

WORK AT IT

Character Counts – Part 4 of 4

Your job is essential to God's purpose for you because:

- #1: Your job is where you learn to **DEVELOP & USE** the talents, He gave you.
- #2: Your job is where you learn to **HONOR** God by giving him your **BEST**.
- #3: Your job is where you learn to **LIVE OUT** what you say you believe about God and your love for Him. In reality it's your **MISSION** field.
- #4: God uses your job to grow your character into spiritual **MATURITY**.

"From the very beginning, God decided that those who came to Him should become like His Son." Romans 8:29

"...real maturity is that measure of development which is meant by 'the fullness of Christ.'" Ephesians 4:13

How God uses my work to grow my character:

KEY TRUTH #1: God uses **PRESSURE** to teach me **RESPONSIBILITY**

"Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as people who do not know the meaning of life, but as those who do." Ephesians 5:15

Ways to develop responsibility:

#1: By keeping my **PROMISES**

"(God blesses the one) ...who always does what he promises, no matter how much it may cost." Psalms 15:4

#2: By meeting **DEADLINES**

"One who is slack in his work is a brother to the one who destroys." Proverbs 18:9

#3: By working without **SUPERVISION**

"Don't work hard only when your master is watching...work hard all the time, as though working for Christ." Ephesians 6:6-7

"Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won't be faithful in large ones. If you cheat even a little, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities." Luke 16:10

#4: By controlling **COSTS**

"11 If you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth who will trust you with the true riches of Heaven? 12 And if you are not faithful with other people's money, why should you be entrusted with money of our own?" Luke 16:11-12

KEY TRUTH #2: God uses **PROBLEMS** to teach me **CHARACTER**

"3 We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know they are good for us - they help us learn to be patient. 4 And patience develops strength of character..." Romans 5:3-4

- While you're working on your job, God is **WORKING ON YOU**.

"Remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

"8 I think you ought to know about the hard time WE went through in Asia. WE were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared WE would never live through it... 9 WE saw how powerless WE were to help ourselves, but that was good, for then WE put everything into the hands of God who alone could save US. And He did help US..." 2 Corinthians 1:8-9

- I need to be connected to a **SMALL GROUP**.

KEY TRUTH #3: God uses **PEOPLE** to teach me how to really **LOVE**

"Do all your work in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14

"We remember before God how you put your faith into practice, and how your love makes you work so hard..." 1 Thessalonians 1:3

Types of difficult people:

- **DEMANDING**
- **DISHONEST**

- **DISAGREEABLE**
- **DEFENSIVE**
- **DEMEANING**

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Romans 12:18

“16 Work happily together. Treat everyone with equal kindness. Don’t become set in your opinions. 17 Never pay back evil for evil. 18 Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.” Romans 12:16-18

Two Consequential Reasons for making an effort to live like this at work:

First: The Bible tells us that God is going to **EVALUATE** your work.

“One day the quality of each person’s work will be clearly seen when the Day of Christ inspects it. On that day, everyone’s work will be tested by fire to show the character and quality of what each of us has done.” 1 Corinthians 3:13

Second: God is going to give eternal **REWARDS** for whatever is done in love.

*“God is always fair. He will not forget how hard you have worked and the love you have demonstrated for his name...”
Hebrews 6:10*