



Spirit-Filled Courtrooms

By John E. DeSanto

Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31: 9)

During the more than 48 years that I have worked in the courtrooms and courthouses of the State of Minnesota, first as a prosecutor and next as a trial court judge, I have been blessed with interesting and challenging experiences. Typically, in these courtroom experiences there were no “winners.” For example, the dozens of homicide cases that I prosecuted between 1973 and 2007 always had a wrongdoer, who often went to prison, separating him from family or loved ones, and, of course, the victims’ loved ones were forever separated from the deceased. Even in less serious civil, family, and other cases, my judicial decisions typically disappointed—sometimes even angered—both parties involved with the case.

So, after my Baptism in the Holy Spirit, as I entered my courtroom

workplace, I began praying for the accused and his or her family, as well as, for the crime victims’ loved ones. Later, as a trial court judge starting in July of 2009, before I entered the courtroom for a hearing or trial, I would typically pray my John 15:5 prayer: “Lord, you are the vine; I am the branches—apart from you, I can do nothing. Please send your Holy Spirit with me into the courtroom to help me and make me a good listener and wise decision-maker.”

Recently, as a Senior Judge working in a courtroom (via Zoom) for a county near the Twin Cities, I presided over a trial of a young black man who was challenging his speeding ticket. I heard and viewed sworn testimony from an even younger law enforcement officer and the man charged with speeding. As the trial court judge, I was entrusted with determining whether the speeding charge was proven beyond a

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INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Overcoming Jealousy and Envy

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. (Psalm 16:6)

Jealousy and envy are a matter of the heart (Mark 7:20–21), windows into our personal discontents. Unlike a heart at peace that gives life to the body, envy rots our bones (Proverbs 14:30).

The Psalmist underscores the key to overcoming jealousy and envy. As Christians, we embrace our life in Christ, set our eyes on the prize found in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14) and find contentment in him.



We keep in mind that the things we are jealous about are meaningless and fleeting. Ecclesiastes says they are all like vapor.

When we are jealous, Paul says we are being worldly and acting like “mere humans” (1 Corinthians 3:3). Jealousy takes our eyes off our life in the Spirit and personal call.

In Christ, we take every thought captive. We turn jealousy into a kind word, a celebration of others’ achievements, and personal compliments. We let the love of Christ drown out the jealousy and envy of our hearts.

August Reflections: Pg 2-4

REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

Dealing with Envy

By Sarah Jensen

A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones. (Proverbs 14:30)

The other day, someone asked me what I'd been doing all morning. "Finishing my article for xyz magazine," I said, with no humility whatsoever. I was feeling super good about myself, like the way you feel when you've just finished writing an article for a popular magazine and someone asks you what you've been doing and you get to say it out loud.

After that exchange, I proceeded to do the only thing that made sense to me: I went shoe shopping. At the shoe store, someone nearby was talking about a young woman who'd rescued a child from a burning building (or the equivalent). I've never rescued anyone from anything, and then it came out that the amazing hero was several decades younger than I am. I

envied her like bronze envies silver, and silver envies gold.

"Envy is the universal emotion no one seems to have," said Josh Gressel, a psychologist in the San Francisco Bay area. Few people admit to it because it's accompanied by such shame. No wonder no one on my Facebook page volunteered when I asked if anyone would be willing to talk to me about their envy. It's a tough and personal subject.

There have been times in my life where I envied my husband for his career successes. Why does it always seem like we're never celebrating successes at the same time? It's a complete mystery to me, but not to God. As the popular verse from Jeremiah 29:11 says: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Success is something to strive for, but instead of being envious we can be bigger, be better by celebrating each other's wins and accomplishments. We each have a plan that's been laid out for us, a beautiful plan that God has created himself.

Sarah Jensen is a retired writer based in Fargo, ND. She enjoys RV camping with her husband and currently is on a trip traveling from coast to coast.

PRAY

Holy Spirit, help me to celebrate the successes of those around me and to overcome my envious heart.

REFLECT

Consider if envy has ever affected your relationship with the Lord.

