

Navigating God's Will

One of the hardest things to clearly understand as a believer is how to make our faith practical as we live in this wacky world. That means we struggle to know basic issues regarding our careers, such as; when to look for another job, if we should negotiate a better salary, should we work overtime if it conflicts with family priorities, etcetera *ad infinitum*.

Interestingly, it is not hard for me to suggest easy answers to those thorny questions. Then, if you like my reasoning, you could simply build a template to follow, what might be called Careers In Action 101.

Unfortunately (or fortunately, if you think about it from a spiritual perspective), the reality of the situation is that faith as it is expressed in your career is usually much less simple and clear than a pithy formulaic template. And that's exactly what God wants. Remember, faith as defined in Hebrews 11 verse 1 tells us; "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen." Therefore, our faith is not based on empirical evidence – what we can see or touch. So a believer's faithful response to God's leading in their career-life comes from hearing a 'still small voice', being easily led and having the courage of Daniel, the patience of Job, the determination of Abraham and the confidence of Paul that God is not only alive and sitting on his throne, but cares for you personally.

I remind you of this because I know how quickly we can be discouraged in our peculiar job situations. Of course none of us like to admit that we are struggling, that is unseemly, but I bet that is exactly what is happening to some people as they try to execute a career transition. So for those who are weary from the trial of their faith, I want to share a couple promises that the Lord gave me recently regarding his will for me professionally.

For the sake of brevity, they all come out of the Book of Isaiah, chapter 51 verses 12-16. God wants to be our refuge where we find comfort; "I, even I, am he who comforts you." He wants us to not only not live in fear but even better, to have a hope that is greater than our situation; "Who are you that you fear mortal men, the sons of men, who are but grass ... that you live in constant terror every day because of the wrath of the oppressor. The cowering prisoners will soon be set free; they will not die in their dungeon, nor will they lack bread." Finally, God is our protector; "I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand."

In a way, all the weight on your shoulders should be given to God, and as you yield your will to him, it is his great delight to guide your path – both spiritually and professionally. Just remember, don't try to figure it all out in advance, as he gives you wisdom take the next step that God opens your eyes to see and keep holding onto the promises found in his word.