

Prayer for Employment

Father, You said that my gift (talents and abilities) will make room for me and bring me before great men. I am asking that the abilities You have placed within me, Lord, be connected to an employment opportunity where I can blossom for You. You said You would supply all of my needs. One of my needs right now is employment so I can provide for my own household.

Thank You for leading me to the business or ministry where You want me, or for giving me information and funds to start a self-employment venture, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Proverbs 18:16; Philippians 4:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:8

Daily Confession

God will open the doors of opportunity for employment where He wants me to be, and He will shut the doors where I should not be as I lean to the leading of His Spirit (Rev. 3:7-8).

Source: *Prayers That Avail Much* Daily Calendar
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A Prayer for Your Finances

by Kenneth Copeland

Heavenly Father, I have chosen Jesus as the Lord of my life and I seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, believing that the material things I need will be supplied. I choose for my character and moral disposition to be free from the love of money, greed, lust and craving for earthly possessions.

I am satisfied with my present circumstances and with what I have, being confident because You have promised that You will not in any way fail me, nor leave me without support. I am confident in Your faithfulness, that You will never leave me, nor forsake me, nor leave me helpless. I take comfort and am encouraged; I boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not be seized with alarm, I will not fear, or dread or be terrified.'

"I believe, Father, that You wish above all things that I prosper and be in health even as my soul prospers. I will meditate in Your Word day and night, not letting it depart from my mouth, keeping it in the midst of my heart, observing to do all that is written therein. I believe that then I shall make my way prosperous and have good success.

You have promised that as a doer of the Word, I will be blessed in all of my deeds. I am assured that You will withhold no good thing from me as I walk uprightly. The uncompromising are never forsaken. I make it my ambition to live quietly and peacefully, to mind my own affairs to work with my hands so that I may bear myself becomingly, correctly and honorably and command the respect of the outside world, being self-supporting, dependent on no one and having need of nothing.

Knowing through Your Word, Father, that You are the Lord my God Who teaches me to profit and Who leads me by the way I should go, I will put Your principles to work in my life regarding employment.

I choose to apply myself to good deeds—to honest labor and honorable employment—so that I may be able to meet necessary demands whenever the occasion may require and that I may not live an idle, uncultivated unfruitful life, in Jesus' Name.

I labor so that I may walk honestly toward those who are without. As I give, it is given unto me again, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will men give into my bosom.

I do not sow sparingly and grudgingly, but rather, I sow generously, blessing others. Therefore, I can expect to reap generously and with blessings.

Scripture references: Hebrews 13:5-6; Matthew 6:33; 3 John 2; Psalm 84:11; Joshua 1:8; James 1:25; Psalm 37:25; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; Isaiah 48:17; Titus 3:14.

Source: *Prayer—Your Foundation For Success* by Kenneth Copeland
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How To Thrive (Not Just Survive) In Today's Economy

by Norman Robertson

Refuse To Lose

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4).

As born again, blood-bought, covenant children of the most high God, how should we respond to recession in the land? What should we do in the midst of economic downturn, job layoffs, downsizing and business uncertainty?

How do we deal with financial setbacks staring us in the face? How do we handle a financial crisis? How can we stay upbeat and live positively in a negative world? How can we make the move from a life-challenging situation to a life-changing solution?

Luke 18:27 says, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Here are 12 *proactive principles* relevant for your finances today....

1. Don't ignore financial challenges and bury your head in the sand, like the proverbial ostrich, hoping it will all go away soon! Take a covenant stand and boldly face up to the giants of fear and lack with God's Word. The righteous are as bold as a lion!
2. Don't bow to the spirit of fear, discouragement or anxiety! Fear will make you panic and even paranoid! Fear is the great paralyzer—don't give it one inch! Fear is faith in the devil, and so in Jesus' name, take authority over the fear that is trying to take authority over you!
3. Discuss the good instead of the bad. Bad-mouthing the economy, poor-mouthing your finances and discussing hard times will only compound the situation; so talk life, not death! Your words prophesy your future, so make certain that your words are working for you and not against you!
4. Avoid the network news as they pump out a daily serving of doom and gloom. Stop listening to the negative drum beat of the mindless media—that's a recipe for worry! What you look at and listen to will grow and increase in your life.
5. Renew your mind daily in God's Word. Reading, meditating and saturating your mind with Scripture is vital to your victory. Remember: Your state of mind creates your state of results.
6. Don't stop giving to God just because the economy is in a slump. Don't ever be a tightwad! God loves cheerful givers! To love money for money's sake or to hoard it in fear is a snare. Seeing money as a blessed tool to spread the Gospel is the secret to God's prosperity (Prov. 11:24-25).