DISCUSS

Think of a time where you might have been envious of someone or something someone did. How can you change that envy into something positive that glorifies God?

WORKLIGHT™

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. MATTHEW 5:16

2021
ANNUAL GIFT
CAMPAIGN

RECAP:
WORKLIGHT HIT THE GOAL!

TOTAL: GOAL ▶ \$450,000
RAISED ▶ \$452,643
DONORS: GOAL ▶ 400
TOTAL ▶ 404

Thanks be to God for your generous contributions! It is by the power of God and through generous gifts like yours that we are able to sustain this ministry and continue this movement of the Holy Spirit in today's workplace. Hallelujah!

WORKLIGHT.ORG/DONATE

REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Doing it
God's Way

By Gary Brown

The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. (Matthew 20: 9-10)

A generous landowner hired workers for his vineyard at varying times of the day and paid everyone the same wage. Those who had worked longer hours believed they were subject to an injustice. They became angry, jealous, and resentful.

At a prior job, the sales manager had his favorite employees and I was not part of the inner circle. Occasional

commissions would fall into his lap and due to company rules, he was required to hand this “free money” over to agents of his choosing. He usually directed these to his favorite employees. I worked as hard as these other agents. I had a wife and two children, and the extra money would have come in handy. Over time I felt anger, jealousy, and resentment.

A few years after leaving that job, I realized my negative emotions had been misplaced. The sales manager was being generous, just not always in my direction. He was free to share the money in whatever way he wanted. Also, if I wanted to be a part of his inner circle, I could have played certain games. I just never chose that route.

There is another Scripture that reminds us to seek heavenly rewards, not earthly rewards. My faith has helped me understand whom it is we truly serve and from where our true reward comes.

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

My Anger
for His Love

By Jack McCall

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

My unforgiveness or hardened heart toward another is usually tougher on me than it is on them. Many times, they don't even know that I am holding something against them. I've paid a heavy price emotionally because of my inability to let go of hurts inflicted by others. I know God understands my hurt, but he is still saddened by my unwillingness to let him deal with it. The hardness of my heart prevents the kind of intimacy God wants to have with me.

As Christians, we are quick to claim that we have intimacy with God and that nothing separates us from him. However, we are often slow to admit

when we harbor unforgiveness toward someone. We boast about loving God and our neighbor, yet unforgiveness manifests itself through angry behavior and a desire for revenge.

My unforgiveness is usually tied to selfishness, pride, wanting to be right, ungodly judgments, prejudices, miscommunication, and stubbornness. Without Jesus to exchange my anger for his love, it would be impossible to avoid strong feelings like sadness, anger, resentment and jealousy. Fortunately, God and I face those feelings together and he empowers me to forgive that which I find impossible.

Before the age of 10, I was abused by two people I thought I could trust. For 30 years, I buried my shame and repressed my anger. By holding on to unforgiveness, everyone and everything in my life was negatively impacted. My relationship with Jesus and the power of God have brought me to a place of letting go; a place where my pain could be exchanged for God's peace. It's God's healing

Gary Brown is a former president of the Mesa Men's Chapter. He and his wife, Tracy, have two adult children. An insurance broker and a realtor, he is also a lector and a member of the prayer ministry at his church.

PRAY

Lord, help me to keep my focus on heavenly rewards.

REFLECT

Consider a time when the pursuit of earthly rewards blinded your pursuit of heavenly rewards.

DISCUSS

In what ways are you dealing with workplace injustice? How do you handle it?

grace and my love for him that makes forgiveness possible.

Jack McCall lives in San Jose, CA, with his wife, Louise. They have a daughter, son-in-law, and four grandchildren. A member of WorkLight/CIC for over 30 years, Jack can be reached at jackmccall@leavitt.com.

PRAY

Lord, help me to let go of my pain in exchange for your peace and healing grace.

REFLECT

If we're still holding on to unforgiveness, there's a good chance we haven't spent enough time with God.

