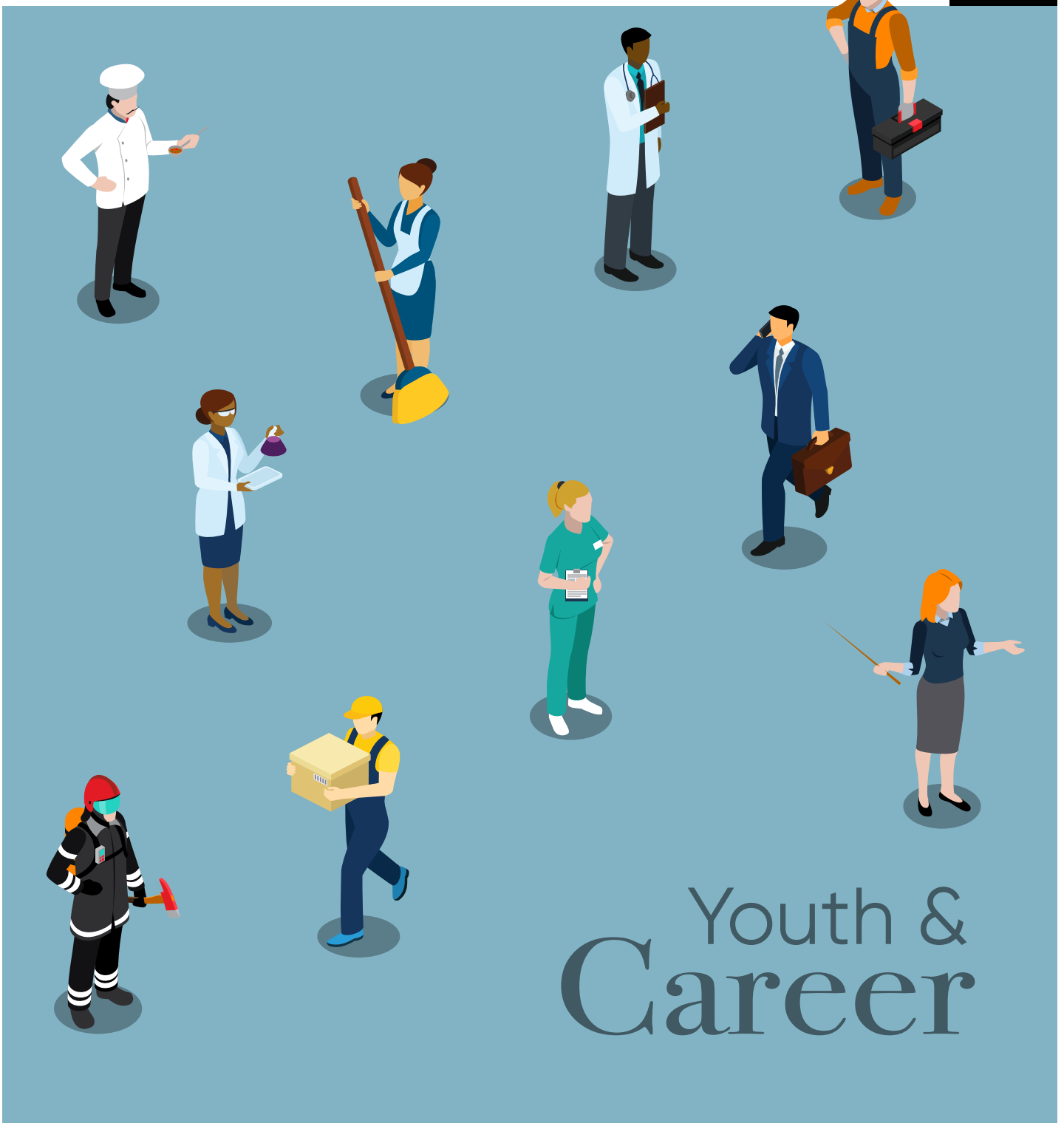
