

# **The Christian Contractor**

**How to Grow in the Lord on the  
Job and Prosper**

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# Introduction

I started my business, (decks/remodeling) in 2004. I worked at it in the summers while finishing up college and two years as a full time teacher. Then, in 2008, I felt led to stop teaching and do my business full time. I got saved back in 2001 during spring break in Manitoba Canada while staying at a hockey teammate's house from college. I was at a Sunday night service with his family and the presence of God filled the room while we were in worship, something like I had never experienced before. During the worship, the pastor asked if anybody would like to receive the Lord. I knew the Lord was drawing me to Him. I raised my hand and received the Lord. After I received the Lord I started attending church on Sundays, and reading my Bible. I loved the Lord but looking back I would call myself a cafeteria

Christian. I enjoyed going to church, listening to worship music and even reading my Bible but I really didn't let what God's Word says govern all the areas of my life.

After about a year of doing the business fulltime I was having financial problems. I spent more than a few nights with a calculator trying to figure out how to make everything workout and the situation just looked impossible. Then, one evening I was lying on my bed, humbled before the Lord and I found a scripture that said God would meet all of my needs. I had read over scriptures like these many times but would always pass over them and just think maybe those promises were just for the people that lived when the Bible was written. But this time it was different as I took time to meditate on this promise in God's Word, faith rose up in my heart and I believed it and started thanking Him. His presence filled the room and I was undone like never before. I was overwhelmed by

His grace and His mercy that He would come in and help me fix my situation, even though most of it was my fault. God was so faithful to watch after His Word and to perform it in my life. I started seeking Him more and more.

Over the next two years I began immersing myself in the things of God. Whenever I wasn't working on a job I was going to Church, going to Bible school, reading my Bible and just spending time waiting on Him. Time began to be big problem for me. I became busy with my business, dating the girl who would later become my wife and spending time with the Lord. For about 6 months or so I became dissatisfied with the amount of time I was spending with the Lord. I wanted to spend more time growing in the Lord but I didn't have the time. Then the Lord began to deal with me on how to use the time I

already had on the job to grow in Him. And it has been great and fulfilling. I am excited to share with you how to grow spiritually on the job and prosper. No matter what trade you are in, whether it is just you or you have multiple crews I am confident that this book will bless you.

## **Chapter 1**

# **Meditate on the Word of God**

### **Joshua 1:8**

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

How many people in our culture want to be prosperous and have good success? Just about everybody, right? Here in Joshua we find God instructing him on how he can

make his way prosperous and have good success. Back when I first started walking with the Lord I didn't know what to do with scriptures that talked about prospering. I was living week to week using all the faith I had to pay my bills each month and my mind would always think of someone that was way further down the road financially than me. Prospering just seemed too far out of reach for me. I usually would just leave scriptures that talked about prospering alone. Then one day, I was listening to a Bible teacher talking about prospering. And he said that if you study the word in Hebrew, that it actually means to push forward and advance. This excited me. I had the faith to believe that God could meet me where I'm at and cause me to push forward and advance according to His Word. Many Christians don't believe God even wants us to be prosperous or successful. But if he doesn't care about these things why would He give Joshua and

us a blue print on having good success? He does care. He wants us to prosper and have good success while we grow in His Word. 3 John 1:2 says, “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” So in the New Testament it says that as our minds get renewed with the Word of God it is His will for us to prosper and enjoy good health. It doesn’t matter if you are landscaper, plumber, or builder you will prosper or push forward and advance and have good success if you meditate on the Word of God.

We all have plenty of time to put this verse into practice during our work day and in the truck. I get excited about this verse. I don’t understand how it works but it does and I am excited for you to get the benefit of being a doer of this Word. The first thing we learn from Joshua 1:8 is that we need to speak the Word. It’s important that we watch what comes out of our mouths. We need to make sure that the things we are

speaking line up with what we know from Gods Word. The next part of the verse says that we are to meditate in the Word of God day and night. Reading your Bible in the morning or evening is great but if we really want to grow in the Lord we need to spend time meditating on those scriptures that jump off the page at us. I know at first it can seem hard or boring but it is not either. God will meet you where you are at. To meditate means to think on the Word. It also means to mutter the Word or to speak it to yourself. So basically meditating on the Word is simply rolling a particular verse over in your mind and muttering or I like to say mumbling it to yourself. God will speak to you as you meditate on His living Word.

