

*Faith on the Job*  
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**Introduction:** Our Jobs will have a large impact upon our lives!

- A. What we chose to do as a job and where we chose to work are important spiritual decisions in our lives.
  - 1. How much time each week is involved with our jobs?
  - 2. There is an influence that we give and one that we receive on the job. We can be a part of a working relationship that can destroy us spiritually. **(2 Cor 6:14-16)**
- B. We need to see work as God does.
  - 1. The views of the work about why we work and our attitudes towards it is very different than that of the world. **(Rom 8:6-8)**
  - 2. The truth is that God is our real boss on the job! **(Eph 6:5-8)**
  - 3. Let us consider the proper attitude we should have towards our work.

***I. The Value God has placed on work***

- A. God placed a great importance on work from the creation.
  - 1. God described creation as His “work.” **(Gen 2:2)**
  - 2. Before the fall man was involved with work that involved both physical labor and mental labor. **(Gen 2:15, 19-20)**
  - 3. After the fall God emphasized the necessity of work and added difficulty to it. **(Gen 3:17-19)**
    - a. One of the consequences of Cain’s sin was a fruitless labor. **(Gen 4:12)**
    - b. After the flood the people acknowledged the difficulty of work.
- B. How did God’s Son spend the majority of His life? **(Mk 6:3)**
  - 1. He would have received the training from His father and spent most of His life with him in that work.
  - 2. Jesus was around 30 years old when He began to preach!
- C. Jesus used this background and history in His teaching.
  - 1. He spoke of wise and foolish builders. **(Mt 7:24-27)**
  - 2. He described landowners hiring workers. **(Mt 20:1-7)**
  - 3. He spoke of servants managing their master’s money. **(Mt 25:14)**
  - 4. He spoke of farmers planting seed. **(Mk 4:3)**
- D. What should be our attitude towards work?
  - 1. The same as God! This is a matter of faithfulness. **(2 Thess 3:10-12)**
  - 2. We should approach work as God as our boss. We should give our best! **(Col 3:22-24)**

***II. Some challenges we must face at work***

- A. Bitterness and envy
  - 1. How easy it is to become bitter at another who receives the promotion or recognition that you deserved! **(1 Sam 18:7-9)**
  - 2. This was also a motivation in the religious teachers who murdered Jesus. **(Mk 15:10)**
  - 3. I have seen Christian’s act like the world when it comes to money and recognition. Whose praise should we seek? **(2 Cor 10:12, 17-18)**

## B. Stress and Worry

1. How many have not felt the paralyzing fear of not being able to pay the bills? **(Mt 6:30-34)**
2. We live in a society that may have a great economy but no security. One may lose their job without warning. (Ex. My own father)
3. Here is where we must learn to see things as God does! We need to be ready to accept the loss of a job and still have a contented life. **(Phil 4:11-13)**
4. Let us face our worry and know that all is well! **(Jn 16:33)**

## C. Maintaining Integrity

1. There is much we can do when we first take a job! Please do not try to hide your convictions to gradually bring out later. Notice the advice of Joseph. **(Gen 46:31-34)**
2. We must work the time we have agreed. Who is our boss?
3. We must be truthful, we must not take for personal use that which is another's.

## D. Daily Evangelism

1. We do not take a job to evangelize, but there will be opportunities. **(Mt 5:14-16)**
2. What opportunities do you have at work? (Ex. A weekly Bible study)

## ***III. Finding proper balance with our work***

### A. Between dedication and workaholism

1. Here is where we need to see clearly. **(Mt 6:33; Ecc 6:7-9)**
2. Men in particular may find their lives completely defined by their work.
3. Why are you here? What are you accomplishing by your life? What is first in your life?
4. There is a particular danger here when you own your own business.

### B. Between ambition and contentment

1. What are the limits to trying to get ahead? **(1 Tim 6:6-11)**
2. How do we view and treat others in this pursuit? **(Jas 2:1-6)**
3. How do we respond to setbacks in this area? (Ex. My father's loss of a business)

### C. Between friendliness and compromise

1. We need to understand the temptations that come with the workplace.
  - a. You may have more companionship with a worker that with your mate! Watch out! **(Eph 5:3)**
  - b. Here is where a stand for the Lord will eliminate many problems.
2. Are you sensitive to the peer pressure of the group? **(Ex 23:2)**
3. Some need to understand their weaknesses and in some cases quit their current job and find another!
  - a. If my job affects my salvation then I need to find another.
  - b. If my job causes me to neglect my God-given family responsibilities then I need to find another.

## ***Conclusion:*** How do you view your job?

- A. We must not take the attitude of the world and hate our job and take advantage of the company.
- B. With God help we can find the wisdom to be content in our lives. **(Lk 3:14)**