

Faith and Work-Life

Ephesian 6:5-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Faith and Work-Life

Main Truth

Work is a divine calling through which we love others and glorify God.

A. Work is A Divine Calling

(Ephesian 6:5-7)

B. Work is a Reflection of Faith

(Ephesians 6:8-9)

C. Work is An Expression of Love

(1 Thessalonians 4:9-12)

Truth 1

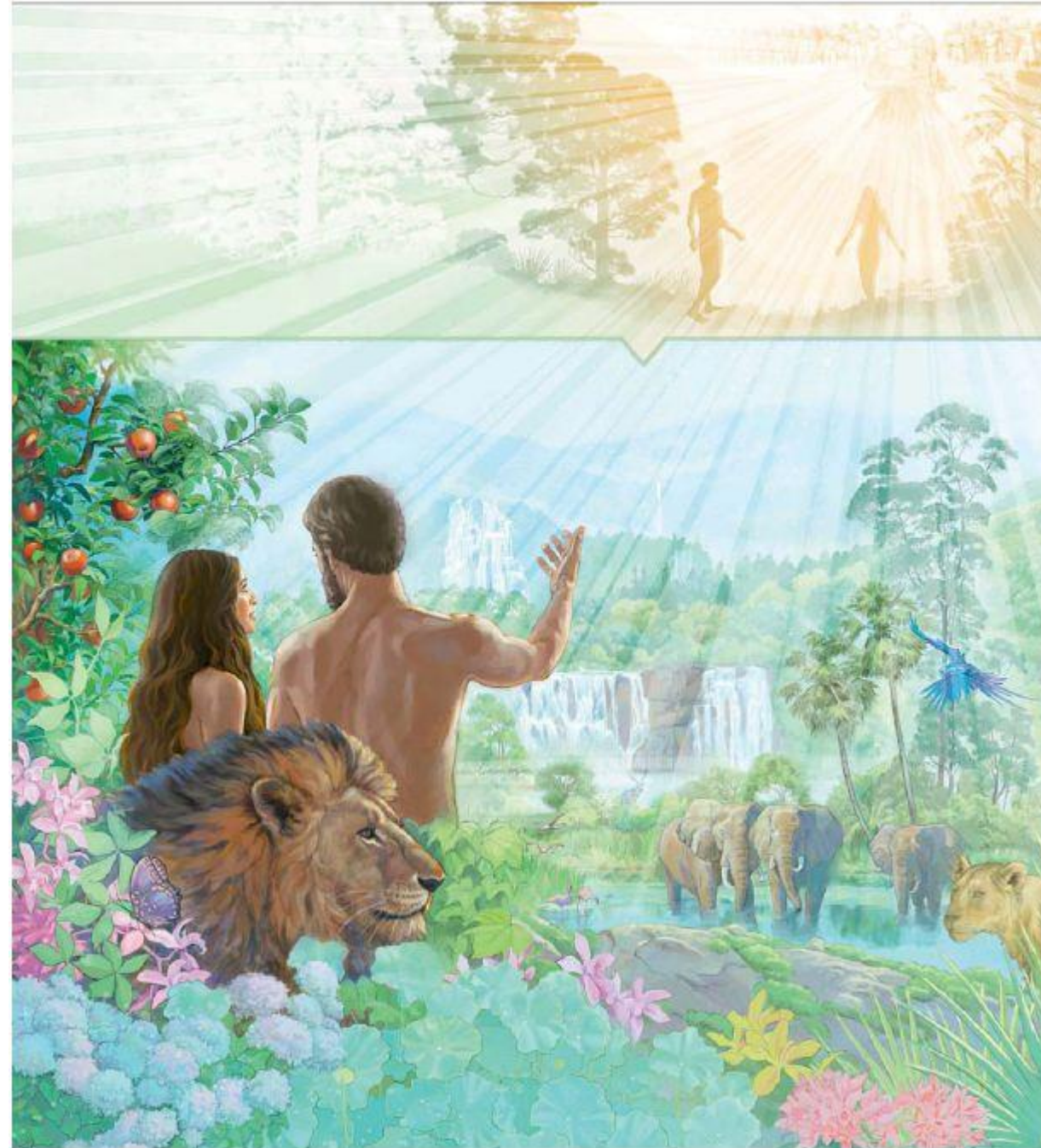
God calls believers to work wholeheartedly as a reflection of our faith.

Truth 2

God calls each believer to a unique range of works as an expression of love for others.

Work in the Garden of Eden

- In Genesis, work was meant to be a source of joy and fulfillment (Not for food).
- Work in the Garden of Eden was harmonious, peaceful, and purposeful.
- The Fall of Man disrupted this harmony and made work a struggle.