God supernaturally blesses your actions of faith and obedience as you give finances for the Gospel's sake! You plant money into God's work and He returns to you a harvest of prosperity. This is God's dynamic law of sowing and reaping, and it never fails. Always sow your financial seed with joy and expectant faith. Increase is guaranteed (Luke 6:38).

7. Make it a top priority to continue seeking God and His kingdom first (Matt. 6:33). Serving the Lord is your first choice, not your last chance! Meet with God first in the morning before you meet with the devil!

8. You DO remind God that He is your Source in all seasons and in all circumstances. You praise Him that, as your Source, He is your ever-faithful El-Shaddai! He is unfailing, unchanging and unlimited!

9. Take aggressive faith action when lack attacks and come out against it, boldly wielding the weapon of God's Word! For every negative situation, God's Word has the positive solution! Take action now with the Sword of the Spirit and speak the Word directly into your situation.

10. Make diligence a high priority and go the extra mile at work. Some Christians have a poor work ethic and are known for a negative attitude on the job. This blocks their prosperity. Thank God for your job and the ability to work! Thank God for your gifts, talents, skills and abilities to do your work with excellence.

Have a great attitude toward your job and be diligent in your work—as you do this, promotion, favor, and prosperity will follow (Prov. 10:4).

11. Take massive doses of God's medicine. God's Word is healing medicine (Prov. 4:20-23; Ps. 107:20) that will heal your physical body and can heal everything else in your life. The Word can heal your marriage, your emotions and your financial affairs!

Why not "double up" on your medicine intake to increase your financial faith? It's up to you to keep the switch of faith turned on. Fill up on anointed, faith-boosting books, tapes and videos—what you think about, you bring about!

12. Take a vigorous stand on God's covenant promises, claiming total victory over every enemy of lack, fear, doubt, discouragement and financial setbacks. God's Word works and it will work for you, if you will put it to work!

God watches over His Word to perform it and He confirms it with signs following. As you claim, confess and continue to stand on God's Word. Your victory is guaranteed! This takes faith; your faith in action is what pleases God (Heb. 11:6).

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Fighting Financial Fear

by Norman Robertson

During the last few years, despair, doom, and gloom have invaded and pervaded the U.S. economy and stock markets across the world.

A parade of corporate scandals shocked and rocked Wall Street sending stock prices tumbling viciously.

The negative-news-pumping media went into overdrive while pictures of big grizzly bears mauling financial markets appeared on the front covers of international business magazines.

Even after all the political sound bites and the opinions of the financial pundits, Wall Street seemed like Fall Street as the economic markets continued to cascade.

Why? Because the number one oversold stock in today's markets has the symbol F-E-A-R.

Fear Can Spread Like A Bad Disease

Fear is on the rampage and spreading like a forest fire causing mayhem and misery for millions. A BBC news reporter once explained that the London Stock Market had been slammed because "fear is a disease that hops across continents at the fastest known velocity—the speed of fright!"

Whether you are a business owner, an investor, or an employee working for a large corporation, there has been such an avalanche of bad news lately, it seems as if we've been bombarded with fear on every side! As Christians, we don't (and should not) have any crisis of confidence, because our confidence and trust is in the Living God and He guarantees financial security for His children! Perhaps you've been discouraged with all the economic turmoil, trouble and tumble, or maybe you are a bruised and battered investor.

***Be encouraged;
God has not fallen
off His throne. He
has not changed,
and Heaven is not
about to go into
recession.***

- Norman Robertson

What is the solution? Has fear of financial loss attacked you? Have you lost your joy because of financial setbacks? Are you worried and scared about the financial future? What can you do about it? How do you get the fear out and get faith in?

Be encouraged; God has not fallen off His throne. He has not changed, and Heaven is not about to go into recession.

