

COMPANION WORKBOOK

THE DIVINE PURPOSE OF WORK

DISCOVERING GOD'S DESIGN
FOR YOUR DAILY LABOR



WORKPLACE MINISTRIES, INC.

The Divine Purpose of Work- Workbook

INTRODUCTION

The Divine Purpose of Work - Workbook is a transformative companion piece to the eBook *The Divine Purpose of Work*. Designed to guide students, professionals, and anyone in the workforce, this workbook helps readers discover and embrace the deeper meaning of work. It connects everyday tasks to God's eternal purposes, inviting individuals to view their labor not just as a means of survival, but as a calling and an opportunity to serve God and others.

Whether you're preparing to enter the workforce, navigating your current job, or looking for ways to align your work with God's mission, this workbook provides practical steps to transform your approach to work and live out your faith wherever you are.

The Divine Purpose of Work explores the biblical view of work as a divine calling and purpose, offering a countercultural perspective to modern attitudes about labor. Grounded in Scripture, it reveals how work is more than a means of survival or self-fulfillment—it is an integral part of God's design for humanity. By aligning our work with His purpose, we transform it into worship, stewardship, and mission. From the Garden of Eden to the Great Commission, this book unpacks how to experience work as a joyful partnership with God, fulfilling our ultimate reason for being here.

Find additional information and more resources online at www.TheDivinePurposeOfWork.com

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Workplace Ministries, Inc. is a nonprofit organization committed to educating, inspiring, and empowering individuals, business owners, churches, and Christian organizations to actively engage in the workplace for the glory of Christ. We strive to equip our community with the tools and resources necessary to integrate faith and work, fostering a transformative impact in the marketplace and beyond.

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Chapter 1: The Divine Purpose of Work

Understanding God's Purpose for Work

In this chapter, you explored how work is part of God's original design for humanity. Work is not just a means to an end—it is a sacred calling that reflects God's character and allows us to participate in His purposes.

Key Takeaways

1. Work was established before the Fall as part of God's perfect creation.
2. Work is a way to reflect God's image as Creator and Sustainer.
3. God gives each person unique skills and opportunities to fulfill His purposes through their work.

Reflection Questions

Use the following questions to help you process the material and personalize its message:

1. How does knowing that work is part of God's design change your attitude toward your responsibilities?
2. Reflect on a specific time when you felt your work or studies had no meaning. How might this perspective have brought encouragement in that moment?
3. What unique skills or opportunities has God entrusted to you? How can you use these to fulfill His purposes?

Discovering Your Purpose

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Reflect on your current work, studies, or responsibilities. Use the prompts below to explore how these align with God's purposes:

1. What do you enjoy about your work or studies?
2. What challenges do you face, and how might God use these to grow you or others?
3. How can you use your role to serve others and reflect God's character?

God's Image in My Work

The Bible teaches that we are made in God's image, which includes His creativity, order, and care. Reflect on how you reflect God's image in your work:

Attribute of God:

How My Work Reflects This:

Creativity

(e.g., designing solutions, creating art, writing, etc.)

Order

(e.g., organizing tasks, solving problems, managing re-sources)

Care

(e.g., serving others, showing kindness, teaching, etc.)

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Genesis 2:15

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

- How does this verse show that work is part of God’s original design for humanity?
- How does this knowledge affect how you view your daily responsibilities?

Colossians 3:23

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

- How does this verse encourage you to approach your work or studies differently?
- What does working “for the Lord” look like in practical terms?

Group or Discussion Activity

If working in a group setting, discuss the following:

1. Share one way your current work or study reflects God’s purpose.
2. What challenges do you face in seeing your work as meaningful? How can the group encourage you to trust God’s purpose?

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Application Challenge

This week, focus on aligning your work with God's purposes. Use the following steps:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to reveal His purpose for your work.
2. **Act:** Identify one task where you can reflect God's character (e.g., through kindness, excellence, or creativity).
3. **Reflect:** At the end of the week, journal about how this intentionality changed your attitude or interactions.

Notes:

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of work and for creating me with purpose. Help me to see my responsibilities as part of Your greater plan. Teach me to reflect Your character in all I do, serving You with faithfulness and joy. May my work glorify You and bless those around me. Amen.

Chapter 2: Work Before and After the Fall

Understanding Work Before and After the Fall

This chapter explores how work was designed as a joyful and fulfilling part of God's perfect creation. The Fall, however, introduced toil, frustration, and brokenness into our labor. Yet, through Christ's redemption, God is restoring purpose and hope to our work.

Key Takeaways

1. **Before the Fall:** Work was part of God's perfect creation, meant to be fulfilling and collaborative with Him.
2. **After the Fall:** Sin brought frustration, toil, and brokenness to work, but it did not take away its value or purpose.
3. **Redemption Through Christ:** Through Jesus, work can once again reflect God's purposes and bring glory to Him.

Reflection Questions

Answer the following questions to personalize the insights from this chapter:

1. How does the Bible's depiction of work before the Fall differ from how you currently experience work or studies?
2. What challenges in your work or life remind you of the effects of the Fall?
3. How does understanding God's plan for redemption give you hope in the midst of these challenges?

