

Learn how to find your true purpose and honour God at work

part of the



a gift from **UCB.CO.UK**

# Overcoming Work and Unemployment Issues



**UCB** UNITED CHRISTIAN BROADCASTERS



## Index of abbreviations

All scripture references are from the King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

AMP Amplified Bible • NIV New International Version • NAS New American Standard

NKJ New King James Version • NCV New Century Version • TM The Message • TLB The Living Bible

NRS New Revised Standard Version • PHPS Phillips N.T. in Modern English

• GWT God's Word Translation • TEV Today's English Version • NEB New English Bible

UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF  
T: 0845 60 40 401 (local rate call) E: [ucb@ucb.co.uk](mailto:ucb@ucb.co.uk)

# Welcome

## to Overcoming Work and Unemployment Issues

'Whatever you feel about work, there's one truth you can't escape: work is part of your life's purpose'

**W**hen you hear the word 'work', what do you immediately feel? Does the thought of it make your heart leap or your stomach sink? The night before you return to work after a week off, do you feel excited or depressed? Do you like doing what you were made for – or is it more like you have to be made to do it?

Some of us love our work, others loathe it. Some of us feel stimulated by it, others bored out of our minds. Some of us always seem to have too much of it, others never quite enough. But whatever you feel about work, there's one truth you can't escape: work is part of your life's purpose.

As we were welcomed into God's creation, work – as He intended it – was gifted to us as a good thing (Genesis 2:15). But just a few verses later, everything changed. As a result of sin, it was not only our relationship with God that was damaged, but also our relationship with everything He had given us. No longer in harmony with creation, work stopped being a joy and became toil (Genesis 3:17).

Though we may have experienced reconciliation with God and a restored relationship with Him, many of us are still at odds with our work in one way or another. Yet the Bible says '...we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do' (Ephesians 2:10 NIV).

This makes your purpose vital and your potential immeasurable! So wherever you're at with work, don't be discouraged. Instead, let us be reconciled to the true role of work in our lives and re-envisioned to live it out as God intended.

**The Overcoming Series is designed to help people like you find God's help in dealing with the challenges that face us all.**

Contained in these little booklets are big truths from God's Word, guidance on how to pray, and practical suggestions for change. Turn over to begin reading a selection of articles and testimonies written by people who understand what you're going through and long to help you overcome.

Then, starting on page 16, there are 28 readings from Bob Gass, author of The Word For Today, to help you practice new thought patterns and habits day by day for a month. As the Bible says, 'He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world' (1 John 4:4). With the help of our great God, you can overcome any challenge you face.



Discover the other titles in the Overcoming Series on page 35

# Work and Unemployment Issues -

## Where do I start?

Meeting somebody new, the first question we often ask is 'What do you do?'

A very good place to start is by answering the question:  
**what is work?**

We were all created to work (Genesis 2:15 NIV). Whether we are employed or not is actually something a little different. In the UK, there were 29.6 million people in work in September 2012. But this number doesn't include the millions who work outside of the workplace – those dedicating time to raising a family, for instance, or those who volunteer their time with churches or charities.

In today's society, the word 'vocation' has come to refer to a chosen job or career. But in truth, the word comes from the Latin root word 'vocare' – meaning 'call' – and originally it was a word that particularly applied to the calling of God on a person's life.

Some of us feel a strong inclination towards a particular work-area or role from an early age. Others can identify a moment when seemingly God imparted a desire for their future and they felt 'called'. Still more of us struggle for years feeling that we haven't really discovered what we are called to do. Yet we all have a specific vocation; we are all called. (Romans 8:30, 1 Corinthians 7:17)

Our pursuit is the heart of God – His purpose for our lives and His calling set within us

Though it may sound strange, in order to explore our calling, or 'vocation', we need to begin by laying down our 'employment' status. We need to forget about any job title we may have and set aside our current work issues. Our pursuit in this is the heart of God – His purpose for our lives and His calling set within us.

Only when we see both work and what it means to be a worker as God intended can we apply a biblical set of values and a godly work ethic to our individual situations, with the right perspective. With 30% of our lives spent at work, it seems well worth the time exploring it.

When we meet somebody new, the first question we often ask is 'What do you do?' but the Bible asks 'What is your life?' (James 4:14 ESV) Your life is so much more than work and your purpose extends far beyond employment. In His bestselling book *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren says 'The way you see your life shapes your life.'

Whilst employment and the inevitable search for it at various stages can test us and our faith to the limit, it need not shape the way that we see our lives. Let us work at pushing into God and His purposes for us here on earth.

# Step by step

Your guide to overcoming work issues with God's help

'What you are is God's gift to you; what you do with yourself is your gift to God' – Danish proverb

How can we know God more, discover the call that He has put on our lives, and work to His glory – whether we are currently employed or not? Here are seven practical steps to encourage us to engage with God's P.U.R.P.O.S.E. for us, one letter at a time.

## P... is for PRAY

**G**ustav Wingren says 'Prayer is the door through which God Creator and Lord, enters creatively into the home, community and labour.' God is already at work in our situations (John 5:17 NIV); the question is, are we inviting Him in?

We may be part-time, full-time or not-at-this-time employees but we are all full-time Christians, and being

tempted to separate our day job from other areas of life, or viewing church work as more 'holy' than other vocations, is not really helpful.

Though there are 'different kinds of working', the same God is at work in all of them (1 Corinthians 12:6 NIV). Let us not shut God out of our work by missing opportunities for conversation with Him.

**TRY...**



Invite God in to your work. Look for a trusted friend or colleague to pray with about your work situation on a regular basis.

## U is for... UNDERSTAND VOCATION

**I**n his book *God at Work*, Gene Edward Veith Jr suggests that it is when we do not understand our vocation that we are 'plagued by lack of purpose'.

Vocation is very simply about doing the things that God has prepared for us to do – it is more than a career or a single path.

God often gives us multiple vocations at any given time: father, friend, network analyst, musician. It will look different for everyone (1 Corinthians 7:17 ESV), but your present situation is your current vocation. Even if you face redundancy or are out of employment, you're not out of work – your vocation continues.

**TRY...**



Make a list all of your current vocations. Think about how you can work diligently with '...all your heart, as working for the Lord' (Colossians 3:23 NIV) in each one.

'If the Christian faith is not relevant in the workplace, it is not relevant at all' – Ken Costa

## R is for... REFLECT

**'H**ide not your talents. They for use were made', wrote Benjamin Franklin. Each of us has natural, God-given strengths and talents which were made and shaped by Him (Job 10:8). One Danish proverb puts it this way: 'What you are is God's gift to you; what you do with yourself is your gift to God'. If we are going to work with purpose,

then we should spend some time reflecting on who God has created us to be. Although we never stop growing – always learning how to do new things and old things in new ways – we are likely to be most fulfilled when we are serving God using our natural strengths.

Take time to explore your God-given gifts. If you're not sure what they are, a close friend or family member will have some suggestions.



**TRY...**

## P is for... PURSUE PERSPECTIVE

**S**ometimes the best way to change a situation that you face is to find a different way of looking at it. Perspective changes everything: rather than being a 'job' what if you saw your current vocation as: an outworking of your purpose, an expression of your relationship with God, a gift to you, part of a plan, or an opportunity to serve others?

As you draw near to God in pursuit of His perspective, you will find that 'He will draw near to you'(James 4:8 ESV). Whilst we often long for God to change situations that we face, sometimes we will find that it is us who must first be changed.

Pursue God and asking Him to give you a fresh perspective for the current situation within your workplace or search for employment.



**TRY...**

## O is for... OBSERVE

In his book *God at Work*, Ken Costa says, 'If the Christian faith is not relevant in the workplace, it is not relevant at all...'

God is constantly opening opportunities in our vocation, giving us choices and directing our path to communicate the gospel through our words, actions and ethics. Engaging with our environment is important if we are to be reconciled to our work.