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, Fear not, I will help you.
(Isa. 41:10,13)

Thus says the Lord: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.
(Isa. 43:1-2)

Fear Fighting Formula

1. Develop a fighting spirit and face the giant called fear (2 Tim. 1:7). If you have been laid off from your job, or been hit with economic downturn in your business; if you have suffered financial reversals and erosion in your investments or pension funds, then stop the fear and worry now!

God has not given you the spirit of fear. Right now is the time to take authority over the fear that is trying to take authority over you. Fear is a lie and in Jesus Name it has to flee from you!

2. Don't feed on fear (Phil. 4:8). Unplug yourself from CNN (Continuous Negative News) and the fear-pumping media. Switch off the TV and radio news. Choose life not death. Choose faith over fear!

What you look at, listen to, and read affects what you believe and what you believe determines what you receive. You must guard your thought life because the mind is the battlefield where you win or lose!

3. Get plugged into faith (Rom. 10:17). You control your environment and you decide your atmosphere. Will it be peace or panic, faith or fear, life or death, God's voice or the devil's voice you listen to?

Fill up on anointed, dynamic teaching tapes. Now is the time to feed your spirit and renew your mind with faith-building tapes on prosperity, supernatural increase and financial victory. Keep yourself constantly in a faith atmosphere with faith tapes and faith books.

4. Verbalize and visualize daily that God is your Source (Phil. 4:19). Your source is not the economy, your source is not Wall Street, your source is not the government, and it is not your job or your paycheck.

Remind yourself constantly that God is your source and He is unlimited! The worst thing you can do is to sit around moaning, murmuring, and blaming God for your losses and troubles. It's dumb to wallow in your woes and ask: Why me Lord? Why did God let this happen to me?

5. Knowing God as your source means that **EI-Shaddai**, the God of superabundance and more than enough, is your source! Knowing God as your source means that **Jehovah-Jireh**, the God who is able to provide and prosper you no matter what, is your source.

As you continue to look to God as your total source of total supply then He is able to reverse your reversals and give you a financial turnaround! God specializes in turning messes into miracles. Trusting God means things *will* get better and your finances will improve!

6. Start your day in the presence of God with prayer, praise and thanksgiving (Ps. 118:24-25). Meet with God before you meet with the devil. Seek God first and stay hungry and thirsty for His presence in your life (Matt. 6:33; Luke 6:21).

The most precious thing you have in your life is the anointing of the Holy Spirit; protect the anointing and stay charged up by praying much in the spirit (Jude 20).

7. Live with miracle expectancy (Mark 9:23). God is a miracle-working God; He still manifests signs, wonders, and miracles today! He is your miracle source, a miracle prayer answering God and a God of miraculous provision.

God will not disappoint you or fail to reward your faith (Heb. 11:6). God promised you the blessing of prosperity and success if you would put His Word first in your life (Josh. 1:8).

8. Meditate daily on God's prosperity promises and confess God's covenant into your economic situation. Expect miracles to happen in your life, expect God's favor to flow, expect divine breakthrough and expect financial victory to manifest.

Claim these powerful prosperity promises: Proverbs 10:22; Philippians 4:19; Deuteronomy 8:18; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Psalm 23:1,5; Psalm 35:27, 37:18-19,25, 84:11, 115:14; 3 John 2.

9. Continue to be a giver and sow financial seed into God's work (Luke 6:38; Gal. 6:7-8). Don't cutback in your giving, and don't quit sowing seed. That's the key to your financial harvest.

Consistently giving to God, even during trying times of financial pressure, is positive proof of your faith in God as your source and makes you a candidate for His provision, promotion and prosperity.

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Are We Believers or Doubters?

by Col Stringer

It saddens me to see the extent of fear that is being generated in the Body of Christ in the present financial crisis—certainly I am not suggesting that it is not serious. *But*, we are not of the world, we belong to a different Kingdom—the Kingdom of God.

Of late I have been inundated with messages by every prophet of doom and gloom. It's funny how a crisis brings out every weirdo and kook.

But what saddens me is when Christians believe what the world is saying and not the Word of God. How's this quote: "We are not going to say, 'Yahoo, this is over,' and extend credit like we did without fear," Jamie Dimon, JP Morgan Chase's chief executive, said in a recent conference call. "If you're not fearful, you're crazy." Sadly, this was sent to me by a Christian!

