



Following God's Will

By Luke Cahill

Thanks to WorkLight, I have learned that what I thought was my business is really God's business. He wants me to steward it and has set me up for success by giving me useful skills, a passion for deep subject matter, and the Holy Spirit.

There is comfort in knowing I am working for my Father and if he wants me to fail for any reason, then I can trust he has something even better in store. Conversely, when things are going well for the business, and it is tempting to take full credit for the successes, I can trust that he will help me to "think with sober judgment." (Romans 12:3)

As a steward of one of God's many businesses, I am focused on understanding his will for me and the business. While there are some situations that are obvious as to what God would want me to do, there are other scenarios where the biggest challenge is determining God's will and making the appropriate decisions.

Here are a few recent situations that required earnest prayer seeking clarity.

- How and when to compassionately let an employee go because they were not a good long-term fit for our team.

- Trying to maintain a spirit of generosity with our Fortune 500 clients, while ensuring our team is protected from too much unpredictability or limited profitability.
- Having difficult conversations and sharing feedback with team members.
- Fairly and mercifully allocating travel and workload across a team with diverse personal needs.
- Deciding which qualified candidate(s) to hire.

Each of these situations is unique and the process of getting to a sense of clarity has been different. All included conversations, feedback from other members of my team, a lot of time, and most importantly, prayer. Prayer takes the form of including business situations as an intention during my morning prayer time as well as asking for the Holy Spirit to guide me during the workday. Sometimes I have received clarity through his Word and sometimes it feels more like a nudge during the day.

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INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Following The Lord

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" (Mark 12:29,30)

We follow Jesus a day at a time. The order to follow the Lord has four components—heart, soul, mind, strength.

Experiencing a profound commitment is often initiated by strong heartfelt emotions that engage our very soul. But after a while those feelings wear thin.

Our walk becomes a struggle, we must engage our minds and our hearts more. And that leads to a new state where we do it with all our strength, wanting to



join in unity with him, no matter what the cost, even to our old self on the cross with him. Now, heart, soul, mind, and strength are all engaged.

And that leads to the second greatest commandment. If we love one another as ourselves, we love him. Christ's Kingdom comes alive. How does this work out in our lives?

August Reflections: Pages 2-4



REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

Boldly Meek

By Steve Becker

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5)

The Hebrew and Greek meanings of meek together provide a guide for navigating the daily storms of living the life of Christ. The Hebrew meaning lays the foundation of internally how we’re to be, the Greek emphasizes externally how we’re to act.

The Hebrew understands the humility of meekness as a reliance on God’s strength, goodness, and control over every situation. It’s accepting his actions with us as good, without disputing or resisting.

The Greek connotes a gentleness; but it’s not weak, timid, or lacking courage. It is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest. It emphasizes not being reckless or cowardly in facing problems, disputes,

and disagreements. The Hebrew focuses on our relationship with God, the Greek on our relations with others.

In these days of cultural clash, it’s huge. Can I accept, like Joseph, what others meant for harm, God uses for good (Genesis 50:20)? Can I respond as Christ with a bold meekness? When the storms come will I seek first the Isaiah gifts (11:2), using the spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:8–10) so the fruit of the Spirit will be alive in me (Galatians 5:22–23)?

God uses these situations to purify and transform me, show me the way to love others, do his will, and deliver me in due time. Can I be clay in his hands and willingly go “gently and boldly into the night.” In each situation, will I listen to my emotions, or choose to let go, look into Jesus’ face, and step out in his grace?

Experience shows me the choice isn’t just day-by-day, it’s moment-by-moment. In every storm, I must boldly and humbly choose him—with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Steve Becker volunteers as the managing editor of *The Flame* newsletter and the *Spark* workday emails. He and his wife, Carolyn, weather their storms in Burnsville, Minnesota.

PRAY

Teach me Lord to live in the treasures of meekness by following your call to “act justly, to love mercy, and walk humbly” with you (Micah 6:8).

REFLECT

How has the Lord proven his faithfulness and steadfast love to you during personal turmoil in the past several years?

DISCUSS

Share examples where God has shown his faithfulness and love in difficult times. What have you learned and experienced during these times?

WORKLIGHT

CHALLENGE WEEKEND

Awake the Dawn.

Host a Weekend.

Free from pandemic restrictions, 2023 is our year for Challenge Weekends. Our National Conference introduced a new look and new resources. Schedule a weekend now so a new generation in your area can experience its power.

