

*Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*  
1 Corinthians 10:31

Work has the potential to make us all aware of our need for God. I would like to share how being in the discipline of Medicine in a public hospital has made me more aware of this, so that you might see how the same principles could apply to the discipline in which you operate.

Medical practice enforces godliness every step of the way. The need to put the lives of those we serve first has to become automatic and the ability to sleep light, ready to respond to emergency calls anytime of the night reminds us we are sons of the 'Keeper of Israel' (who does not sleep), entrusted with the lives of God's images! He refreshes and strengthens so we can face tomorrow with fresh courage.

Medical doctors need to be empathetic. We have to empathize with the stench and horrid manifestations of ailing flesh. We have to give greater attention to the least among us, aware that those who are the least honoured tend to suffer more severe diseases, requiring more attention.

We need to be meek. Medical training pushes us away from haughtiness when it comes to patient care: we have to examine patients without flinching, whatever smells pour out! I am also amazed at the protection God gives as we do this, preventing us from contracting the numerous aggressive infectious conditions we so often treat!

We need to encourage ourselves in the Lord. We often encounter potentially depressing events – mini-bereavements – which, if not counselled, can cause full blown clinical depression. We risk either turning ourselves into hard, unfeeling and detached hearts or becoming burnt out from being overly involved emotionally. Encouragement in the Lord helps us bounce back while still maintaining compassion, so that we can continue supporting and healing others we meet.

Doctors usually receive heightened accolades from the community, both a virtue (opportunity) and a menace (pride). Doors of opportunity for spreading God's gospel are more easily opened when we use the favour from men for godliness. A doctor's practice can in fact be holy ground, where the gospel is preached in acts of love more than in words, though words do become necessary at times in prayers or encouragement.

Lastly, we are aware of the need for God's grace to fight the lure of mammon in our hearts. Financial blessings flow from work and great sensitivity is needed to keep one on the right side of blessing. As we war for our patients, our business and ourselves, we always have to seek actively to remain servants, always aware that we are only vulnerable human beings, dependent on His power and grace.

May God keep each of us in business readily aware of our humanity and save us from putting ourselves and our careers above Him. Think about how your own work situation moves you closer to God. May we execute all for His Name's sake alone.