

UNDERSTANDING WORK

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Success is not by chance but by choice. Hard work gives birth to success. God is not a lazy God. He works daily. He neither sleeps nor slumbers. He uses busy people, because their busyness reveals that they are willing to work. The men that Jesus chose to serve as apostles were working men. Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen, and were busy washing their nets when he called them to follow Him. Mathew was a tax collector and was on his job when he was called. God never encourages laziness and he calls men to work for Him.

The priority Jesus put on His work is evident in His busy preaching schedule from one town and village to another. His daily schedule starts with Him waking up very early in the morning and going to a lonely place to pray and terminates late at night, and sometimes with an overnight prayer meeting all by Himself. He was driven by the assignment God gave Him. His resolve is to finish the work successfully.

John 4:34

*34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."
NIV*

God is looking for workers and not lazy people. He needs labourers and not title holders. He told His disciples to pray that God may send labourers to bring in the harvest. Offices in the church are not titles but responsibilities that require hard work in order to carry them out successfully.

Matt 9:37-38

*37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.
KJV*

God hasn't changed. Work is still a priority to him. He still demands that His people work to eat. Apostle Paul gave a command by the Holy Spirit that a man who will not work should not be given food, and that the thief should stop stealing, but work to earn wages to provide for himself and for those in need.

2 Thess 3:10

*10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."
NIV*

Eph 4:28

*28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.
NIV*

We want result without a desire to go through the process of success. Success demands hard work in every area success is desired. Ministry, marriage, business, academics, relationships, and any professional career require hard work to achieve success. Success is a working – you work it out. God gives the power to make wealth – meaning that man has to work out the wealth while he supplies the supernatural support that is needed. Until you cease to be a reluctant worker, success will only remain a dream and never a reality.

You don't need someone to be over you to make you work. When God made the garden in Eden and commanded Adam to work in it, and take care of it, he did not appoint someone or an angel to supervise him or make him work, he wanted Adam to see the need to work and care for the garden He has given him, and do it with all his heart. He wanted him to love working the garden, and Adam did. You need to love work and enjoy working. Work gives energy and makes you live for something.

We need to understand our natural need for work because there can be no greatness without work. We must accept the truth that we need to work because God worked and created us to work. Man was made with the purpose of administering the earth on God's behalf. This responsibility is work. Dominion is not just sitting on the throne and giving orders. God equates dominion with work. The care and protection of the Garden of Eden required work. The naming of all animals and birds required work. The subduing of the earth required work. Administering the earth is work. Work was an essential part of Adam's life. The same is true of you. God created you to work. You cannot attain any height in life without work. Success will only remain a dream without work. Achievers are hard workers. Without hard work, there will be no achievement or fulfillment in life.

DEFINITION OF WORK

Work is activated strength and energy. Work is the activation of possibilities. Work activates the potential within you. It helps you to express the abilities of God within you. Until certain responsibilities are given to you, you do not know you possess certain skills and abilities. Work brings out the best of you. Work makes you shine. Work is bringing something to pass. Work is what makes a vision to become a mission. A dream without labour is fantasy. Working is using your abilities and faculties to do or perform something. Work is the means to produce a desired result. Work gives flesh to faith work provides the opportunity to fulfill purpose.

Work expands your resources. Vision without work is failure and poverty, because your willingness to work is the key to the realization of your vision. Work is the key to your personal progress, productivity and fulfillment in life. Work is activated strength and energy, the effort required to bring something to pass, the use of your abilities and faculties to do or perform something, and the means to produce a desired result.

BE A HARD WORKER

Prov 10:4

4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.
NIV

Prov 14:23

23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.
NIV

Laziness brings poverty, while hard work brings prosperity. Service is a means to greatness. Diligence is essential or progress in any venture. Diligence is hard work.

Prov 21:5

5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.
NIV

Work is honourable. God designed you to meet your needs and that of your family through work. When you refuse to work, you deny yourself the opportunity to fulfill your purpose, because God created you to act as He acts. God worked, so you must work. The release of your potential and the fulfillment of your purpose on earth demands that you work hard. Do not fear work. Love work and work purposefully. It is through work that you meet your financial responsibilities. You are not to be a burden to others (your family, friends and neighbours). Work to provide for yourself and family. There is profit in every work. Whatever kind of lawful work you do, there is profit. Whether it is popular or not, all hard work will produce a profit to the worker. Every business idea is possible if you will work hard enough to actualize it.