Consider the story of Joseph in the Bible (Genesis 37–50). He felt a particular call on his life as a boy and God took him on an incredible journey in order to prepare him for his role in later life. Yet at every stage, whether in slavery, prison or the palace, he engaged with his environment and by demonstrating integrity, trustworthiness and wisdom he earned a place of respect and influence for God.

TRY...



Ask yourself: are you striving to control your environment, or engaging with how God is at work in it? Try taking a mental step back from your duties and try to see the opportunities that God is handing you.

## S is for... SERVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

God made it very clear that our 'good works' were never going to be enough to save us (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV) – it is only our faith in Christ Jesus that achieves this.

If we are working to secure our salvation or God's approval, then we have missed the meaning of our work.

Instead, writes Gustav Wingren, 'God does not need our good works, but our

neighbour does.' Serving others through our work is part of God's purpose for our lives. It reflects the mission of Jesus who 'came not to be served but to serve' (Matthew 20:28 NIV) and fulfils the commandment to 'love your neighbour as yourself' (Matthew 22:37 NIV).

TRY...



Consider this: every single role we operate in hands us an opportunity to serve. Who is your 'neighbour' and how could you serve them in your individual situations?

## E is for... EXALT GOD

Writing about the relationship between God and work, Ken Costa points out that 'The Hebrew word for work and worship is the same – avodah.' It glorifies God when we fulfil the vocation which he hands us, with the right motivations and attitudes as He is our real employer.

Jesus himself sets us the example of glorifying God on earth by '... completing down to the last detail... what He had been assigned to do' (John 17:4 TM). So let your work be a way of expressing the unique 'you' as your worship to God.

Ask yourself: Who does my work exalt? Let us return to God, His purposes for our time here on earth and bless Him in all that we do.



TRY...

FEB/MAR/APR 2013

THE UC  
**WORD**  
FOR TODAY

ENCOURAGING WORDS EVERY DAY

UCB  
UNITED  
CHRISTIAN  
BROADCASTERS

Encouraging  
Words  
Every Day.

Call 0845 60 40 401 to get your FREE copy

# RESPONDING - to - REDUNDANCY



How to cope when you've lost your job, by Robin Scurlock

**LOSING A JOB** is often compared with losing a relative. Redundancy can initiate a process of grieving for something that is very familiar, provides security and is a stable part of future planning. The early weeks are often likened to a rollercoaster in terms of emotional highs and lows.

---

*'ALTHOUGH REDUNDANCY MAY HAVE BEEN A SURPRISE TO YOU, IT WAS NOT A SURPRISE TO GOD'*

---

The truth is, that when you've had the track pulled from beneath you, you are not sure where to tread next. But although redundancy may have been a surprise to you, it was not a surprise to God. Our lives can be governed by seasons of activity and inactivity. Coming to terms with change involves letting go and allowing God's purpose to be revealed through unpromising circumstances.

**Robin Scurlock is the co-author (with Steve Goss) of I Love My Work, six studies to help churches understand and equip Christians in the workplace. Find out more at [www.ilovemywork.co.uk](http://www.ilovemywork.co.uk)**

God knows our material and emotional needs. The losses caused by redundancy provide Him with the opportunity to demonstrate his promised provision as we depend on Him more. He is our Jehovah Jireh.

One of the realities of unexpected change is that it forces us to think hard about our priorities, about what we want to do with our time and energies. The urgency of finding new work can be alleviated by a redundancy payment, but this is not always the case, and the pressure to earn money again can be overwhelming. However, thinking through a change of direction can be a very positive activity if done prayerfully and openly before God.

Jesus learnt to depend on God in times of pressure, and has promised to help us in the same way through his Spirit. We can grow up spiritually through these times of testing, and our character is refined in the process.

We do not know the future, but we do know that in Christ, all things in the future hang together.

## A new perspective on redundancy: Gerry's story

**GERRY WAS UNABLE** to tell his wife and children that he had lost his job for a whole week because he felt so cut off from what he had previously thought was his cast-iron management role. He needed to choose the right time, when he was ready, because it had come as such a shock to him.

The whole experience hit his self-confidence very hard, and he found he withdrew into a kind of shell where social contact with old friends became quite an effort. He began to feel useless, and that nothing he did had any purpose. Normally a very positive person, he found that even the smallest challenges became high mountains. He found it difficult to think creatively about possible

new positions and he could not come to terms with the stigma which he felt was associated with not having a job. What faith he had in God did not seem to be relevant to his circumstances since he felt abandoned by his company.

But gradually, with the help of church friends and through being encouraged in prayer, his perspective on life changed. He had bought into the idea that his identity was his work, and this was clearly not true. Over months he was helped to see things differently. As he shared his situation with others, the burden lifted. He started to feel able to trust in God for the next phase of his life in a way that he'd never trusted before.

# WORKPLACE MINISTRY

Learning to be fruitful on the frontline, by Charles Hipsley

*'WE DON'T NEED  
TO LEAVE GOD AT  
THE DOOR WHEN  
WE GO TO WORK'*

**ANITA WORKED FOR** a pharmaceuticals company. She and her fellow scientists would come to work each morning and shuffle off to their individual research stations to carry out important research. And then in the evening they would shuffle out again and go home. It wasn't long before Anita realised that this way of doing things wasn't good for them and wasn't good for the business either... nobody shared ideas, nobody knew what else was going on that could have been relevant. There was no teamwork.

So Anita decided to try and change things. She performed an experiment to see how many scientists would come out of their cubicles if offered freshly brewed coffee and chocolate biscuits at 11am on a Friday. And she discovered that 97 per cent of scientists would indeed emerge! They started to talk to each other – and discovered that they could help each other with ideas and techniques.

Who would have thought that chocolate biscuits could be an instrument of the Kingdom? But they were for Anita. Through those biscuits and coffee she improved relationships amongst her

colleagues, together with their teamwork. So it was good not only for them, but for the business as well.

The gospel really is good news, not just for our working colleagues but also for our work and workplaces. When we work, we can reflect our working God who created beauty and order, gave us a means of providing for ourselves, our families and others less fortunate, and a way to release the huge potential that lies in people and the world around us.

And as we work, we can join in with God's bigger mission: to help fix what was broken when we decided to go our own way in that first workplace, Eden. We don't need to leave God at the door when we go to work. We can be those who shape the world on God's behalf as we work and be shaped by him through our work.

Sometimes though we need help to see what being a disciple of Christ looks like in a world of work that can seem so remote from our church community. At LICC, we've designed a framework that could help you work it through. We call it '7Ms'. Ask yourself these questions:

## With God's help, how could I...

**Make good work?** – doing good work intentionally for the Lord: giving your best with His help.

**Model godly character?** – how might we manifest the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?

**Minister grace and love?** – the way we work, the way we set up a meeting, the way we do an appraisal, with the other person's interests at heart.

**Make culture?** – how are things done in your workplace? Is there anything you could do to help change them for the better?

**Make learners of Jesus' ways?** – how could you show others what Jesus is like by what you do or how you do it, so that they see it's good and join in?

**Be a Mouthpiece for truth and justice?** – speaking up for what is true and just, or against what is unfair or unhealthy.

**Be a Mouthpiece for the gospel?** – praying and being prepared for the opportunity to share something of what Jesus has done in your life.

Clearly we can't do all these at once... we need discernment as well. So ask God for eyes to see what you're already doing, and be encouraged. Ask God for eyes to see what you might do, and be courageous.

Remember this doesn't need to be complicated – a packet of biscuits could be enough!

**Charles Hipsley is the Director of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity's Work Forum. You can find further resources to support you as a Christian at work on LICC's website [www.licc.org.uk](http://www.licc.org.uk)**



Do **you** need  
someone to  
**pray** with?