Learn more at WorkLight.org/Challenge-Weekends

“The night is over, the day is almost here.” Romans 13:12



REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

To Know God

By Jim Hannan

For it is loyalty that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. (Hosea 6.6, NAB)

Several decades ago, an acquaintance from church asked if I had an intimate relationship with God. Upon reflection I admitted I did not, and shortly thereafter I began my journey to discover him.

My new friend invited me to a Challenge Weekend and gave me a copy of *Appointment with God* by Fr. Michael Scanlan T.O.R. This convinced me of the importance of daily, intentional prayer. But how should I pray?

Franklin Covey taught us that peace and success comes through the alignment of our daily tasks with our “life goals,” which are defined as long-standing

objectives which I would walk a tightrope between the Twin Towers to accomplish. My first goal was and is “I know my God has his plan for me.”

Today, I honor that goal and my friend’s original challenge through prayer and suggest this methodology to my fellow brothers and sisters. While contemplating the Bible, ask three questions: God, what do you want me to praise and give thanks to you for; God, what do you want me to seek your forgiveness for; and God, what gifts do you want me to ask you for?

Prayer is about surrendering, not controlling, letting God do the talking. It’s about hearing him, not him hearing me. He knows what I am going to say, what I want. Prayer is about listening—hearing God, through his Word, and letting him know I hear him, through my praise, forgiveness, and supplication.

The goal of prayer is to know God intimately. Journaling helps you get there. Write what you hear, question him, and meditate on him.

Jim Hannan has been a member of WorkLight/CIC since 1990, brought in by Greg Aitkens.

PRAY

Lord, help me to listen to you when I pray, so that I may get to know you and honor your words.

REFLECT

Do I have a daily appointment with the Lord? What can I do to develop a methodology of prayer that will truly help me to get to know God?

DISCUSS

Do you have an intimate relationship with God? How might you cultivate that relationship?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Two for One

By Steve Smith

Bear in mind that the Lord has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. ... (Exodus 16:29)

Several years ago, I attended a Challenge Weekend and just before that, I had worked 31 straight days. After the talk, “What Stands in the Way?” I asked the Lord what was in my way. He said, “I want you to rest.” I thought, “I don’t know how.”

I felt the Lord wanted me to stop working on Sundays. As a realtor, Sundays are prime days, so I didn’t know how I could do that. But the Lord said, “I want you to rest, be obedient to me, and trust me. I’ll show you.”

Later, there was an opportunity to pray over one another. The man

before me asked for the grace to hear God’s voice for others and speak it. We prayed over him, asking the Lord to give him this gift.

Then it was my turn. While praying over me, this same man said, “I keep hearing God say something for you and I don’t know what it means. He keeps saying, ‘If you give up one thing, I’ll give you two.’”

The Lord was confirming that if I work less, I’ll end up having more.

The following Monday, I pulled into a driveway to show some houses to a client. I looked out to see two men standing beside my car. “I hope you don’t mind,” my client said to me, “I brought my friend who also wants to buy a house.”

I was stunned. To build my trust in obeying his call, the Lord immediately had given me “bread for two days.”

Steve Smith lives in South Bend, Indiana, with his wife, Vanessa, and their four children. He has been a member of WorkLight since 2009. He enjoys being a “steward of housing” in a family of companies focused on building, developing, brokerage, and interior design.

PRAY

Lord, you are a God who gives generously and always provides. Give us the courage to put you first, in our desires and in our actions.

REFLECT

Has the Lord been calling you to anything that you have been hesitant to obey? What step can you take in trust and obedience?

DISCUSS

Share a time the Lord called you to step out in faith, and how it turned out.

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Mirror of Faith

By Albert DaValle

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. (James 1:22–25)

We are called to live by faith, but our faith must be reflected in our lives. Our actions are windows into who we are inside: Our thoughts, emotions, what we contemplate, what we value.

Is our faith like a mirror that only reflects us, without depth, limited, ineffectual?

Is our faith a reflection of ourselves only or is it a conduit, a pass-through, to the world for God's grace and mercy?

It is only when we fully open ourselves to the Word of God and listen with our hearts, truly understanding that Jesus loves us, only then can we become open conduits of his love for the world. It is then we experience the perfect law of freedom. Freedom to love others without conditions. We are free to love and serve and make a difference.

As offered in *Jesus Calling*, "When you find your completeness in Me, you can help other people without using them to meet your own needs. Live in the Light of My Presence, and your light will shine brightly into the lives of others."

