

INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Strengthened By The Spirit

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being..." (Ephesians 3:16)

Paul's prayer for believers is a request for spiritual resilience. This teaching applies to all aspects of our lives when faced with difficult situations. Through WorkLight, we are encouraged to bring the values of Christ into the workplace. But how do we tap into this inner strength when we need to make decisions that may be contrary to workplace values?

The "inner being" is the core of a person's identity, encompassing their mind, heart, and will. Strengthening this inner self



through the Spirit leads to authentic and ethical behavior. Paul's broader prayer in Ephesians asks that believers be "rooted and grounded in love." Leaders who are strengthened in their inner being can lead with compassion and empathy, treating employees and colleagues with respect. This fosters a workplace culture of mutual respect.

May Reflections: Pages 2-4

Strengthened from Within

By Seth Neistadt

For much of my early career, life was defined by performance and results.

I started working when I was 10 years old as a dishwasher in a small restaurant. Over time I worked my way through restaurants, eventually studying hotel administration and moving into the hospitality and casino industries. Later I transitioned into the automotive world and entrepreneurship. In each environment the expectations were clear: produce results, solve problems, and keep moving forward.

That mindset shaped more than my work. It shaped my identity.

Without realizing it, I had become two different people. At church and at home I desired to live a life of faith; but at work I operated by a completely different set of expectations and pressures. I believed, like many people do, that faith belonged primarily in church while work belonged to another world entirely.

The tension of living that divided life eventually caught up with me. The stress, pressure, and conflicting priorities spilled into my marriage, and my wife and I found ourselves in a place where divorce felt like a real possibility.

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REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

Unmistakable Shove

By Margaret Vesnefski

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

In a few defining moments in my life, I have felt the Holy Spirit not just gently nudge me but unmistakably shove me.

Last fall, I completed and delivered my doctoral dissertation. After four intense months of preparation and three years of study, I was looking forward to some much-needed rest. Yet the very next week, as I sat in a staff meeting at church catching up on what I had missed, I heard about an upcoming launch of a new church-focused civic engagement organization in our community. It sounded like an important initiative to encourage Christian participation in community issues. There was just one problem: the event was three weeks out, and no leader was in place.

That’s when I felt the Holy Spirit’s unmistakable shove. I felt unqualified and unprepared because my experience with civic engagement was limited. I internally debated. Yet in the still small voice, I sensed him saying, “I chose you first.” (John 15:16)

Paul’s prayer in Ephesians reminds us that real strength is given by the Spirit to our “inner being”—our mind, heart, and will. When we are strengthened within, we are able to obey and act outwardly. This is reflected in Isaiah’s response, “Here am I. Send me!” which becomes a model for our own willingness to serve wherever God calls.

As I walked into one of the biggest events I had ever led on such short notice, an unexplainable peace settled over me. God proved himself faithful. Nearly 300 people gathered.

In our workplaces, we will encounter times when obeying Christ may seem countercultural. When we are empowered by the Spirit and our lives are rooted in love, as described in Ephesians 3:17, we find the strength to lead effectively. This foundation allows us to approach leadership not only with courage, but also with compassion and integrity.

Margaret Vesnefski is a minister and community director at King’s Oahu in Honolulu, Hawaii. She is also the newly-appointed Oahu Chapter Lead of For Liberty & Justice.

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your inner being with courage and peace as you face difficult workplace decisions.

REFLECT

Where might God be calling you beyond your comfort or qualifications? What fears need surrendering?

DISCUSS

How can being rooted and grounded in love transform your leadership style and workplace culture? What would change if you trusted that if you are willing, he is able?

Join Our Editorial Team

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If you love to write and would like to share your gift with WorkLight readers, contact us at communications@worklight.org.

“Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.” Matthew 5:15



REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Bearing Fruit

By Luke Cahill

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit...” (John 15:5)

I have felt God ask me to go deeper with him this year, especially in my work. In saying “yes” to that call, I have been pushed outside my comfort zone but also experienced more opportunities than ever before.

It started each morning on my knees praying for God to equip me and put me to use building his Kingdom. That led to an invitation from him to pray with my team. I had prayed often for my work team, but not with them.

As CEO of a small market research agency, I rationalized this avoidance as possibly overstepping my role as their boss. I no longer feel that way—I don’t want to deprive my team of the grace and peace that can come from prayer.

Each day we are fielding research, and I lead a small group in a quick prayer before we get started. I see the impact on the team as little miracles and providences show up throughout the day.

