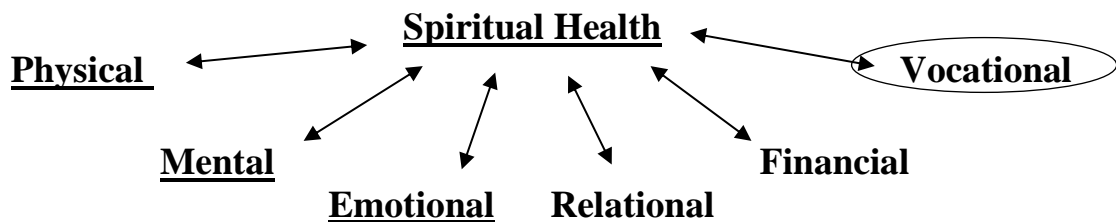




Date 11/14/2021

Transformed Series
Vocational Health

Do Everything with Passion



Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Work AS working for the Lord, because it IS working for the Lord.

How can we do everything with passion?

1. Aim for Intentional Passion.

Incidental Passion vs. Intentional Passion

Intentional Passion is a choice you make to work with energetic focus

2. Aim to gain the master's FAVOR.

Colossians 3:22

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

Set a good testimony.

The ***church*** is instructed to **recognize** those who work hard.
1 Cor 16:18; Phil 2:29, 3:17; 1 Thess 4:12-13.

3. Aim to gain the Master's favor.

Colossians 3:22-23

- “... reverence for the Lord.”
- “... working for the Lord, not for men...”
- “It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

If your boss is the **Lord**, then everything you do is on the clock.

- **Redeeming the Arts**
- **Redeeming your Activities** – everything you do.

4. Aim for the Master's Reward.

“... you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.” - Col 3:32

Let God's reward motivate you!

Matt 5:10-12 - Blessed are you when persecuted because of righteousness ... Great is your reward in heaven.

You will change, be Transformed!

Transformed Series
Vocational Health

Do Everything with Passion

Opening

In the book, *Your Work Matters to God*, by Sherman and Hendricks, **Doug Sherman** (fighter pilot) explained why the book was written. He wrote that military pilots were often commended for their work. “Yet very few of the military chaplains ever mentioned the quality of work of the pilots. Instead, the chaplains praised people who had left the service to become ministers and missionaries.

“This left me with an odd feeling that most of my life, given as it was to flying, didn't matter to God. After all, if the man who supposedly spoke for God thought so little of my world, then God must think likewise. For this reason, most of my comrades dismissed the clergy and religion and God as irrelevant.”

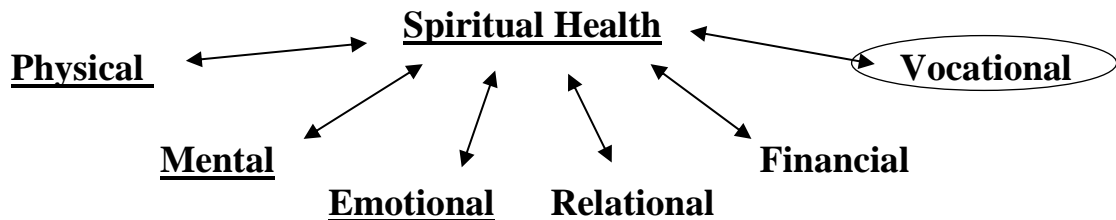
*Does God only care about our church activities and donations?
Or, does God also care about our work? Does God care about our hobbies, travels, recreation, shopping?
Yes! Our topic today is Vocational Health.*

(Pray)

Transition

Sermon Notes

Review - Numerous very positive feedback from this series.



Interrelated – Like an athlete doing Cross-Training
We are concluding our Transformed Series with Vocational Health.

In the New Year I will do a summary review of the highlights of our series. It will be a great way to not only provide spaced reinforcement for the things we've covered, but also provide an outlook for the New Year.

Opening

Why care about Vocational Health?

Q. What if you could be passionate about your job, laundry, yardwork, house cleaning? What if you could do everything passionately?

It would...

- change how you **see yourself** in the workplace, community, family.
- Change the eagerness about what you do.
- Stop complaining
- Not wasting 90% your life waiting to do 10% you enjoy.
- Your testimony for the Lord for the better.
- change the joy of your life
- Rewarded by the Lord

→ ***You will change, be Transformed!***

Our scripture today is

Colossians 3:23

And whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, because you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Whatever you do – what does that mean?