A. Work is A Divine Calling

(Ephesian 6:5-7)

Ephesians 6:5

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

The Unseen Shackles of Workplace



Caged by fear of job loss, limited opportunities, and a toxic work environment."



Bound by bureaucracy, deadlines, and expectations

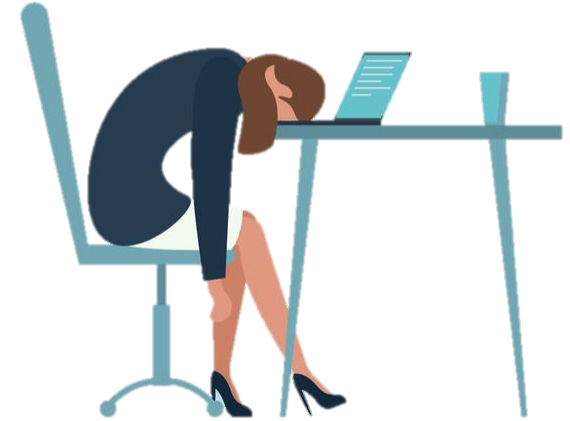


Masked by the pressure to conform, suppress individuality, and prioritize work over personal well-being.

Secular Views of Work

1. Work is a curse.

- It's merely a means to an end, valued solely for its financial rewards.
- Leisure is the pinnacle of existence.



Secular Views of Work

2. Work is the meaning of life.

- One lives to work.
- A defining source of one's meaning and identity.
- Deep down, it's sad face.



Ephesians 6:5

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, **just as you would obey Christ.**

Ephesians 6:7

7 Serve **wholeheartedly**, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,

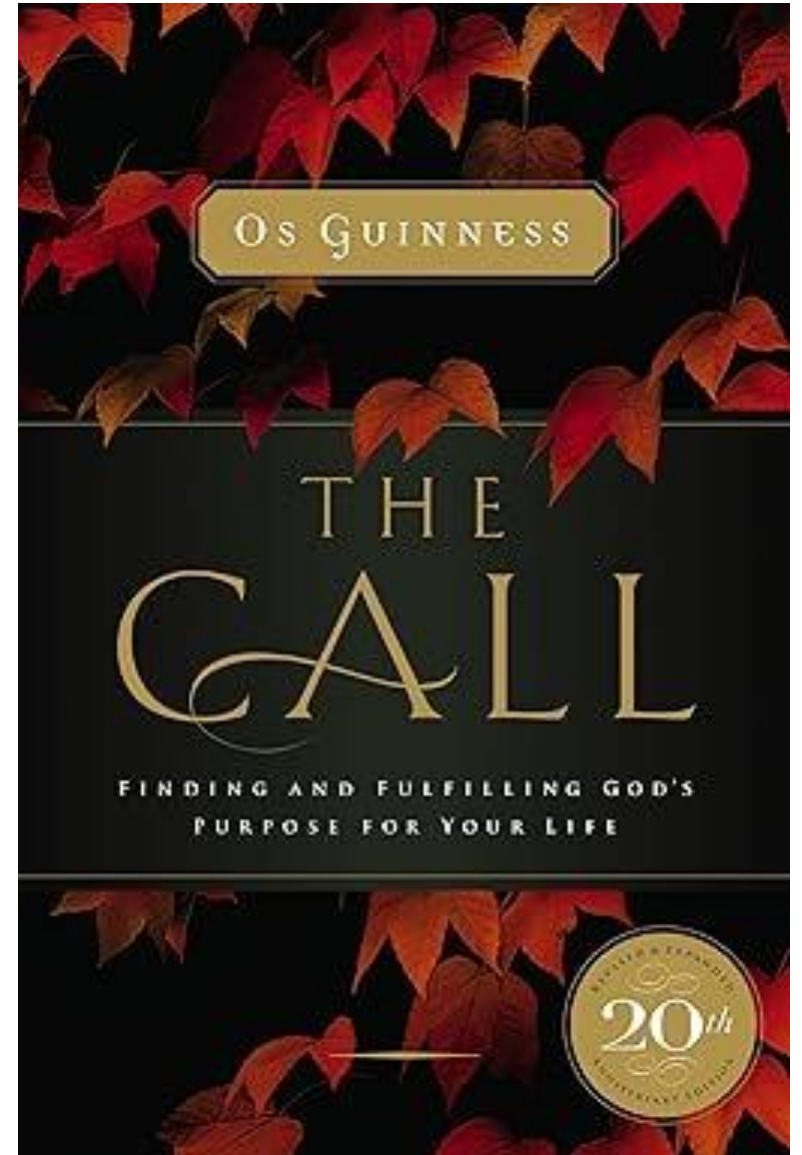
Ephesians 6:6

6 Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

Os Guinness

“Our primary calling as followers of Jesus Christ is by him, to him, and for him.

