

Your Secret Weapon: Prayer

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Day One

I have really great news for those who are out there in the workplace every day. If you're a disciple of Jesus Christ, if you belong to the Family of God, you have an incredible advantage in the workplace. You have a tool to use that guarantees you a leg-up in every situation you face. You have a weapon to fight with that is totally effective against any problem you encounter. Here's your secret weapon, your great advantage: It is prayer!

Have you been taking advantage of prayer on your job? I find that many believers don't really pray about their jobs or on their jobs. Do you? I want to point out just some of the advantages you enjoy when you pray about your job.

Advantage: Your day goes better with prayer.

Since your day is won or lost in the morning hours, when you pray before your day begins, you have a great advantage all day long.

“ . . . in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:6).

So, before your day begins, if you will acknowledge the Lord and seek his guidance for every detail of that day, your path will be straight, no matter what happens.

Those who don't know the Lord have to try to take care of everything in their own strength. They have to worry about the unknown and the uncontrollable. But for us who know Jesus as Savior, he carries all those burdens for us, so we have an immense advantage.

Do you start your workdays with prayer? If not, you're depriving yourself of many benefits. I encourage you to begin this discipline right away.

Think through the day ahead. Pray for the people you will be working with and for. Ask God for wisdom in dealing with them, praying for their individual needs as you know them. Think about the schedule you have for the day, your workload. Ask God for strength to get it all done and help in setting appropriate priorities. Pray that your words will be carefully chosen; that you will speak the truth in love.

If you will cover your day in detail with prayer, you will see miracles, big and small. It gives you a marvelous advantage!

Day Two

Sometimes we Christians like to see ourselves as disadvantaged in our workday worlds. We can get a bit paranoid about being picked on or isolated or laughed at. But the truth is, as believers we have an immense advantage over non-believers in our work worlds, because we have a secret weapon: prayer.

Our days go better when we start with prayer. Here's another important benefit prayer affords us.

Advantage: You have a way to deal with crises.

All day long as a believer you can send up prayer to the Lord, silently and quickly. So, when anything unusual arises, when any problem surfaces or something is not going the way it should, you have this ever-present resource for help and guidance. This is one of your greatest benefits as a believer.

When you face a crisis or some great need, you can pray right then and there, and God will guide you and comfort you and rescue you. Have you tried it on the job? Did you think God's arm was too short to save you in a job-related problem? Never!

When you don't know the answer to a predicament, pray. When you're faced with a task that seems too large, pray. When you can't figure out what you should or should not do, pray. When it looks like things are going down the tubes, pray.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

The Lord is waiting to hear from you and deliver you out of your trouble.

Now, I want to make it clear that prayer is not a magic wand we wave to demand God's help. Prayer is not a method for persuading God to do what we want him to do. Prayer is the way we get in line with what God wants to do in any given situation. It is the way God changes us. It is the way we relinquish our worries and cares and allow God to be God in our lives.

Day Three

What is your greatest advantage as a Christian in the workplace? You may be scratching your head, trying to think if you have an advantage. I want to assure you that you do, and that advantage is prayer.

Advantage: You can deal with difficult people much better.

Most of our frustrations are caused by people—right? So, what do you do when you're dealing with a difficult coworker or boss or customer? Well, because we have the power of prayer as believers, we have an amazing advantage when it comes to dealing with people, even difficult ones.

First, you want to pray for all the people in your work world regularly. Ask God to help you see those people the way he sees them. Call them by name and specifically pray for each of them as much as possible.

Then, ask for wisdom on how to deal with the difficult relationships. Got a boss that seems impossible? Have you ever asked God to show you how to handle that boss? Or do you just gripe and complain about the boss? That won't do any good, but prayer changes people! Whether it changes you or your boss or both, you'll find it much easier to deal with a difficult boss when you devote daily prayer to that person.

"A king's wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise man will appease it" (Proverbs 16:14).

A king represents those in authority over us, and when you have a difficult boss, one who gives messages of death, if you are wise, you can appease that boss.

How can you be wise?

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5).

You can have the advantage of godly wisdom in knowing how to deal with difficult people. God’s wisdom is better than an advanced degree is business!

I’ve been praying James 1:5 for years, recognizing my great need for wisdom in all areas. It began to dawn on me not long ago that I had made some pretty wise decisions, which didn’t really seem like me at all. Then I thought, “Well, of course; you’ve been asking God for wisdom, and he has answered your prayer.” It’s a great advantage to be able to pray for God’s wisdom.

Day Four

I’ve been pointing out some of our incredible advantages as believers in the workplace because we have the privilege of prayer. Here’s another one.

Advantage: You can be positive in a negative world.

While everyone else around you is griping and complaining all the time, you can remain positive and joyful because each day you can pray for God to control your thoughts. Every time you start to think or say something in negative mode, to complain about the company or the boss or a coworker, stop in the middle of that thought or sentence and turn it into a prayer. Instead of wallowing in the self-pity and negativity of the moment, you have the advantage of staying positive and joyful regardless of the circumstances.

Advantage: You can be peaceful instead of stressed-out. Paul wrote to the Philippians:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

Because we have this invitation to present every anxious situation to God in prayer, we don’t have to be stressed out even when others are falling apart around us. Isn’t that an incredible benefit?

Are you taking advantage of giving over all your anxiety to the Lord? I hope you’re not trying to carry that burden yourself. Jesus is ready to take your heavy burden and give you a light one, as soon as you present your situation to God in prayer. And when you do, the stress of the situation goes away. People pay tons of money to try to get rid of stress, and we have the secret weapon ready to be used at any time—prayer!

It’s little wonder that our enemy does everything possible to keep us from praying very much, because he is fully aware of the great advantage we have through prayer. The power of heaven is unleashed in our world through prayer. The blessings of God are showered on us through prayer. The wisdom and guidance we need so often to make good decisions can be found in prayer. The comfort and assurance that keep us going come through prayer. It’s our secret weapon and our great advantage. What a shame when we don’t use it like we should.

Day Five

Did you ever look around you on your job and see how many of your coworkers are just trudging through their job, hating every minute of it, griping and complaining about it all the time? That’s not an unusual scenario. As a Christian, you have a marvelous advantage over those you work with who don’t yet know Jesus as Savior. Do you know what that advantage is? It is the power of prayer.

Advantage: Your job can be transformed into a ministry.

The Bible teaches us that we can do everything we do to the glory of Jesus Christ. So, even those mundane, perhaps boring elements of your job, those things that don't appear to have any eternal significance, can be transformed into meaningful activity through prayer.

Here's how that works. You begin praying about every aspect of your job and every person you deal with in your job. You ask God to bring glory to himself through your performance on your job. As you face each individual day, you pray for the agenda for that day, praying that you will be a good ambassador for Jesus Christ throughout the whole day. You ask God to use your words, your body language, the quality of your work effort, your attitude, and all your interactions with people as lights in a dark world.

When you start praying like that on a daily basis, you will discover that God begins to use you in ways you can't even imagine. People will ask you the most incredible questions that give you opportunities to share your faith. Others in need of comfort will talk to you, as you listen and show compassion. You'll discover that mundane activity turns into meaningful conversations or quiet prayer meetings with you and the Lord.

Then instead of dreading that job, or wishing you didn't have to work there, you'll begin to realize that God has a higher purpose for putting you there, and instead of just going to work every day, you're going to a place of service, a ministry in the midst of the marketplace. Now, that makes it much easier to go to work each day. And it all begins with daily, on-going prayer on the job. It's an advantage beyond belief. Don't let it pass you by!

I have written and published a Prayer Journal, and you may find that helpful in developing a deeper prayer life.