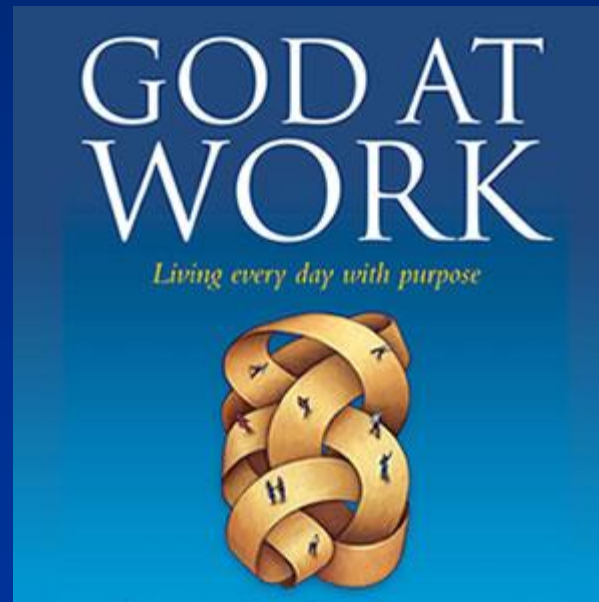




Christian
Business
Leaders

Ambition & Life Choices



God at Work

- God at Work is based on the book by Ken Costa published by Continuum International Publishing Group ISBN 978-0826496355 and the course of the same name produced by Holy Trinity Brompton
- For more information go to www.godatwork.org.uk

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Ambition – a dirty word?

- Is it possible to be a Christian and be ambitious?
- Definition: The **passionate and contented** pursuit of **challenging, yet attainable God given objectives**

Contented

- Are we satisfied with our lot in life?
- God has given us skills and talents to be used for his purposes
- We learned last time that his purposes are in our work – there is no holy hierarchy of jobs
- We are most contented when we operate within our strenghts

Challenging

- “Do not settle for black and white when God has given you a vision in colour” Rev John Collins
- Find the truth of the situation, paint a picture of where you want to get to, make a plan and go and do it. Always believe there is a better place and persuade people to get there with you” Sir Terry Leahy, Tesco
- What are your strengths? How do you find out?

Attainable

- Goals must be within realistic
- Don't wait until you've arrived to start living how you say you will; do it now

God Given

- How do we know God's plans for our lives?
- How do we apply hearing the voice of God to our career choices?
- “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Paul, Romans 12:2
- Through relationship with him, which comes from regular prayer and bible reading

Building a relationship with God

Time of day	Bible reading	Prayer
Before breakfast		
Whilst running or at the gym		
Whilst commuting in the morning		
After the school run		
At my desk first thing		
During my lunch break		
Whilst commuting in the evening		
Before dinner		
After dinner		
With my partner before bed		
In bed		
Other		

Other sources of guidance

- Trusted friends: Council of business advisors or Senior manager forum
- Signs – Gideon, great example
- Stepping out in faith, trusting God to confirm his leading

Turning ambition into reality

- Start with the end in mind
- “I make known the end from the beginning” Isaiah 46:10
- “Life can only be understood backwards, but must be lived forward” Soren Kierkegaard
- Be specific about what your goal is
- Break down the big goal into smaller steps

What motivates you?

- Service
 - Money
 - Promotion
 - Status / recognition
 - Fulfilment
 - Challenge
 - Competition
 - Winning
 - Success
 - Teamwork
 - Other
- What motivates you?
 - Individually, put this list into the right order as it applies to you – be honest
 - As a group, discuss your order
 - We can be motivate by good and bad things. How do we recognise when our ambitions is in the wrong areas?

Destruction & deception

- Our lives, the lives of our loved ones and others around us can be destroyed when our ambition is unbridled
- “The heart is deceitful above all things”
Jeremiah 17:9
- Whose plan am I following: God’s, my own, other?

Ambition audit

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
Are you suspicious of others at work?					
Are you satisfied when others fail?					
Do you like talking / gossiping about others?					
Do you find it hard to receive advice from other people?					
Do you feel you know best about your ambition?					
I am not satisfied with my current job					

Scoring

- 5 points for every agree strongly answer
- 4 points for every agree
- 3 points for neither agree nor disagree
- 2 points for disagree
- 1 point for every disagree strongly
- 30 – 21: you may be gripped by a degree of selfish ambition
- 20 - 16: a generally healthy attitude to ambition but no room for complacency
- 15 - 6: it is likely that you currently have no problems with selfish ambition

Clarifying questions

- Do I have confidence whilst praying and worshipping that God is setting the agenda or are there persistent niggles?
- Is my ambition so personal that I don't want to talk to others about it?

Conclusion

- We may be on God's agenda, we may be operating within our gifting, but it isn't always easy
- Don't give up, persevere
- Paul strained towards the goal and fought the good fight 2 Tim 4:7
- Jesus victory was on the cross – not an easy point, but he was able to cry out, “it is finished”

Prayer

- Are you where God has called you to be?
- Have you heard God's calling?
- Do you need to step out in faith?
- Do you need to persevere?