Our secondary calling,, is that everyone, everywhere, and in everything, we should think, speak, live, and act entirely for him.”





B. Work is A Reflection of Faith

(Ephesians 6:8-9)

Our Faith Guides Our Behavior At Work

1 Peter 2:18

"Slaves, in reverent fear of God, submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh."

Ephesians 6:8

8 because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

Ephesians 6:9

9 Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with HIM.

1. Shake their Job Security



2. Verbal Abuse and Intimidation

- Name-calling
- Guilt trips
- Gaslighting
- Criticism
- Stonewalling
- Threats
- Blaming
- Manipulation
- Humiliation
- Spreading lies
- Minimizing someone's experiences or feelings
- Screaming



3. Withholding Opportunities



4. Passive-Aggressive Behaviour



Truth 1

God calls believers to reflect faith which fuels wholehearted work and fair treatment.

C. Work is An Expression of Love

(1 Thessalonians 4:9-12)

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

9 Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.

10 And in fact, **you do love all of God's family** throughout Macedonia. **Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more,** 11 and **to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life:** You should **mind your own business** and **work with your hands,** just as we told you,

12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Thessalonians 4:11b

11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and **work with your hands, just as we told you,**

Ephesians 2:10

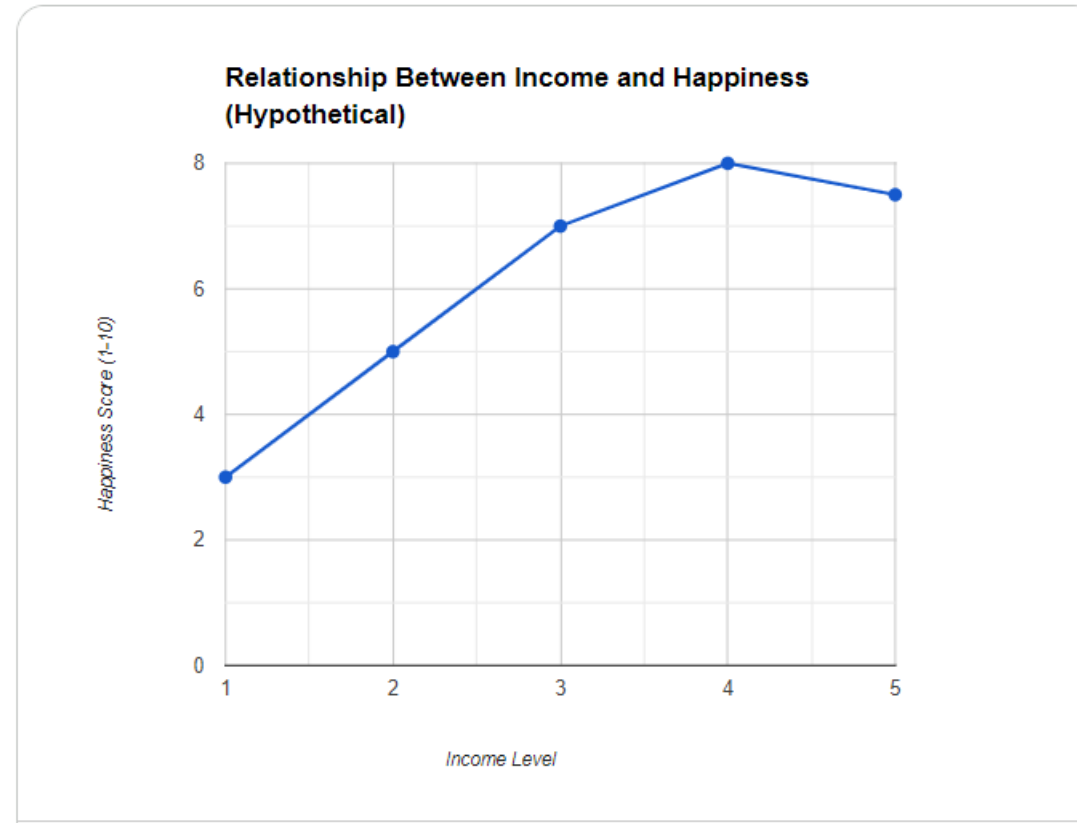
For we are God's handiwork, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Truth 2

God calls each believer to a unique range of works to express love for others and glorifies HIM.