Another time, a client needed to shift plans because a major life event impacted his extended family. It was clear he was feeling overwhelmed and hurting, so I asked if I could pray with him. He was receptive, so I said a quick prayer and promised to continue to pray for his family as they navigated a tough chapter in their lives. Since then, he has addressed every email to me as “my friend.”

Going deeper with God means every day is a new opportunity to say “yes” to how he might put me to work.

Luke Cahill is chairman of the Board of Directors for WorkLight. Luke lives in Eagan, Minnesota, with his wife and five children.

PRAY

Come Holy Spirit. Use and equip me to build God’s Kingdom on Earth.

REFLECT

Where is God calling me to deeper commitment and relationship with him?

DISCUSS

What is one thing I can do this week to bring Jesus into my workplace?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Rooted in Love

By Brian Dahl

—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:19b)

We work with a client that sells utility poles, foundational pilings, fence posts, and architectural mass timber to electric power utilities, telecom providers, and construction companies.

From the surface, their business is very niche and under the radar. It’s the kind of company that you don’t know exists unless you’re directly involved in their industry. But beneath the surface is a family enterprise of people who truly love Jesus.

This underpinning of deep faith changes everything about the company. Ephesians 3:17a explains why: “So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith” and in 3:19b: “—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

As a small business owner who also loves Jesus, I love this invitation

to surrender control of our work to the Spirit. The tradeoff Paul communicates is astonishing. By surrendering, we receive:

- Strengthening of our inner spirits out of God’s glorious riches.
- The indwelling of Christ in our hearts.
- Being filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

It’s almost too wonderful to be true.

For our client, they express this hard-to-wrap-your-mind-around reality for Christ followers in their company mission statement: “To radically love and influence people.”

I’ll remind you, they sell utility poles.

But here’s the thing. When you come to work with Jesus in your heart and the Holy Spirit as your guide, your perspective on work is completely transformed.

It’s not “our” business or career—you and I belong to God. When we surrender our life and work to God, he aligns it to building his Kingdom.

And in God’s workplace things like radical love, sacrificial generosity, excellent craftsmanship, and grace-filled management will be reflected in our work.

Brian Dahl is a partner at DKY, a brand marketing agency in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is also a WorkLight Board member.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, strengthen me with your power so my work today will reflect your fullness, and bring glory to your name.

REFLECT

When you feel frustrated or challenged at work, do you surrender to God’s power, or do you go to your own power to work through the situation?

DISCUSS

Share some examples when you felt a leading of the Spirit to radically love and influence another person at work. What happened?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Sowing Seeds

By Annette Lambert

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens ... (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

When I was a Peace Corps volunteer in The Philippines, I lived in a small rural village. My job was to help the indigenous people who lived there grow rotating crops, and I quickly learned how hard a simple project like growing food could be.

My first attempt was to save fruit tree seedlings from a tree nursery damaged by a typhoon. I replanted the trees along with sowing new fruit seeds. Some of the farmers asked what I was doing. When I told them I was going to eventually give the fruit trees to villagers so they could have food, they told me that they did not want them because they were hungry now.

Plan B was to start my own garden to be able to enjoy the fruits of my labor. Some goats broke through the fence and ate all of the plants except for the okra. At harvest time, I “enjoyed” okra at every meal as a way to show the villagers how much I appreciated eating the vegetables I grew. But after five days, I never wanted to eat okra again.

A week before my assignment was over, I was delighted when I found the local teacher and students planting pineapples and bananas in hopes of selling them to raise money for purchasing school supplies. I’d like to think my example helped open the door to this new initiative.

I encountered many obstacles during my experience, but I had to trust in God’s plan and timing. I realized that I was actually sowing seeds to bear fruits from the Holy Spirit. Those seeds were an investment in the potential of what could be, and I trust that over time, something extraordinary grew in that Filipino village.

Annette Lambert is a retired natural resource manager. She volunteers as a Stephen Minister at her church and is a member of the WorkLight Fresno Women’s Chapter.

PRAY

Lord, help us to remember Galatians 6:9: “Let us not become weary doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

REFLECT

How is the Holy Spirit working in your life to help you create solutions to the problems facing you today?

DISCUSS

Reveal about a time when failure led to a successful outcome through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. How did you overcome your doubts and fears to allow God to work through you?