Now I have lived through a crisis or two, one of the most memorable was the Y2K fiasco. Remember? When the prophets of doom were predicting the end of the world, every computer was going to crash and throw us back into the Dark Ages?

Remember? The planes were going to drop out of the sky. Sadly the worst instigators of fear were some Christian prophets—one newspaper even credited them with creating more fear and panic than anyone else.

Christian authors of doom capitalized on the fear big time—they sold 45 million books—that's million, not thousand. How sad! The result? Not a computer crashed—remember?

There was merely a hiccup throughout the world! Yet not one of the Christian authors of doom have ever apologized for helping create that fear that pushed the world to the brink of total panic!

My family and I survived Cyclone Tracy—the prophets of fear had a field day then. They prophesied that the Lord was going to send a second cyclone (and Tsunami) to finish off the job. I know people who sold their homes and bolted because of the fear and panic those people created. None of it ever came to pass and not one of the prophets of doom ever apologized for their part in creating panic.

Should I go on? How about the numberless prophecies of earthquakes wiping out almost every city in the western world (in recent times). I can remember specific prophecies of doom about Adelaide (again people sold up and bolted in fear), New Zealand—and get out your notebook when it comes to prophecies about California dropping into the sea. Should I go on?

May I ask you a simple question—are we believers or are we doubters? Are you part of the answer or part of the problem?

May I remind you—if you are a believer—the Bible tells us not to worry about the things we need to eat, drink and wear—the necessities of life, but to seek first the way His Kingdom operates and all of these other things shall be added to us.

The Message Translation puts it this way:

What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not to be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God's-provisions. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the kingdom itself.
(Luke 12:28-32)

The principles of the Kingdom of God operate radically different to the ways of the world. I love the way 'The Message' Bible puts verse Matt 5: 48: "In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it...." Amen to that, and may I add we need to pray like it and speak like it!

Yes, there is a lot of fear out there at the moment, but this isn't the time to become pessimistic or afraid. The fear is so strong that it is tangible!

It's self perpetuating! But unlike the world, we have a promise from our God to stand on! Don't forget that the Kingdom of God is not in recession, it's not now, never has nor ever will be! The economy of God's Kingdom is guaranteed!

The greatest problem we face is fear itself! Even the world's leaders recognize this fact! But this not the time to succumb to fear and panic—God has not given to us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind!

Remember—the righteous are as bold as lion! *Don't Fear!* If Y2K, September 11th, Cyclone Tracy, SARs, Chook Flue and many other things couldn't finish us off—then this current crisis won't do it either! When the smoke and dust of battle settles, we the believers will still be standing!

Remember the Kingdom of God is not in crisis, and we must not allow the world's thinking and fear to shake our faith. Don't allow the numerous prophets of doom to cause fear and panic in your life.

Certainly we need to pray about the situation. *But pray in faith! Speak faith words!*

Jan and I encourage you to stand strong in this season of your life! To seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these other things—the necessities of life—shall be added to you!

Remember, we are the head—not the tail! You're going over—not under!

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Crazy Praise

by Nan C. Loyd

"I will give fervent thanks to the Lord..." (Ps. 109:3 NAB).

There was a time my husband and I faced a bad financial trial. EVERYTHING went wrong. Because his employment contract ended much earlier than expected, he was laid off from work.

Things began to fall apart financially. The bank wanted to know when we would pay the pastdue car notes; they even talked about repossession.

The mortgage people were not communicating with one another, so each phone call was a living nightmare. One person wanted to put us on a repayment schedule; the other wanted us set up for foreclosure.

Obviously, we did not want to answer the telephone because credit card companies were pressuring us.

We kept telling all of them—and even guaranteed—that we would eventually get caught up with all of our payments, but no one was listening. We knew another employment contract would come along; we just didn't know exactly when.

We Were Losing Our Positive Focus

It began to feel as if every demon in hell was working with the world's finance system to repossess our two cars and foreclose on the house. We were losing our positive focus.

The unemployment check barely covered the rest of the debts. We had nothing to live on after tithing, giving a small offering, and paying those bills.