Call **UCB Prayerline**  
on **0845 456 7729** (UK)\*  
**1890 940 300** (ROI)\*

Or visit **ucb.co.uk/prayer**

All calls treated confidentially by trained volunteers  
\*(local rate call)

**UCBPRAYER**

*More help with Work and Unemployment Issues*

## Advice and Guidance

Advice on employment and understanding our rights and responsibilities in the workplace is offered by a variety of well-resourced organisations. For practical support in these areas you may wish to seek advice and guidance from the following:

### Problems at work

#### Citizen's Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice service helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing a free, independent and confidential advice.  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

### Finding work

#### Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus operates nationwide in the UK, providing fully integrated benefit claiming and work placement and job-seeking activities for people of working age.  
[www.jobcentreonline.com](http://www.jobcentreonline.com)

#### Flexible learning opportunities

Training for a new career is widely available and there are support options for those who can't afford to pay the full cost. Learndirect and The Open University offer training courses and qualifications through home-study and at locations nationwide.  
[www.learndirect.co.uk](http://www.learndirect.co.uk) and [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)

### Being a Christian in the workplace

#### LICC Work Forum

Designed to envision and equip disciples of Jesus to be confident missionaries in today's workplace, offering resources and the Executive Toolbox events.  
[www.licc.org.uk/engaging-with-work](http://www.licc.org.uk/engaging-with-work)

### Transform Work

Help encourage and equip Christians to start or join a Christian workplace groups.  
[www.transformworkuk.org](http://www.transformworkuk.org)

### Further Reading

*God at Work* by Gene E Veith Jr (Crossway)

*Your Work Matters to God* by Doug Sherman and William Hendricks (NavPress)

*God at Work* by Ken Costa (Continuum)

*Stress: How to De-Stress Without Doing Less* by Dr Kate Middleton (Lion)

*Every Good Endeavour* by Timothy Keller (Hodder & Stoughton)



# Your 28 Days of Change

God's spirit is in you and...

'He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world'

It takes time to change long-standing thought patterns, habits and behaviour. We need to keep coming before God in our brokenness and asking for His help.

The rest of this Overcoming booklet is designed to help bring you before God for the next 28 days – to learn from His wisdom in His Word and to access His healing power through prayer.

Make a decision to set aside the time each day to read and respond in prayer. Don't worry if you miss a day or two, just pick up wherever you left off.

Keep a notebook and pen nearby to jot down anything that occurs to you while you read, or quotes that inspire you to think differently. Trust that God will speak to you personally about your healing over the coming weeks.

Remember, Jesus is on your side, willing you to succeed. Right now, He is praying to the Father on your behalf.

God's Spirit is in you, and 'He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world' (1 John 4:4).



The daily readings are written by Bob and Debby Gass, authors of *The UCB Word For Today*, and originally appeared there first. Over a million people around the world read Bob and Debby's warm, encouraging words each day.

You can receive a quarterly copy of *The UCB Word For Today* free of charge – see the back page for more details.

## DAY 1 Get cracking

'I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ... wants me to be' **Philippians 3:12 NLT**

**IF YOUR GOAL** is to become all God wants you to be, then more resolutions aren't the answer. Based on your track record, you know just about how long they last. But don't let past performance stand in the way of your future plans.

Here's an important key: if you focus only on the end result, you'll get overwhelmed. Tackle one thing at a time. Start with a specific area, even a difficult one. Golfer Arnold Palmer said: 'The most rewarding things in life are often ones that look like they can't be done!'

Here's a four-point plan to get you started:

1) No more excuses. By saying, 'That's just the way I am,' or 'Everybody does it,' you rationalise disobedience and diminish conviction. Don't say that anymore!

2) Set manageable goals. Approach your target with a rifle, not a shotgun. Instead of reaching for everything, grasp only those things that are important to your personal growth this year.

3) Be reasonable. It takes 21 days for a habit to take root. Setbacks are part of the process. If you get off track, just get back on again! Perseverance is the secret!

4) Be optimistic. Paul says, 'We are saved by hope' (Romans 8:24 KJV). Keep reminding yourself that 'with God's help I can do it,' and you'll discover you can! Change is painful; not changing is even more painful! Remember, Paul didn't say he'd arrived, he said, 'I keep working toward that day' (Philippians 3:12 NLT).

So, what are you waiting for? Get cracking!

### Prayer Point

Father, thank you for the opportunities you have placed in my life to serve others and to serve you. Help me Lord to see the benefit in the things that I do and keep a positive perspective about my work even when it seems to be going wrong. Thank you Lord for my abilities, my God-given wisdom and the confidence I have in you. Let me see your Kingdom come in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## DAY 2 Superwoman!

'Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all' **Proverbs 31:29 NIV**

**PROVERBS CHAPTER 31** can be either your launching pad or your gallows: it's up to you! Do you think you should be able to do it all; have a successful career, be a wife and a lover, win the mother-of-the-year award and cook like Delia Smith? You can be all God wants you to be, but not all at once. You need to tackle each thing in season.

Solomon says there is 'a season for every activity' (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV). The secret is to enjoy the season you're in right now. If you don't learn to do that, everybody will suffer, especially you. You'll find yourself resenting your kids, your husband and the 101 things that seem to take up all your time. Don't set yourself up for failure by

demanding perfection in every area of your life. Ask God to help you set obtainable goals; ones that stretch you, not stress you!

Paul says, 'I consider my life worth nothing... my only aim is to... complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me...' (Acts 20:24 NIV). What has God given you to do today? If it's raising children, do it with joy, for soon they'll be grown up and gone. If it's a career, become 'salt and light' on the job; influence those around you for God. You're not a failure because you can't do it all, you're just human! The grace required comes with the assignment given. Beyond that, you're on your own!

## DAY 3 When it's time to move

'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen' **Hebrews 11:1 KJV**

**WHEN YOUR PASSION** for something fades, the grace to accomplish usually goes with it. Does that mean it's time to leave what you've invested so much in? Here are a few thoughts:

1) Get away and rest. Stress-filled minds are not noted for coming up with good answers. Spend time with God. He's already determined your future (Isaiah 46:10).

2) You're not the only one involved. If you don't know how (or you're unwilling) to pass the baton to someone who can take things to the next level, you lose, they lose and the dream loses. When you've killed your giant, get out of the way and let the next person kill theirs.

### Prayer Point

Lord, as I focus on pressing forward in the plans You have for my life, help me to really start to take steps towards making those plans a reality. When that means I need help, Lord, let me be humble enough to be a team player and when that means I may need to re-evaluate things in my life, even if it means making new friends, give me the boldness to do that in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## DAY 4 Who are you following?

'Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct' **Hebrews 13:7 KJV**

**SOME PEOPLE** can take less and do more with it because they've got faith. Speaking of these people, God says, 'Follow them.' Let's break this verse down: a) 'Remember those who have the rule over you.' Are you willing to submit to authority? If not, your future's not very bright. b) 'Who have spoken the Word of God to you.' Who feeds you spiritually? Your hunger, not your talent, determines your future. c) 'Whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.' Who should your mentor be? Somebody whose faith produces the results you want.

How did Elisha earn the right to wear Elijah's mantle?

1) By recognising and pursuing him, regardless of where the journey took him.

3) Don't just focus on what you're leaving behind. Think also about what you're taking with you when you go; like self-worth, wisdom, faith for the next challenge and the joy of knowing you've done the will of God. Listen: 'I have brought You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do' (John 17:4 NIV). Faith is a 'substance'. You can take it with you wherever you go. It'll grow in any climate, thrive in any economy and move any mountain. It's the voice within you that says, 'I can't wait to see what God has for me next.' It's the greatest evidence that what you can conceive, by God's help, you can achieve!

2) By honouring him, especially when others didn't.

3) By drawing water from his well, until he had some in his own.

4) By serving him, knowing that if you can't serve, you'll never qualify to be served.

5) By obeying him. 'Isn't that glorifying an individual?' you ask. No! Paul told Timothy to follow him as he followed Christ. You don't follow the man; you follow God in the man! You catch his mantle by receiving his instructions, standing on his shoulders and making his hindsight your foresight. Today, ask God to bring such a person into your life.

