

Right Resources for Money Hard Work within the Age Limit

Regarding work, there is an important point that we need to discuss. Every man has a certain capacity to work hard for a certain period of time. Some people 20 years and others probably 30 years or more. But after that, they will not be able to do as much hard work as they had done before because of the aging process. **Based on this fact, every one of us should realize that the period of time assigned for hard work when we are able-bodied, is limited to certain numbers of years. Beyond these years we will not be able to work efficiently as before and soon it will be time for us to retire from service. We need to use the resources, the fruit of our labor, which we have accumulated over a period of time wisely. We need to save a portion of our income to meet our needs in our old age.** God in the following Scriptures gave a description of that:

“23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 24 This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: 25 And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more: 26 But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, and shall do no service. Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites touching their charge.” (Numbers 8:23-26 KJV) God had outlined certain rules for the service in His sanctuary. From this Scripture we can conclude these points:

A. The lower age limit: “From twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service.” (Numbers 8:24 KJV) The purpose of the age limit is to attain certain physical strength, maturity, understanding, and awareness of what the job description is. Previous to that, we suppose that was the period of education and training to prepare them and orient them about the upcoming task in their lives. **We do the same for our children. We teach them, nurture them, educate them, and prepare them to work in the field that God had allocated for them.**

B. The period of hard service: “25 And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more.” (Numbers 8:25 KJV) The average limit that God set for hard work is 25 years. **This will be the fruitful years for building and gaining financial capital and getting adequate and unique exposure and experience.**

C. The upper age limit for hard work: “25 And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more.” (Numbers 8:25 KJV) **Beyond a certain age, there is no way we can work hard. This fact should be in our minds and in front of our eyes as we are planning for our lives, the lives of our families, our children, and our churches and congregations.**

D. The period of keeping the charge (supervision and consultancy): “But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, and shall do no service.” (Numbers 8:26 KJV) **This is the period when you operate as a consultant and supervisor over the junior staff who need to do hard work.**

E. There is no retirement: **Supervision and consultancy will continue to the end until we are translated to Heaven.**

F. The laws of God to labor: “Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites touching their charge.” (Numbers 8:26 KJV) **These instructions are what we need to adopt and abide by in our lives as well as the lives of our families and ministries.**

At the time of David there was some adjustment made to this rule, starting from the youngsters (20 years old) because God had given rest to them and no more did they need to carry the ark, for God had allocated to them a place to place the ark and later on to build the temple.

“24 These were the sons of Levi after the house of their fathers; even the chief of the fathers, as they were counted by number of names by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty years and upward. 25 For David said, The LORD God of Israel hath given rest unto his people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem for ever: 26 And also unto the Levites; they shall no more carry the tabernacle, nor any vessels of it for the service thereof. 27 For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above: 28 Because their office was to wait on the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts, and in the chambers, and in the purifying of all holy things, and the work of the service of the house of God.” (1 Chronicles 23:24-28 KJV)

Jacob started doing hard work when he was seventy-seven years old. He worked twenty years and after that, he supervised his children and continued to do that supervisory work till his death. At the age of 147, he gave prophetic instructions to his descendants.

Joseph started doing hard work when he was seventeen years of age and shifted to being a consultant and supervisor at the age of thirty and continued to do that till he died at the age of hundred and ten.

Moses started to work hard when he was 40 years old and he worked for 40 years and at the age of 80 was in charge and led the Israelites until he died at the age of 120.

David started to work hard at age 17 for 13 years and took charge as a supervisor at the age of 30 and continued until he died at the age of seventy.

I started my hard work at the age of 24 and reached the level of a supervisor at the age of 41 and am still at the job and will continue to do so until Jesus will take me with Him.

Those who continue to work hard and labor even in their old age due to the obligation of earning for their living, need to realize that there is something wrong and messy in their lives. They probably had wasted much of the fruit of their hard work and hadn't thought about saving for the rainy day. They had not been good stewards.

There is one more point that we need to discuss in regard to work and service. Some people enter God's service as an excuse for them to be away from doing any secular job. This is laziness and God does not approve such. We will use the examples of King David and Apostle Paul to discuss this important point.

David worked faithfully in his secular job. David, before God called him as king and shepherd for Israel, was working as a shepherd tending the sheep of his father. Did he work faithfully? Yes, and we can be sure of that by reading his story in *1 Samuel Chapters 16* and *17*.