Not long after the Lord had met my financial needs my business kind of took a back seat to my relationship with the Lord. I was still out on the job working each day

but I was more blown away by His grace and His mercy that He would come in the ditch with me and work with me to get me out than I was with the actual money that came in. I was excited about the relationship that it had developed. I enjoyed my business but I was becoming more interested in growing in the Lord. One day I was reading in Isaiah and Isaiah 48:17 stood out and became bold on the page. It was like the print for that verse became bigger and bolder than the rest. This was the first time that this had happened to me. “Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy one of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.” I thought this was amazing. At this point I was happy my bills were all being paid. I realized how much religion had skewed my view of God. If He were to blow up a scripture I thought that it would be a scripture on how to serve God better,

read my Bible more, or witness better. I don't want you to mishear me. All those things are great. I just couldn't believe that He would choose a scripture on teaching me to profit and leading me by the way that I should go. I began to meditate on this scripture during my time with the Lord, in the truck and on the job. As I began to meditate on this scripture the verse became my verse. If I had just read that scripture now and then I don't believe I would have received it in the same way. But by meditating, that Word from the Lord was able to get down into my spirit. As I was meditating on that scripture, thinking on it and muttering it the Lord stirred up in my heart, I don't mean I heard an audible voice but down on the inside, He said there are many ways that I will allow you to go but I will lead you by the best way. That's what happens when you meditate on the Word. He is able to make the scripture more meaningful to you. I spent months

meditating on this scripture and I started doing it with other scriptures as well. Most of the scriptures that I meditate on now I did not get in the same super natural way as I got Isaiah 48. It could simply be a scripture in a sermon or during your reading that stirred you up on the inside. Take that scripture and begin to milk everything out of it you can. God is not a task master. He is not saying I want them to live a boring life meditating on my Word. He told us to meditate on His Word for our benefit. Faith comes by taking the Word from our head down into our heart and I believe meditating is the best way to do it.

The next part of the verse says “that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.” This is saying that we must be a doer of the Word. James 1:22 says it like this; “but be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Lots of people like to go to church and hear sermons and read their Bible but not many people want to put into practice what they learn. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Casting all you care upon Him; for he cares for you." Did he say to take half the worries to the Lord but we can manage the rest? No, he said take all the worries and concerns to the Lord and leave them there because He cares for us. God did not create us to be able to handle worries all day and night. We know from medical science that worry can cause a lot of health problems. So is God a hard task master that thought I am going to make this very difficult on them and tell them not to keep their worries or concerns? No the opposite. He knows we are not designed to carry worry. He wants us to live an abundant life. John 10:10 says, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly." The devil will gladly

accommodate us with thoughts to worry about because he knows that this will destroy our faith and health. We must learn to monitor our thought life. As contractors or business owners, we have plenty of things that we could worry about, too much work and behind, not enough work, gas prices, and the economy. Gas prices and the economy will always be changing but His Word will not change. I have not fully arrived at this. It's a daily walk with the Lord. Worry is going to come to us all, but we have to learn what to do with it. It can creep up on you. I have thought before how did I start thinking about that? And before I knew it, I was worrying. Once we recognize we are worrying we must cast it down and be a doer of the Word. It would do us no good to meditate on this scripture if we aren't going to put it into practice. It says in 2 Corinthians 10:5 "Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself

against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” This means if we have a worry or concern that is contrary to the Word of God we are to get rid of it. I have found that the best way to do this is to replace it with what God’s word says. Let’s say your back log of work is getting low and not much business is coming in. The devil will tempt you to worry about running out of work. But we can replace this thought with “My God shall supply all my needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” Or simply Favor surrounds me like a shield and the Lord blesses the righteous, Father I thank you for favor. Now by switching your thoughts you go from fear to faith and faith is the only thing that moves God.

## Chapter 2

# Faith Comes by Hearing

### Romans 10:17

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

I have heard people say things like “I just need more faith.” Or “I am praying that God would give me more faith.” It is not scriptural to pray that God would give someone faith. Romans 10:17 says that faith comes to us by hearing the Word of God. I think this is exciting. We get to control how much faith we have. I used to think that God just made certain Christians more spiritual or faith filled than others. It says in Acts 10:34 that God is no respecter

of persons. So if you are a Christian and you start hearing the Word your faith is going to grow because His Word works and His Word always will work. In Numbers 23:19 it says "God is not a man that He should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent: hath He said, and shall he not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall he not make it good." Every promise in the Bible is ours if we will believe Him. The promises of God will not just fall in our laps we have to believe His Word and receive the promises. Hebrews 4:2 tells us "for unto us the gospel was preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." So we can go to church, listen to sermons and read our Bible but it will do us no good if we don't believe what we are hearing or reading. We must come to a place where we believe God's Word more than the things we see or have experienced. And when we do that we will

experience His grace and His power in our lives.