We are called to faith, to persevere in trials, to trust. As we contemplate our journeys, we find completeness through the love of Jesus in our lives. We come to know who we are before God. We are no longer dependent on others for identity. We become doers, workers in God's Kingdom, changing the world through the mercy and love of God.

Albert DaValle currently lives in Brentwood, California. He and his wife Linda are blessed with 11 grandchildren. Albert is a retired manufacturing engineer and hospital chaplain.

PRAY

Lord, please help me to distinguish if my faith is like a mirror that reflects only myself, or if my faith is like a window passing God's light into the world.

REFLECT

Are there times when I am a hearer of the word only and not a doer?

DISCUSS

What challenges do I experience that may prevent me from living my faith each day? Do I recognize these moments?

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

**One God.
Many Journeys.**

How is it possible that we are all one in Christ Jesus if we are so different from one another? Therein lies one of the most beautiful and confusing wonders of them all. Our Father calls us as individuals to know him and together as the body of Christ to serve him. Working to build God's Kingdom

calls on each of our varied gifts, skills, perspectives, and experiences.

Each of our lives, families, and churches may look different from the outside. But at the deepest layer of truth, we are unified in Christ. We are far closer together in eternity with Jesus than we are distant from one another in this brief life. Yet the diversity of God's creation is good, and to come together across differences is a sacred invitation.

It's a divine mystery to be alive. Each day God's graces are born anew and each of us goes about our own efforts to live with and through the Holy Spirit. We never get it right.

Certainly not on our own! Yet by the grace of God each of our winding paths come together on the horizon of eternity through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Some of us are born into a lifelong church community. Some of us encounter Jesus on our earthly deathbed. Most are somewhere in between. What a great Father we have who has rooms in his eternal house for each one of us. He welcomes us home no matter our past, where we come from, or when we arrive. Glory!

With you in Christ,
Wes



WorkLight and Ecumenism

The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic (universal) Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

We are ecumenical in the belief and hope that Jesus will one day unite all of his followers as one. We hold in common the Apostles' Creed.

From time-to-time questions arise about the nature of WorkLight as an ecumenical organization. Why don't we simply call ourselves a Christian organization or a non-denominational organization? Why ecumenical?

Our approach has been carefully and prayerfully determined. When we first began to build WorkLight, then Christians in Commerce International, it was clear the Lord wanted us to work with people who were church members (though not exclusively) and who found themselves largely unsupported in their faith life as it interfaced with their work life.

In particular, it seemed that there was a genuine need for this kind of support for members of mainline churches who had no sense of "being called out of" their churches or of wanting to leave them. They had a real desire on their part to have a living and vital relationship with Jesus Christ that directly impacted their work in the marketplace.

From the beginning, WorkLight set out to develop along lines that would be respectful of the various denominations without blurring the real lines between them, and without overplaying those differences.

WorkLight is not a church, parachurch, or anything of the kind. We are simply one vehicle for men and women of faith in Christ to gather for support in the work he has given each of us to do. We come together to work for the Lord and to grow in love and understanding of one another.

Thus, we believe the Lord led us to choose an approach that is ecumenical rather than non-denominational.

In theory, a non-denominational approach eliminates distinctions based on denominational doctrines and seeks to promote a doctrine that is universal. In practice, the non-denominational approach cannot avoid taking doctrinal positions that are at cross-purposes with the doctrines of other groups. Thus, there is a tendency for non-denominationalism to create a wide variety of mini denominations, each with their own set of unique doctrines and beliefs.

On the other hand, the ecumenical approach does not seek to take people out of their own specific doctrinal background and plant them in another, nor does it seek to harmonize all doctrines. That will have to be left to the Lord and to church leaders and inspired theologians.

The ecumenical approach recognizes the fact that we have come from a variety of church disciplines and doctrinal systems. It also recognizes

that we hold in common the Scriptures, the faith statements of the Apostles' Creed, a belief in one baptism, and a firm faith that Jesus' call to his followers to love one another applies to all of us regardless of our points of division.

Edited from WorkLight and Ecumenism. To read the full statement go to worklight.org/ecumenism.

Following God's Will

Continued from page 1

The decisions we've ended up making might not have been perfect. For example, I think about the decision to let someone go, and know the proof will ultimately be down the road and seeing how a person ends up in a different environment. Until then, I just trust.

A few other decisions continue to require ongoing discernment. How to remain generous is one of these examples and starts with weeks of reflection, a growing sense of the need for adjustment, counsel from our leadership team, and some corresponding pivots. In spite of being aware of the need to make some changes, this will be one that always needs monitoring and ongoing adjustments.