## DAY 5 Seize the day

'Making the most of every opportunity...' **Ephesians 5:16 NIV**

**THERE'S NO 'MAGIC AGE'** at which excellence emerges or quality suddenly appears. With God, you're never too young and never too old! Thomas Jefferson was 33 when he drafted the US Declaration of Independence. Charles Dickens was 24 when he began the Pickwick Papers and 25 when he wrote Oliver Twist. Newton was 24 when he formulated the law of gravity.

But if you think 'movers and shakers' can be found only amongst the young, think again: Verdi was 80 when he produced Falstaff. Goethe was 80 when he completed Faust. Tennyson was 80 when he wrote Crossing the Bar. Michelangelo was doing his best work at 87. And how about Noah? He was aged 500 when he preached his first sermon and

over 600 when he came out of the ark and helped start the world all over again. Seize the day! Redeem the 'now' moments of your life! The time or the age you're waiting for may never arrive!

James writes, '...the word for you who brashly announce, "Today – at the latest, tomorrow – we're off to such and such a city for a year. We're going to start a business and make a lot of money." You don't know the first thing about tomorrow. You're nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing. Instead, make it a habit to say, "If the Master wills it and we're still alive, we'll do this or that."' (James 4:13-15 TM). The moment, once past, will never return. So do it now!

### Prayer Point

Help me Lord to realise the potential opportunities of today, and tell me Lord, what would You have me do today? What should I put my energy towards? Show me, Lord, the matters of the Kingdom, that I could see what Your hand is touching so I can truly rejoice in what you are leading me to do for You. Lord, help me seize hold of all You have for my life. Amen.

## DAY 6 Look for God's hand in it!

'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes' **Matthew 21:42 NIV**

**SOMETIMES THE REJECTION** of others turns out to be 'the Lord's doing.' After Joseph had been betrayed by his brothers and slandered by Potiphar's wife, he said, 'You intended to harm me; but God meant it for good' (Genesis 50:20 NIV).

How often has something happened in your life that you later realised was necessary? If you hadn't sustained this or walked through that you wouldn't be ready for the blessings you're enjoying right now. It's when you see the hand of God in it that you begin to understand that what the enemy meant for your destruction, God used for your development. To be more than a conqueror means to stand up and

say, 'Here's how I see it. It took all I've been through to make me who I am today and to teach me what I know. I choose to be better, not bitter. I trust the faithfulness of God more than ever. If faith doesn't move the mountain, it will give me strength to endure until tomorrow. And if it's not gone by tomorrow, I'll still believe that God is able and trust Him until He acts.'

Rejoice! Your steps (and your stops) are being arranged by God. They're also being observed by Him. When you get through this, you'll realise that 'the worst thing that could have happened' is, in reality, 'the Lord's doing,' and it'll become marvellous in your eyes.

# UCB2GO

**Shopping that has a lasting effect...**

**Great Christian books, Bibles and CD's where all the profits go back into spreading God's Word throughout our nation!**



**UCB2GO.CO.UK**

## DAY 7 **Get a life!** 'Well done, good and faithful servant!' Matthew 25:21 NIV

**CHECK OUT THIS ADVICE** given by novelist Anna Quindlen, at a university graduation ceremony: 'Don't confuse your life with your work. What you are will always be more important than what you do. There'll be many others with your same degree, doing what you want to do, maybe doing it better. But you have sole custody, not only of your life, but of your mind and of your heart.'

'It's easier to write a résumé than craft a spirit or build a character. And a résumé is cold comfort when you're sad, broke, lonely or you've received back the test results and they're not so good. I no longer consider myself the centre of the universe. I show up. I listen. I try to laugh. I make my marriage vows mean something. I pray. I'm good to my friends, because without them I'd be a cardboard cut-out.'

'Get a life, not a manic pursuit of the next promotion or bigger paycheque or larger house. Do you really think you'd care about those things if you had a suspected stroke or found a lump in your breast?'

'Get a life in which you are generous. All of you want to do well but if you don't do good, doing well will never be enough.' Do it right the first time because life's not a dress rehearsal. Discover God's will for you and give yourself unreservedly to it. Live with the end in view; the final graduation when you'll want to hear the words, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant' (Matthew 25:21 NKJ).

### Prayer Point

Lord, show me what life really is; show me the value of me in Your Kingdom. Your word says You know every hair on my head, and I believe it. Help me see the fullness of You in me, help me know the depth of Your character, the depth of Your grace, Your mercy and love, that I might one day hear You say 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.'

## DAY 8 **The right to lead** 'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous...' Joshua 1:9 NIV

**ON MAY 28, 1970**, when a land mine injured one of his soldiers, General Norman Schwarzkopf flew to where the man lay. While his helicopter was evacuating him, another man stepped on a mine, severely injuring his leg. That's when everyone realised they were standing in a minefield. Schwarzkopf knew the injured man could survive, even keep his leg, but only if he stopped flailing around. There was only one thing Schwarzkopf could do: go to the man and immobilise him.

In his autobiography he wrote, 'I started through the mine field one slow step at a time, staring at the ground, looking for tell-tale bumps or little prongs sticking up from the dirt. My knees were shaking so hard that each

time I took a step I had to grab my leg and steady it with both hands, before I could take another. It seemed like a thousand years before I reached that kid.' The 240-pound Schwarzkopf pinned the wounded man and calmed him down. Eventually, he got him and the others out of the minefield. Later that night, when Schwarzkopf was at the hospital, three black soldiers stopped him and said, 'Sir, we saw what you did for the brother out there. We'll never forget it.' Until that moment it hadn't occurred to Schwarzkopf that the soldier he had saved was black. The army gave Schwarzkopf the power to lead. His skills gave him the ability to lead. But only character and courage can give you the right to lead!

## DAY 9 Never compromise your integrity

'The integrity of the honest keeps them on track; the deviousness of crooks brings them to ruin' Proverbs 11:3 TM

**IN WHAT HE CALLS** a compromise of integrity, psychiatrist Leo Randall analyses the relationship between former President Richard Nixon and some of his closest confidants. He records a conversation between Senator Howard Baker and presidential aide, Herbert Porter. Baker: 'Did you ever have qualms about what you were doing?' Porter: 'Yes.' Baker: 'What did you do about it?' Porter: 'Nothing!' Baker: 'Why?' Porter: 'Group pressure. I was afraid of not being considered a team player.'

Joseph said 'no' to Potiphar's wife, not because he couldn't get away with it but because he couldn't live with himself afterwards.

Ted Engstrom writes, 'The world needs people who cannot be bought; whose word is their bond;

### Prayer Point

Father, help me be strong of character. Let my decisions be following Your character as laid out in Your Word. Show me clearly, Lord, when I make questionable decisions that hurt or hinder, and teach me the ways of Your Kingdom, that I might know what the right things to do are, and stop taking the easy routes ahead in life, so my gifting might be used to its full. Amen.

## DAY 10 Use your gift

'A man's gift makes room for him...' Proverbs 18:16 NKJ

**WHAT YOU'RE STRUGGLING** with right now is part of your preparation. Get ready; what the enemy meant for evil, God's about to turn to good. (Genesis 50:20). When God brought David to the palace he was a wild uncouth shepherd boy with sheep dung on his boots. But God said, 'You're about to be promoted. I saw you kill the bear and the lion; I was watching when you didn't even realise it.' Solomon said, 'A man's gift makes room for him...' (Proverbs 18:16).

David's gift may have been only a rag and a stone, but it opened the door to his future as Israel's king. He also used his gift to kill Goliath. Any time you fight the enemy, use only what you're gifted in! Don't try wearing somebody else's armour; it won't

who put character above wealth; who possess opinions and a will; who are larger than their vocations; who don't hesitate to take chances; who won't lose their individuality in a crowd; who'll be as honest in small things as they are in great things; who'll make no compromise with wrong; whose ambitions are not confined to their own selfish desires; who'll not say they do it 'because everybody else does it'; who are true to their friends through good report and evil report, in adversity as well as in prosperity; who do not believe that shrewdness, cunning and hard-headedness are the best qualities for winning success; who are not afraid to stand for the truth even when it's unpopular; who say 'No' with emphasis, even though the rest of the world says, 'Yes.' Try weighing yourself on those scales!

fit. Even if what you've got to work with doesn't seem like much, if God's behind it, it'll be more than enough to do the job.

