

Celebrating God at Work and School, Part 1 | Learn and Live

I. Learn

- James 1:2-4
- **Every experience in your life is designed to give God glory.**
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - To glorify something is to speak of it or represent it in such a way that others think more highly of it. When you boast about your favorite team, you're glorifying it. When you tell your friends about your new car or game system, you're glorifying it. You're causing the other person to think more highly about the object you're discussing.
 - And that is what God wants for every moment of our day — it should give Him glory. Everything you say and do should cause others to think more highly of Him.
- **Every experience in your life is designed to enable you to mature in Christ.**
 - Job 23:10; Romans 8:28-29
 - The word translated "trials" in verse 2 can refer to temptations as well as testings. It can describe the temptations to sin that come at us from our Flesh, the World, and Satan. Later in this same chapter God explains the nature of temptation, and even though God never tempts anyone, He is sovereignly capable of using that temptation to sin to produce godliness in us. But this same Greek word can also refer to the testing that God brings into our lives to purify us.
 - Both of these realities teach us that God has a plan for absolutely everything you're going to encounter at work and school. Every assessment, every project, every interpersonal interaction, every moment of discipline, every instance of fun, absolutely every moment of your day is designed by God to give Him glory and to conform you to the image of Jesus Christ.
 - We have the promise of God that absolutely everything we will encounter at school today is sovereignly ordained by Him to be able to conform you to the image of His Son. However, there's a condition. All things do not work together for good to those who don't love God and who aren't working according to His purposes.
 - And that makes all the sense in the world, because we will not be more like Christ, we will not grow in our faith, and we will not become complete if we're sinning.
 - However, as we recognize what God wants us to learn when we're at work, then when we encounter various trials, we will recognize them for what they are. We will see that they are an opportunity for us to glorify God by loving Him, trusting Him, and — thereby — becoming more like Him as our faith is increased and as we grow in our endurance.
 - This means that we need to stop whining about work. We need to stop complaining about our teachers and our tests. Instead, we need to recognize that God has a plan in all of it, and that plan is that we become more mature disciples of Christ.
 - If we do not start with this lesson, we will never be able to celebrate God at work and school.

II. Live

- James 1:5-8; Colossians 3:1-3; Ephesians 4:22-24
- It's one thing to know and understand something, but it's something completely different to actually live in the reality of what you know and understand. That's what we call true learning. That's called being wise.
- It's not enough to "learn" this lesson if we're not going to actually live it.

- In order to live wisely, we must seek God. We need His truth, we need His power, we cannot be wise on our own. And God will generously give us what we need without reproach. That means that He won't insult us. He gladly and generously and graciously gives us more than we could ask or think.
- However, something is required of us. We mustn't ask God for wisdom if we're not actively planning to live wisely. We must believe that God will do exactly what He says, we need to believe what He teaches us, we need to lean on His strength, and we need to live accordingly.
- To not truly trust that God is going to give us everything we need for life and godliness is to be like a wave of the sea and a leaf blown around by the wind. We'll be unstable in everything because we'll be what the Bible calls a double-minded man.
- None of this actually changes your circumstances. It doesn't make your teacher or boss or co-workers or classmates nicer. It doesn't give you more time for your project. It doesn't make math or engineering any more fun. It doesn't speed up the clock. And it doesn't make you smell less like food when you leave work.
- But it can revolutionize how you look at God's design for your work and school. Yes, God wants you to learn new things. Yes, He wants you to be able to provide for you and your family. Yes, He wants you to be salt and light in this world. But He also wants to use every single one of the trials and temptations that you're going to face to mature you, increase your faith, and conform you to the glorious image of Christ.
- And simply learning that one lesson can so completely change the way you view your work that what once scared you can not excite you, what once depressed you can make you glad, and what once caused you great concern can be approached with confidence because you serve a great God Who wants to do great things in your life today.

of God
podcast