Someone heard my husband Leland was laid off and brought us a bag of groceries from church: Hamburger Helper (without the hamburger), a can of tomato sauce, and a can of pinto beans. It was hard to count it as joy, much less food. It was very discouraging. Thank God for generous parents!

We were blessed with enough money to make a house payment. The mortgage company told us they would refuse it because it was only one payment and they needed three in order to catch up. I was told if I sent it, they would stamp it "declined" and sent it back. It made us so mad, we decided to plant the money as seed instead.

Planting In Faith & Believing

One of the ministries we study under taught us that "if what you hold in your hand is not enough to meet your need, plant it as seed."

That \$380 was not enough to satisfy the mortgage company. It wasn't enough for the car notes either. If it had been, we would have made that payment. So we decided to give it to God as an offering, trusting that He would provide a miracle. We "planted" that financial seed into a good-ground ministry.

In this case, "bad ground" would represent a ministry that didn't believe in the prosperity message. That would be like planting tomato seeds in the crack of a concrete sidewalk while expecting to produce the best tomato crop on earth.

Good ground is any ministry that believes the faith message, or one that believes the entire Bible is true, including the prosperity message.

We sent the \$380 to a ministry we partnered with (one who'd taught us about debt freedom). I called their prayer line, told them what we were doing, and had prayer over our offering seed. That's all we knew to do. Everything was in God's hands.

While awaiting my husband's next contract, we pumped ourselves up by watching faith ministers on satellite (it was free), listening to faith audio and videotapes, reading the Word, and reading faith books.

Let The Crazy Praise Begin

One day, we heard T.D. Jakes talking about what to do when times were rough and nothing was going right. Rev. Jakes said, "You need some crazy praise when it looks like nothing is going to work."

Immediately, my husband and I jumped up, grabbed one another and jumped around in a circle, praising the Lord at the top of our lungs. We yelled at the devil and praised the Lord. We thanked Him for provision and answers. We yelled, danced, jumped, and basically, acted like idiots.

We gave God crazy praise. Man, did that feel good!

Later, we found out what Rev. Jakes meant was that when it looks like it is crazy to praise the Lord because everything is going wrong, that's when you praise Him anyway!

However, because of the pressure we were under, that ecstatic jumping, yelling, dancing, and acting crazy caused us to laugh so much, we got our eyes off the problem and back on God. It changed our focus back to where it belonged: in faith, on Him.

After that, anytime one of us got down or under attack, the other would jump in and say, "let's have some crazy praise." You can't stay depressed during crazy praise. Even if you wanted to punch the other person out, a few times around and you'd be praising God and laughing.

It was silly but it worked. It wasn't how we did it, but that we did it. We praised God in the midst of our circumstances because we trusted Him instead what we saw.

Soon after that, the contract came through making twice the money, with a huge per diem check. We would have to leave home for this short-term contract, but the money was enough to get us out of the hole we were in.

With much favor from the companies involved, it was a miracle that enabled us to catch up every debt and even open a savings account in order to put in six month's worth of living expenses—like God had told us to do the year before the lay off.

David had the right idea. In the King James version of Psalms 109:30 it says, "I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth." The Strong's Concordance definition states that greatly

means "vehemence." To do something vehemently is to do it passionately, with enthusiasm, zeal, and fire.

See? Crazy Praise! We had His Word on it!

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How Can God Bless Me Financially In Difficult Times?

by Joseph Cameneti

Is it possible for God to bless a Christian financially when the economy of his community or nation is unstable?

Blessings come into the Christians life as a result of financial giving.

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need, be self-sufficient possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation.

(2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NKJV; 8 AMP)

This Scripture indicates that financial abundance comes as a result of giving. Giving releases God to make all types of financial blessings come to the giver. If a Christian is a giver, no matter what type of economy surrounds him, God will cause him to prosper.

God can bless the sower no matter where he or she lives. Isaac lived during a time of famine (Gen. 26:1) and the Lord still blessed him when everyone else was starving. Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him (Gen. 26:12).

You can be blessed anytime, under any circumstances, if you're a giver.

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God Will Promote You

by Gloria Copeland

"In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for men" (Col. 3:23 ICB).