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Comparing Work Before and After the Fall

Use the table below to summarize the differences between work before and after the Fall, as described in Genesis 2–3:

<u>Aspect of Work</u>	<u>Before the Fall</u>	<u>After the Fall</u>
Purpose		
Experience		
Relationship to Creation		

Recognizing Redemption in Work

Think about a challenging situation in your work, studies, or personal responsibilities. Answer the following prompts:

1. What was the situation?
2. How might God use this challenge to refine your character or bring about something good?
3. What steps can you take to trust God's redemptive purposes in this situation?

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Genesis 2:15

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

- How does this verse show that work is part of God’s perfect creation?
- How does knowing this shape your understanding of work’s value, even after the Fall?

Genesis 3:17-19

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.”

- How do these verses explain the struggles we face in work today?
- In what ways do you see the effects of this curse in your own responsibilities?

Colossians 3:23-24

“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.”

How does this verse encourage you to approach work in light of God’s redemptive plan?

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Group or Discussion Activity

If working in a group setting, consider discussing the following:

1. Share one way your work reflects the brokenness introduced by the Fall.
2. Discuss examples of how God has brought redemption or purpose to your work or studies despite challenges.
3. Encourage one another to approach work with faith and perseverance.

Application Challenge

This week, focus on trusting God's redemptive plan for your work. Use the following steps:

1. **Identify:** Write down one specific challenge you face in your work or studies.
2. **Pray:** Ask God to reveal how He is working through this situation for your good and His glory.
3. **Act:** Take one step to approach this challenge with faith, such as practicing patience, seeking wisdom, or showing gratitude.

Creative Exercise: Redemption Story

Write a short story or journal entry imagining what work will look like in the redeemed creation (the new heaven and new earth, as described in Revelation 21). Reflect on how this vision can inspire you to approach your work with hope today.

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Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for giving purpose to work, both before and after the Fall. Though my labor is often marked by struggle, I trust in Your redemptive plan. Help me to approach my responsibilities with faith, hope, and perseverance. Teach me to see my work as part of Your greater story and to honor You in all I do. Amen.

Chapter 3: God as the Ultimate Employer

Serving God in All We Do

This chapter explores the concept of God as our ultimate employer. Recognizing that we ultimately work for Him—not just human managers or institutions—reshapes our perspective, motivates excellence, and gives eternal purpose to our daily efforts.

Key Takeaways

1. **God as the Ultimate Authority:** God is the highest authority over our work and the One we ultimately serve.
2. **Purpose Beyond Paychecks:** Viewing work as service to God brings eternal significance to tasks that might seem ordinary or mundane.
3. **Reward in Faithfulness:** God promises to reward diligence, integrity, and faithfulness in our work, regardless of earthly recognition.

Reflection Questions

Answer the following questions to reflect on the themes of the chapter:

1. How does viewing God as your ultimate employer change the way you approach your daily tasks?
2. What challenges do you face in working as if for God, rather than for human approval?
3. Reflect on a time when you felt your work was not appreciated or recognized. How might focusing on God's approval have changed your perspective?

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Reframing Your Work

Think about your current work or responsibilities and identify ways to view them as service to God. Use the table below to reframe your tasks:

Task or Responsibility	Current Perspective	God-Focused Perspective
-------------------------------	----------------------------	--------------------------------

Writing a Work Mission Statement

Create a mission statement for how you want to approach your work or responsibilities with God as your ultimate employer. Consider including:

- Your commitment to glorifying God through your work.
- How you want to serve others through your role.
- The attitude you hope to maintain.

Colossians 3:23-24

“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.”

- How does this passage challenge you to approach your work differently?
- What does working “with all your heart” look like in your current responsibilities?

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Proverbs 16:3

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.”

- What does it mean to commit your work to the Lord?
- How can trusting God with your work bring peace or clarity to your efforts?

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

- How does seeking God’s kingdom first influence your priorities at work?
- What practical steps can you take to align your work with God’s kingdom purposes?

Group or Discussion Activity

If working in a group setting, discuss the following:

1. Share an example of a time when focusing on God as your ultimate employer helped you handle a difficult work situation.
2. What are some practical ways to remind yourself daily that you are working for God?
3. How can the group encourage each other to reflect Christ in their workplaces or studies?

Group Notes:

Application Challenge

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This week, intentionally practice viewing God as your ultimate employer:

1. **Pray Daily:** Start each workday by praying, dedicating your tasks and interactions to God.
2. **Focus on Integrity:** Choose one task or situation where you can demonstrate integrity, even if no one is watching.
3. **Encourage Others:** Look for opportunities to uplift a coworker, classmate, or colleague, reflecting God's love through your actions.

At the end of the week, reflect on how these practices changed your attitude or experiences at work.

