



Question: Why is it so hard to be a Christian business owner? Christian business owners seem to face more challenges in business than secular business owners?

Answer: This needs to be answered with two very important questions! One, *what is your motive for being in business?* Is it to get rich, to accumulate material possessions, to please man, to obtain social status, etc.? If you answered yes to any of these motives, then as a Christian or non-Christian you will never be happy or successful in business. The world's success is temporary, while the success God offers is eternal. Second, what is your definition of prosperity? Your answer to this question will also define your motive for being in business!

Every business has its challenges, but not every business has the favor of God and God as CEO of their business. So how do we prioritize our business to achieve success in the natural and in the spiritual?

Prayer. This is our number one priority. Seek God's wisdom and acknowledge Him in ALL your plans for the business. **Proverbs 3:5-6** instruct us *to trust in God and not our self and He will direct our paths.* Do you want knowledge from an ALL knowing God or do you want to second guess your way through your business.

The Word: Learn God's promises for you, your family and business. **Proverbs 3:1-4** instructs us to memorize the word and to be obedient to His commandments and you will obtain FAVOR with God and with man.

Attitude: Don't think and act as the world thinks and acts. God has called His children to a higher standard. **Romans 12:2** instructs us to: *"be not conform to the things of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable perfect will of God."* God wants us to operate our business with integrity.

Stable: Be a person of your word. God says it is better to not make a vow, than to make a vow and not keep it. **Numbers 30:2** says we are to perform all that proceeds from our mouths. Do not let compromise become a practice in your business, we are to be trustworthy in all we do. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways, and he will not receive anything from God.

Order: No business can operate without a vision and plan. This vision & plan should be written in detail in the form of a business plan, along with a five year financial projections of how you plan to operate the business. God is a God of "order" and He expects us to do the same (1 Chronicles 15:13). God will not bless a mess.

If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving—it will be used to measure what is given back to you.

Luke 6:38



Tithe/Giving: Don't forget to tithe 10% of your earnings into God's ministry. We can't out give God, **Luke 6:38** promises that as we give it will be given back to us in full measure pressed down, shaken together to make room for more and running over (what a blessing). So, learn to give to those ministries supporting or helping the poor, homeless, widower, etc., after all the word says when we do we are giving to God (Matt. 25:38-40).

Seeking His Kingdom: This is, in my opinion, the most important priority for security and eternal treasure: **Matt. 6:33**—"*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you,*" and we are told in Matt. 13:44 that "*the Kingdom of God is like a hidden treasure, that when found a man will sell all he has with joy to have it.*"

When we have a desire for the things of God that is pleasing to Him; because without God we would have nothing - riches and honor come from God (1 Chronicles 29:12). So if you want your business to be a success, let God direct your steps and be obedient to His Word—in ALL THINGS.

If you are experiencing a cash flow shortage, having problems with employees; need to expand the business; want to know what products to sell or to get rid of—seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness and He will increase your territory (business) and direction.

In the Old Testament, we are told that when the kings set their hearts to "do what was right before God, they prospered in all their ways;" but when they did evil before God or "set not their hearts to obey God," they brought curses upon themselves and nothing they did prospered. The Old Testament tells us also that king David "behaved himself wisely" and this pleased God. Allow your ways to please God and He will delight in you with favor and prosper you in your health, family, and finances, and make your enemies to be at peace with you.

When we allow God to direct our steps, we may have challenges in our business, but He will give us direction and peace as He instructs us on what to do to resolve the challenges.