All your heart – wholeheartedly, with Passion

Working for the Lord (not for men)

Work AS working for the Lord, because it IS working for the Lord.

Reward – the reward for your work is an inheritance from the Lord.

How can we do everything with passion?

1. Aim for Intentional Passions.

- **Incidental Passion** – Just happen to be passionate about something.
 - You might love your job.
 - Interest, recreation, hobbies, pastimes you choose.
 - Fan of UH Sports, Crafting, mechanics, yard work, sewing, designing. Shopping, homebased, making models, cooking.
 - You might love volunteering at organizations.You naturally do these things wholeheartedly.
- **Intentional Passion** – doing something with your whole heart. but *not* be a natural passion, but you can do it passionately
 - Washing dishes, cutting grass, volunteering, laundry.
 - Things you have to do, but not naturally into it.
 - Choose to do it passionately.

Colossians 3:23 says that you can do **everything**, Incidental Passions and Intentional Passions wholeheartedly, passionately.

Incidental passions come naturally.

We need to Aim for the **Intentional** Passions.

Paul's words are even more powerful when we realize that he is addressing slaves.

- Slaves did not get to choose what they did throughout the day.
 - Yet Paul says to work at everything wholeheartedly.
- Slaves did not get to do only the Incidental Passions.
 - Yet Paul says to work at everything wholeheartedly.

Intentional Passion is a **choice** you make to work with energetic focus. Someone passionate in their vocation will **stand out among their peers**.

Have you seen someone who didn't want to be at work. They are only there to find employment, earn some money, and no more.

They rather be doing something else. They arrive late. They do minimum work. They take long breaks. Their minds are far away, in the world of their cell phones. They can't wait to go home, and clock out early.

You might have known such a person at one time.

You might have been such a person at one time.

Story: I worked in environments like these.

- I got paid to do a job. Was I passionate? No.
- I worked in a place where there was a 6-minute margin to clock in, and people would rush to clock in just in time.
- In that place people worked diligently if the supervisor was around, and slacked off when the supervisor was gone.
- They took long breaks and lunches.
- I was one of them. But after becoming a Christian and growing as a follower of Christ, I read **Colossians 3:23**, became conscious of how I work. I stopped taking long breaks, went back to work after the 15 minutes break was over, and my fellow workers got mad at me and told me to stop working. They said that I was making them look bad.

The fact that Paul is speaking to **slaves** means the slaves cannot wait until their work environment was favorable to work with passion.

→ The passion that Paul called slaves to had to be attainable, regardless of the work environment.

→ Passion had to depend on what was inside, not outside.

How can we do everything with passion?

1. Aim for Intentional Passion.

2. Aim to gain the master's **FAVOR**.

Your earthly master is a bad person? Try to get on his/her good side.

Colossians 3:22

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

- "... win their favor ..."
- this is having a **good testimony**.

Let me ask you something...*Do you have a good testimony with your boss?*

It's **Biblical** to strive to have favor with your earthly boss.

Favored workers are **rare**, but they're **there!**

This is not about a competition and pride to be the most favored, beating out other people. It's about the master looking favorably on you. They like your work. They see you as trustworthy. They like that you don't badmouth them and give them pushback or laziness.

Joseph

- Genesis 39 – Joseph was unfairly sold by his brothers (rather than them killing him.)
- In Potiphar's house he worked wholeheartedly, with passion.
- Joseph could have had a negative attitude. "I didn't do anything to deserve this, so I'm not going to work hard."
- But he didn't. He was so conscientious that he was promoted.

- Joseph was unfairly treated again → jail.
- He could have had a negative attitude. "I didn't do anything to deserve this, so I'm not going to cooperate."
- But he didn't. He was so conscientious that the jail warden put him in charge of everything in prison.

- It was in Potiphar's house and in Jail that Joseph's attitude was tested. He worked passionately despite his circumstances.
 - This prepared him for God's next step.
- The Lord blessed Joseph, and Joseph was put in charge of the nation of Egypt.

When you work passionately and conscientiously, your master takes notice.

Not only is it okay to work to be noticed by your earthly master, the Bible prescribes it!

The **church** is even instructed to **recognize** those who work hard.
1 Cor 16:18; Phil 2:29, 3:17; 1 Thess 4:12-13.