One day God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint David as king. Samuel invited Jesse and his sons for the sacrifice. David did not leave his job responsibility; he waited while caring for the sheep until Samuel called for him: ***“11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.” (1 Samuel 16:11 KJV)***

King Saul also knew that David is a shepherd and he is attending his job well because he did mention when he sent for him. ***“19 Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.” (1 Samuel 16:19 KJV)*** Here, David was called for service to the king’s palace. ***“20 And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. 21 And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer.” (1 Samuel 16:20-21 KJV)*** Part of David’s time was with the king and the other time was still with his secular job. David did not leave his job tending the sheep of his father. Instead, he continued to do in addition to the service that he was doing for King Saul which was a part of his service to God. ***“15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.” (1 Samuel 17:15 KJV)***

Another evidence that David did not leave his secular job when God called him is when his father sent him to look after his three brothers who were in the battlefield; he was still doing his job well, tending the sheep. ***“17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; 18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. 19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. 20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.” (1 Samuel 17:17-20 KJV)*** David here showed as well his concern to the secular work that he has when he was called to do God’s service. David put another shepherd in his place to care for the sheep, not leaving his job as many workers do without discretion.

*** Your secular job is your responsibility before God. Even when God called you for God’s service, you still need to attend well to your secular duty, because that is what God expects from you. * You need to do your secular job well to avoid people’s criticism, especially those who are trying to find fault with you, as it happened to David when his brother accused him of negligence. “28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab’s anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.” (1 Samuel 17:28 KJV)**

David was excellent in his secular job and he achieved well. He was faithful to the task entrusted to him in protecting the sheep. He was skilled, able, and always trusting God while

fulfilling duty as shepherd of his father’s flock. Thereafter, David offered himself to fight against Goliath. ***“33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. 34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. 36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. 37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.” (1 Samuel 17:33-37 KJV)***

Like David, to anyone who is faithful and diligent in doing the secular job entrusted to him by God, surely God will also call him or her to render service in His Kingdom.

When God calls someone for service there will be a transition from a secular job to God’s service or God’s service and secular job together. Later when the worker is approved by God, the Lord Himself makes a way that that particular worker will be in full-time ministry. When that happens we can also clearly see the Lord’s provision for that certain worker.

Apostle Paul was also an example for us who maintained the secular job while serving the Lord:

A. “1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; 2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. 3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.” (Acts 18:1-4 KJV)

B. “24 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.” (Acts 20:34 KJV)

Many whom God calls prematurely quit their secular job and their income without God’s signal for His provision to sustain them and the ministry. Such God’s workers with their wrong decisions suffer with their families and those who depend on them.

*** Your job is part of your ministry. You should be faithful and value your job as you love God and serve His purpose. God is the one who put you working where you are. * When God wants you to be in full-time for God’s service, He will surely take you out from there by His own way. And where God leads, He provides as well with a surplus supply to support you. It is good to desire to be full-time in God’s service, but you should wait upon God to do it by Himself and in His time. * Some seek to affiliate their ministries with some churches to get financial support, but that is not what the Scripture ordained. If you had quit your secular job and you are in financial need and the ministry that you are doing and the disciples that you are making are not sufficient to supply your need, then you need to go back to your secular job.**

David, after his victory over Goliath, was taken permanently from tending the sheep and was placed in full-time God's service. We read in **1 Samuel 18:2-5**, **"2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. 3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. 5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants."** (1 Samuel 18:2-5 KJV)

My dear and beloved: David did not resign or quit prematurely his job but was in line with God's leading and direction. He served God's purpose as he continued to be faithful to his job. The Word of God says, **"2 Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth."** (Proverbs 19:2 KJV) So take heed, pray, and apply what you read in your life in order for you to be an effective worker and to secure enough income for you and for your family.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the teaching, the correction and the awareness that I received in this message about the job plan that you have for me. Lord thank you for the job and the income that you are giving to me to sustain me and to sustain my family and ministry. Lord thank you for the ministry that entrusted to me and all the resources that you provided in my life.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your laziness and your lack of awareness of the importance of time. Renounce your own plan and doing your own will. Repent of your pride, your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of leaving your secular job early and being without income in order to serve God. Repent of your bad stewardship. Repent of your non willingness to follow the plan of God in your life. Repent of your non willingness to live for Christ and suffer for Him and to serve Him. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to follow the principles that we received today in this message about the work plan in pertains to age and ministry. Lord I commit myself to work hard in my job and not to leave it until the time you allow me to be in full-time to serve you. Lord I commit myself to do your will and the good plan that you have for me. Lord I commit myself to serve Christ and do the good works that you prepared for me to do. Lord give me good health and strength and provide for me so I can do my job well and perform my ministry to you.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives to live according to the principles of your Word. Lord bless the works of their hands and prosper them so they will continue to serve you and live the good plan that you have for them and do your will. Lord fulfill all your good promises to them, provide for them and protect them from the evil one so they will continue to serve you and do your will.

Lord bless us as a church and help us to continue to direct your people to do your will. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on

and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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