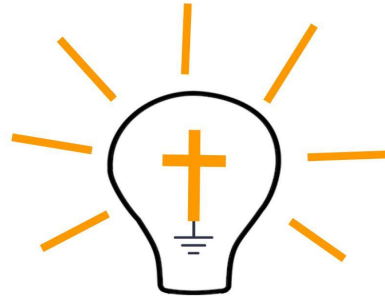


Solopreneurship Series (1)

Not Employed After College? Be Self-Employed!

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Tri-Valley
Young Adult Ministry

www.tvya.life

DISCLAIMER

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Which Would You Choose?

If a college graduate is given two career options:

1. A full-time job with a salary of \$100K per year.
2. Starting a one-person business that makes a net-profit of \$50K per year.

If you were the college graduate, which career option would you choose? And Why?

From ChatGPT



If I were the college graduate, I would choose based on a combination of financial security, personal fulfillment, and long-term potential. Here's how I would weigh the options:

1. Full-Time Job with \$100K Salary

- **Pros:**
 - **Stability and Predictability:** A regular paycheck provides financial stability, especially at \$100K, which is a solid income for a recent graduate.
 - **Benefits:** Most full-time jobs offer additional perks like health insurance, retirement contributions, paid time off, etc., which add value beyond just salary.
 - **Less Risk:** There is less financial uncertainty. You know what you're getting into, and there's less need to hustle for clients or worry about cash flow.
 - **Career Growth Opportunities:** In some cases, a full-time job provides structured opportunities for professional development and promotions.



- **Cons:**

- **Limited Control:** There may be less flexibility in how you work, the type of work you do, and your overall autonomy.
- **Dependence on Employer:** If the company goes through hard times, layoffs or restructuring can happen.

2. Starting a One-Person Business with \$50K Net Profit

- **Pros:**
 - **Autonomy:** You're in control of your schedule, business decisions, and the direction of your work.
 - **Growth Potential:** Even though the net profit is lower now, businesses have the potential to scale. You could increase revenue over time, potentially exceeding the \$100K from the full-time job.
 - **Personal Fulfillment:** If you're passionate about the work, starting a business can be incredibly rewarding. It aligns with a sense of purpose and allows for creative freedom.
 - **Tax Advantages:** As a business owner, you can write off certain expenses, which can reduce your taxable income.



- **Cons:**

- **Higher Risk:** Running a business is less predictable, and there's no guarantee that the \$50K net profit will remain consistent or increase.
- **No Immediate Benefits:** You'll likely have to manage your own healthcare, retirement savings, and other benefits that a traditional job might provide.
- **Time and Stress:** Being a one-person operation means you handle everything from finances to marketing. This can be overwhelming, especially in the beginning stages.

My Choice: Starting the One-Person Business

ChatGPT's Choice

While the \$100K salary is tempting due to its stability, I would choose to start the business for the following reasons:

- **Long-Term Growth Potential:** I see the opportunity for growth in the business, both financially and personally. Starting small doesn't mean staying small.
- **Autonomy:** I value the freedom to shape my work and pursue something I'm passionate about. Being in control of my time and decisions is important.
- **Fulfillment:** Building something of my own from the ground up would be more fulfilling to me than working for someone else.
- **Personal Development:** Entrepreneurship forces rapid personal growth, problem-solving, and learning skills that can be applied in various areas of life.

Ultimately, my decision would hinge on whether I have a strong belief in the business's future and whether I'm willing to take on the risk for the potential rewards in autonomy and long-term success.



Middle-Class Mindset

Value on stability and security: Preference for steady income, benefits, and job security. Sees them as as a key achievement and source of security

Risk aversion: Avoids high-risk ventures in favor of guaranteed outcomes.

Content with linear career growth: Focuses on steady promotions and salary increases within a structured environment.

Perceived prestige and social norms: Prioritizes socially acceptable roles, titles, and stable careers that reflect success.

Middle-Class Mindset

Less emphasis on wealth creation: Focuses more on financial stability than on long-term wealth-building opportunities. Tends to prioritize saving and cautious investments over riskier wealth-generation strategies.

Less focus on autonomy: Prefers structured environments and stable employment over entrepreneurial freedom or self-directed work.

The Middle Class Crisis

Where are they going?



**THE
PAST**



**THE
PRESENT**

Why Is Middle-Class Mindset Failing?

- **Stagnating Wages and Rising Costs:** Wages haven't kept up with the rising costs of housing, healthcare, and education, eroding the middle-class's financial security.
- **Disruption of Traditional Job Security:** Automation, outsourcing, and the gig economy have replaced many stable, long-term jobs, making it harder to find secure employment.
- **Higher Education Debt and Mismatch:** Expensive education paired with rising student debt doesn't always lead to high-paying jobs, leaving many graduates struggling.