We won't always know how we are doing at following God's will for our work and lives, but it is a daily task we are all called to pursue. When I know I have been open to seeing God's will show up through prayer, circumstances, and/or the counsel of others, peace often follows.

Luke Cahill is a member of the Minneapolis-South Men's Chapter. He is also one of the Board of Directors for WorkLight. Luke lives in Eagan, Minnesota, with his wife and five children. He owns a marketing research agency, REAL Insight, based in Minneapolis. Luke can be reached at lcahill@real-insight.us.

“Be” Attitudes vs. “Me” Attitudes

By Steve Becker

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

We live in a world that acts as if Christ does not exist. As Christians, we can prove this behavior wrong by revealing in our lives the reality of Christ to the world, in our time and in our place.

Letting the Beatitudes come to life in each of us makes Christ visible. The Beatitudes are a radical, counterintuitive response to our own nature and the world’s approach. In fact, they’re in direct contrast.

Being Christ means having a life that reflects his self-portrait, the Beatitudes. When we do, not only is Christ more visible, but we also do it in a way that is admirable because it’s courageous. Amazingly, it is also very attractive, just as Christ was. It’s attractive because in it we illustrate a mysterious joy of choosing the way to eternal life.

A life in the Beatitudes is more persuasive than apologetics. We don’t need better arguments for the existence of Christ; most of all, we need better examples and greater holiness. Perhaps it’s so easy for the world to ignore the existence of Christ because they see so few examples in his disciples.

Let’s look closer by rephrasing and comparing the “me” attitudes” of the world and our fallen nature with the “be” attitudes” of the Kingdom of God. What’s the tragic result of a life centering on itself? On the other hand, how are we to “be” in Christ and what good fortune does that offer those who do? Then let’s ask the Lord, “How am I doing?” Talk about it with your Small Group.

Reprinted from the September 2021 edition of The Flame

“Me” Attitudes

Poor in Spirit

How tragic for those who long for a life of worldly abundance, personal pleasure, and accolades, for they will find themselves impoverished from anything of real or lasting value.

Mourn

How tragic for those who protect themselves from emotional attachment, insulate themselves and are lost within themselves, for they are doomed to know only discomfort.

Meek

How tragic for those who rely on their wit and abilities to get ahead at others expense, who see life as a competition between winners and losers, for they will find themselves alone and disinherited.

Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness

How tragic for those who are satisfied in their ethical behavior not seeing their own hypocrisies, for they will never be satisfied, always left hungering for what they can never obtain on their own.

Merciful

How tragic are the self-centered who are unwilling to forgive, drinking the toxins of grudges and revenge, for they will experience their self-destructive effects.

Pure in Heart

How tragic for those who create their own imagined identity based on fleshly and worldly desires, for they will find themselves on the outside looking in.

Peacemakers

How tragic for those who seek to divide and foster conflict in order to control and get what they want, for they will only sow seeds of hatred, fear, anger, and mistrust wherever they go.

Persecuted for Righteousness

How tragic for those who seek popularity, concerned about being disliked and going with the flow, avoiding conflict or ridicule for the fullness of life they seek is slipping from their grasp.

“Be” Attitudes

What good fortune for those who are not attached to the things of this world but live not only for the splendor of God’s love but his love for others, for they are now tasting heaven’s sweet, rich flavor.

What good fortune for those who mourn the results of their sins, the fallen nature of this world and are compassionate to others who suffer as a result, for they will know true comfort and consolation.

What good fortune for those who humbly seek God and are neither too bold or too timid, but kind and considerate to others, for they are members of God’s family destined to inherit his creation.

What good fortune for those whose daily yearning is for a deep, intimate relationship with God and act out of a desire to please the one they love, for they will know the satisfaction only this relationship provides.

What good fortune for those who show forgiveness and put others’ interest ahead of their own, for they will experience the Father’s love, compassion, and forgiveness.

What good fortune for those whose true identity is found in God, who join feelings and mind to live for the Father, for they will know him as true sons and daughters do.

What good fortune for those who can walk into the most contentious situations and bring understanding, respect, and love between individuals, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow citizens.

What good fortune for those who put themselves at risk, are willing to face ridicule and conflict, and even suffer persecution to bring about true peace for they now know the joy of the kingdom.



NEWS

CHALLENGE WEEKEND UPDATES

With our national goal of 15 Challenge Weekends in 2023, we are praying for just two more! Already this year we've had a single-day event in Indiana and Friday-to-Sunday events in California, so the National Growth Council has been learning from our diverse range of local experiences. When is your next Challenge Weekend? Could your Chapter or Small Group be the one that helps us achieve this year's goal?

