

Discipleship in the Marketplace

By Pastor Eric



In the marketplace, Christians are not immune to the difficulties that all people face. And on top of that, believers are called to bear a good testimony for Christ. In my years of ministering to people, I have heard of many challenges that church members go through.

Many have had to deal with a difficult boss or challenging colleagues. Some have had to face the stress of owning a business. There are financial overheads, salaries, rent, and other things to worry about. Still others have been on the chopping block due to layoffs or retrenchment.

Yet, many of us will spend most of our lives in the working world. It is our bread and butter. Furthermore, it is where we witness for Christ. The world sees us neither at church nor at home. But the world sees our behavior in the marketplace. Thus, the question becomes: Is there an overarching theme which can guide us as we journey through the challenges of the working world?

I would venture to say two words: Trust God. Yes, that is it. Learn to trust God.

I once met Dr. Scott Callaham, who was working as an Old Testament lecturer at Singapore Baptist Seminary at the time. I was going through an uncertain and difficult period of my life. Dr. Callaham also shared with me about a very challenging period that had happened in his life. A period that was much more difficult than any that I had been through.

Intrigued, I asked him what he did during that demanding time. To be honest, I wanted some secret spiritual formula that could miraculously help me through my own difficult time. But all he told me was, “Whenever the Old Testament characters went through difficult times in their lives, there was only one thing which they were expected to do.”

I leaned in, eager to hear what the secret spiritual recipe for success was.

“And that was to ‘Trust God’”, he concluded.

At first, I was disappointed. Trust God? That’s it? But then as I dwelled upon those words, I realized it was true. We do not know what the future holds, nor is it our duty to figure out all our next steps. We often cannot change the past. But in the present, we can learn to trust God.

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And this advice is applicable in the marketplace: Is your company facing retrenchment, Trust God? Have a difficult boss, Trust God? Great opportunity to learn to trust God and continue to be faithful in your work! Are there some unknown factors coming up at work? Another good time to learn to trust God. And while you are at it, continue being faithful and growing as a disciple of Christ.

As the Psalmist says in Psalm 112:7, *the righteous "is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord"* (ESV).

Blessings on your continuing discipleship journey with Christ through the marketplace! Trust God!