DISCUSS

Are we angry at God? Have we asked him to empower us with a softened heart and a spirit of forgiveness?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

The Consultant

By Jen Davis

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)

This year I took on my first leadership role as a marketing manager. When I got the job, I was excited, but also a little nervous, since I had only worked in entry level and associate level positions. I felt like the company was, in a way, taking a gamble on hiring me as a manager since I didn't have prior experience.

We began to grow, got busier, and eventually had a need to hire a consultant. My supervisor recommended one of her connections. I was glad that I didn't have to interview candidates and my supervisor really hyped him.

Later, my supervisor admitted that the consultant had actually applied for my

position and was turned down because he lived in a different state and we were not set up for remote workers. There was tension between me and the consultant and he would often challenge me and my decisions.

I later found out that we essentially had the same resume—we have the same degree, same type of experience, and similar interests. I already felt a bit of imposter syndrome since it was my first time as a manager, and now it was two-fold. I began getting jealous of him when he would receive praise for his work, even though he was working for me.

It was a strange, challenging time. I prayed a lot about it and realized that God was putting this challenge in front of me to work through it. I had never faced jealousy in the workplace before and he wanted me to experience it so I could grow and overcome it.

Instead of avoiding the consultant, I began to ask him for his insights into more projects and get to know him on a personal level. I can happily say we are

now friends. God has a way of turning challenges into wonderful blessings.

Jen Davis is a marketing manager for a medium-sized business in Minneapolis, MN, where she lives with her husband and two dogs. She can be reached at jen.davis88@gmail.com.

PRAY

Father, thank you for using challenges to help me grow and become a better person and continue to guide me through your plan.

REFLECT

Are you able to give the challenges in your life to God?

DISCUSS

Is it possible that God is working through your experiences of jealousy or envy at work?

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. (Proverbs 14:30)

Overcoming Jealousy and Envy

In the ancient Wisdom book of Proverbs we are taught that “envy rots the bones.” Sadly,

we have all seen more than enough earthly evidence to support this claim. I certainly have, even if only in my own personal introspection. Yet the overcoming of this jealousy is referred to in Proverbs as “a heart of peace” that actually “gives life to the body”.

When Christ delivered us from death, he brought with him the power of the Holy Spirit to transform all of God's

children. The rhythm of this “heart of peace” from Proverbs continues to be heard in the Fruit of the Spirit described in chapter 5 of the Epistle to the Galatians. (See our June issue for more on how to reflect on the presence of the Holy Spirit in your own life.) Yet again Jesus has fulfilled the Scripture in a way that surpasses our understanding. Hallelujah!

So, what does this mean in our day-to-day life? Without a doubt, peace will lead a human body like yours or mine toward life. But that's just the beginning! Far beyond any earthly understanding, we are called to witness how the peace of Christ has and will always defeat the rotting of envy.

Earthly signs of peace and the Holy Spirit abound; from the success of

WorkLight's Annual Gift Campaign to the lessons of the Working for Our Father series to the service of past board members like Art Klaum and Jennifer Frankenberg. Yet all of these are droplets of water in the ocean of the peace and provision we encounter in our Lord Jesus.

We pray that the new WorkLight prayer, updated by Christians in Commerce cofounder Louis Grams, might reassure us all of Christ's dominion while encouraging each of us to do our part in building his Kingdom.

With you in Christ,

Wes

WORKLIGHT PRAYER

Father,
 Fill us with your Holy Spirit
 that we may be made new
 and bring the presence of Christ into all we do;
 That we may grow in love for you, and for all;
 That we may be humble and wise stewards of your creation;
 That we may bring your light into our workplaces;
 That we may lead all to unity in you;
 Through Jesus, our Lord.
 Amen

About the WorkLight Prayer

By Louis Grams, cofounder of
 Christians in Commerce/WorkLight

Jesus came into the world to restore us to a full relationship with the Father. He taught us to pray by first of all, calling on our Father from whom all things come.

To secure his promise to be with us always, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, his own Spirit to dwell within us and to empower us to do all that the Father desires of us and to enable us to bring the living presence of Jesus into every aspect of our lives—our families, our homes, our neighborhoods, our churches and our workplaces. He desires that people would be able to look at us and see in our lives, our kindness, our mercy, our forgiveness, our understanding and so many other ways, the person of Jesus in our own flesh and blood.