Your dreams and visions will only become a reality through hard work. Wishing success will not bring success. Talking about your dreams and visions without taking action through hard work will never bring it to actualization.

Prov 14:23

23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

NIV

Talking about your expectations and dream without working towards it is wishful thinking and it does not bring success. When you refuse to work, you deny yourself the opportunity of achieving your goals and fulfilling your potentials. You rob the society what you contain and are supposed to contribute to the society when you allow laziness to take a hold of you.

Poverty is cured by hard work. Laziness is cured by hard work. You can overthrow lack in your life through hard work. Fight laziness and everything in you that makes working boring and unbearable.

Work brings the learning that releases your talents, abilities, capabilities and polishes your skills to make you the best you can be. Work is more important than honour because it increases your knowledge, matures and perfects your person and skills. Achievers don't just work for pay, but for achievement. The joy of achieving set goals is what motivates them to work hard. Parents give more responsibilities to their child that is always willing to work than those who abhor work. Administrators give those who are busy working more to do because they know the busy people are willing to work. Busy people always get promoted. If you want to be promoted, get busy. Become productive. Take your tasks serious and do them well. Deliberately refuse to take some coffee breaks and lunch hours to sit and work more. Be willing to work extra time. Do not be eager to leave and go home at the closing time. You may not be noticed immediately, but your promotion will come. Excellent work always profits the worker. When you work, work because you want to know what you can do and achieve something, not because you are trying to get paid.

If you feel worthless, find some work to do. Work profits you by enhancing your self-esteem. Get busy as you keep your eyes on the result of your labour. Your estimation of yourself will change and become better as you work, especially as you see your work producing great results. Work keeps you healthy physically, mentally and emotionally as you exercise your mind and physical body through work.

WORK CREATIVELY

Your ability to work without offending your customer, employer or master will determine your success and promotion. There is a difference in creating wealth and just doing business. Work creatively to create wealth. Learn to be yourself and you will not struggle to be what God wants you to be. It is input for output. Hard work produces great harvest. Don't just work; work constructively with a goal in mind. Real work is targeted work.

Skill will bring you before great and notable people and make you rich. Train yourself to be a master in what you are doing and the world will celebrate you. Study to show yourself approved a workman who needs not be ashamed, but doing his work smartly and skillfully. Update your knowledge of your profession from time to time. Keep learning to be relevant and up to date. Keep sharpening your skills for skillful men will stand before great men and bring success faster than those without skill.

Ecc 10:10

10 If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success.

NIV

Prov 22:29

29 Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.

NIV

Resourceful thinking is hard work. Many are lazy in thinking because it is hard work to think and formulate principles, policies and workable plans to archiving your dreams. You have to combine hindsight, insight, foresight and farsight in planning the accomplishment of your goals and this is hard work for the serious minded and not for the lazy. This is the reason why those who work as CEOs, MDs and Managers or "Think tank" of companies earn more than those who do the physical work. Resourceful and creative thinking is real work. The major work towards success in any venture is thinking and formulating of plans

for achieving set goals. Think and think until you think through. When you have a workable plan, success becomes possible.

Don't just work, work smart. Have what I call targeted work. Work daily with a goal in mind, so, at the end of each day, you can tell what you have done and achieved. Don't busy yourself throughout the day without being able to say, 'this is what I have done and accomplished today'. Set small goals that will lead to your main goal or vision, so that each day you have a target you are working towards. Use your brain and allow God's wisdom and inspiration to guide you through to success.

CONCLUSION

It is through work that greatness is achieved. It is through work that success is achieved. The power of productivity is work. To move from where you are now to where you ought to be, it will take hard and purposeful work. Love work and do not resent it. Work not just for a financial reward, but for the joy of accomplishing a goal. Work for fulfillment. We need to labour in the office, not just go to the office. God didn't say, "Six days you shall go to your job," but, "six days you shall work." We must change our attitude to fulfill God's commandment to work. Stop going to your office to show up and sign the register, but to work (labour). It is the labourer that is worthy of his wages, and not the man who shows up every day just to be present and qualify to be paid at the end of the month. To idle away all day only to collect your paycheck is stealing from your employer. To use office hours for your personal matters is cheating on your employer. You go to the office to work for your employer and nothing else. Only the labourer and not the idler is worth his pay.

