

Work as Worship

Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT)

God's Original Design for Work:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **Genesis 1:1 (NLT)**

God made us in His <u>image</u> and gives us <u>work</u> to do — work that's like His.

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." Genesis 1: 27-28 (NLT)

Work is not a <u>punishment</u> resulting from the fall, it is a <u>blessing</u> from God and a part of His original design.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. **Genesis 2:15 (NIV)**

...The ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat

until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return. **Genesis 3:17-19 (NLT)**

How to Restore Joy to Our Work:

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLT)

Work is worship.

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT)

Work is service.

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. **Hebrews 6:10 (NLT)**

Work is productive.

Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty! Proverbs 14:23 (NLT)

But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which He swore to your ancestors, as it is today. **Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV)**

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Colossians 3:23 (NLT)

Going Deeper on your own: This week when you rise, before you put one foot on the ground, begin your day with this prayer. "Thank You, God, for this day. Thank You for the breath that flows through my lungs. Thank You for the work I have been given, may all that I do today bring You glory and honor to Your name. Remind me moment by moment that my work is a gift from You. Give me the opportunity to impact the lives of those around me. Show me how I can serve them in a way that will put a smile on their face or meet a need they didn't express. Multiply my efforts and impact in such a way that I can't help but know You are with me. Give me the strength to handle difficult situations and people in such a way the brings resolution, restoration, and peace. Thank You for the gift of this new day. Amen."