The Complex Relationship Between Income and Happiness

(ResearchGate 2023)



While there is a general positive correlation, the relationship is not always linear, and other factors can significantly influence overall well-being.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

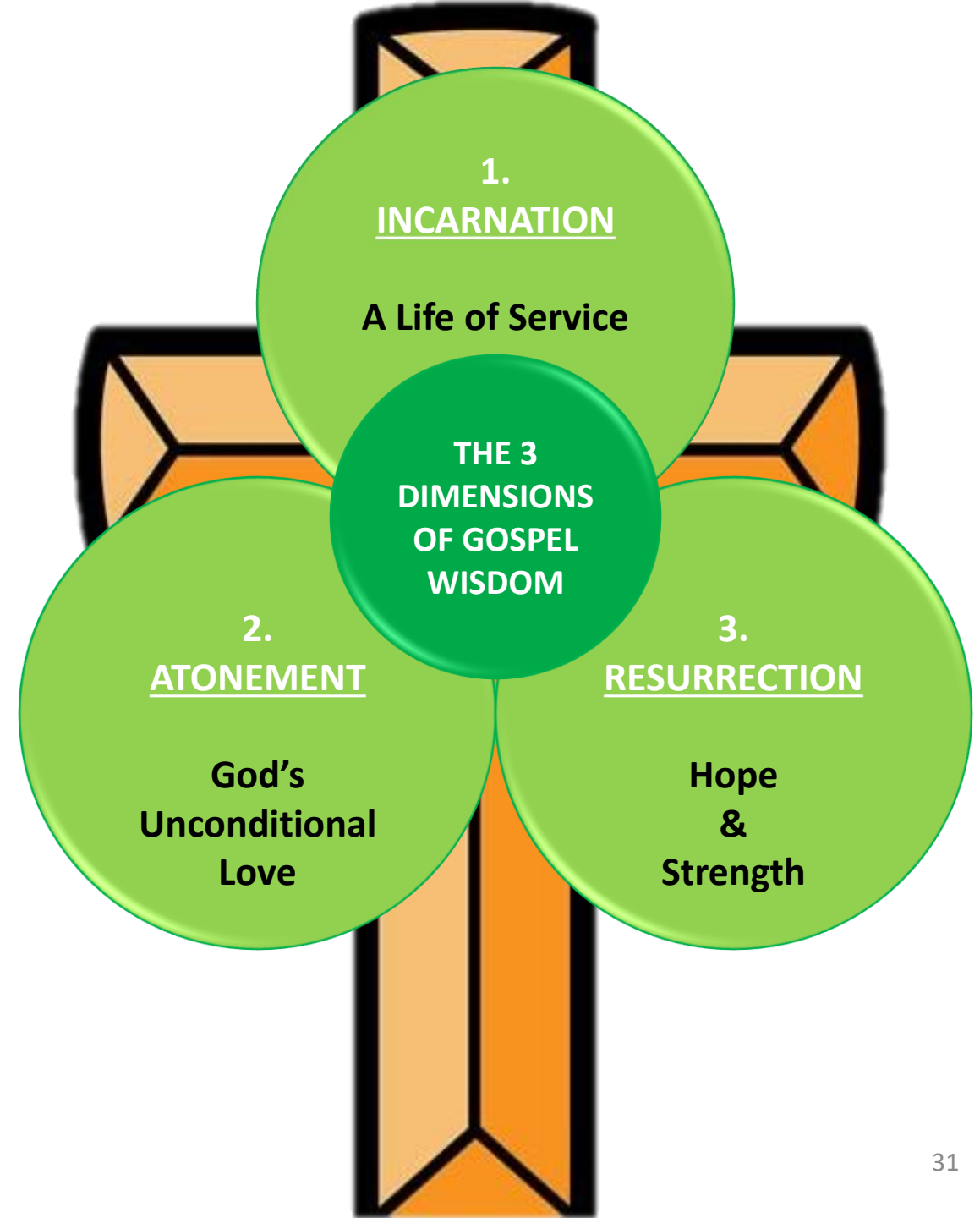
But **godliness with contentment is great gain**. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But **if we have food and clothing, we will be content** with that.

Work is An Expression of Love and Glorifying God



The Gospel Wisdom Liberates us From Work-Life Struggles

1. **Jesus' incarnation** calls us to a life of service.
2. **Jesus' atonement** reminds us of God's unconditional love and forgiveness.
3. **Jesus' resurrection** offers us endless hope and strength.



Main Truth

Work is a divine calling through which we love others and glorify God.

THE END

Colossians 3:23-24

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as **working for the Lord, not for human masters.**

Naked Quitting

AFP RELAX NEWS
July 2024

“**15%** of 16-24-year-olds bracket, were unemployed in April 2024, as reported by China Daily.”

That’s equivalent to **25,952,017** people out of 173,013,446 people who chose to be idle.