Creative Exercise: God's Review of Your Work

Imagine God writing a performance review of your work, focusing not on results but on your heart, attitude, and faithfulness. Write a few sentences of what you think He might say:

1. **Strengths:** *(Where have you honored Him in your work?)*
2. **Growth Areas:** *(What areas need more trust, integrity, or focus on His glory?)*
3. **Encouragement:** *(How might God encourage you to keep serving Him through your work?)*

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gift of work and the opportunity to serve You through it. Help me to remember that You are my ultimate employer and to approach every task with integrity, diligence, and joy. Teach me to seek Your approval above all else and to reflect Your love in my workplace. May my work glorify You and bring eternal impact. Amen.

Chapter 4: Rest and Work: A Holy Balance

Embracing a God-Honoring Balance

This chapter explores the biblical principles of balancing work and rest. God designed both as essential parts of life, reflecting His own rhythm of creation. Rest is not just a break from work—it's a holy practice that refreshes and realigns us with God's purposes.

Key Takeaways

1. God modeled a balance of work and rest in creation, establishing a rhythm for us to follow.
2. Rest is a gift and command, helping us renew physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
3. Work becomes more meaningful when paired with intentional rest that honors God.

Reflection Questions

Use these prompts to deepen your understanding of the chapter:

1. How do you currently balance work and rest? Where do you feel tension or imbalance?
2. How does knowing that God rested on the seventh day change your perspective on rest?
3. What activities or habits bring you rest and renewal? How can you make more time for these?

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Defining Your Rhythm

Reflect on your current schedule and identify areas of imbalance. Use the chart below to assess where you need to create more space for work or rest:

Category	Current Time Spent (Weekly)	Ideal Time Allocation (Weekly)	Action Steps to Improve Balance
Work/Studies			
Rest/Leisure			
Worship/Prayer			

Rest Audit

Take inventory of how you currently rest. Answer the following:

1. What activities truly refresh and restore you?
2. Are there activities you engage in that feel like rest but leave you feeling drained (e.g., mindless scrolling or unhealthy habits)?
3. What changes can you make to embrace rest that renews your body, mind, and spirit?

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Genesis 2:2-3

“By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.”

- Why do you think God rested after creating the world, even though He didn't need to?
- How does this verse inspire you to embrace rest as a holy practice?

Exodus 20:8-10

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.”

- What does it mean to “keep the Sabbath holy”?
- How can you incorporate Sabbath rest into your weekly routine?

Matthew 11:28

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

- How does Jesus' invitation to rest encourage you in your current struggles?
- What burdens can you bring to Him today?

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Group or Discussion Activity

If working in a group setting, discuss the following:

1. How do you balance work and rest in your own life?
2. What challenges make it difficult to rest well?
3. Share one practical way you plan to embrace God-honoring rest this week.

Group Notes:

Application Challenge

This week, practice the holy balance of work and rest by completing the following:

1. **Plan a Sabbath:** Choose one day or a portion of a day to cease from work and focus on rest, worship, and connection with God.
2. **Prepare:** Write down what you need to finish beforehand to ensure your Sabbath is uninterrupted.
3. **Reflect:** After observing your Sabbath, answer the following:
 - How did this time of rest affect your energy and focus?
 - How did it draw you closer to God?

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Designing a Restful Space

Create a visual or written description of your ideal space for rest and renewal. Consider how this space can reflect God's peace and inspire you to pause from work. Include details like:

- Physical elements (e.g., comfortable chair, natural light, worship music).
- Spiritual elements (e.g., Scripture, a journal, a prayer guide).

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for the gift of rest and for showing me the importance of balance. Help me to embrace rest as a holy practice and to trust You with my work. Teach me to find peace and renewal in Your presence, and guide me to live in alignment with Your perfect design. Amen.

Chapter 5: Stewardship and Responsibility

Embracing Stewardship as a God-Given Responsibility

This chapter explores the biblical principle of stewardship—managing the gifts, resources, and opportunities that God has entrusted to us. Stewardship is not just about money; it encompasses every area of our lives, calling us to act with faithfulness and purpose for His glory.

Key Takeaways

1. Stewardship is recognizing that everything we have belongs to God and managing it according to His purposes.
2. Responsibility in stewardship includes time, talents, relationships, and resources.
3. Faithful stewardship is a reflection of our gratitude and trust in God.

Reflection Questions

Use the prompts below to personalize the chapter's teachings:

1. What gifts or resources do you feel God has entrusted to you? How are you currently using them?
2. What does it mean to you to be a steward rather than an owner of your possessions, time, or talents?
3. Reflect on an area of your life (e.g., time, money, skills) where you feel you could be a more faithful steward. What steps could you take to improve?

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Stewardship Self-Assessment

Evaluate how you are currently managing the key areas of stewardship:

Area	Current Practices	How Faithfully Am I Managing This?	Improvements to Make
Time			
Talents/Skills			
Finances			
Relationships			

Writing a Stewardship Prayer

Write a personal prayer committing your resources, time, and abilities to God's purposes. Be specific about what you are surrendering and asking Him to guide:

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1 Peter 4:10

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

- What gifts has God given you, and how can you use them to serve others?
- How does seeing your talents as a form of God’s grace change the way you approach them?

Luke 16:10

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”

- How does this verse challenge you to be faithful in “small” things?
- Can you think of a small responsibility in your life where God may be testing your faithfulness?