HONOR JOHN MOONEY'S LEGACY

The Mooney Memorial Campaign is designed to help us reach the next generation. It would allow us to add a third staff person to help reach new igniters and unite them in our ministry. John Mooney was instrumental in many of our lives. If God has entrusted you with resources to provide an additional, significant contribution, consider making a contribution to the Mooney Memorial Campaign. It would help us turbocharge our efforts and John would be honored.

NEW VIDEO TESTIMONIES

By the grace of God and a generous in-kind donation by DKY (dkyinc.com) we now have sharable bite-sized

stories of how Challenge Weekends and Small Groups transform lives. Hear from Edward, Josh, Gianni, and more at youtube.com/@WorkLight.

TRANSFORM OUR WORLD CONFERENCE OCTOBER 26-28

Have you booked a trip yet? We are praying for a solid CIC/WorkLight group at the Transform Our World Global Conference in Santa Clara, California, from October 26-28. Learn more and register here: transformourworld.org/events/global-conference/.

Use code GROUP2023 for discounted registration. Remote/virtual options available. Looking for a payment plan? Other questions? Contact Stephanie@transformourworld.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

Earlier this year the Fresno Women's Chapter hosted a Challenge Weekend that brought together sisters in Christ across generations. In fact, there were multiple mother-daughter pairs of reigniters + igniters! How many parent-child coworkers would you guess there were in total?

Last month's answer: In 1991 there were a record 42 Challenge Weekends.

UPCOMING CHALLENGE WEEKENDS

Indianapolis Men's Weekend

- August 26 at People of Praise Building, Indianapolis, Indiana

Santa Cruz Men's Chapter

- September 29 – October 1 at Villa Maria del Mar Retreat Center, Santa Cruz, California

Minneapolis' Hilltop Small Group

- October 20-22 at lake cabins near Clear Lake, Minnesota

Fresno Men's Chapter

- October 21-22 at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers, California

Orange County and Mission Viejo Men's Chapter

- October 27-28 at St. Kilian Catholic Church in Mission Viejo, California

Salinas and Santa Cruz Men's Chapters

- November 17-19 at Mission San Antonio De Padua, Jolon, California. *This is our Spotlight Men's weekend for 2023. If you're looking to travel for a weekend, we hope to see you!*

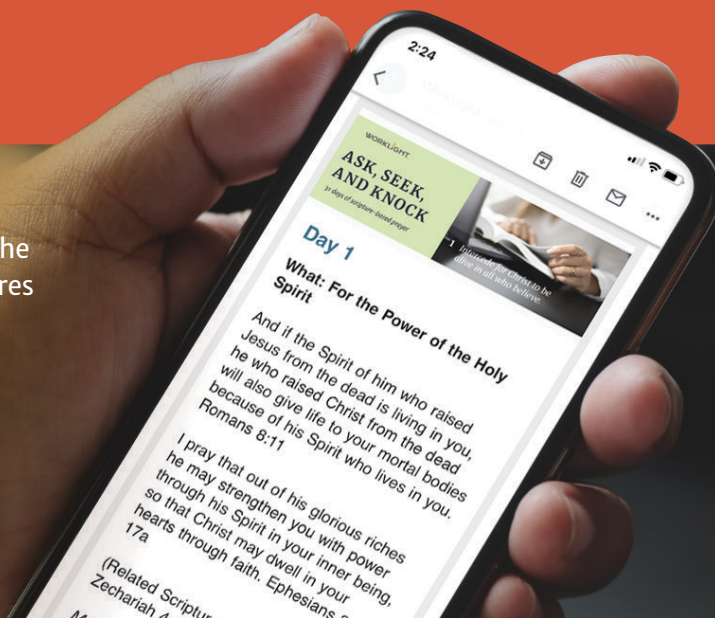
Check out these events and more at worklight.org/events/.

Let's Pray for Our Work

31 DAYS OF SCRIPTURE-BASED PRAYER

Using the power of Scripture intercede for the coming of the Kingdom in our workday world. Daily emails select scriptures and provide prayers in five critical areas.

Learn more and sign up at WorkLight.org/ask



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

Galatians 2:20

AUGUST 2023

WorkLight.org

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 Christians in Commerce (DBA WorkLight) is an ecumenical organization committed to:

- Growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ
- Manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Building strong brotherhood and sisterhood
- Serving God and expanding his Kingdom in all aspects of our lives

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