When God spoke to Moses He asked him, 'What is that in your hand?' (Exodus 4:2 NKJ). He answered, 'A rod.' Imagine: a regular old walking stick! But God used it to part the Red Sea. Know what? God's already equipped you to do the job too. Just recognise what He's given you and start using it. 'But I'm not trained,' you say. All God needs is a teachable spirit, a yielded heart and somebody who'll pray, 'Lord, if You'll make me able, I'm more than willing.' Remember, when you give God what you've got, He'll give you what He's got and that makes your odds unbeatable!

## DAY 11 Are you giving it your all?

'The ultimate Master you're serving is Christ.' Colossians 3:24 TM

**AFTER SPENDING YEARS** in Rome working on life-sized sculptures, Michelangelo went to Florence, where a huge block of white Carrara marble had been obtained for a colossal statue. Within weeks, he'd signed an agreement to complete a rendition of David, one of his most famous masterpieces. Contract in hand, he started working with such passion that often he slept in his clothes, resenting the time it took to take them off and put them on again. He faultlessly examined and precisely measured the marble to see what pose it could accommodate. He made hundreds of sketches of possible attitudes and detailed drawings from models. He tested his ideas in wax on a small scale and only when he was satisfied did he pick up his chisel and mallet.

He approached painting the ceiling of The Sistine Chapel with the same intensity. Lying at uncomfortable angles on hard boards, breathing the suffocating air just under the vault, he suffered from inflamed eyes and skin irritation from the plaster dust. For the next four years, he literally sweated in physical distress as he worked, but look at what he produced!

If you're not passionate about what you do, find something you can be passionate about! Don't just make money, make an impact! Significance should be your goal, not survival. Listen: 'Don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best... Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ' (Colossians 3:23 TM).

### Prayer Point

As I identify the passion You have placed in my heart, I pray that You would make room for it, Lord. Help me develop outlets for what I know I was born for. Show me clearly, Lord, what I can channel my energy into which will leave a legacy in Your Kingdom. When I know, it, let me be determined and focussed, and give myself completely to see the gift You have created me to be.

## DAY 12 You can become a leader

'...I have grown and increased in wisdom' Ecclesiastes 1:16 TNIV

**DURING A SALES MEETING**, the sales manager was berating his staff for their dimly low sales figures. 'If you can't do the job, there are others out there just waiting to take your place,' he said. Pointing to a newly-recruited ex-pro football player he said, 'Ask him. If a team isn't winning they replace the players, right?' 'No,' he replied. 'If the team is having trouble, they replace the coach.'

Good news: leadership isn't something you're born with; the raw materials can be acquired. Link them up with desire, and nothing can keep you from becoming a leader. Think you're called to lead? Leaders are big-picture thinkers. They: a) see beyond the immediate crisis; b) place emphasis on vision, values and motivation; c) refuse to accept

the status quo; d) develop the skills to cope with conflicting requirements; e) manage others well by first learning to manage themselves.

Sandhill cranes are birds that fly great distances across continents. They've three remarkable qualities: a) they rotate leadership so that no bird stays out in front all the time; b) they choose leaders who can handle turbulence; c) when one bird leads, all the rest honk in support. Learn enough about leadership so that when God calls you, you're ready to take your place at the front of the pack. In every age, there comes a moment when leadership must come forward to meet the needs of the hour. So be encouraged, there is no potential leader who will not find his or her time!

# DAY 13 Who's qualified?

'The Lord does not look at the things man looks at'  
1 Samuel 16:7 NIV

**SOME OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST PEOPLE** weren't considered 'qualified'. David's oldest brother was a high-ranking officer in Saul's army but he'd neither the strategy nor the faith to take on Goliath. When Samuel came to the house of Jesse to pick King Saul's successor, Jesse brought out only seven of his eight sons. Why not David? Because he wasn't 'qualified'. Yet he became Israel's greatest king!

Did you hear about the newly hired travelling salesman who sent his first sales report to the home office? It stunned them. He wrote, 'I seen this outfit which ain't never bot nuthin from us, and I sole them a lot a goods. Now I'm goin to Chicawgo.' Before the sales manager could fire him, along came a second letter. 'I cum here to Chicawgo and sole them over

a millyon.' Fearful if he fired the salesman and concerned if he didn't, the sales manager dumped the problem into the lap of the president.

The following morning the sales department was amazed to see a memo from the president posted on the bulletin board beside the salesman's two letters. It said: 'We've ben spendin two much time tryin to spel and not enuf tryin to sel. Let's watch those sails. I want everybody should read these 2 letters from Gooch who is on the rode doin a grate job for us and you should go out and do like he dun.' Brilliance is not a diploma on a wall; it's intuition, initiative and integrity. Armed with God's help and these, you're more than qualified!

## Prayer Point

I realise, Lord, that success in life is not how many qualifications I have, or how much wealth. I can be influential in your Kingdom through loyal service and persistent action. Help me grow in confidence when it comes to the vision you have placed in my heart. Lord, You are the creator of the universe; surely if You have given me a vision, You believe I can do what You have placed within me. Thank You Lord. Amen.

# DAY 14 Do you have a vision?

'Where there is no vision, the people perish'  
Proverbs 29:18 KJV

**REFUSE** to let the word 'impossible' stop you. 'With God all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26 NIV). If the people who've changed the world had left every 'impossible' task undone, we'd still be living in the dark ages.

For example: 1) German experts predicted that trains travelling at 25 mph would cause such severe nosebleeds that the passengers would suffocate going through tunnels. American experts added that we'd need more asylums because people would go mad when they saw the first trains. 2) When the YWCA first announced typing lessons for women, there was a furious backlash on the grounds that the 'female constitution' would deteriorate under such strain. 3) Experts insisted that iron ships would never float and that the iron would wreak havoc with the

compass readings. 4) In 1797, New Jersey farmers denounced the first cast-iron plough insisting it would poison the land and stimulate weeds.

So much for 'experts'! More of us are persuaded into believing too little than believing too much! Vision is essential for survival. It's spawned by faith, sustained by hope, sparked by imagination and strengthened by God's Word. It's greater than sight, deeper than a dream and broader than an idea. It encompasses things outside the realm of the predictable, the safe and the expected. No wonder we would perish without it! A poet wrote, 'Beware of those who stand aloof, and greet each venture with reproof. The world would stop if things were run by those who say, "It can't be done."' If God's given you a vision, pursue it with all you've got!

# DAY 15 Getting in shape

'A wise person draws from the well within'  
Proverbs 20:5 TM

**ANY GOOD FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR** will tell you, 'Never make decisions when you're upside down. Get turned around; get your nose up and your wings straight – then re-chart your course.' The NEWSTART programme in California offers a simple, easy-to-remember acronym for getting in shape.

**N** – Nutrition. Are you eating right? If not, you'll suffer chemical imbalances that will affect your health, your energy levels and your moods. **E** – Exercise. God didn't create our bodies to be sedentary. Walking, even a mile a day, will dramatically improve your health. **W** – Water. Are you drinking enough of it? (6-8 glasses a day). If not, your immune system becomes weak and your kidneys can't flush out impurities. You're setting the stage for sickness. **S** – Sunlight. Light triggers two hormones responsible

for preventing the blues. The 'feel good' serotonin and the 'good sleep' melatonin. That's why some people get depressed when the days are shorter and darker. **T** – Temperance. Are you out of control in certain areas? It's essential that you submit your thoughts, your will, your emotions, and your appetites to God daily. **A** – Air. Are you getting enough fresh air? Inhaling deeply? Fully expanding your lungs? **R** – Rest. You need a good eight hours to complete the three cycles of sleep necessary to rejuvenate your body. **T** – Trust in God. Trust is the highest form of faith. It's simply believing that 'Everything is working for your good and God's glory' (paraphrase of Romans 8:28). Make up your mind today to get in shape!