Story: I never had any outstanding abilities among the employees at that company of 500+ employees, but after I began changing my attitude, gradually the higher ups recognized my passion and hard work, and began asking me to do special things that were outside of my regular work. I was in my grubby stock uniform, and they had me sit in offices and talk with managers. They asked me to head up the **Aloha United Way campaign**. I worked with all my heart, ran a clean campaign that brought in a record amount of donations. Everybody at the store knew who I was. Everybody knew I had become a Christian. Some higher ups chose me to be employee of the month and put my plaque on the wall where everyone entered the store. When I expressed interest in becoming a manager, they quickly made me an assistant manager, despite not having had any management training.

I did not have any special abilities. Really didn't. All I did was work **passionately**.

How can we do everything with passion?

1. Aim for Intentional Passion.

2. Aim to gain the master's FAVOR.

3. Aim to gain the Master's favor.

This Master is, of course, the Lord.

Colossians 3:22 – Paul tells says to serve out of,
“... reverence for the Lord.” – Col 3:22

In verse 23, Paul elaborates on what that means.

Colossians 3:23

And whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, because you know that you have an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Romans 12:1 - ... *offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual act of worship.*

If we've offered our bodies to the Lord as living sacrifices then everything we do has divine purpose and motivation!

If your boss is the Lord, then everything you do is on the clock.

Run to the store to buy some supplies, lunch meeting, help another employee

→ Do it for the Master's favor.

The Lord says take some time off, rest, unwind. Vacation, Sea Life Park, beach,

→ Do it for the Master's favor.

Cut your grass, do laundry, clean the house, decorate the house for Christmas

→ Do it for the Master's favor.

Do you see where I'm going here?

This principle is so far-reaching that you can ...

Bring Everything you do under God's umbrella.

Redeeming the Arts - drums, dance, musical style (rap).

- Everything we do can and **should** be used for the Master's favor.
 - Righteous Rap.

Redeeming your Activities – everything you do.

Not only typically “religious” activities but

- Golf ministry (Stan Yara), Crafting ministry, Bowling ministry, Auto mechanic ministry, Fishing ministry
- Notice how I used the word “ministry.” (service)

Represent Jesus proudly!

1 Thess 4:11-12 Make it your ambition to... win the respect of outsiders..."

Paid spiritually!

Some might be asking, What if I'm Retired?

Q. Does "Whatever you do" include retirement?

Of course!

Baby sitting, Caregiver, volunteering, McDonald's coffee, travel.

Since you are always on the clock, your Master **pays** you to do it. That brings us to the 4th way to do everything with Passion.

How can we do everything with passion?

1. Aim for Intentional Passion.

2. Aim to gain the master's FAVOR.

3. Aim to gain the Master's favor.

4. Aim for the Master's Reward.

“... you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.”

Let God's reward motivate you!

Christians are so conscious that we are saved by grace and not by works, that verses on rewards seem to vanish right before our eyes.

It's right there in front of us, and we can't see it.
Believers know that sin separated us from God, not lack of good works.
That's why Jesus' sacrifice is essential to pay the penalty for our sins.

Aside from Jesus' work on the cross, God calls us to earn our Master's **Rewards**.

Rewards are all over the Bible! It's God's way of motivating us.

Premise → Promise

God could have said, "**My child, you are in my family now, so do everything out of family responsibility.**" But he doesn't.

God's way is to motivate, inspire, incentivize through ... rewards!

It's *Rewards* that pull you through the hardest of times:

Matt 5:10-12 - Blessed are you when persecuted because of righteousness ... Great is your reward in heaven.

God wants you to have passion in all you do.

Meaning, purpose, promises of rewards, fulfillment

Why care about Vocational Health?

Q. What if you could be passionate about your job, laundry, yardwork, house cleaning? It would...

- change how you **see yourself** in the workplace, community, family.
- Change the eagerness about what you do.
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How can we do everything with passion?

1. Aim for Intentional Passion.
2. Aim to gain the master's Favor.
3. Aim to gain the Master's favor.
4. Aim for the Master's Reward.

You can do this with all the areas of health:
Spiritual, physical, mental, emotional relational, financial, vocational.

Renew your mind in the Lord, and

→ *You will change, be Transformed!*

(Prayer of Commitment)