He sends us the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of God's own love, that we might

share in God's own communion of love among Father, Son and Spirit, and so that we might love everyone that comes into our lives—momentarily or for life—with love that is rooted in God's own love for each person.

He sends us the Holy Spirit to empower us to rightly care for all of creation—from the people we serve to the material order of the world. We are called to protect it all and help yield good for all. We are merely stewards. Creation belongs to God, the one who made it, but he entrusts it all to us. We can only fail that trust without the power of the Holy Spirit.

As members of WorkLight, we have a particular calling to bring the light of Jesus into our workplaces in the way we care for those we work with, in the way we care for those we serve, in the way we make use of material resources, in the way we make use of time—in short, in all we do and are.

The Holy Spirit is at work to bring about unity rather than division. Only God's own power can overcome mankind's propensity to fall prey to divisions of every type.

Everything we do, we do in and through Jesus, who is our Lord and savior.

*Continued from page 1
 Spirit-Filled Courtrooms*

reasonable doubt by the prosecuting attorney. Here again, I had started my full day of court cases, with my John 15:5 prayer. The evidence that the defendant was speeding was problematic, as the officer based his charge solely on his visual observation of the defendant's noisy car traveling amid heavy traffic—not aided by use of radar or laser device.

When the defendant took the oath and testified, he was outwardly nervous and somewhat angry, because he was adamant that he was not speeding and had told that to the officer at the stop scene and again in court. I could see what I interpreted as fear in his eyes and demeanor as he contradicted the white officer and testified before this white, grey-haired judge. When I ruled that I had a reasonable doubt about the speeding and found him not guilty, tears welled up in the young defendant's eyes as he expressed surprise and gratitude to the Court.

By God's grace, I have been allowed to work in the courtrooms of Minnesota to "speak up and judge fairly" for almost a half century. Courtrooms in Minnesota and throughout our country have become extremely visible workplaces, with violence and/or unrest commonly preceding the conclusion of cases in court. Truly, the answer to fear and anxiety over the outcomes of cases in our courtrooms is the Holy Spirit, living in the persons participating in the cases—creating Spirit-filled courtrooms.

John E. DeSanto lives in Duluth, MN, with his wife, Lana. They have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. John has been a member of CIC since November 1984, when he attended his first Challenge Weekend with his twin brother, Will, and his father. He can be reached at jdesanto46@yahoo.com.



Triumphing over Toil, Trials, and Temptations

Let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned to which God called you. (1 Corinthians 7:17)

We know **life lived fully in Jesus Christ has power**. As the world becomes more individualistic, materialistic, and hedonistic, lives of Christians should become more attractive and authentic. But what detracts us from working for our Father in our careers and influence our workplaces?

A Gallup study showed that only 30 percent of people are engaged with their work, 50 percent are disengaged, and almost 20 percent hate their jobs. That means that 70 percent of working people spend half of their waking hours in jobs they don't enjoy, aren't fully engaged in, or at worse, despise.

Many experience work, not as a gift from God, but as a hard, depressing, grinding toil. As Christians this is particularly sad. God has something better in mind. In our time, while toil can't be separated from work, toil and work are distinct from each other.

Focusing on working for our Father is key. This enables the good of work to minimize the toil of work. It makes a difference in our lives and the lives of others. Unfortunately, the survey shows people, including Christians, more often choose two other alternatives, unhealthy strategies to cope with the toil of work.

The strategies? We “work to live” or we “live to work”.

Work to Live

Most disengage and choose to work to live. Work becomes a means to an end, not a constructive part of the Father's plan. As a result, we live a divided life. We compartmentalize our life. We disengage. We under commit; it's only a means to our own bigger interests and desires. We put in our time while looking forward to the other things we would much rather do. We don't give it our best. We end up resenting work as an intrusion on our time and life. We disconnect our work from its created purpose; we certainly don't see it as a place where we show our faithfulness and obedience to God. Where we can serve God and others.