## Prayer Point

Lord, I realise that sometimes, I'm a slob, I don't take care of myself and often create health problems by not doing the simple things over and over. I'm sorry Lord; please help me to be more disciplined with this and the spiritual side of my life, that I would do the little things in life often and well, that one day you would trust me with a higher calling than I am living out today. Amen.

# DAY 16 Three rules of success

'Live – not as unwise, but as wise'  
Ephesians 5:15 NIV

**MOST SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE** have learned to do three things: 1) Evaluate. Too many of us are like the merchant who was so busy trying to keep the store clean that he forgot to open the front door! The reason you're in business is to have customers and to make a profit, not to keep the store clean. Base your decisions on your purpose. 2) Motivate. 'David encouraged himself in the Lord' (1 Sam 30:6 KJV), because there was nobody else around to do it. Jude writes, 'building yourselves up... praying in the Holy Spirit' (Jude 20 NIV). When you learn to encourage yourself, pray for yourself and feed yourself, you've moved from milk and nappies to chargrilled steak! 3) Eliminate. Did you hear about the family who moved to the country to get

away from the noise and the traffic? Intending to raise cattle, they bought a ranch. A friend visited them and asked what they'd named the ranch. Dad said, 'I wanted to call it The Flying-W but Mom wanted to call it The Suzy-Q. One of our sons liked The Bar-J, but the other preferred The Lazy-Y. So we compromised and called it The Flying-W, Suzy-Q, Bar-J, Lazy-Y Ranch.' The friend asked, 'How are your cattle doing?' Dad replied, 'We don't have any – they didn't survive the branding!'

William H. Hinson wrote, 'He who seeks one thing may hope to achieve it. But he who seeks all things will reap from all he's sown, a harvest of barren regret.' Think about it!

# Great movies, teaching, music and much more on UCB TV



UCB  
TV

On Sky 585, online, iPhone app  
and on mobiles at [www.yamgo.mobi/ucb](http://www.yamgo.mobi/ucb)

[ucb.co.uk/tv](http://ucb.co.uk/tv)

## DAY 17 The can-do spirit

'Because... Caleb has a different spirit... I will bring him into the land...' **Numbers 14:24 NIV**

**DR. JAMES DOBSON** says that for years he was afraid to tackle the computer. As an author and broadcaster he recognised its potential value to him but he kept putting it off until 'someday'. Finally, aged in his 50s, he faced his fears and took lessons. Today he wonders how he ever coped without a computer. What are the messages in your head saying each time you've an opportunity to add a new skill or take on a fresh challenge? 'You can't teach an old dog new tricks?' 'You never were any good at this?' 'You'll only embarrass yourself?'

The ten spies Joshua sent into Canaan weren't defeated by the size of the giants but by their perception of them and by what they said about themselves. Listen: 'They are stronger... We seemed like grasshoppers...' (Numbers 13:31-33 NIV). Such

talk is terminal! Because Caleb had the 'can-do spirit', he saw his enemy and himself differently. Listen: 'We can certainly do it' (Numbers 13:30 NIV). Before achievement comes attitude. Always! If having to do everything right the first time is your prerequisite to trying, you'll accomplish nothing.

Actually, you'll end up wondering what you could've done had you been willing to: a) take a risk; b) learn from your experiences; c) allow God to show you what He can do through you. Every time you face up to another fear, fear loses its hold on you and you take one step closer to success. Go ahead! You'll never know what God can accomplish through you until you step out in faith and make yourself totally available to Him!

### Prayer Point

Lord, I refuse to live another day with a 'can't-do' spirit. Help me develop an enthusiasm to try the things I think I hate, to get beyond my smallest fear that my life would be a reflection of what I have overcome. Help me also not to get proud, Lord, so that even when I succeed, I would still know when it is time to serve and not lead, to join in and not stand apart, I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## DAY 18 Don't just operate – co-operate!

'We have shared together the blessings of God'  
**Philippians 1:7 TLB**

**ANDREW CARNEGIE** said, 'It marks a big step in your development when you realise that other people can help you do a better job than you can do by yourself.' (After all, you can't whistle a symphony; it takes an orchestra!) Your future is connected to certain people. Without them, your destiny will be incomplete. If you're humble enough to accept that, your possibilities are unlimited.

A key player in the Billy Graham Association was his childhood friend, Grady Wilson. In 1948, Billy asked Grady to come and work with him. At first he said no. But Billy persisted: 'God's told me you're to come and work with me. I need an evangelist; somebody who knows me and my ministry, somebody I can

trust.' 'I didn't want to come,' Wilson later recalled. 'After all, I already had a successful ministry of my own holding citywide crusades.' But after praying, he made the decision to follow Billy Graham (and God). He set aside his own dreams to be part of another man's. That decision made a huge difference, not only in his life but also in the lives of the multitudes they reached together.

Sometimes you have to sacrifice a smaller dream in order to fulfil a bigger one. It takes both courage and humility to do that. But look at the results. Heaven alone knows the impact Grady Wilson and Billy Graham had together. And what was Wilson's view on his decision? 'I never regretted it!'

# DAY 19 Be honest

'Provide things honest in the sight of all men'  
Romans 12:17 KJV

**IF YOU** always tell the truth, you'll never have to worry about remembering what you said. Nothing's more important than credibility. Lose that and you've lost everything!

George Jones started out as an assistant at a grocery shop. He quickly gained a reputation as a bright, ambitious employee, a man known for his work ethic, good manners and easy-going personality. But the foremost trait people referred to when praising George was his honesty. That's what later came to the attention of Henry J Raymond, the renowned journalist. Together they started The New York Times. Years later, when The Times waged a crusade against 'Boss Tweed' and his corrupt dynasty, Jones received

an under-the-table offer of \$500,000 – a vast sum at that time. All he had to do was retire to Europe. 'You can live like a prince the rest of your days,' said the con man making the offer. 'Yes,' replied Jones, 'and know myself every day to be a rascal.'

The poet wrote: 'I have to live with myself and so, I want to be fit for myself to know. I want to be able as days go by, always to look myself in the eye. I don't want to stand in the setting sun, and hate myself for the things I've done. I don't want to keep on a closet shelf, a lot of secrets about myself, and fool myself as I come and go, into thinking nobody else will know – the kind of man I really am.' Today, be honest!

## Prayer Point

Father, I know keeping my integrity in every situation is very important to You, so help me even in the little things that come along to stay on a course that is based in truth and not deceit. Even when things change around me, Lord, help me to display and live out the highest level of integrity I can achieve that Your Name might be glorified. Amen.

# DAY 20 Dealing with change

'Be diligent... so that everyone may see your progress' 1 Timothy 4:15 NIV

**IF YOU THINK** accepting change is difficult, try introducing it to others! You'll have for enemies all those who've done well under the old system and only lukewarm defenders among those who aren't sure how well they'll do under the new one. Resistance to progress is universal; it seizes every generation by the throat and attempts to stop all forward movement.

In 1553, Admiral Richard Hawkins recorded that during his career on the high seas, 10,000 men under his command had died of scurvy. He also noted that oranges and lemons (Vitamin C) completely cured it. But his observations went unheeded for 200 years, during which time thousands more sailors died needlessly.

In 1753, James Lind, a British naval surgeon, published a book saying that scurvy could be

eliminated with lemon juice. He even cited case histories to prove it. But instead of being honoured, he was ridiculed by the Lords of the Admiralty and by the leading physicians of the day. In fact, his advice was ignored for another 40 years. Not until the year after his death in 1794 was a naval squadron supplied with orange juice before a voyage. On that voyage which lasted 23 weeks, there wasn't one case of scurvy. Even so, another 10 years passed and thousands more died before regulations were enacted requiring sailors to drink a daily ration of lemon juice. With that enactment, scurvy finally disappeared from the British navy.

