

A Better Way to Make a Living...and a Life Journey Template

And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who know Him, and who are called according to His purpose
Romans 8:28

Purpose: It's the "context" for all that you do in your life and in your work. True? If so, then what is your purpose as it relates to the following:

- **Your life?**

- **Your work?**

- **Your key relationships?**

In Psalmist in Chapter 138 says, *The LORD will fulfill His **purpose** for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever.*

If you're not clear as to your purpose in these areas, what action steps can you identify to help gain clarity? (*Be sure to identify key steps – reading, study, seek counsel, small group, etc. and dates.*)

Proverbs 19:21 says, *many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's **purpose** that prevails. As you seek out God's purpose for your life, consider the following questions:*

What's God's view of my work?

What role does work play in my life?

What is my attitude towards work? Co-workers? Boss? Employees?

What do I live for?

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:10-11

Calling: It's what God has prepared you for and prepared for you. It's about finding those gifts, talents, experiences, and passions that give you clarity on where God intends to leverage these assets for His purpose. And ask God, in prayer, for guidance on your calling. Here are some key questions to help you make progress (don't be bound by this form – use extra paper!):

What are your unique gifts and talents? Identify those things you're especially skilled at doing. Example: *I am expert at solving customer problems and serving customers effectively.* These skills can be acquired at work, in hobbies, or at play. If you'd like some additional insight, ask those that know you well to help.

What are your passions? What would you do with your time even if you didn't get paid? What has God put on your heart that truly represents a passion in your life? (It's ok if there is no obvious link to how you make a job out of this passion)

What about your experiences? Identify the key roles and accomplishments that your previous employers have particularly valued and that others would most value (this could also include experiences you've had with volunteer or extra-curricular activities).

Ephesians 2:10 says, *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* **Now take a few moments and identify two or three careers** (it may include your current career) **that leverage the above input.** Use your trusted advisors to validate and brainstorm ideas that fit your profile.

What did you learn about your calling? How do you reconcile that with your current employment opportunities? Do you need (or want) to make a change? Can you leverage your skills and passions where you are currently? Or as a part-time avocation? Why or why not?

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things (i.e. your other priorities) will be given to you as well
Matthew 6:33

Priorities: How you choose your priorities should determine how you spend your time. As discussed in chapter 6 (with examples) of *A Better Way to Make a Living...and a Life* – complete the matrix below in order to gain clarity on the most critical priorities in your life and in your work. This is an exercise that should be updated every 6 months because of the nature of your changing work and life dynamics!

Priorities Roadmap™

| Priority Dimensions | Self assessment | Key Goals | Action Items | Time Commitment/ Implications |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Career | | | | |
| Financial | | | | |
| Marriage/Family | | | | |
| Personal Development | | | | |
| Community relationships | | | | |
| Spiritual | | | | |

What significant changes are required in your time and/or attention as a result of re-evaluating your priorities?

Who else have you collaborated with (or should) to get alignment on these priorities and changes?

There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD. Leviticus 23:3

Work-Life Balance: (Reference Chapter 7) Is life spinning out of control at warp speed? Are you amazed at how overcommitted your time is? Well, you own your calendar. So let's determine what adjustments are required to ensure that, in light of competing work and life priorities, that you're keeping the balance required to experience God's promised peace. Take a moment and use the questions below to evaluate your current balance and to map out a road to success.

Have you set aside some quiet time each day for you and God? Doing so can greatly increase your daily productivity and centeredness. **How can you begin to incorporate this special time into your life?**

Have you clearly established your priorities from the Roadmap exercise? Have you scheduled priorities first? If not, what change is required?

What activities and commitments make you feel the least balance in life and work today?

Remember you can't add activities without subtracting something. If you're not in balance, what activities do you need to stop doing?

What "boundaries" (reference Chapter 7 topic on "boundaries") can you put in place to help you establish and maintain balance?

Don't forget that margin in your schedule for rest, family, and recreation are important. Have you built that time in to your schedule?

Learning work/life balance is a process. Review your answers to these questions every three months and re-evaluate what steps need to be taken to maintain your balance.

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."

Jeremiah 6:16

Plan: Developing a clear vision and plan to accomplish your career related goals will help bring clarity to your purpose, calling, priorities, and the all-important balance between these dimensions. Let's look at the following elements:

Career Vision: Highlight the ideal environment, role, career, etc. for you (be as specific as possible so that your vision is clear – example in Chapter 13):

What's required (or missing) to achieve this vision: Identify the training, certification, experience, financial resources, etc that are critical for you to achieve your vision. In each case, determine the target date for accomplishing each:

Milestones/Goals

Target Date

1. Example: Interview 3 people in this career

By April

2.

3.

4.

Obstacles to Success: Finally, identify the obstacles that may impede your success and the key actions you'll take to mitigate each of these impediments (see Chapter 14 for examples):

Obstacles

Action Steps for Overcoming

1.

2.

3.

4.

Plan for Success: Now that you've identified your vision, what's required of you, impediments and how you'll over come them, submit your plan to the Lord through prayer and petition. Ask Him to be the light unto your path as you pursue His vision for your life.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"

John 16:33

Peace: Here are some key questions to help you to assess the degree to which you're achieving your goal of experiencing God's peace in your career and life journey. What's most important is to invest your time and energy to continuously advance in these areas – we're all a work-in-process!

How have I strengthened my relationship with Jesus Christ in the past year? What more can be done?

Am I content with my current circumstances at work and in life? Why or why not? What passages in the bible have you studied to reflect and assess your degree of contentment?

Do I have enough "margin" in my work and life? How can I create more margin and stay in alignment with my chosen priorities?

Relationships are critical to achieving a sense of God's peace – what specific relationships am I intent on strengthening in the coming year? What will I do to strengthen them?

What can I do to proactively find work that God intends for me to accomplish or better exemplify God's purpose in my current work?