So as contractors we have lots of time to hear the Word out on the job and also in the truck or in the shop. Once I got a revelation of how faith comes, I started listening to sermons, Bible teaching, and the Bible while working on my jobs. I usually listen to the book of Proverbs and the epistles (the letters to the church) Romans-Jude. Proverbs is full of wisdom and the epistles tell us what belongs to us in Christ. They are the letters written to you and me. I have a jobsite radio that I can plug my iPod into or headphones depending on what I am doing that day. This is the easiest way to grow in the Lord. In the last chapter, we talked about meditating on the Word and that takes more discipline because you have to keep your mind focused on the Word, which can be

challenging if you are doing something that takes a lot of your attention but hearing the Word while you work is very easy. You can do this no matter how much thought your work takes. I will listen to the same sermon 3 or 4 times just because you do miss parts while you are working. I have found that you learn way more listening to a message 3 or 4 times while you are working than you do listening to something only once completely focused. I noticed within weeks my faith increasing. When a trial or issue would come up on the job I would find myself thinking about what the Word says instead of dwelling or worrying about the problem. I believe if you will try listening to the Word while working for two weeks you will never go back to the radio. Even on the monotonous days, the work day just seems to fly by. Our heart is to grow in the Lord but while you are hearing the Word during the work day Matthew 6:33 will take place, "But seek ye first the kingdom of

God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” This scripture is saying that if you seek the Lord more than things that the world seeks, He will add the things to you that the world seeks after. This is a stress free way to live. We are not lazy. We go out and do the work that He called us to do and we do it well. We seek Him while we are working and we put Him first and then He said He adds those things to us that the world stresses over. This is my best retirement plan that I have. I have learned that He is faithful to watch after His Word and to perform it in my life. By His grace and mercy, He can lift you more in one year than you or I could do in 10 years of our own labor.

## Chapter 3

# The Morning Meeting

### Romans 8:14

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God,  
they are the sons of God.”

It does not say in the Bible whether or not I should buy that piece of equipment or if I should spend money on that advertisement, or if I should I hire someone. The Word of God is the Will of God. There are a lot of things that we do not have to pray about or seek the Lord about because the Bible tells us clearly what we should do. But there are things in our own individual lives that we need specific direction for that are not in the Bible. When I first started walking with the Lord, if I needed specific direction from the

Lord about something, I felt like I had to pry it from Him like He didn't want to give it to me. And I was always looking for Him to do something external like open or close a door. I would say things like, Lord if you want me to do this or that then open the door and if you don't shut the door. God has a much higher way for us to live. If you are a Christian then you have the Spirit of God living on the inside of you. The enemy is down here on earth and he is able to open and shut doors so this is a dangerous way to make decisions. The door maybe shut but God might lead you to stand till it falls down, so we would miss out on His will or blessing because we were led by the circumstance. The first thing we must realize is that it is God's desire for us to be led by Him. Romans 8:14 says "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." It's only the Sons of God that can be led by the Spirit of God because if the Holy Spirit is not living on the inside of

you He cannot direct you. So how can we be led by the Spirit? It's not mystical. How do you know that you are born again or a new creation in Christ? Have you personally seen Heaven? Romans 8:16 tells us. "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." If you have been a Christian for any length of time then no matter what someone tries to tell you they cannot move you from the fact that you are a Christian and Heaven bound. Why is that? Because someone is bearing witness on the inside of you that you are a child of God. You heard the Word, believed the Word in your Heart, and confessed the Word from your mouth and you were saved and the Holy Spirit confirms that you are born again by bearing witness with your spirit. If He can bear witness with our spirits that we are saved then could He bear witness with our spirits whether or not we should buy that piece of equipment, or whether or not we should spend money on

a specific advertisement or not, He can and will every time if we take time to wait on Him.

We can be led by the Lord anytime, but I have found for me the easiest way to be led by the Lord is in the morning before work. After I spend some time fellowshiping with Him I like to write on a piece of paper any decisions that I have to make. I then pray over the things on the list and ask the Lord to guide me the way that He would have me to go. Let's say on my list was a specific advertisement. I close my eyes and get quiet and then I picture myself meeting with the sales rep from the advertisement company, if I have a draw to keep thinking about it and a peace about it that's the inward witness pulling me toward it. If I have a scratchy feeling on the inside about doing it, it's like a check or a no. My head might like the idea but it just feels scratchy on the inside and hard to think about. That means no. I have learned that

decisions that I have to make that day are a lot easier to get a yes or a no than something far off. I know my flesh likes to know what I am going to be doing 6 months from now. Sometimes I will try to get a witness about something down the road and I get nothing, neither a yes or no. I think it's because He is a faith God and He doesn't want to tell us answers for stuff that we don't need now but at times He does as He sees fit. Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Our faith is what brings Him pleasure. When a trial comes up that looks terrible you bring Him pleasure when you say I am not going to look to that problem I am going with what the Word says. Being led by the Lord is like anything else, we grow as we do it. Don't get discouraged if you miss it. We are humans and we all can miss it. As you take time to

wait on Him it will become easier and easier.