What a lesson! Don't let complacency, prejudice or the fear of change rob you of the joy of becoming all God intends you to be.

# DAY 21 A word to leaders!

'Masters... no abuse, please...'  
Ephesians 6:9 TM

**EVER TAKE ADVANTAGE** of those under your leadership? There is no place in God's Kingdom for the domineering, the egocentric or those motivated by anger toward any individual or group, at any time, under any circumstance! Learn from Pharaoh; when a child of God is abused, the Lord will hear their cry, intervene on their behalf and the offender will pay a high price. To be a good leader, you must first learn to be a good follower. Only then will you understand the challenges of serving someone else 'as unto the Lord.'

If you practise doing that when you're at the bottom, you'll have no trouble doing it when you reach the top. And that's important, for as a leader you must be able to hear, submit to, and obey the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

Joshua was a great leader because he was first a faithful servant of Moses. He remembered the difficulties of submitting to a flawed human being when he himself became a leader. Any time you forget what it's like to walk in the shoes of those who serve under you, you can easily become insensitive to their needs and abuse your power. For God to trust you with a position of authority, you must first prove to Him that you can control your need for recognition. God-appointed leaders are servant-leaders. They never lead by threat or force. They lead through a compelling combination of love, vision and righteousness. Still think you're called to lead?

## Prayer Point

Let me live life, Lord, with a perspective of building people up, not pulling them down; let me be an encourager and not a discourager. Help me, Lord, to always think the best of people rather than jumping to a negative assumption. Help me maintain a life of serving You, Lord, so that my ego is not fed to the point where I cannot see life beyond my own demands. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# DAY 22 Serving

'So Joshua did as Moses had said to him...'  
Exodus 17:10 NKJV

**JOSHUA SERVED MOSES** but looked only to God for his reward. Your boss may sign your cheque but he doesn't determine your future; the Lord does that! If you really believe that, no job God gives you will ever be beneath you! When you pray 'God, use me,' He'll ask you to serve someone else. If you make the mistake of looking to that person for your reward and it doesn't come, you'll feel used and resentful. It's God who sets the rules for you. He's the one who requires you to honour Him on the job by performing with submission and excellence. He's the one who calls you to the highest standards of behaviour. He's the one who says it's not OK to use the

company phone to call your grandma in Chicago and pretend she's a client; or take 90 minutes for lunch, and say you were gone for only 30!

Listen: 'Knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord (Ephesians 6:8 NKJ). God balances the scales and rewards us according to our service; not what others think we're worth. Stop striving and get back to serving! Listen: 'God is not unjust; He will not forget your work...' (Hebrews 6:10 NIV). Be encouraged; God records and God rewards; that should be enough for you!

GET THE WORD FOR TODAY DELIVERED FREE TO YOUR DOOR

Go to [ucb.co.uk/wftsignup](http://ucb.co.uk/wftsignup) Or call 0845 60 40 401

# 'YOU ARE NOT ALONE' - GOD



lookingforGOD.com

## DAY 23 More joy! 'Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about' **Philippians 4:8 TLB**

**WHEN MOTHER TERESA** was asked what it took to work in the grimy streets of Calcutta, she replied, 'Hard work, and a joyful attitude!' She's right! And the second is harder to find than the first. To be happy, you've got to learn how to rise above the 'if onlys.' If only I'd more money; if only I'd more talent; if only I was better looking.

Money never made anybody more generous, talent never made anybody more grateful and looks never made anybody more fulfilled. Settle it once and for all; things don't bring joy! The happiest people are not the richest, the most beautiful or the most talented. Instead of depending on externals for excitement, they enjoy the simple things in life. They don't waste time thinking that other pastures are greener. They don't yearn for

yesterday or tomorrow. They savour the moment, glad to be alive, enjoying their work, their family and the blessings God has already given them. Their eyes always look upward and outward. They're aware and compassionate. They're adaptable. They bend with the wind, adjust to change, enjoy the contests of life and try to walk in God's purpose for them as individuals.

Paul was one of those people. That's why he could write letters filled with joy from the most miserable prisons in Europe, while waiting to be executed. How come? Because he realised that unlike your newspaper, which is delivered to you every morning, joy is a garment you have to put on! (Isaiah 61:3). Got yours on today?

### Prayer Point

Lord, let my outlook be filled with joy, that I might see life through the lens of the beauty of your creation. Help me stop each day just for a moment to take in the great things about each day. Let my enthusiasm for life overpower the difficulties I sometimes face, so I can lift up your name in any situation and have the drive and determination to reach the next great day.

## DAY 24 Persistence 'Staying with it – that's what God requires. Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry' **Matthew 24:13 TM**

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN** said, 'Success is going from failure to failure, without losing your enthusiasm.' Elbert Hubbard wrote, 'There is no defeat, except in no longer trying; no really insurmountable barrier, save our own inherent weakness of purpose.' Charles Lindbergh said, 'Success is not measured by what a man accomplishes, but by the opposition he encountered and the courage he maintained in his struggle against it.'

The University of Chicago conducted a five-year survey of the 20 top performers in various fields, including musicians, athletes, sculptors, mathematicians,

physicians, actors, artists, scholars and chief executives. They also interviewed the families and teachers of these celebrated high achievers to find out how they did it. What they discovered was that drive and determination, not talent, led to their success! Imagine that! Just plain old stick-to-it-iveness! Anybody who ever did anything worthwhile had it.

The Master Teacher Himself gave us the formula in these words, 'Staying with it – that's what God requires. Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry' (Matthew 24:13 TM).

### DO YOU NEED PRAYER?

Call UCB Prayerline on 0845 456 7729 (UK) or 1890 940 300 (ROI) or visit [ucb.co.uk](http://ucb.co.uk)



# DAY 25 Time out!

'And on the seventh day God ended His work... and he rested' Genesis 2:2 KJV

**ARE YOU** having trouble keeping up the pace? Is the strain showing up in your family, your health and your attitude? Do you feel guilty and unproductive when you try to relax? If so, here are a few things you need to consider today:

- 1) Take time out when you need it. Refuse to be intimidated by the opinions of others. People have a tendency to think they know what's best for you. They don't; only you know when you need a break!
- 2) If your loved ones have to choose between having less or having you, they'll always choose you. The trouble is we don't give them a choice. Look out. Your lifestyle is your child's blueprint. If you neglect them now,

don't be upset when they neglect you later because they're climbing the same ladder.

- 3) Don't use work as a narcotic. Workaholism, like any other addiction, only masks the real problem. There's emptiness inside you that only God can fill. And He will, if you let Him!
- 4) Effort without reward eventually destroys motivation. Whether it's you, your children or your employees, everybody needs time to recharge their batteries. If you work hard, play hard. The truth is rest time is the best time to assess your life, your dreams, your heartaches and your faith. The power of rest is what allows you to enjoy the journey and not just the destination.

## Prayer Point

Give me the strength, Lord, to take time off without feeling guilty and without agreeing to fill that space to the point where I feel more drained than when I began. Help me Lord to use that time to rest, reflect and connect with you. Even in my work time, Lord, help me wake in the mornings, so that the peace that I gain there would have dominion over the tough parts of the day. Amen.

# DAY 26 Become an early riser

'O God, you are my God; early will I seek you' Psalm 63:1 KJV

**HOW'S YOUR SCHEDULE THESE DAYS?** Do you crawl out of bed, shower, dress, gulp down your coffee and dash out the door? Have you just enough time to make breakfast, pack the kids' lunches and get them off to school? At the end of the day, are you drained and exhausted? Want a suggestion that's guaranteed to make things better? Become an early riser! That's right; spending time with God before your day starts, is an incredible way to energise yourself. Some of the world's most successful people have done it.

Isaiah writes, 'My soul yearns for you at night; in the morning my spirit longs for you...' (Isaiah 26:9 NIV). David said, 'early will I seek you' (Psalm 63:1). Look at the life of Christ: 'Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up...and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed' (Mark 1:35 NIV).

