

THRIVE

How to Thrive at Work

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – July 23, 2017

1. Open in prayer by praying over our new series “Thrive” and the topics we’ll cover. Specifically pray that the Lord would transform us to thrive in these areas and pray that we would reach many unbelievers through this series, invited by Transformers!
 - The series will include the following topics: “How to Thrive by Giving up Control,” “How to Thrive in Good Times,” “How to Thrive as a Teen,” “How to Thrive as a Parent,” and this Sunday, “How to Thrive at Work.”
2. Read the following quotes from the article: “Why so many Americans hate their jobs?” by Anna Robaton and discuss:
 - “Of the country’s approximately 100 million full-time employees, 51 percent aren’t engaged at work -- meaning they feel no real connection to their jobs, and thus they tend to do the bare minimum. Another 16 percent are “actively disengaged” -- they resent their jobs, tend to gripe to co-workers and drag down office morale as a result.” (see reference below)

DISCUSS: If you’re a follower of Jesus, and you’re in the 51% “not engaged at work, doing the bare minimum, and not actively engaged”, how do you think this affects your soul and your ability to develop skills to be successful at your job? How does it limit your ability to reach people at your job with the Gospel?

- “As it turns out, if you’re unhappy at work, your boss may be mostly to blame. Through no fault of their own, many supervisors are ill-equipped to manage people and all their idiosyncrasies, said Harter. That’s because of the way employees typically rise to positions of power within organizations. Companies tend to hire people for supervisory roles based on tenure and success in previous jobs, which may not have entailed managing people, said Harter.” (<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/why-so-many-americans-hate-their-jobs/>)

DISCUSS: What did you think about the section of the article that says most bosses are ill-equipped to manage people and tend to give promotions based on skills to do a job but not the skill to manage people?

DISCUSS: How does living an Upward, Inward, Outward life transform you to manage and lead people?

How Do We Thrive at Work?

Remember:

3. “You are designed for work by God because you’re made in the image of God, who is the ultimate worker.”
 - a. God is the Ultimate worker (Read Genesis 2:1-3). Have you ever thought of God as a worker? In Genesis, we see that God was a Creator and Investor who made the world as a home for all kinds of creativity to be ruled by His image-bearers, who in turn, create through their work.¹ Discuss.
 - b. God gave Adam a job to work (Genesis 2:15), Jesus worked (Mark 6:3), and Lydia worked (Acts 16:14). Marinate on this: work is an opportunity to worship through skills and relational ability at your place of employment. Discuss.
4. Pastor Derwin said, “The “why” of why you work, will give you joy and purpose, not your work.” Read Colossians 3:23-24. Discuss Colossians 3:23-24 and its implications.
5. Discuss the “3 Thrive Killers at Work” emphasized in the sermon:
 - a. **Impatience** – We often want the shine without years and years of grinding. It takes years of education, training, mentoring, and experience to be an effective boss.
 - b. **Selfishness** -- Often we work for money, status and power; not for the glory of God, but the glory of self. Read Ecclesiastes 2:17 NIV
 - DISCUSS: Also for millennials, Brandon Robinson, a millennial on the TC Staff, shares the following insight: **A growing number of millennials are being influenced by our culture’s obsession with being your own boss. From an early age, we as millennials are encouraged to “buck the system” and work for ourselves. While I get that the market is changing, it’s still incredibly misleading to try and convince a generation that they can grow up devoid of professional accountability and somehow be better off for it. I personally have a friend that feels that young people who work for the “man” [really a boss at all] are less enlightened. What I’ve found is that it’s not so much about taking down a power structure for the benefit of others and opportunity for all, but working outside of accountability until they one day become the “man” and can hold others accountable. Basically, the man is bad until they are the man. I find this to be hypocritical and naive, because it ignores the fact that great leaders understand what it’s like to be led. As believers, this can be problematic because it strips away an important part of our discipleship process. God can and does sanctify us through our work places, because work places put us in proximity with people who don’t think and often don’t look like us. It’s in this situation that God calls us to the higher call of love, humility, and service.**
 - c. **Idolatry** -- Read Exodus 34:17 NIV.
 - Often, we try to use our jobs to give us an identity, significance, and purpose, but only Jesus can do that. Discuss.

¹ Tim Keller & Katherine Leary Alsdorf, *Every Good Endeavor*, (New York: Penguin Group, 2012), 61.

6. Pastor Derwin said, “Work is a good thing – a God thing – so you can reveal the King.”
- a. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31.
 - Because of the Gospel, your work is an opportunity to worship Jesus. Therefore, growing in education, competency, skill, creativity, and managing people you work with and serve moves you towards excellence. Discuss.
 - b. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 CSB.
 - Through your work, you have the ministry of reconciliation. God wants to turn spiritual enemies into friends and spiritual orphans into family and your life is how that happens by the Spirit’s power. Your job is your mission field.
 - Through your work or school, you are Christ’s ambassador, which means you are Jesus’ representative.
 - Discuss how this should impact your life on a daily basis.

Soul-tattoo: R.I.P.

- Remember-- this theology of work
- Implement -- this theology of work (Check out Transform U→ Career & Calling starting October 14)
- Participate -- by faith and the power of the Holy Spirit, THRIVE at work for the glory of God.

Close in prayer!

(Recommended Reading: *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God’s Work* by Tim Keller)