## Chapter 4

# What are you saying about your business?

### Proverbs 18:21

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

Our words are very important. Proverbs 18:21 says that we control death and life by the words that we speak. How did you and I become a Christian? We became a Christian by our words. Romans 10:9-10 says, “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the

mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Our words are our faith talking or they are our doubt and unbelief talking. We can speak death over our business or we can speak life over our business. When I first started walking with the Lord, I used to think that my words were not important. I would pray to the Lord over my life and business but then the rest of the week I would at times undue my prayers or faith by talking unbelief to friends or family. This was the hardest thing for me to correct once I started walking close with the Lord and I am not perfect at it but I have come a long way. As my faith started to grow the Lord would check me at times after conversations with people about how I talked to them. I remember one time I was talking to a friend of mine and he asked when I was going to do something (I don’t even remember what it was). And I said Oh I’ll do that sometime in the winter when I don’t have any work. As soon as I was

through talking to the person I had a dead feeling on the inside or a check. I repented to the Lord and realized I had to start watching what comes out of my mouth. I had been praying to the Lord in faith about having work year round and I was undoing my prayers with my doubt and unbelief. Sometimes we think we are being humble by talking about the problem. I remember back when the gas prices were climbing talking to different people and agreeing with them and saying things like yeah, I don't know what I am going to do, I won't be able afford the gas either. I thought that I was being humble by agreeing with them but God calls what I was saying an evil report. In Numbers 13, God told Moses to send some men to explore the land of Canaan (the promise land) which I am giving you. He didn't ask them to see if they thought they could take the land. He just wanted them to explore it. So Moses sends 12 guys to spy it out. They return after 40

days with huge grapes and 10 of them said that the land flows with milk and honey **but** the people are strong and the cities are walled and the people are giants. They then said, we are not able to go up against them because they are stronger than us. The Bible then says in verse 32 that they brought an evil report. This shocked me when I first saw that God called this an evil report. These were good people that Moses picked to spy out the land, they were also leaders. All they did was say what they saw; you could say they were being honest. God said that He would give the land to them but they said that they couldn't because the situation looked too hard. It sounds like me earlier. But God's Word says that everything I set my hand to prospers or pushes forward and advances. I was just saying what I saw or experienced like the 10 spies. I thought I was being humble just like they probably thought. But if I talk about not having work in the future

or gas being too expensive the Lord calls this an evil report. And according to Proverbs 18:21 if I say I won't be able to afford the gas then I won't. If I say I will run out of work then I will. Now after growing in these truths and seeing that they work I would rather swear than to say I couldn't afford gas or talk about not having enough work, or talk about my health declining. If you know the story, these ten good people never got to enter into the promise land because of their words. But Joshua and Caleb said, Let us go and possess the land, we can do it because God is with us. And eventually Joshua and Caleb got to enter into the promise land. Here is what we can learn from Joshua and Caleb if we want to walk in our promise land. They heard God's Word. They believed God's Word over what they saw, experienced, and felt. They said what God said instead of agreeing with the people around them. They eventually entered into the promise land. If we hear

the Word, believe the Word, and speak the Word we will enter into our promise land in due season. Some of the promises of God take time to receive. Joshua and Caleb never complained even though it took a lot of time for them to get to the promise land. I am convinced that if they had started talking doubt and unbelief, after time had passed they would have never entered in. We need to be the same way. If we see a promise in God's Word, we need to stand and believe until it comes to pass. Take time daily to speak God's Word over your life and business. If you drive in the Truck alone this is a great place to do it. I enjoy spending time in the Truck speaking His Word over my life and also spending time thanking Him and praising Him.

# Conclusion

I believe you will greatly enjoy the Lord's presence while you work more than any other benefit you will get from this book. On July 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 as I was putting away my laundry and spending time in prayer and praising Him, His Presence came on me and He gave this Word to me that has blessed me. You can receive this word for yourself if you would like as well because the whole thing is scripture that He tailored for my life. "Ye even in these times My Word works and My Word always will work. Take care of My business and I will take care of your business, your things and your cares. Oh but that's not the reward, the reward is My Presence. Even in trials there will be My peace and a voice inside saying this is the way walk ye in it. Oh ye will always know what to do and where to go but your comfort won't be in things

seen. It will be in my presence and my voice.”

# A 'Must' for every contractor that wants to grow in the Lord and Prosper

In the Christian Contractor you will learn ways to grow in your relationship with the Lord out on the job using the time you already have. We all have busy lives but the Bible teaches that we are to walk with the Lord and experience His Presence every day.

- Learn about God's blue print for prospering and having good success
- Find out God's way to increase your faith
- How to hear from the Lord when making decisions
- Learn the importance of speaking the right words over your business

