God's Design In Business - A Starter



1. God's Design in Business

Our Heavenly Father understands business and wants to introduce Kingdom principles into good Business Practices. How does this impact you and your business?

- a. The Vision and Mission may change: Most businesses in the current marketplace are set up to make money and are driven from a financial point of view. If you have stakeholders, or a Board of Directors, they will be looking for ROI. In order to continue in business, you will obviously need to make a profit, but God wants your focus to be more on His Kingdom and generosity than making loads of money. Once that is right you will see His blessings make us rich in more ways that financially. (Prov 10:22; Deut 28:1-14; 1 Sam 2:6-10; 2 Cor 8:9; Rom 10:11-13; James 1:9-10; This means you need to make sure you are happy that whatever price you offer is value for the money from the customer's point of view. The basic principles that make it a Kingdom business are:
 - i. The Person who is in effect "Chair of the board" is the Lord Jesus Christ, or if you like our Heavenly Father as Jesus directed prayer to be to Him. My intent here is not to "super-spiritualise" this principle or for it to always be known outside the leadership of the Business but this is the first point of departure. This needs to be a prayerful and intentional surrendering into His hands.
 - ii. The criticality of your vision and who you rely on. Read Matthew 6:1-34. Key points:
 - 1. Watch out for using your position or behaviour to be noticed by others.
 - 2. Your generosity must be unseen by others, in secret.
 - Don't use your praying as means to grandstand your spirituality before others, do most of it behind closed doors in secret.
 - 4. Don't use meaningless repetition while praying its insulting to the Father who knows what you need before you ask. Keep your prayers intentional and specific so when the Father answers you can see it is His hand that has provided it and you can properly give Him the Glory.
 - 5. A good outline is the prayer Jesus recommended which gives you a step by step approach when coming to the Throne.
 - 6. Keep your heart free from blame and resentment when others offend or annoy, forgive them quickly just as your Heavenly Father has forgiven you.

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- 7. From time to time it will be right to fast as well, make sure it is with the right motives and in secret.
- 8. Keep your focus and awareness on where your treasure is beware of letting it slip to an earthly one! Keep the focus on the Heavenly treasure you will receive when you get to heaven. It's a good question to ask from time to time for where your treasure is, your heart will be also.
- 9. Be careful of being tempted to muddy your vision by following ungodly sights/interests, this will affect the clarity of your vision and therefore your decision making.
- 10. You cannot serve God and wealth.
- 11. Don't be anxious about anything. (Phil 4:6-7) Your life is more important than food and your body than clothing. You are worth more than birds of the air who don't store up "for a rainy day" or "just in case" your Heavenly Father feeds them and you are worth more than the birds. He knows your needs. But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things you worry about will be added to you. Further, don't worry about tomorrow, be in the now of today! Today has enough problems.
- iii. All the leaders must have a vibrant and intentional relationship with Jesus Christ. This is not about denomination but an intimate relationship with God. Those who struggle in this can be helped by our ministry. See our Guide on Hearing from God.
- iv. If you have staff who are not believers how much do you reveal this to them is a matter for prayer, transparency is always good as long as they do not feel "preached at" but they certainly must recognise that the respect given, values held and behaviour they see in daily relationships and meetings with Leadership comes from God's influence in the Leadership's lives. See our Guide on Values and Leadership.
- v. Who has the final say? For this to be meaningful all the leadership will need to buy in to it and be willing to seek the Father for His direction and help. Ideally there should be a consensus of agreement before moving and all those in leadership should accept the principles of a Servant Leader's heart. See our Guide on the Servant Leader.
- b. The following Business Intervention Strategy Overview is offered on request but of course is flexible based on your Business needs. You may have already touched these points before so our intent would be to check that each area is reflecting Kingdom Principles.