Live to Work

The other strategy is we live to work. We expect work to give us personal validation, identity, and meaning. But jobs and occupations are unable to answer these questions. They are not equipped for the task. We're asking them to give us something they can't deliver. As a result, we over commit, we sacrifice in

other areas, and only come away frustrated. We're often overworked.

Our validation, identity, and meaning are only found in Jesus Christ. In Christ, we bring our God-given meaning and identity to our workplaces. As Christians we're called to restore the good of work and offset the toil of work.

“Take my yoke upon you, learn from me... and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

Working for Our Father

Working for our Father puts life in balance. We engage and bring our service and devotion to God to work. We leave a divided and compartmentalized life behind. We become active influencers in the culture of our workplaces. We begin to live a life of integrity, it's a life that's conscientious and honors our Creator while resisting the “idols” of the world that cause us to compromise our devotion to God at work.

“Do not love the world or the things of the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride of riches – comes not from the Father but from the world. (1 John 2:15-16)

Excerpted from the Working for Our Father video series Video 2. To find out more, go to <https://worklight.org/working-for-our-father/>



NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENT

With hearts of gratitude for her time and service, we say farewell to WorkLight Board Member **Jennifer Frankenberg**, who recently turned in her resignation.



"I am grateful for the opportunity to be associated with a group of talented, Christ-focused people. It has truly been a blessing being able to support this organization's initiatives and to see the birth of WorkLight. I will continue to participate in the Orange County Women's Chapter activities and support the organization."

- Jennifer Frankenberg

If you would like to send a note or share a story with Jennifer, please consider emailing her at jfrankenberg@cox.net.

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. (2 Corinthians 9:13-14)

2021 ANNUAL GIFT CAMPAIGN UPDATE

WorkLight is excited to announce that at the closing hours of the 2021 Annual Gift Campaign we hit our fundraising goal! Hallelujah!

As a reminder the fundraising goals were to raise \$450,000 with 400 donors making gifts. We thank God for your generous gifts

that continue to sustain this ministry and provide resources for Christians all over the world. In fact, just last month the WorkLight.org website had visitors from 10 different countries, including countries where Christianity is very much under attack or considered a religious minority (China and Vietnam) and had over 1,000 visitors.

We are excited for what God has planned for the future of this ministry. Please stay tuned for more information on how to sustain this ministry through strategic giving, planned gifts, and the Kingdom Builders legacy campaign.

Missed the Annual Gift Campaign? It's not too late to make a gift. Visit [WorkLight.org/donate](https://www.worklight.org/donate) to make your gift now.

Weekly Prayer Calls

Join by calling:
(313)-314-2699

Mondays at 10 a.m. ET

Start the workweek off in prayer with WorkLight! Let us continue to pray for blessings, moments of trouble, and challenge — all to draw us closer to our Father together.

Fridays at 11:30 a.m. ET

Join WorkLight staff in prayer for growth as we seek to reach further and continually build the kingdom of God in the workplace.

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

When:
October 15 & 16

Where:
Minneapolis, MN or online!

This year's annual conference will be held in-person in Minneapolis, MN, and will also be hosted virtually for the first time! We encourage Groups and Chapters to gather regionally to watch and experience the conference together. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

2021

AUGUST

*"I have been crucified
with Christ and I no
longer live, but Christ
lives in me."*

Galatians 2:20



THE FLAME

WORKLIGHT PRAYER

Father,

Fill us with your Holy Spirit
that we may be made new
and bring the presence of Christ into all we do;
That we may grow in love for you, and for all;
That we may be humble and wise stewards of your creation;
That we may bring your light into our workplaces;
That we may lead all to unity in you;
Through Jesus, our Lord.

Amen

VISION Being Christ in the workplace

MISSION To encourage and equip Christians to be God's presence in the workplace by the power of the Holy Spirit, exercising faith, integrity, and excellence

VALUES WorkLight is an ecumenical workplace ministry committed to:

- Growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ
- Working for our Father, 24/7, 365 days a year
- Building a strong sense of community
- Living life in the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit

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