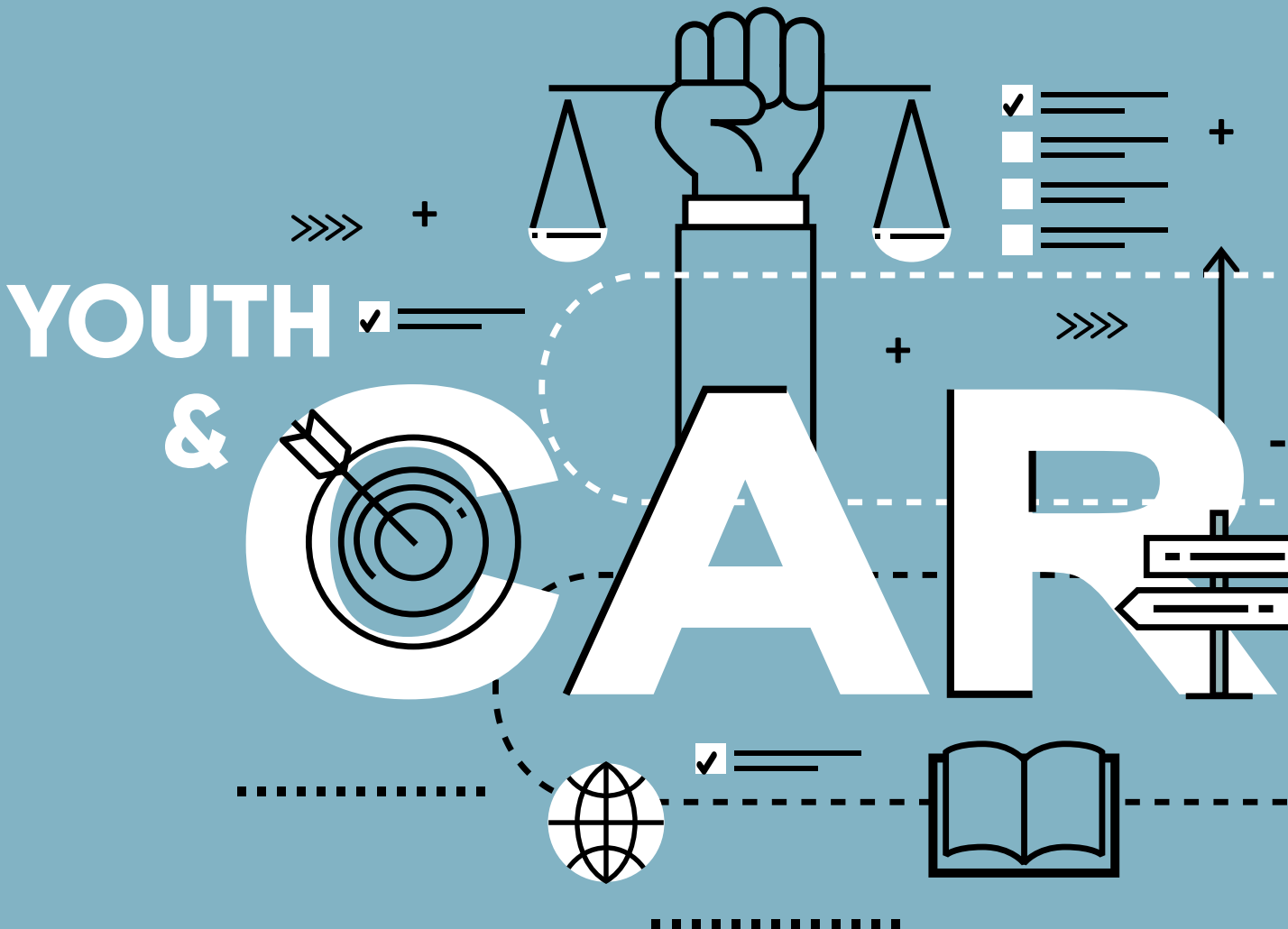


