



The Word at Work

God is good.....

..so why does it all seem like such hard work at times?

Reading the Word

Key Scriptures: 1 Thess.1:3; various

Key Points:

Sometimes we feel that even the good things that we have been called to do can become a chore. And all the demands on our time and energy can be the cause of a common complaint – stress.

Whatever else the answer to this is, don't believe that God has just decided to give you a hard life. There'll always be work to do and we are all called to play our part in serving God. He wants this to be a joy to us.

Even Solomon realised that though work in this world was meaningless to find joy in your work was a gift from God (Eccl.2:10-11; 5:18-19; 3:9-13). God wants us to work with him and to enjoy it (Prov.8:30-31).

The answer does not just lie in time management or better priority setting (though these are important). The answer lies within our attitude and outlook.

Basic things about work:

1. Work is good
2. Faithfulness (to complete our God-given task) is very important
3. Reliability (to do what we said we would do) is very important (Matt.21:28-32)

The attitude and outlook with which we can approach our work/service so that we can enjoy it (see 1 Thess.1:3):

1. *Faith*

- That God is good – the way you view God will affect how you work (Matt.25:24-27)
- That we are accepted by God – don't work to gain approval – saved by faith, not works (Eph.2:9)
- That he has called you to do great works (Eph.2:10)

2. *Love*

- We are not just servants but friends (John 15:15-16)
- Don't do it just to keep others happy but do it for God (Col.3:23)
- Don't concern yourself with what others do or don't do (Luke 10:38-42)
 - Lovers of God are far more productive than workers for God
- Don't do it reluctantly or under compulsion (2 Cor.9:7)

3. *Hope*

- Don't do it for the applause of people but for your heavenly reward (Col.3:23-24)
- We'll enjoy something of the future happiness now
- If it is just for this life, it is meaningless (1 Cor.15:19)
- We can work hard because we know it is never in vain (1 Cor.15:58)

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. Why do you think that even the good things that we are called to can become a chore and a bore?
2. How practically to the three motivation of faith, love and hope help us?

To Do:

1. Review all that you are doing by way of serving God at the moment and adjust your attitude and outlook where you feel you need to.

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