Matthew 25:21

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

How does this verse inspire you to approach your responsibilities with diligence and faithfulness?

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Group or Discussion Activity

If working in a group setting, consider discussing the following:

1. Share one area of stewardship where you feel God has been stretching or growing you.
2. Discuss practical ways to be faithful stewards of time, talents, and resources.
3. Encourage one another by sharing examples of faithfulness in small things leading to larger opportunities.

Group Notes:

Application Challenge

This week, focus on practicing stewardship in one specific area. Use the following steps:

1. **Identify:** Choose one area of your life where you want to grow in stewardship (e.g., time, talents, money, relationships).
2. **Plan:** Write down three practical steps to improve stewardship in that area.
 - Step 1:
 - Step 2:
 - Step 3:
3. **Act:** Begin implementing these steps and journal about the experience at the end of the week.

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The Stewardship Tree

Draw or describe a tree with the following components:

- **Roots:** Represent your relationship with God, the foundation of all stewardship.
- **Trunk:** Represent your skills, talents, and resources.
- **Branches:** Represent the areas of life where you steward these gifts (e.g., family, work, church, community).
- **Fruits:** Represent the outcomes of faithful stewardship (e.g., peace, provision, impact on others).

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for the many blessings You have entrusted to me. Teach me to be a faithful steward, using all I have for Your glory and to serve others. Help me to honor You in the way I manage my time, talents, and resources. May my life reflect gratitude and faithfulness to You. Amen.

Chapter 6: Work as Worship

Work as a Sacred Offering

This chapter explores the concept of viewing work as an act of worship. Worship is not limited to church services or prayer—it includes the daily labor we perform when done with the right attitude and for God's glory.

Key Takeaways

1. **Work Is Worship:** Every task, no matter how ordinary, can be a form of worship when done for God.
2. **Attitude Matters:** It's not just what we do but how we do it—with excellence, integrity, and gratitude—that honors God.
3. **Eternal Perspective:** Viewing work as worship transforms mundane tasks into meaningful acts of devotion.

Reflection Questions

Use the following questions to reflect on how the principles in this chapter apply to your life:

1. How would your perspective on work or study change if you viewed it as worship?
2. Think of a time when you approached work grudgingly or with frustration. How could you have reframed that situation as an act of worship?
3. In what areas of your work or life do you find it hardest to worship God? What steps can you take to change this?

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Finding Worship in Daily Tasks

Choose three tasks from your daily routine and brainstorm how you can approach each as an act of worship. Use the chart below to guide your thinking:

Task	How to Worship Through It

A Prayer of Dedication

Write a prayer dedicating your work to God. Use this space to express your desire to honor Him through your labor:

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Colossians 3:23-24

“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.”

- What does this verse teach about who you are ultimately serving in your work?

- How does this truth influence how you approach difficult or mundane tasks?

Romans 12:1

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

How can your work or daily responsibilities be part of offering yourself as a living sacrifice?

1 Corinthians 10:31

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

How can you glorify God in the simplest tasks of your day?

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Group or Discussion Activity

If working in a group, discuss the following questions:

1. What does “work as worship” mean to you personally?
2. Share an example of how you’ve experienced joy or purpose when you worked for God’s glory.
3. What practical tips or habits can help others view their work as worship?

Group Notes:

Application Challenge

This week, put the principles of *Work as Worship* into practice using these steps:

1. **Choose a Task:** Identify one specific task (e.g., a work project, household chore, or study session) that you often find frustrating or mundane.
2. **Pray:** Before starting, dedicate the task to God and ask for His guidance and strength.
3. **Act:** Perform the task with a worshipful attitude, focusing on excellence and gratitude.
4. **Reflect:** At the end of the week, answer these questions:
 - How did viewing this task as worship change your attitude or approach?
 - Did you notice any difference in the quality of your work or your sense of purpose?

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Crafting a Work as Worship Vision Statement

Write a short vision statement summarizing how you want to view and approach your work as worship.

Consider including elements such as:

- Your desire to glorify God.
- The attitude you want to bring to your work.
- How you hope to impact others through your efforts.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for showing me that my work can be an act of worship to You. Help me to approach every task, no matter how small, with a heart of gratitude and excellence. Teach me to glorify You in my efforts and to find joy in serving You through my work. May my labor reflect Your character and bless those around me. Amen.

Chapter 7: Work and the Great Commission

Work as a Platform for the Great Commission

This chapter explores how our work can serve as a mission field, allowing us to participate in the Great Commission. By reflecting Christ in our actions, building relationships, and sharing the gospel, we can use our daily labor to fulfill God's call to make disciples of all nations.

Key Takeaways

1. **Work as a Mission Field:** Your workplace or school is an opportunity to live out and share the gospel.
2. **Shining Light Through Actions:** How you conduct yourself at work can open doors for spiritual conversations.
3. **Building Relationships:** Genuine connections with coworkers and others can pave the way for discipleship.