Whether you work right now or are just looking forward to earning a paycheck, you need to know that you can be promoted! Now, depending on where you work, that may not seem easy. But know this: God has equipped you.

He has already given you everything you need to prosper. All you must do is follow a couple of simple steps to develop what's inside.

First, start right where you are and begin to be diligent and faithful about your job. Proverbs 12:24 says that the hand of the diligent shall bear rule (KJV).

That means that if you start applying the principle of diligence to your life, you will prosper. It may not happen tomorrow, but you need to start where you are today.

Make sure you show up to work on time. Do what you're asked to do - and more. And work consistently. When you do, your actions will speak for you.

Then, be sure to put your heart into your job. Do your job unto God and you will be promoted. It doesn't matter if your boss is a mean and angry person. It doesn't matter if you're cleaning dishes and you want to be the one who owns the restaurant.

Remember - promotion comes from God (Ps. 75:6,7 KJV). Just clean the pots and pans until they shine and do it with a smile. In everything you do say, "I'm doing this as unto You, Lord" - and from the Lord you'll receive your promotion. Believe Him for it!

So stir up your faith. And if you're looking for a new job, do the best you can at your present place of employment while you're looking. Then get ready...because God Himself will promote you!

Talk The Truth: "When I work, I do the best I can. I work for the Lord, not for men." (Colossians 3:23, ICB)

Study The Truth: 1 Thessalonians 4:11,12; 1 Peter 5:5,6

Read The Truth: Hosea 8,9; Psalm 121

Source: *Over The Edge Youth Devotional* by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland.
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Five Keys to Prospering on the Job

by Mac Hammond

I believe God's people should be the most influential and successful in every setting in which they find themselves. That was certainly true of Daniel in the court of Babylon. He was working in a pagan system surrounded by ungodly people, yet he prospered and was promoted to the highest offices in the land.

The Bible contains many principles that will help you become a Daniel where you work. The following are five of these vital keys to prospering on the job.

1. Learn to handle criticism properly.

Nobody likes to be criticized. It's never pleasant to be on the receiving end of critical remarks. But it's doubly painful when those remarks come from the boss. But people who get promoted at work tend to have a common characteristic: they use criticism to their advantage.

Instead of getting offended at criticism, they use it as an opportunity to examine and improve themselves. This is what the Bible means in Proverbs 13:18 when it says, "Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, But he who regards a rebuke will be honored." (NKJ)

Respond positively to criticism and you will be a long way toward success on the job.

2. Learn to say, "I was wrong."

The unwritten rules of modern office politics seem to be "Never admit a mistake; always blame someone else." No one likes to have to admit they were wrong. But a major key to finding happiness on the job is the willingness to say, "Hey, I made a mistake." It's a principle we find in the Bible. Proverbs 28:13 says, "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." (NKJ)

Be honest about your mistakes. Becoming known around the office as a person who is willing to own up to mistakes instead of pointing the finger at others, will give you credibility and earn you the respect and trust of those with whom you work.

3. Learn to ask for help when you need it.

Some people would rather do a job wrong than swallow their pride and ask for help. How would you like to be treated by a doctor that refused to ask for help when he wasn't sure what course of action to take? You wouldn't let such a doctor prescribe medicine for you, much less operate on you.

Yet, many people in other types of jobs won't ask for more information when they need it to complete a job. An important key to upward mobility is knowing when to ask for help or more information. Proverbs 24:6 says, "For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors there is safety." (NKJ)

Ask for help when you need it, so you can do the job right.

4. Avoid the office grapevine.

Have you heard the latest office gossip? Every office, corporation, or workplace has it—a steady flow of juicy gossip filled with rumor, conjecture, and wild speculation. But if you want to succeed God's way, you need to avoid this kind of talk at all costs.

Participating in office gossip is extremely tempting but tremendously destructive. The Bible is filled with warnings to avoid it. James 4:11 says, "Do not speak evil of one another, brethren." (NKJ)

And Proverbs 17:9 says, "He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends." (NKJ)

Refuse to participate in gossip in the workplace, and you'll earn the respect and trust of everyone around you.

5. Routinely go above and beyond the call of duty.

The world is filled with people who are prepared to do no more than the absolute minimum necessary to get by. But if you want to be fulfilled in your work and experience promotion, you must determine to do more than is expected of you, get more done than is required, and bring more excellence to your work than the minimum standards demand.

