

How to SUCCEED at Work

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When it comes to your work, what you do isn't as important as why you do it, how you do it, and who you become while you're doing it. In fact, God can bless you in just about any job! In God's economy, success isn't based on how much money you make—it's a result of the motives you have, the methods you use, and the meaningful difference you make through your work. You won't take your bank account with you to heaven—but you will take your character.

Here are seven things you can do at work to SUCCEED from God's perspective:

S - Start working enthusiastically, wherever you are.

If you want God's blessing, start working enthusiastically, wherever you are right now—even if you hate your job or think your work doesn't matter. The Bible teaches, *"Whatever presents itself for you to do, do it with [all] your might"* (Ecclesiastes 9:10 GW). Whatever you do, put your whole heart into it. Working with a good attitude—even at a job you don't like—is a spiritual discipline.

U - Understand who you're really working for.

The truth is, your boss may be your supervisor, but he's not your Lord. Colossians 3:23-24 says, *"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ"* (NLT). The realization that you're really working for Christ has the potential to change your whole attitude. You can wash dishes, scrape paint, teach children, sell houses, or repair cars for the Lord. When you do that, you turn your work into worship!

C - Concentrate on building your character.

Your character is far more important than your career. Romans 5:3-4 says, *"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation"* (NLT). At work you'll face all sorts of temptations—like being unkind, becoming prideful, feeling greedy, or losing your patience. But each temptation is an opportunity to do good and to grow—to build your character.

C - Care about those you work with.

God put you on this planet to learn how to love—because God is love and he wants you to be like him. First Corinthians 16:14 says, *"Do everything with love"* (NLT). You can love the people you work with by offering a kind word, a listening ear, or a genuine compliment. It's not difficult to care—but it is definitely rare.

E - Exceed what is expected of you.

God wants his followers to do more than the minimum requirement. He wants you to exceed expectations. The Message paraphrase says it like this: *"Servants, do what you're told by your earthly masters. And don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best"* (Colossians 3:22-23). Take pride in your work, whatever it is. As Matthew 5:41 says, go the extra mile: *"If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles"* (NIV).

E - Expand your skills with continual learning.

All leaders are learners—so if you want to lead and succeed at work, you've got to be constantly learning. Ecclesiastes 10:10 says, *"If the ax is dull and its edge is unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success"* (NIV). You "sharpen your ax" when you read a book, attend a seminar, or learn from a mentor.

D - Dedicate your work to be used for God's purposes.

When you want God to bless something, you first have to give it to him. Proverbs 16:3 says, *"Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will succeed"* (CEB).

Remember, your success at work doesn't depend on the economy; it depends on your faith in God. God doesn't promise any of us worldly riches. But you can trust that, when you do your work God's way, he'll bless you with the kind of success that lasts for eternity!