Faith without work is unproductive. God designed you to fulfill your purpose by working. Work multiplies your resources, be they large or small. Idleness invites the company of lazy people. Be busy doing what you are supposed to be doing by reason of your work description. Work at thinking right to enable you become what God has planned you to be.

At the end of each month, what contribution(s) can you say you have made to the organization that you work for? At the end of each day you should be able to say, this is what I have accomplished today, and you rejoice in what you have done. Until you are able to do this, you cannot speak of yourself as a faithful and diligent worker. Whether you are an executive, a salesman, a factory worker, a house wife or a Christian minister, work as though your life depended on it, because, it does. Labour delivers. Make sure you deliver results through your labour. Through work, activate your gifts, talents, skills and potentials and bless the world as it was planned by God. Through work, become what you were created to be.

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

- 1. It takes a godly character to make a great person.**
- 2. Strong desire produces strong determination which places a demand on the mind of man to come up with ideas on how it can be actualized, thereby triggering creative ideas and plans for achievement.**
- 3. God's value of man made him sacrifice his son. Your value of that your dream or goal will determine the level of desire and enthusiasm for its achievement.**
- 4. Develop strong desire for the accomplishment of your dream while you delight yourself in the Lord by seeking and following his word and will.**
- 5. Life is full of challenges, obstacles and problems capable of cutting one's destiny short if yielded to. It is only those who are determined that face the challenges with boldness and confidence, and win. Determination will turn you into a winner.**

6. **Courage is the result of inner strength. Strength comes by knowledge of the person of God and the inheritance of the believer in Christ Jesus.**
7. **Determined people are focused people. They never take their eyes from where they are going. They do not permit distractions. Broken focus is the enemy's strategy for failure and defeat.**
8. **Determined people never believe that they have reached a dead-end. They believe when one door closes, another opens for their dreams to come true. Determined people will stop at nothing until their goals are achieved.**
9. **If you want wealth, you have to go after information that will help you. If you don't know what you are doing, you will probably do it wrong. What you do not know, you cannot claim. What you don't know you have, you cannot fight for it when the enemy is trying to take it or keep it from you. What you do not know, you cannot apply.**
10. **Knowledge brings productivity. Knowledge brings the best out of you – it produces creativity.**

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. **There are two kinds of people in your life.
 - a. **Those who already know you have something they need, and**
 - b. **Those who do not yet know you have something they need.****
2. **There is a right time and a wrong time to approach people.**
3. **Those who unlock your compassion are those to whom you have been sent.**
4. **People you meet today are trying to change their life in some way. They want financial freedom. They want their health to improve. They hate loneliness. You may not be sent to everyone, but you are definitely sent to someone. Find that someone.**
5. **Each relationship nurtures strength or a weakness within you.**
6. **You have something others need, and someone has what you need. You need relationships.**
7. **There are four kinds of people in your life; those who add, subtract, divide or multiply. Every relationship will affect you for good or for bad.**
8. **Goals and dreams last longer than rejection. Be willing to endure anything from people in the pursuit of your life goals. But don't give in to rejection.**
9. **Treat people right, for you may be in a spot where you may need them.**

RENEWING THE MIND

1. **Everyone who speaks into your life is directing your thoughts, inspiring your words and conversation, and stirring you to act in a certain way.**
2. **Counseling prepares you to have a certain experience. So if it is a wrong counsel, it will create the wrong experience.**
3. **Thoughts are living forces that determine the direction of your life.**

- 4. Thoughts give birth to words, generate emotions and determine decisions and actions.**
- 5. Thoughts determine moods in a man's life. You feel good because you think good thoughts. You feel bad because you think bad thoughts.**
- 6. If you therefore, focus your thoughts on the negative things in your spouse and marriage, it will overwhelm you and produce negative feelings, words and actions towards your spouse and marriage.**
- 7. The more negative your thoughts about your spouse and marriage, the less your desire to continue your marriage.**
- 8. Your hope for your marriage died or is dying because your thoughts about your spouse and marriage are very negative. Change it and hope will come alive again.**