PRESIDENT’S NOTE



What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

(Mark 8:36)

From Our Good to God’s Great

After spending the first chapter of my working life all over the world, I settled into a role as executive director of a civic institute in Southern California. As excited as I was for the opportunity, this was the most difficult job of my life. The company was founded in 1942 and had grown into a household name in leadership training. But our relevance had peaked about 10 years prior, and the success of the past had been bruised during a struggle to reach the next generation.

It took about 18 months to turn it around, with a focus on so many

aspects of the organization: financial management, fundraising, and revenue generation; branding, marketing, and communications; board, staff, and volunteer development. We went from just surviving to thriving, innovating, and growing.

Fast forward about 10 years. I was hired as president of WorkLight at the start of 2020. By the middle of 2021 we hadn’t grown our staff. Our budget was humbly the same as it had been. Our impact was as unclear to me as it was when I started.

I thought I was failing. So I went to the Board of Directors and told them that they might be wise to consider hiring someone else.

They laughed at me. At least that’s how I remember it. Looking into the eyes of these respected leaders I anticipated analysis and demands.

Instead I was met with smiles and comfort. I couldn’t figure out how they could still have confidence in me if I wasn’t producing measurable results. They lovingly reminded me that urgency is not a core value for a ministry with faith in Jesus.

I still struggle with the temptation to perform, to win, and to succeed, especially for a ministry and movement as close to my heart as WorkLight. But I’m reminded by scripture, as well as my brothers and sisters in Christ, that we need Jesus a whole lot more than he needs us.

With you in Christ,

Wes

Through the Eyes of Christ

By Dave Mazanowski

The world believes power belongs to the strong. Christianity makes a far more outrageous claim: the most powerful force in the universe flows most freely through the weak.

That is the paradox at the heart of the Gospel.

A leadership thinker once said, “Only the people who can see the invisible can do the impossible.” In business circles that usually means vision or imagination. But for followers of Jesus, seeing the invisible means something far deeper—it means learning to see reality through the eyes of Christ rather than through ordinary human lenses.

The Apostle Paul hints at this when he writes: “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being ...” (Ephesians 3:16)

Notice where the power resides. Not in our position, reputation, intelligence, or resources. God’s power works inside us, through the Holy Spirit.

The world says strength produces power. Accumulate enough talent, money, influence, and reputation and you can shape outcomes. The Kingdom of God turns that equation upside down.

Perfect In Weakness

If anyone had spiritual credentials worth boasting about, it was Paul. Yet instead of highlighting the vision, he talks in 1 Corinthians 12 about something else entirely: a thorn in the flesh.

Three times he begged God to remove it. God’s response? “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

For more than 30 years I read that passage and largely ignored it. I understood it intellectually but never grasped it personally. Then came a moment of weakness I could not escape—a situation largely of my own making that threatened the financial and reputational collapse of my business.

My strength, experience, and effort had run out. At that moment I faced a choice: cling to control of the company I had built, or surrender it. I chose to let go.

To my surprise, things did not fall apart—they got better. Much better.

What followed were outcomes I could never have engineered myself. It was as if a supernatural grace settled over the organization. People stepped forward. The culture deepened. The mission became clearer. What I had feared would destroy the company actually seemed to set it free.

That experience revealed something profound: we rarely see the invisible while we are trusting in our own strength. It is often only in weakness that our eyes begin to open.

Dave Mazanowski is a former board member of WorkLight. He lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, with his wife, Donna. He can be reached at damazanowski@mainscape.com.

WORKLIGHT

Challenge Weekend Toolkit

Is your group interested in putting on a Challenge Weekend? Will you answer the call? Find important planning and event materials in the Challenge Weekend toolkit!

worklight.org/cwetoolkit



Our True Treasure

Beatitudes at Work

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)

There is good poverty. It is of its own kind and has its own richness. It is good to be poor in the spirit of the world and our own fallen humanity. To be Christ in our workplaces we should live in this Beatitude.

Our workplaces are where we spend 60% of our waking hours working for our Father and his call to join his Son in bringing forth the Kingdom of heaven.

Pearl of Great Price

The Kingdom of God is our true treasure. The pearl of great price. Heaven is where God is. Everything else is fleeting, like fireworks that dazzle but quickly fade. There is only one way to have this joy of the kingdom. Like the merchant, we must sell or “divest” ourselves of everything to possess this kingdom. (Matthew 13:45)

The Be-Attitude is telling us: What good fortune to 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. They are now tasting heaven’s rich, sweet flavor.