If you want to enjoy that kind of communion, you'll have to exercise that kind of control. That means you'll have to turn off the TV, get to bed earlier and rise earlier. But if you do, it'll be one of the most rewarding changes you'll ever make. Here are three things that will happen: 1) You'll experience a greater sense of peace because now you're no longer relying solely on your own resources. 2) Because you've opened yourself to God at the beginning of the day, you'll sense His guidance through it. 3) As you communicate with Him, you'll be instructed, empowered, refreshed and more successful at whatever you do!

# DAY 27 Under the gun!

'And as your days, so shall your strength be' Deuteronomy 33:25 KJV

**HAVE THE DAILY PRESSURES** in life built to where you feel as if someone is constantly pointing a gun at your head, saying, 'Get this done or else'? Have you concluded that that's just how life is supposed to be? But is it? No! Your best work will be done when you're relaxed, not frazzled. Your best decisions will be made when you're at peace, not stressed out. It doesn't help when you a) force yourself to go faster b) to be somewhere else c) to be something you're not. Actually, it hurts.

'What's the answer?' you ask. Put down the gun! The job will get done, one bit at a time and your stress levels will subside too. When you decide to live this way, two wonderful things will happen. First, you'll

enjoy whatever you're doing – even if it's just washing dishes or cleaning out a toilet – because now you're focused rather than distracted. Any moment you don't experience is a piece of your life you're throwing away. Don't do that! Stop and tell yourself, 'I'm exactly where I need to be, doing what I'm supposed to be doing, so the smart thing is to enjoy it and be as creative as I can in the process'.

Second, by being present in what you're doing, your productivity will increase and you'll accomplish much more. And one more thing: the strength you need for tomorrow's challenge won't be given to you during today's chores. His Word says, 'And as your days, so shall your strength be' (Deuteronomy 33:25 KJV).

## Prayer Point

Lord, I call on You today, to help me keep my life in perspective, so that I'm not living out the demands of others. Help me find the enjoyment I have had in times gone by, where I could live through a day without being overwhelmed by stress; help me learn how to handle the situations that drive me crazy, in order to find a state of grace in this chaotic world. Thank You, God, for Your love toward me. Amen.

# DAY 28 Seize every opportunity to learn!

'Become wise by walking with the wise' Proverbs 13:20 TM

**SURROUND YOURSELF** with people who compliment you, not duplicate you! If you're led by people whose insight is no deeper than your own, how far will you get? Jesus said, 'When a blind man leads a blind man, they both end up in a ditch' (Matthew 15:14 TM).

Limiting yourself to those who laugh only at the same jokes, who vote only for the same party and share only the same ideas, robs you of personal growth and leaves you living in a secure but shrivelled world. If you're going to progress to the next level, hang around those who are already there or at least know how to get there. Your development and in some cases your healing can take place only when you cross paths with people who challenge and stretch you.

'But what if they make fun of me?' you ask. Only the arrogant do that! The wise respond to seekers for they themselves are seekers. Risk asking. Refuse to allow anybody to keep you stuck in a world of ignorance.

'But what if I don't measure up?' you ask. If you don't stand near a measure, you won't know how much you need to grow or how much you've already grown. Having less information doesn't make you a lesser person. Life's a school and every new acquaintance is a teacher. Whatever others know, they haven't always known. The greatest indictment against not knowing is not learning. So today, seize every opportunity to learn!

THE **UCB**  
**WORD**  
FOR TODAY

Have you been encouraged by the readings in this book?  
Further daily encouragement can be found in  
***THE WORD FOR TODAY.***

Sign up to receive ***THE WORD FOR TODAY*** for **FREE**, four  
times a year, delivered directly to your door.

Fill in the form below or go to **ucb.co.uk/wftsignup**  
to sign up today.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Forename \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date Of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

To sign a friend up to receive ***THE WORD FOR TODAY*** please call 0845 60 40 401

Please return this completed form to: **United Christian Broadcasters,  
FREEPOST RLTX-ABUL-GRAR, Westport Road, Stoke-On-Trent, ST6 4JF.**

UCB holds names and addresses on computer for the purpose of keeping it's subscribers up to date with ministry news.  
UCB promises that the information you provide is treated in total confidence and stored in full accordance with  
the Data Protection Act 1998. For full details of UCB's privacy policy please visit [ucb.co.uk](http://ucb.co.uk).



For more help in Overcoming the giants in your life, explore the rest of  
the Overcoming Series on our website, **[www.ucb.co.uk/overcoming](http://www.ucb.co.uk/overcoming)**  
or call **0845 604 0401** to order a printed copy (UK only).

*Overcoming Discouragement*

*Overcoming Temptation*

*Overcoming Grief and Loss*

*Overcoming Pride*

*Overcoming Spiritual Strongholds*

*Overcoming Addiction*

*Overcoming Family Issues*

*Overcoming Debt and Finance*

*Overcoming Work and Unemployment Issues*

*Overcoming Fear*

*Overcoming Anger and Resentment*

*Overcoming Materialism*

*Jesus Loves Prisoners*

**UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF**  
**t: 0845 60 40 401\* e: [ucb@ucb.co.uk](mailto:ucb@ucb.co.uk)**

**UCB.CO.UK**



NOT FOR SALE - Company Registered in England and Wales 2182533. Registered Charity 299128

\*Standard call charges apply, although calls from mobiles may cost you more. Check with your supplier for details\*

# UCB UNITED CHRISTIAN BROADCASTERS

## UCB LISTEN

find out how to listen at  
[ucb.co.uk/listen](http://ucb.co.uk/listen)



UK



INSPIRATIONAL



GOSPEL



EXTRA



BIBLE

## UCB WATCH



Sky585  
Online at [ucb.co.uk](http://ucb.co.uk)  
On web enabled mobiles at [yamgo.mobi/ucb](http://yamgo.mobi/ucb)  
iPhone and Web phone app

## UCB READ

THE **UCB**  
**WORD**  
FOR TODAY

Phone: **0845 60 40 401**  
Sign Up: [ucb.co.uk/wftemail](http://ucb.co.uk/wftemail)  
Online: [ucb.co.uk/wft](http://ucb.co.uk/wft)  
iPhone app

**Word**  
4 U 2 D A Y

Phone: **0845 60 40 401**  
Sign Up: [ucb.co.uk/w4uemail](http://ucb.co.uk/w4uemail)  
Online: [ucb.co.uk/w4u](http://ucb.co.uk/w4u)

**PRAYER**  
FOR TODAY  
encouraging you to pray for change

Online: [ucb.co.uk/pft](http://ucb.co.uk/pft)



see all our resources at

**UCB.CO.UK**

### HAVE YOU CONSIDERED LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL TO UCB?

Call on 0845 60 40 401 to request more information or visit [ucb.co.uk/legacies](http://ucb.co.uk/legacies)

### DO YOU NEED TO PRAY WITH SOMEONE?

Visit [ucb.co.uk/prayer](http://ucb.co.uk/prayer)  
Call UCB Prayerline on  
**0845 456 7729\***  
or **1890 940 300\* (ROI)**

### General Enquiries

UCB Operations Centre,  
Westport Road,  
Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF  
t: **0845 60 40 401\***  
e: [ucb@ucb.co.uk](mailto:ucb@ucb.co.uk)  
w: [ucb.co.uk](http://ucb.co.uk)

### UCB Broadcasting Enquiries

T: **01782 642000**  
E: [media@ucb.co.uk](mailto:media@ucb.co.uk)

### UCB Northern Ireland

Commission Broadcast Centre,  
Ballyoran Lane, Belfast, BT16 1XJ  
T: **028 9028 2000**

### UCB2GO Mail Order

T: **08456 188 315**  
W: [UCB2GO.CO.UK](http://UCB2GO.CO.UK)

\*Standard call charges apply, although calls from mobiles may cost you more. Check with your supplier for details!