

“UNSHAKABLE!”

5. Facing Work Challenges with Unshakable Faith

On average, work is a 90,000+ Hour Portion of our Lives!

Therefore anyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. (Matthew 7:24-27, NIV)

To build a life to withstand any storm, start with the Foundation.

✓ Foundational Truths:

#1: God _____ us – all – to _____ Him, joining Him thru work!

Genesis 1:26-28

God does not *just* “call” pastors and missionaries to work that especially serves Him. He does call them, but He also calls doctors, teachers, nurses, parents of His image-bearers, entrepreneurs, accountants, electricians, contractors, plumbers, lawyers, business owners, employees, grocers, truckers, housekeepers, child-care workers, communications personnel, personnel managers, government workers and all the rest of us I haven’t yet mentioned by type of career... to _____ by receiving our work-calls as from Him and then _____ Him with our *best & highest & holiest & most diligent* response to Him by way of our work!

✓ #2: He wants us to _____ Him, reflecting Him in our work!

- First of all, God calls all of us who can...to actually get to work!

Cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10; Ephesians 4:28

- Then He calls us to work like Him, with work/business ethics that reflect Him and show His character!

E.g. Proverbs 11:1; 28:21, 22, 24

- How am I defining “success” at work?
- How do I know if my definition is right & best?
- What is likely to happen if I keep following my definition of success all the way to the end of my career...and the end of my life?

✓ #3: Ultimately He calls us to _____ Him, doing all our work as _____!

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him...Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. (Colossians 3:17, 22-25, NIV)

- Am I serving God at work, with all my work?
- Am I serving others (like Jesus did in His work)? Is my work adding blessing to the lives of others (cf. Genesis 12:2-3; Ephesians 4:28)

Wall 1 – Build expecting storms
Cf. Genesis 3

Wall 2 – Prayer

- God, what do YOU want me to do for my career?
- God, what have you made me good at? Where are you gifting me?
- God, where do you want me to get started (or what shift should I make?)
Help me see what You are putting in front of me...being faithful in even the smallest things...and then trusting You for any next steps.

Wall 3 – Get Help

Wall 4 – Move from the “Whiny Why?” to “What?”

Add a Front Porch – Welcome others to join you in joining Jesus at work!

Key: calls, work with; respond to Him, worshiping; work like; work for, response to Him

For further help, please check out resources at RightNowMedia:

A few sermons on Work as Worship:

- God Designed Work Before the Fall by J.D. Greear:
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/176556>
- Work as Worship by JR Vassar:
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/44922>
- The Life We Long to Live by Tom Nelson:
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/78813>
- What Does it Mean for Work to be “Christian”? by J.D. Greear:
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/77241>

A Course on the Theology of Work:

- Closing the Sunday to Monday Gap: Teaching the Theology of Faith and Work with Tom Nelson: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Course/View/8669>