This is what Jesus meant when He said, "If someone compels you to go one mile, go with him two miles." That's where we get the phrase, "going the extra mile." Jesus taught us to exceed the expectations of those we serve.

No matter who you are, no matter what you do, if you'll apply these Bible-based principles, like Daniel, you'll find yourself growing in influence and responsibility. Even in the darkest and most hostile of workplaces.

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Do What You Do As Unto The Lord...

by Nate Belkstrom

If you are looking at your boss as simply a person, you would say, "Mr. Levin or Mrs. Burns is my boss." Wrong! The Bible says that although we are employed by men, we are to act as if we are working for the Lord. Because, as Christians, we *do* work for the Lord. Colossians 3:23 says, "And whatsoever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men."

Look at Ephesians 6:5-8. This is a key portion of Scripture: "Servants be obedient to your masters." If that's true for a servant and master relationship, it's also true for an employee/employer relationship (even if your boss acts more like an master than your employer).

Paul continues in Ephesians:

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

(vv. 6-8)

If a servant can serve Christ in his endeavors, how much more can you at your job?

Let's examine the word "knowing" in verse eight. It comes from the same Greek word as the word "know" in 1 John 5:13:

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

The most important question of all in life is this: "If you were to die tonight, do you know for sure that you would go to heaven?" Once a person receives Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, based on the authority of the Scripture, they can say, "Yes, absolutely."

If they were to die tonight, they know they would go to heaven. It is great to have the peace of mind and assurance of eternal life.

If you know you are going to heaven, you can also know that you will receive of the Lord at your job—if you will see the Lord as your boss. If you see yourself as working only for your earthly boss, then you limit yourself.

However, once you discern that whatever job you have you are actually working for the Lord, then He is the one who will reward you. I've got good news for you. The scripture says, "If any man serve me, him will my father honor" (John 12:26).

I used to apply that scripture only to church work. Now I know it applies to any work done as unto the Lord. Praise the Lord! As you go to work each day and walk into your workplace, say to yourself, "Jesus, here I come."

Think of the results if each Christian had their thinking changed to see themselves as working not for "the boss" (who often is unfair), but for Jesus Christ, the King of Kings. Whether you or I view it that way or not, guess what? That's the way it really is.

Every day, when God's people go to work, the Lord is watching them. He's not watching us to catch us doing something wrong, but to catch us doing our jobs in a Christian manner.

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.

(2 Chron. 16:9)

Our right attitude and excellent work will eventually cause non-Christians to notice the difference Jesus makes in our lives.

From 1976-1982 I worked in the hotel and restaurant business before entering the full-time ministry. My employment was at a private athletic club, which was one of the busiest in the United States. I started out as a banquet set-up person, and I doubled as a banquet waiter.

On occasion, I would receive mail from former friends who were "in the mission field" doing great things for God. It was very tempting to get depressed as I compared what I was doing with what they were doing.

By the way, the Bible says that comparison is a very unwise thing to do (see 2 Cor. 10:12). It is unwise because if you compare yourself to someone below your level, you will most likely feel proud.

On the other hand, if you compare yourself to someone above you, you will most likely feel inferior. Pride and inferiority are two things we can get along fine without.

Someone once said that you can reduce a person to nothing by taking away the value of what they do. Many times Satan lied to me and told me that what I was doing was so very unimportant. At times like that, you must know, without any question, that Satan is a liar (John 8:44).

In my heart, since I was a child, I've known that I was "called" to be in the ministry as a pastor. In preparation for that, I had gone to Bible college, and now here I was setting up meeting rooms and serving food.

As far as I could discern, I hadn't missed God's leading to go to the mission field or wherever. This job just fell into place and seemed to be the right thing for me at the time. Yet, I felt so useless at times and so trapped.

However, in hindsight, I am so grateful for those years of my life. Let me share some of the good things that happened.

I set my hand to the plow, so to speak, and decided to give that job my best effort. After initial disappointment over doing the same thing I had done before Bible college, I endeavored to have the right attitude. I said to myself, "I'm doing this for Jesus. It may not

be pastoring, but this is where I am at right now, and I'm going to treat this job as if it's as important as pastoring."