The Middle-Class Mindset: A Biblical Perspective

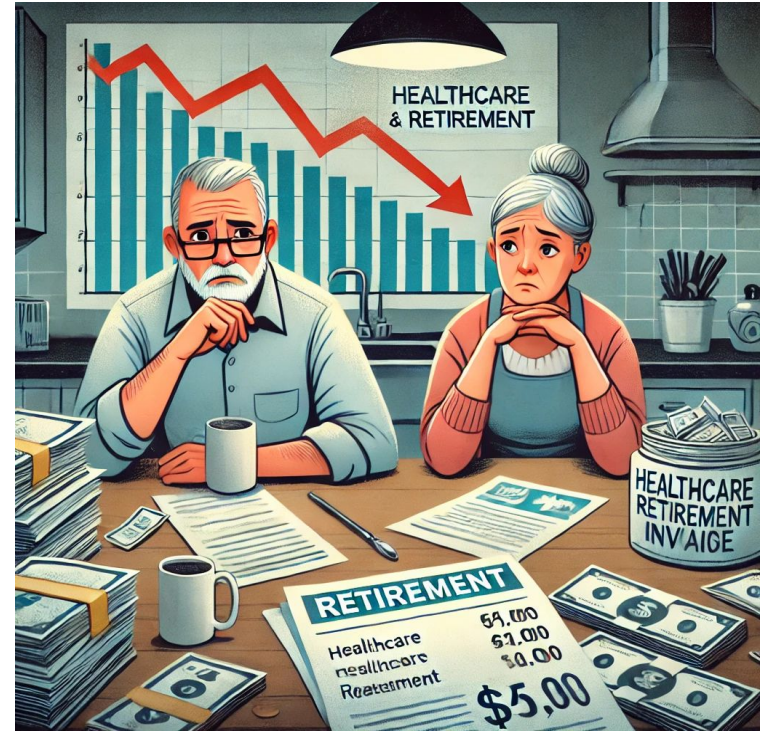
- The middle-class mindset often places a strong emphasis on job security.
- Christians with the middle-class mindset are often ‘forced’ to serve their employers first above all else.
- The middle-class way of thinking is not fully aligned with biblical principles

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Middle-Class Is Modern-Day Slavery

In essence, the middle-class lifestyle can resemble a form of modern-day slavery because it binds individuals to a system that prioritizes work, debt, and materialism over personal freedom, fulfillment, and spiritual growth. Many middle-class individuals find themselves working not out of passion or calling, but because they must in order to survive, maintain their standard of living, and avoid financial collapse. This dependence on the system can feel like a form of bondage, where real freedom—both financially and spiritually—remains elusive.



Self-Employment Mindset

Emphasis on Autonomy: Values independence and control over decisions, work environment, and schedule. Prefers to be their own boss rather than work for someone else.

Tolerance for Uncertainty: More willing to embrace uncertainty and take risks, especially financial ones, in exchange for the potential of greater rewards and personal satisfaction.

Focus on Wealth Creation: Often prioritizes long-term wealth-building opportunities, understanding that entrepreneurship can lead to greater financial freedom compared to traditional employment.

High Value on Personal Fulfillment: Seeks work that aligns with personal passions and interests. Views work as a reflection of personal goals and values rather than simply a way to earn a living.

Self-Employment Mindset

Growth Mindset: Views challenges and failures as learning opportunities. Constantly seeks self-improvement, skill development, and ways to grow the business.

Self-Employment: A More Blessed Way of Life

- **Dependence on God:** Self-employment often requires a deeper reliance on God for provision, guidance, and success, rather than relying solely on an employer. This encourages a closer relationship with God, trusting Him for daily needs (2 Kings 4:1-7, The Widow's Olive Oil).
- **Stewardship and Responsibility:** Running a self-employed business promotes good stewardship of time, resources, and talents, which are principles emphasized in the Bible (Matthew 25:14-30). It allows individuals to use their God-given gifts and creativity to provide for themselves and others.

Self-Employment: A More Blessed Way of Life

- **Work-Life Balance:** Self-employment can provide the freedom to prioritize faith, family, and community, rather than being tied to the rigid demands of traditional employment.
- **Avoiding Divided Loyalties:** Self-employment may prevent the “serving two masters” dilemma (Matthew 6:24), where one’s loyalty is divided between serving God and serving an employer. By being self-employed, Christians usually can afford to make decisions that reflect their values and faith.

In these ways, self-employment can reflect a lifestyle that is more closely aligned with biblical principles, offering both spiritual and practical freedom to live out one’s faith.

The Widow's Olive Oil (2 Kings 4:1-7)

1 The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.”

2 Elisha replied to her, “How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?”

“Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “except a small jar of olive oil.”

3 Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few.

The Widow's Olive Oil (2 Kings 4:1-7)

4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.”

5 She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring.

6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another one.”

But he replied, “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing.

7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.”

Self-Employment for College Graduates

- **Fewer Responsibilities:** College graduates often have fewer family obligations, allowing them more flexibility and freedom to take risks.
- **Youth and Opportunity:** Being young, they have the time to make mistakes and learn from them, which is a valuable part of the entrepreneurial journey.
- **Challenging but Accessible:** While starting a self-employed business is undoubtedly challenging, it is often the least difficult and most accessible path to entrepreneurship.
- **Low-Cost Startup:** Unlike traditional businesses that require substantial startup capital, staff, and a physical location, a self-employed venture can usually be started with minimal investment. Graduates can leverage their personal skills, knowledge, and online platforms to launch their businesses without needing large financial backing.

My Story: My Unfair Advantages of “Three NOs”

- Building business on the "unfair advantages" of three NOs: NO money, NO Office and NO people 2

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I have just realized recently that I may be able to build a business upon the "unfair advantages" of "THREE NOs":

- NO Money: I get money from my personal fund
- NO Office: My home/garage is my office
- NO People: I am the only part-time employee working for me

After 16 years, I should say it turns out to be true.

In the next Solopreneurship Series (2), I will present some case studies and brainstorm with the audience how to help young people to start their self-employed business.

The End
Thank You!