

## Jumping Jobs With God

A rather perplexing question for most Christians is: when is it the right time to jump from one job to another?

In the secular world this question is rather easy to answer. The right time to jump jobs is when I can earn better pay and a promotion. For people of faith this logic doesn't always lead to the right answer. Christian job seekers want their job jump to accompany God's will for their lives. So a job jump for the Christian requires prayer and the Holy Spirit's leading. Nevertheless practical steps can be taken to jump jobs successfully when we feel it is God's will to do so.

First, you need to know that looking for a new job and accepting a job offer are two different things. Looking for a new job is always permissible to the believer because all you are saying is, "God I'm flexible enough for your will in my life."

No one should feel that they are a potted plant that is stuck with an employer for the rest of their life. Just because God led you to the job in the first place it is not always his will that you remain there, and he often gives us indicators that it is time to move on. Essentially, I am saying that God's will is not static.

The Bible is replete with examples of the dynamic nature of God's will. For example David replaced Saul as the King of Israel. Paul went from persecuting believers to being the author of most of the New Testament. Even Jesus had to leave Galilee to reveal salvation to the Israelites. There are only a few examples in the Bible that tell us to do nothing.

Yet don't take this as a green light to go jump jobs without a plan. For those who feel it is time to jump, know this. It is always better to jump jobs when you are currently employed if at all possible. Instead of quitting first and then looking, try to look while still employed. With the advent of the Internet, it is much easier to send resumes after work or if you are married, to have your spouse do it for you.

Also know that it makes sense to look for a job that is a promotion in title and salary. Although this does not always hold true for everyone (I've heard a few stories of professionals who took a step back to go two steps forward in their careers), you should at least hope for this result in your job search. It's good to remember that God is just and you rarely need to treat your vocation as an alms-giving opportunity for your employer. To successfully win a promotion you must communicate at a level that is attractive to your boss' boss. That means your resume should have content that speaks about the goals of your business unit, division, or contributions you made that impacted the entire company.

Ultimately the proper way to think about job change is in the right perspective according to God's will. The easiest way for me to illustrate how I visualize God's will is using the figure of a triangle. At the bottom left of the triangle is you, God is at the top and the job

you want is at the bottom right. The right perspective is a clockwise direction; you pray to God for the job desired that he would deliver it to you. If you reverse the order, go counterclockwise and put the job desired before God, you turn your desire into an idol. God hates idols. It is easy to keep the right perspective if we put God before our desires and then we don't have to be afraid to pursue God's destiny for our careers.

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