Reflection Questions

Answer these prompts to apply the principles from this chapter to your own life:

1. How can your current work or study environment serve as a mission field for the Great Commission?
2. What specific actions or attitudes might reflect Christ to those you interact with at work or school?
3. Have you ever had an opportunity to share your faith at work or in a professional setting? What did you learn from that experience?

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Mapping Your Mission Field

Create a “mission field map” of your work or school environment. Identify people, opportunities, and areas where you can reflect Christ or share your faith. Use the following table to guide your mapping:

Area/Person	Opportunity to Reflect Christ	Specific Actions to Take
<hr/>		
<hr/>		
<hr/>		

Writing a Testimony

Your testimony is a powerful tool for sharing your faith. Write a brief version of your testimony that you could share in a workplace or professional setting. Focus on:

1. **Before Christ:** Briefly describe your life before coming to know Jesus.
2. **Meeting Christ:** Share how you encountered Jesus and what changed in your life.
3. **After Christ:** Highlight how your faith impacts your daily work or relationships.

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Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- How does this passage inspire you to view your work or studies as part of fulfilling the Great Commission?
- What specific steps can you take to make disciples within your sphere of influence?

Matthew 5:16

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

- How can your actions at work or school “shine” and point others to God?
- What challenges might you face in living out this verse, and how can you overcome them?

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Colossians 4:5-6

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

- How can you apply wisdom and grace in your conversations with coworkers or classmates?
- What does it mean to make the most of every opportunity in your daily work?

Group or Discussion Activity

If studying in a group, discuss the following:

1. Share one way you've been able to reflect Christ in your work or studies.
2. What are some practical challenges you've faced in trying to share your faith at work?
3. Brainstorm ideas for building relationships and creating opportunities to share the gospel in a professional setting.

Group Notes:

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Application Challenge

This week, put the principles of *Work and the Great Commission* into practice:

1. **Identify:** Choose one person in your workplace or school to intentionally invest in spiritually (e.g., through kindness, encouragement, or prayer).
2. **Act:** Take one concrete step to build a deeper relationship with this person. Examples: ask about their life, share an encouraging word, or invite them to church.
3. **Reflect:** At the end of the week, write about your experience:
 - How did God guide your interactions?
 - What did you learn about being a light in your mission field?

Crafting a Mission Statement

Write a mission statement for how you want to approach your work or studies as part of the Great Commission. Your statement might include:

- Your commitment to reflecting Christ in your actions.
- How you plan to build relationships and share your faith.
- Your ultimate goal to glorify God through your labor.

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Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for placing me in my workplace or school as part of Your mission field. Help me to reflect Your love and truth in all I do. Teach me to build relationships that point others to You and to seize every opportunity to share the hope of the gospel. Give me wisdom, courage, and grace as I fulfill Your Great Commission in my daily life. Amen.

Chapter 8: The Ultimate Partnership: Man and God in Business

The Divine Business Partnership

This chapter highlights how our work and business endeavors can become a collaboration with God. When we invite Him into our daily tasks and decision-making, we experience purpose, guidance, and the opportunity to glorify Him in every aspect of our work.

Key Takeaways

1. **God as the CEO:** Placing God at the center of your business or work transforms your efforts into acts of worship.
2. **Trusting God's Guidance:** Success in work comes from reliance on God, not just our abilities.
3. **Stewardship in Business:** Managing resources, time, and relationships with integrity honors God.

Reflection Questions

Reflect on the chapter's themes by answering these prompts:

1. What does it mean to you to invite God to lead your work or business?
2. Have you experienced a time when God's guidance significantly impacted a decision or outcome in your work? What was the result?
3. In what areas of your work or business do you struggle to trust God fully? How can you surrender these to Him?

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Evaluating God's Role in Your Work

Reflect on how much you currently involve God in your work or business. Use the table below to evaluate and identify areas for improvement:

Area of Work/Business	How God Is Involved Now	How I Can Involve Him More
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Daily Decisions

Relationships with Others

Financial Stewardship

Writing a Partnership Agreement with God

Imagine signing a business partnership agreement with God. Write the terms of this partnership, focusing on what you will commit to and what you trust Him to provide:

- **Your Commitment:** *(e.g., I commit to seeking God's guidance in decisions, treating employees with integrity, and using profits to bless others.)*

- **God's Role:** *(e.g., I trust God to guide my steps, provide opportunities, and give me wisdom and strength.)*

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Proverbs 16:3

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.”

- What does this verse teach about involving God in your work?
- How does committing your work to God bring clarity or peace in decision-making?

James 1:5

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

- How can you seek God’s wisdom in business decisions?
- What specific areas of your work require God’s wisdom right now?

Colossians 3:23-24

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

- How does this verse challenge you to approach your work differently?
- What practical steps can you take to “work for the Lord” in your daily tasks?

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Group or Discussion Activity

If working in a group, consider discussing the following:

1. Share a personal story of how God has guided you in your work or business.
2. Discuss practical ways to make God the center of your workplace or professional life.
3. Brainstorm ideas for using business or work as a platform to serve others and glorify God.

