

Proactive Productivity

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed

Proverbs 15:22

Business success is always the result of a lot of planning, intense work, good habits, and continual follow-through. Aristotle said, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act but a habit.” In fact, the only place where you will find success before work is in the dictionary. It is a planned event and rarely happens without great personal effort. God can bless our productivity, but cannot bless the habits of a lazy person. Success comes in cans; failure comes in cannots.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13 NKJV

Here’s another great Scripture that talks about blessing those who are productive:

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness.
2 Corinthians 9:8–10 RSV

Implementing Business Productivity

Good business stewardship is not merely an occupation or a profession; rather it involves being productive. In Jesus’ parable of the talents in Matthew 25, the stewards reported their earnings. One servant, however, had merely hidden his entrustment and earned no increase—he lost his portion. The faithful ones not only had increases, but also received more because of their faithfulness. From the very beginning, God commanded creation to be fruitful. God is energetic, creative, and imaginative—He is the life giver. Business stewards or managers are to be concerned with productivity and so cultivate God’s creation to be productive.

It is a privilege to live in a productive society. Productive societies are composed of many productive individuals. When my days are full of productive tasks, I enjoy life. My normal going-to-sleep activity is to close my eyes and mentally survey all the things I

accomplished during the day. If I have had an efficient and industrious day, I quickly fall asleep.

A warning about being productive is seen in Jesus' story about the unfruitful branch of His kingdom, which He says will be cut off by the gardener (John 15:1–5). God wants a productive kingdom and stewards who will be faithful.

As good business stewards, we are required to work hard. If you work for someone else, you need to do it with everything you have. Give more than is required—go the second mile...and the third and fourth.

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

Proverbs 6:6–11

Check out the ant. It has no one to tell it what to do—no supervisor, no overseer—and yet it is a self-starter, a self-motivator. The ant works all summer long gathering food for the harvest season. This Scripture extends a wake-up call to the sluggard hoping for some kind of response: “Have you not slept enough?” “How long can you possibly sleep?” “Do you want to go hungry, looking for handouts because you have not the wherewithal to earn your own keep?”