

Seven Spiritual Lessons To Understand During Job Loss

A time of job loss can be a time of learning many valuable lessons and a period of great spiritual growth in your life.

1. A Lesson in Humility. Understand that the pain you may be feeling in your gut is your pride. Allow this time of job loss and the resulting circumstances to strip away all your pride and pretense. What you do for a living is not who you are. God's love for you is not equal to your career success. Take this time to evaluate your relationships with both God through Jesus Christ and your family. Read Psalms 37 and 41. *Read the Book of Job. Receive encouragement and confidence through the promise of Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Also read Matthew 5:3; Luke 14:11; Prov. 22:4.*

2. A Lesson in Repentance. Once humbled, there are very few times in our lives when we are as close to God's redeeming grace. *Read Psalm 51 and David's prayer for forgiveness. Get on your knees and present your sins and pride to God for His forgiveness. If you recognize you are a sinner, "There is none righteous, no, not one." Romans 3:10, then:*

Pray:

"Lord Jesus, I am a sinner and I need to be saved. Jesus, I turn from trust in myself and my sin and I look to You who alone can save and cleanse me. I know that You died on the cross for my sin, that You were buried for me, and that You rose again from the dead that I might have life everlasting. Come into my life, Lord Jesus. Take control of my life and make me the person you want me to be. Thank you for saving me, Lord Jesus. Amen"

Read Psalm 41:4, Matthew 3:2; Luke 5:32.

3. A Lesson in Obedience. Our humility and repentance requires a positive response. Fueled by God's enduring grace, we must be obedient to His will, not our own. *Pray: "Not my will, but Yours be done".* Submit to God.

Read God's Word - the Bible -daily. Read Psalm 32,37; Prov. 3:5-6; Isaiah 64:8

Be obedient to God's call to servanthood; volunteer in Christian service. (Matt. 13:14-15; Matt. 20:26-28)

4. A Lesson in Forgiveness. Is there anyone in your life (former boss, supervisor, co-worker, neighbor, family member) whom you blame for your present situation? Before you can move forward with the other lessons, you will have to "choose" to forgive others. Forgiveness is an act of obedience to the Lord (*Luke 17:3-10; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13*) and must be granted from the heart (*Matt. 18:35*). You show your ingratitude for God's merciful forgiveness toward you when you do not forgive others (*Matt. 6:12; 18:21-35*). Because you are commanded to forgive others (*Eph. 4:32*), you sin when you refuse to forgive (*James 4:17*). God as your Father withholds His forgiveness of your everyday transgressions when you do not forgive others. (*Matt. 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26*). God considers forgiveness of others more important than even worship of Him. (*Matt. 5:23-24*)

5. A Lesson in Hope and Perseverance. It may seem as though the rug has been pulled out from under you but trust in God's promises. Believe Jesus who said, *"Ask and it will be given to you."* (*Matt. 7:7*) Therefore, ask Him for what you need through prayer. After praying to God, talk with Christian friends about your concerns, and listen to the testimonials of God's faithfulness to others who have been in your situation. *Read Psalms 23 and 46; Jeremiah 29:11-14a; Romans 8:28; Matthew 6:26-27.*

We practice our obedience by persevering and "waiting" upon the Lord. This does not mean that we get lazy, but we understand what is in our power to do and what is in God's Hands. *Read Philippians 4:6-7.*

Make the calls, send the letters, and continue networking. Stay busy by volunteering in Christian service.

6. A Lesson in Accountability. It is difficult for most job seekers to remain focussed on their job search, either because of procrastination, discouragement, or depression. Searching for a job is hard work, and is even more difficult if we do it alone, without asking others to help us. In every aspect of our lives, we need to be held accountable to God and others. Find an Accountability Partner who will agree to pray for you daily and hold you accountable on a weekly basis. *Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."*

7. A Lesson in Contentment and Joy. When we are humble and repentant before God because we desire a close, personal relationship with Him, His grace enables us to be obedient and persevere through our difficulties. Despite our anxious thoughts, we find peace that reveals itself through contentment which results in joy. *Read the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians - a letter full of joy despite being written from a Roman prison. Read Psalms 23, 46 and 118. Stay busy - volunteer, and encourage others who are experiencing job loss.*

Also read Matthew 11:28; Phil 4:6-7; Phil 4:12-13; John 16:33. Memorize Psalm 118:24: "This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it." Every day is a gift from God and we have the choice to rejoice in it or not. List your blessings - write them down if necessary - thank God for them. Read Psalms 31, 71, 91 and 118.

These seven spiritual lessons will do more than just help you with your job search, they will change your life forever.

The logo for the Employment Transition Ministry Network (etm) features the lowercase letters 'etm' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of 'etm', the words 'Employment Transition' are stacked above 'Ministry Network', both in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

--Matthew 6:33