Group Notes:

Application Challenge

This week, intentionally focus on partnering with God in your work. Use the following steps:

1. **Pray:** Begin each workday with a prayer of dedication, asking for God's guidance and blessing.
2. **Act:** Choose one specific decision, task, or relationship where you will intentionally seek God's input.
3. **Reflect:** At the end of the week, write about your experience:
 - How did inviting God into your work impact your attitude or results?
 - Did you notice any changes in how you approached challenges or opportunities?

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Designing a God-Centered Business Plan

Design a simple business or work plan that prioritizes partnership with God. Include:

1. **Mission Statement:** *(e.g., To honor God through excellent work and service.)*
2. **Core Values:** *(e.g., Integrity, generosity, compassion.)*
3. **Goals:** *(e.g., Dedicate a portion of profits to ministry, foster a workplace culture of respect and encouragement.)*
4. **Action Steps:** *(e.g., Schedule weekly prayer meetings, set aside time for Bible study related to work.)*

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for inviting me to partner with You in my work. Teach me to seek Your wisdom and to trust You with every aspect of my business and labor. Help me to reflect Your character through integrity, generosity, and excellence. May my work glorify You and bless others. Guide me as I serve You through this ultimate partnership. Amen.

Chapter 9: Finding Purpose in Rejection

Purpose in Pain

This chapter explores how rejection, while painful, can be a tool God uses for growth, refinement, and redirection. By trusting His sovereignty and seeking His purposes, we can find meaning and healing in the midst of rejection.

Key Takeaways

1. **God's Sovereignty in Rejection:** Rejection is never wasted; it is part of God's greater plan to shape and guide us.
2. **Refinement Through Rejection:** Rejection reveals areas where we depend on others' approval instead of God's and grows our character.
3. **Redirection Toward God's Will:** Rejection often redirects us toward better opportunities aligned with God's purpose for our lives.

Reflection Questions

Reflect on your personal experiences and insights from this chapter by answering the following questions:

1. Recall a specific time when you faced rejection. How did it affect you emotionally and spiritually?
2. In hindsight, how did God use that rejection to grow or redirect you?
3. What does it mean to you that Jesus, too, experienced rejection? How does this truth encourage you in your struggles?

Reframing Rejection

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Choose a recent experience of rejection and reflect on it using the following prompts:

1. **What happened?** *(Describe the situation briefly.)*
2. **What emotions did it evoke?** *(Be honest about your feelings.)*
3. **How might God be using this rejection for refinement or redirection?** *(Look for His hand in the situation.)*
4. **What steps can you take to trust God with this experience?** *(Write specific actions.)*

Encouragement from Scripture

Study the following verses about rejection and God's purposes. Write how each one speaks to your situation:

Scripture	Key Lesson or Encouragement
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Genesis 50:20	
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Isaiah 53:3	
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Romans 8:28	
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Psalm 34:18

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“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

- How does this verse encourage you in times of rejection?
- What specific ways can you draw near to God when you feel rejected?

John 15:18-19

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own.”

- How does knowing that Jesus experienced rejection give you strength and perspective?
- How can you respond differently to rejection, knowing you are aligned with Christ?

2 Corinthians 12:9

“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’”

- How can God’s grace sustain you when rejection leaves you feeling weak or inadequate?
- What specific weakness or struggle can you bring to Him today?

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Group or Discussion Activity

If studying in a group, consider discussing the following:

1. Share a time when rejection led to unexpected growth or blessing in your life.
2. What truths about God's sovereignty and love help you process rejection?
3. How can you support or encourage others who are experiencing rejection?

Group Notes:

Application Challenge

This week, focus on finding God's purpose in a recent or ongoing rejection. Use the following steps:

1. **Reflect:** Spend time journaling about how God may be using this experience for refinement or redirection.
2. **Pray:** Ask God to reveal His purposes and to help you trust Him with the outcome.
3. **Act:** Choose one way to respond to this rejection with faith, whether by pursuing a new opportunity, forgiving someone, or finding peace in God's approval.

Creative Exercise: Writing a Letter to God

Write a letter to God about a rejection you're currently facing or one from your past. Include:

- Your honest feelings about the experience.
- Gratitude for how He is using it to shape or guide you.
- A prayer for His continued guidance and healing.

Closing Prayer

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Lord, thank You for being with me in the pain of rejection. Teach me to trust Your plan and to see how You are working through my struggles for my good and Your glory. Help me to find my worth in Your love and to follow where You are leading. May every rejection draw me closer to You and align me with Your purposes. Amen.

Chapter 10: The Gift of Inheritance

Understanding Our Spiritual Inheritance

This chapter explores the biblical concept of inheritance, emphasizing the eternal rewards and blessings God has promised His children. As heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, we are called to live with confidence, gratitude, and responsibility, reflecting the richness of His grace in our lives.

Key Takeaways

1. **Identity as Heirs:** Through faith in Christ, we are adopted into God's family and made heirs of His kingdom.
2. **Eternal Rewards:** Our inheritance is secure and incorruptible, offering hope and joy beyond this life.
3. **Living as Heirs:** With great blessing comes the responsibility to live as ambassadors of God's kingdom, reflecting His character.

