

*"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." (2 Peter 1:2)*

A middle-aged professional woman said on one occasion: "When I was young, I thought that going to university would teach me everything there was to know about my field of study and that it would be enough for my professional career. Now, 20 years later, I realize that I am still learning and that my degree was only the beginning of a lifetime of study and growth."

It's the same for Christians. The day we give our lives to Christ is only the beginning of learning about Jesus and growing in Him. To play our part in upholding the name of our Lord, it is essential that we maintain a personal and intimate relationship with Him and make sure that our understanding of scripture is pure and correct.

Today's world stands in great need of good news. It's not so much about speaking, but rather speaking with our whole lives; and living consistently, the very consistency of our lives in Him. Given how much time we spend at work, it's no surprise that what happens there is critical for our spiritual growth. In fact, the workplace provides us with one of the best opportunities in our daily lives to grow in holiness. All we need is the right perspective.

We are working for the Lord not for men (Colossians 3:23). Our careers are effective for a time only but our calling to work for God is eternal, so that carries with it a responsibility - we should always do our level best in human terms. Ponder on the life of Jesus as a carpenter mentioned in Mark 6:3 and Matthew 13:54-55. It says that He is both a carpenter and the son of the carpenter. Scriptures don't tell us much about this time in his life, certainly, but I would imagine that Jesus was known for really great carpentry!

And finally, Matthew 5:16 *"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"*. Excelling in the workplace means letting our Christian light shine bright, therefore, we should never allow unpleasant work conditions to dim our light. In Genesis 39, we read that Joseph, under Potiphar, rose to the top due to his excellent abilities. *"The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned."* It is so clear in this passage of scripture that Potiphar had no doubt as to where Joseph's ability originated - it came from God. Joseph's life encourages us to take heart; it is always possible to live out our faith in the workplace in ways that benefit ourselves, our employers and our co-workers, and help us draw closer to our Lord.

*Lord Jesus, let Your Spirit constantly remind us that we can accomplish nothing worthy without You. Amen.*