

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us - 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20a.*

When a certain gentleman was asked what he did for a living he answered, "I am a full-time missionary cleverly disguised as an IT specialist." This statement has never left me.

There are people whom the Lord has called to serve on a full-time basis inside the church and those He has appointed to serve in the secular workplace. Since many of us work outside the church, we can, at times, downplay our role in these environments. When we accepted Jesus, we also received the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and knowing this means that we ALL have a responsibility to be full-time ministers of the gospel. While working hard to support ministries and those who work full-time inside the church is commendable, I also believe that our primary focus in our workplaces is to advance God's kingdom. We have been strategically placed among these unbelievers so that we can shine His light.

As we know, there is a constant battle between God's kingdom and the kingdom of darkness, and this is more evident in some work environments than others. Conflict arises when politics starts interfering with the administrative side of business and Christians experience extraordinary opposition when they refuse to conduct business in an ungodly manner. The projects they oversee get delayed or brought to a complete standstill. They often get overlooked for promotions or career developments because they are "not part of the clique." These challenges can frustrate even the most positive people, and it is in these moments of feeling frustrated that one can be tempted to take matters into their own hands to fight back.

But, because Ephesians 6:12 tells that "*our fight is not against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world*", we cannot fight as the world does. We take everything to God in prayer, continuously asking for the fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit as we trust the Lord to direct next our step (Psalm 37:23). Despite these difficulties, Colossians 3:23 instructs us to work at whatever we do as though working for the Lord. We witness for God by delivering work of excellent quality! Sometimes, we have to push past our fears and insecurities and take on new projects with zero experience. Acknowledging God as our chief boss brings comfort in knowing that He is just and rewards us according to our faithfulness.

As ambassadors for Christ, we are empowered and equipped to take ground for His kingdom in every place that the soles of our feet tread upon (Joshua 1:3). While walking in this authority we are to love, honour, serve, encourage and pray for our leaders and peers. Keeping the gospel as our primary focus makes witnessing a lifestyle. Having experienced some challenges of my own, God has turned these into opportunities to share my walk of faith. He has fought battles on my behalf while I stood and watched, and I have witnessed Him do this for each one of His beloved children.

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. JAMES 1:2-4*