Reflection Questions

Use these questions to reflect on the meaning and implications of your spiritual inheritance:

1. How does knowing you are an heir of God change the way you view your life and purpose?
2. What aspects of God's inheritance (e.g., eternal life, peace, relationship with Him) bring you the most comfort or joy? Why?
3. In what ways do you feel called to live out the responsibilities of being an heir of God's kingdom?

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Understanding Your Inheritance

Complete the table below to reflect on the different aspects of your spiritual inheritance:

Aspect of Inheritance	Description/Scripture	How This Encourages Me
Adoption into God's Family		
Eternal Life		
Peace and Joy		
Future Glory		

Living as an Heir of God

Reflect on how you can live as an heir of God's kingdom. Answer the following prompts:

1. What privileges come with being an heir of God?
2. What responsibilities come with being an heir of God?
3. What is one action you can take this week to reflect your identity as a child of God?

Romans 8:16-17

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“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.”

- What does it mean to be a co-heir with Christ?

- How does sharing in Christ’s sufferings and glory shape your perspective on challenges in life?

1 Peter 1:3-4

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.”

- What aspects of this inheritance give you hope?

- How can you live with an eternal perspective in light of this truth?

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Galatians 4:6-7

“Because you are His sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are His child, God has made you also an heir.”

- How does being a child of God change your identity and how you live?
- What does calling God “Abba, Father” mean to you personally?

Group or Discussion Activity

If working in a group, consider discussing the following:

1. Share what being an heir of God means to you personally.
2. What are some ways you can encourage others to live in the fullness of their inheritance?
3. Discuss practical ways to live with an eternal perspective in daily life.

Group Notes:

Application Challenge

This week, focus on living as an heir of God’s kingdom by:

1. **Reflecting:** Spend time each day meditating on one aspect of your inheritance.
2. **Acting:** Identify one way to share the blessings of your inheritance with others (e.g., showing love, sharing the gospel, giving generously).
3. **Recording:** At the end of the week, journal about how this intentional focus impacted your life and relationships.

Creative Exercise: Inheritance Tree

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Draw or describe a tree that represents your inheritance in Christ:

- **Roots:** Represent your identity as a child of God.
- **Trunk:** Symbolize the core blessings of your inheritance (e.g., eternal life, peace).
- **Branches:** Depict how these blessings extend into your life and relationships.
- **Fruit:** Show the outcomes of living in your inheritance (e.g., joy, generosity, love).

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for adopting me as Your child and making me an heir of Your kingdom. Help me to live with confidence, gratitude, and purpose, knowing that my inheritance is secure in You. Teach me to share these blessings with others and to reflect Your love and grace in all I do. May my life glorify You and point others to the hope found in You. Amen.

Chapter 11: Stress and Trust—Overcoming Anxiety Through Faith

Trusting God in the Midst of Stress

This chapter addresses the common struggles of stress and anxiety, offering biblical principles for trusting God in every circumstance. By placing our confidence in His promises, we can find peace that transcends understanding and overcome anxiety with faith.

Key Takeaways

1. **Casting Our Cares on God:** Trusting God means giving Him our burdens, knowing He cares for us deeply.
2. **God's Peace in Anxiety:** The peace God offers is not dependent on circumstances but on His presence and promises.
3. **Faith Over Fear:** Trusting God requires shifting our focus from our worries to His faithfulness.

Reflection Questions

Use these questions to process the insights from the chapter and relate them to your personal experiences:

1. What are your biggest sources of stress or anxiety? How do they affect your daily life and faith?
2. How does trusting God change the way you view these stresses?
3. Think of a time when you felt God's peace during a stressful situation. What helped you experience His presence?

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Identifying Stress Triggers and Responses

Complete the table below to evaluate how you currently respond to stress and how you can apply faith-based principles:

Stress Trigger	Current Response	Faith-Based Response
<i>(e.g., Family conflict)</i>	<i>(e.g., Avoidance, frustration)</i>	<i>(e.g., Seek reconciliation, pray for patience)</i>

Casting Your Cares on God

Choose one specific stressor you're currently facing. Follow these steps to surrender it to God:

1. Write a brief description of the stressor:
2. Reflect on why this situation feels overwhelming and what emotions it evokes:
3. Write a prayer, casting this burden onto God and asking for His peace and guidance:

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1 Peter 5:7

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”

- What does this verse reveal about God’s heart toward your stress and worries?
- How can you practically “cast” your anxieties on God in your daily life?

Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

- What steps does this passage outline for addressing anxiety?
- How does thanksgiving transform your perspective in the midst of stress?

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

- How does Jesus invite you to experience rest in the midst of weariness?
- What does it mean to take His yoke and learn from Him?

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Group or Discussion Activity

If studying in a group, discuss the following:

1. Share a time when God helped you overcome a stressful situation or provided peace during anxiety.
2. Discuss practical ways to “cast your cares” on God as a group or individual.
3. Brainstorm strategies for replacing fear with trust and thankfulness in daily life.