Go All In

His Kingdom has to be at the very core of our heart. After tasting God’s joy, nothing else satisfies. We have to go all in with Jesus. The world would tell us to hedge our bets, don’t put all your eggs in one basket. But Jesus in his wide-grinned wisdom calls his disciples out to go all in.

But we are distracted by the shiny materialistic objects of this world. It’s not just that. It’s about honor and power as well. It’s about our desire personally to count for more.

The contrasting Me-Attitude expresses: 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.

These things are attractive, but they corrode our souls. We’re afraid to give up tangible things. The desire for control, the finer things of life, being admired and liked. And so, we have regrets.

They are like fire extinguishers, reducing the flame of our fervor for his Kingdom. Like Peter we say, “*We have given up everything to follow you! What will there be for us?*” (Matthew 19:27)

Jesus promises, “Everyone who has given up (everything) for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more and inherit eternal life.”

“Beatitudes at Work” is an ongoing series exploring the practical and formative aspects of the Beatitudes found in Matthew’s recording of the Sermon on the Mount. These eight character traits will prove foundational for fulfilling our mission to be Christ in the workplace.

Next month: Poor in Spirit: Letting Go

Strengthened from Within

Continued from page 1

Encountering Jesus

Then I attended a weekend retreat that changed the direction of my life.

During that weekend I encountered Jesus in a personal and transformative way. Soon afterward I heard a Christian businessman speak about the power of the Holy Spirit working through ordinary people in their everyday lives. For the first time I understood that Christ did not intend for faith to be compartmentalized. The Holy Spirit strengthens us from the inside out so that we become the same person everywhere we go.

Paul describes this beautifully in Ephesians when he prays that believers would be strengthened with power through the Spirit in their inner being.

Spirit at Work

When the Spirit begins that work, something remarkable happens. The person we are at church, at work, and at home becomes unified. Decisions are no longer driven only by pressure or performance but by faithfulness to Christ. Integrity replaces compromise. Patience replaces frustration. Leadership becomes less about control and more about service.

Over time that transformation brought healing and renewal in my own life and marriage. Instead of living divided between two identities, I began learning how to live as the person Christ created me to be.

When the Holy Spirit strengthens our inner being, we are no longer divided. We become whole in Christ, and his light begins to shine through every part of our lives.

Seth Neistadt is WorkLight’s vice president of ministry programs. He can be reached at seth@worklight.org.

NEWS

THE MISSION REMAINS THE SAME

From last year's fall board retreat until this February's board meeting, WorkLight's leadership has been in discernment over the language of our mission, vision, and values. Over the next few months we will be sharing each update with you all in *The Flame*. A great deal of prayer, conversation, and input was gathered with the intention to better communicate—but not to change—the mission, vision, and values that were adopted when WorkLight was known as Christians in Commerce International. Special thanks to those brothers and sisters who provided their input earlier this year. While the language remains nearly the same, we trust that the Holy Spirit has led us to the slight updates meant to help WorkLight better articulate our God-given calling

across generations. Stay tuned for the first update next month.

CATALYST CAMPAIGN

Over the 40+ years of Christians in Commerce International and now WorkLight, thousands of generous donors have been a part of this journey. Many gave generously to the Mooney Campaign, which allowed the organizations to hire Seth Neistadt as vice president of ministry programs. As momentum built toward 500 by 2025, our full-time team was blessed with the arrival of Operations Manager Dalena Byrd. The power of the Holy Spirit was on the move when we reached our 503rd first-time igniter in December of 2025. Hallelujah! As we approach the middle of 2026, we are praying for provision to sustain this team and our growth trajectory for years to come.

UPCOMING CHALLENGE WEEKENDS

Honolulu Men's/Women's Chapter

· August 28–30, Saint Anthony Retreat Center, 3351 Kalihi St., Honolulu, HI.

Check out these events and more at [WorkLight.org/events/](https://worklight.org/events/).

The Catalyst Campaign is an effort to discern jointly with potential donors open to a conversation on multi-year transformational giving. If you would like to speak with our Generosity Consultant, Keith Kerber, please send him a note at keith@worklight.org or give us a call at (612) 552-5656.

Three Keys to Transformative Small Groups

For Small Groups to be effective, members need to work together to be **missional, formational, and relational**. All three are needed.

Learn more at bit.ly/WLgroups

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

Galatians 2:20

MAY 2026

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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