



Outer Growth - Work

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

Psalm 90:17

Wages - Romans 4:4, 1 Timothy 5:18

Opposition - Psalms 3:1

Recognition - Proverbs 3:27

Knowledge - Proverbs 24:4

Work. Why do we do it? There is no significant reason other than the sin in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis chapter three, God lets Adam know of his disobedience and the punishment. They will have to work to make a living and will not have access to the Garden of Eden again.

"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground. For out of it thou was taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return." This statement is what God said in verse nineteen of Genesis three to Adam. Since then, people have been working until now. There has not been any other explanation apart from the verse above as to why we work.

How do we handle it? Adam and Eve's response to working instead of enjoying the Garden of Eden? What could they say? There was nothing about the reaction of Adam and Eve, for they were building a family. They are the cause of our work experience today.

Does anyone think they would fare better than them? The situation is no different than waking up in the morning and saying to ourselves, "we are not going to sin and live a perfect life today." Eventually, the temptation will enter at some point by the devil as he did with Adam and Eve. That is why it is significant to repent every day because no matter how hard we try physically, the flesh will fail us. Similar to how the devil tempts Adam and Eve, in the same way, deceiving followers of Christ.

Work is now the priority in the avenue of living and potential success. Some people may have their businesses, and others may not.

However, everyone looks to enjoy the fruits of their labor, as described in Ecclesiastes three, verse thirteen. The regular application still applies to all participants, and we do something to make it happen. There are no shortcuts.

Moses implores the Lord to place His favor upon him and the Israelites. He also asks the Lord to prosper all that they did. Moses often used the praise, "the work of our hands." In Deuteronomy, for example, when he instructed Israel about God's laws, he explained, "that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do." To establish is to build, set up, and organize to lay up for ourselves, our children, loved ones, and our family.

One of the main reasons why we work is to receive wages. When we have a job, we get paid. That paycheck is not a gift. It is what our employer owes us in exchange for our work. However, fair wages for the service that we do is another situation.

In Genesis of the Old Testament, chapter twenty-nine, verse fifteen, wages are first introduced here by Laban, the father of Rachel and husband of Rebekah. Jacob had arrived at Laban's house without a clear exit strategy. Now we learn Jacob had started to work for Laban without an explicit arrangement for payment. However, Laban realized that the agreement shouldn't continue indefinitely, even though Jacob was a relative. To that end, he approached Jacob to ask what wages he would want to continue to work for him.

Even though we ask God to establish the work of our hands, there will be challenges along the way. This area makes the work harder than

the actual assignments given on the job. The problems that can occur while working are sometimes beyond human understanding. Some employees work, and then some workers work on people on the job. Does that make sense?

For unbelievers and believers, if you are a good worker and do the job as required, there will always be some form of antagonism lurking in the workplace. Employees who work and maintain professionalism will attract the attention of the workers that do not follow. They will use various tactics to turn off the honest and diligent. There are several reactions some good workers will experience, such as verbal abuse, harassment, silent conflict, teasing, or work sabotage. These problems may range from mild to severe. Believers, on the other hand, will experience situations on the job because of their faith. Most Christians, followers of God, have most of their trials and problems, particularly at the workplace. From the spiritual perspective, the enemy will use an insufficient worker or someone who has reason to dislike to create havoc for the employees who do work. The devil will use his cohorts against those who oppose disrupting the flow of the good worker. However, the righteous must remain steadfast because God is fighting our battles if we leave them in His hands, not us.

In Nehemiah, chapter four, verse one, introduces harassment on the job. Sanballat hears of Tobiah the Ammonite and the Israelites building a wall. They began to build the barricade, for they had the mindset to work. However, in verses seven and eight of Nehemiah, the word spreads, and now several tribes and Sanballat come to disrupt, interrupt, and stir up the Israelites from building. However, for believers, God expects us to pray, persevere, be persistent and not give in to temptation.

The devil will use people like Sanballat to stop the believer's positive progress of such workers. The Word of God declares followers of Christ are to bind according to Matthew, eighteen verse eighteen, "Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." The devil uses the employee who opposes carrying

an evil spirit through the sin of jealousy, envy and coveting the skill of another to have access to use them against that worker. On the other hand, the employee who experiences such a situation may remain quiet and continue working the way they do because their performance alone is bothering the other. However, if a policy is in place regarding matters of harassing an employee, the receiver should use their discretion if they want to report it to management or not. Servants or employees can honor an employer by working hard and sincerely as unto the Lord, as stated in Ephesians six, seven through nine.

Masters or employers should treat their employees fairly, as in Ephesians six verse nine. An employer can honor loyal, productive employees by granting a promotion, a gift of appreciation, or a raise. Recognition is the appreciation given by the employer to the employee. However, in most companies, what they fail to recognize is what they fail to appreciate.

Eventually, a company that fails to appreciate will also fail to benefit from it. When employees work to improve the standards of a workplace and do not receive the credit, it will be difficult for them to continue in that fashion. Most workers would feel taken for granted, which later may negatively affect the firm. However, in Acts four, verse thirteen, the Sanhedrin people had for "lesser" folks like Peter and John, who were not members of a privileged class. They could not afford higher education of a religious group that would sit under a scholar.

Peter and John can speak confidently because of their training under Jesus and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, believers should be able to work confidently because we serve God. Even though some of us work for someone else, we represent the Lord, who watches over us. Despite employers not noticing us, God does. The Son of God works diligently for His Father on earth to fulfill His will: we should do the same.

Work requires knowledge. The old saying, "Knowledge is power." A person gains respect for what they know and can utilize it in their favor to enhance the company. Sometimes the reaction from other coworkers will indicate who

possesses that quality. However, in situations like these, the knowledgeable one would have to experience the good with the bad. To acknowledge that even though we are an asset to a company, it will look like a liability to the other coworkers because they are not focusing on themselves but the other.

Work. We understand why we do it and where it came from due to the past. The sin that now permeates society will surface while we work. However, we should not participate in the mind games that the enemy will use on people to attempt to affect us. Believers should spectate instead and ask God to carry them through the day.

The enemy will try to get us mad by using someone to do it, but we should react differently from the norm. That is how we should handle work at our workplace. Let God lead us, and we follow.