Group Notes:

Application Challenge

This week, take intentional steps to trust God with your stress:

1. **Daily Prayer:** Begin each day by praying over any worries or tasks, asking for God’s wisdom and peace.
2. **Meditate on Scripture:** Choose one verse from this chapter (e.g., Philippians 4:6-7) to reflect on during moments of anxiety.
3. **Act in Faith:** Identify one area where stress has held you back and take a step forward, trusting God with the outcome.

At the end of the week, reflect on how these practices have impacted your stress levels and faith.

Peace Postcard

Create a visual or written “peace postcard” to remind yourself of God’s promises in the midst of stress:

1. Write a favorite verse or promise about peace (e.g., John 14:27).
2. Include a short prayer or affirmation to reflect on during stressful moments.
3. Decorate your postcard with drawings, colors, or symbols that evoke calm and trust.

Closing Prayer

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Father, thank You for inviting me to cast my cares on You and for offering peace that surpasses understanding. Teach me to trust You with my worries and to rest in Your promises. Help me to shift my focus from fear to faith, knowing that You are always with me. May Your peace guard my heart and mind as I walk in Your presence. Amen.

Chapter 12: The Eternal Value of Work

Work with Eternal Impact

This chapter emphasizes how our work, when done with purpose and faithfulness, carries eternal significance. God uses our labor to impact others, advance His kingdom, and reflect His glory, offering us a deeper sense of meaning in our daily efforts.

Key Takeaways

1. **Work as Part of God's Plan:** God designed work to be meaningful and to contribute to His greater purposes.
2. **Eternal Perspective:** Viewing work through an eternal lens transforms mundane tasks into acts of worship and service.
3. **Investing in Eternal Rewards:** The fruits of faithful work—relationships, acts of service, and integrity—outlast earthly accomplishments.

Reflection Questions

Answer the following questions to personalize the themes from the chapter:

1. How does viewing your work as having eternal value change your attitude toward daily tasks?
2. What specific aspects of your work or studies feel insignificant? How might they have eternal significance in God's plan?
3. Reflect on a time when your work impacted someone else positively. How did this experience shape your view of the eternal value of work?

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Identifying Eternal Investments in Work

Think about the ways your work contributes to God's purposes. Complete the table below to explore its eternal significance:

Aspect of Work

How It Reflects Eternal Value

How I Can Enhance Its Eternal Impact

Relationships

Integrity in Actions

Service to Others

Writing a Work as Worship Prayer

Write a personal prayer dedicating your work to God's eternal purposes. Include gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to His kingdom and a request for guidance to honor Him through your efforts.

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1 Corinthians 15:58

“Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

- How does this verse encourage you to stay faithful in your work?

- What motivates you to continue working with diligence, even when the results are not immediate?

Colossians 3:23-24

“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.”

- How does knowing you are working for the Lord change your approach to your job or studies?

- What aspects of your work feel like worship when approached with this mindset?

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Matthew 6:19-20

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

- What does it mean to store up treasures in heaven through your work?
- How can you ensure your efforts are focused on eternal rewards rather than temporary recognition?

Group or Discussion Activity

If working in a group, consider discussing the following:

1. How has your work contributed to eternal outcomes, such as strengthening relationships or reflecting Christ's love?
2. Share ideas for turning daily work tasks into acts of worship and service.
3. Discuss ways to maintain an eternal perspective during challenging or mundane work.

Group Notes:

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Application Challenge

This week, focus on identifying and amplifying the eternal value of your work:

1. **Daily Prayer:** Start each workday by asking God to reveal the eternal significance of your tasks.
2. **Intentional Action:** Choose one task or relationship to approach with an eternal perspective. For example:
 - Serve someone selflessly.
 - Handle a difficult task with grace and excellence.
3. **Reflection:** At the end of the week, reflect on how these actions impacted your work, relationships, or faith.

Eternal Vision Board

Create a vision board that reflects the eternal impact of your work. Include:

1. **Images or Symbols:** Representing aspects of your work that contribute to God's kingdom (e.g., a cross for sharing faith, a handshake for relationships).
2. **Words or Phrases:** Inspiring you to view your work through an eternal lens (e.g., "Serve with Excellence," "Reflect Christ's Love").
3. **Bible Verses:** That remind you of the eternal value of work (e.g., 1 Corinthians 15:58).

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for giving my work eternal significance. Help me to approach every task with faithfulness and gratitude, knowing that my labor for You is not in vain. Teach me to see the bigger picture of how You are using my efforts to bless others and advance Your kingdom. May my work glorify You and store up treasures in heaven. Amen.

The Divine Purpose of Work - Workbook

The Divine Purpose of Work - Workbook is a transformative companion piece to the eBook *The Divine Purpose of Work*. Designed to guide students, professionals, and anyone in the workforce, this workbook helps readers discover and embrace the deeper meaning of work. It connects everyday tasks to God's eternal purposes, inviting individuals to view their labor not just as a means of survival, but as a calling and an opportunity to serve God and others.

Whether you're preparing to enter the workforce, navigating your current job, or looking for ways to align your work with God's mission, this workbook provides practical steps to transform your approach to work and live out your faith wherever you are.

The Divine Purpose of Work - Workbook

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