Best Career (Chicago: Moody, 2017), 32.

-Crown Career Direct. Living by Design: A Unique Seminar About Work, Your Design And The Truth (Nashville: Crown Financial Ministries, 2011), 6, 17-21, 8-11.

-Karl D. Lehman, M.D. Outsmarting Yourself: Catching Your Past Invading the Present and What to Do About It (Libertyville: This JOY! Books), 218-219.

Excerpts from Outsmarting Yourself, Chapter 22, (p. 216-219)

A Side Note - Taking the Lord's Light into Places of Darkness

"...I'd like to make a really important side point regarding our relational circuits. One of the most important missions to which the Lord calls us is working with him to take his light into places of darkness. There is nothing wrong with gathering together with our church family to celebrate in sharing the Lord's light with each other, but he also wants us to take his light into dark places where it's needed most, like Betsy and Corrie Ten Boom taking his light into the horrors of the Ravensbruck Nazi concentration camp during World War II. Thankfully, the Lord has provided a way to do this. To the extent we are able to walk through each day connected to the living presence of Jesus, the power and light of his living presence goes with us and shines through us no matter how dark or difficult the situations we encounter; and to the extent we're able to maintain access to our positive relational memories, we carry our memory-anchored security and joy with us as well, again, no matter how dark or difficult the situations we encounter.

This is where our relational circuits come in: carrying light with us in these ways works well when we're in relational mode, but losing access to our relational circuits will greatly hinder our connection to the Lord and completely cut us off from our memory-anchored security and joy. Therefore, staying in relational mode is one of the most important things we can do toward the end of being able to carry the Lord's light with us into difficult church meetings, economic turmoil, urban ghettos, religious persecution, oppressive social systems, or any other dark places we may go."

—Karl D. Lehman, M.D.

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