Over the course of time, I was promoted to Assistant Banquet Manager and then Banquet Manager at my place of employment.

As Banquet Manager, I had a staff of about fifteen people that I directly supervised. I learned much concerning organization while working with and supervising other people.

During my time there, we kept getting busier and busier.

In addition to daily opportunities to share with people, eventually weekly bible studies were started in the lunchroom, which I had the privilege to lead. Over the years, I was able to have some of the best times of sharing about the Lord with people I worked with.

To this day, I miss those people. Those times did not happen at the expense of getting my job done. It was typical to have some "quiet time" of waiting in the food business, and those times I would have good discussions with people.

I know that if I had been a pastor at the time, some of those I worked with would not have felt at ease talking with me about their problems.

So, in doing my job "as unto the Lord," and seeing my boss as the Lord Jesus Himself, I was promoted to a position where I could have a positive influence on my coworkers. In addition, I learned great lessons about management and organization.

If I had seen my years at the athletic club as merely "a job," I would not have taken as much away from that experience as I did.

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Six Keys to Being Promoted By Your Boss

by Blaine Bartel

No one likes to work at a job without being recognized and even promoted for one's labor. There are reasons why some people seem to climb the ladder of promotion and authority, while others remain on the lowest rung.

Here are six keys to your promotion at your work:

1. Always arrive a few minutes early for work and then stay at least a few minutes late.
2. Do not allow personal issues or other relationships at your job to take time or focus away from your work.
3. Never complain about your pay. You agreed to work for that amount, so be grateful!
4. Ask your boss from time to time if there is anything you can do to improve your performance.
5. Work with your head, not just your hands. Think of ways to do your job more effectively.
6. Don't continually badger your boss with requests for promotions or raises. Let your work do the talking, pray and trust God; and when the timing is right, ask to speak to your boss, without being demanding.

Source: *Every Teenager's Little Black Book of Hard to Find Information*
by Blaine Bartel.

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Favor on the Job

by Kate McVeigh

You, as a believer, should not be moved according to the world's ways. Your boss may say that they don't give raises where you work. This does not have to apply to you because, as a Christian, you have favor with God and man!

I began expecting and experiencing God's favor in my finances when I was just a teenager. At that time I desperately needed a job that paid well, but some people told me I would never find one because no one would hire a person who had spent most of her life in classes for slow learners.

Despite these negative reports, God was speaking to my heart and assuring me that His desire was for His children to have the very best. Immediately, I began to believe for favor to receive a good job with a good salary.

One day a friend told me about a large company that was hiring. The only catch was that they wanted experienced people, and never in their history had they hired anyone as young as I was.

On my way to the interview, I thanked God that I would have favor with every person in that place. At the interview they asked if I had any experience in the areas for which they were hiring.

I told them I could learn fast and that I was the best person for the job. I assured them they would never find anyone as hard-working as me, despite my lack of experience.

Well, against their ordinary procedure, they hired me! It was a wonderful job, with excellent benefits and good pay scale. I found out that as believers we can have favor on the job!

Favor for Promotion

A good friend shared this story with me a few years ago, and it really blessed my heart. He was a Christian man who began to learn about the favor of God. He started to claim favor on his job. In prayer he asked for favor with his boss and everyone else he worked with, believing that God's divine favor was surrounding him as a shield.

One day his boss called him into his office and said, "We have never done this before, and this doesn't even make sense, but we're giving you a raise." As a result of that raise, this man ended up making more money than his boss did!

The employer even told him, "You are the first person in the history of this company who has ever made more money than I have."

Psalm 75:6-7 reminds us that promotion does not come from the east, or west, or south, but from God. We can rely on the favor of God to help us find good jobs and get raises and promotions!

When you are doing your best and meeting, or exceeding, the company's production standards, your boss will be pleased with you and approving of your work. You will be appreciated as a valuable employee.

You may feel as though you are giving your all at your job or at your work in the church, but no one is noticing. I want to encourage you to trust God!

Begin to believe God's Word and what He says about His divine favor being bestowed upon you. Know that God has already set His affection upon you; He is pleased with you and will cause you to enjoy favor with the people in your workplace as well!

Source: *The Favor Factor* by Kate McVeigh
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