THE YOUNG MESSENGER



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THE YOUNG MESSENGER

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Contact:
 Web: 4truth.ca/youth
 Email: canadianreformyouth@gmail.com
 Facebook: [canadianreformyouth](https://www.facebook.com/canadianreformyouth)
 Instagram: [loudcry.youth](https://www.instagram.com/loudcry.youth)



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Dear youth, what is the aim and purpose of your life? Are you ambitious for education that you may have a name and position in the world? Have you thoughts that you dare not express, that you may one day stand upon the summit of intellectual greatness; that you may sit in deliberative and legislative councils, and help to enact laws for the nation? There is nothing wrong in these aspirations. You may every one of you make your mark. You should be content with no mean attainments. Aim high, and spare no pains to reach the standard.

Religion the Basis of Life

The fear of the Lord lies at the foundation of all true greatness. Integrity, unswerving integrity, is the principle that you need to carry with you into all the relations of life. Take your religion into your school life, into your boarding house, into all your pursuits. The important question with you now is, how to so choose and perfect your studies that you will maintain the

solidity and purity of an untarnished Christian character, holding all temporal claims and interests in subjection to the higher claims of the gospel of Christ.

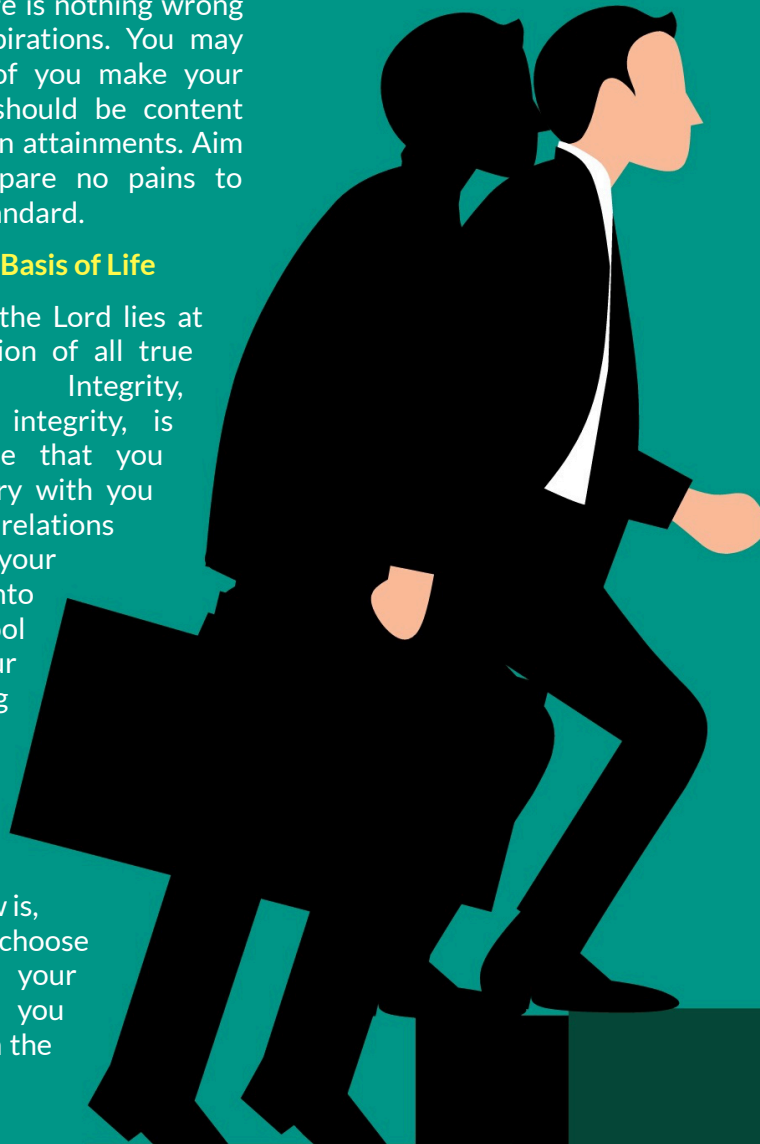
You want now to build as you will be able to furnish, to so relate yourself to society and to life that you may answer the purpose of God in your creation. As disciples of Christ, you are

not debarred from engaging in temporal pursuits; but you should carry your religion with you. Whatever the business you may qualify yourself to engage in, never entertain the idea that you cannot make a success of it without sacrificing principle.

High Responsibilities

Balanced by religious principle, you may climb to any height you please. We would be glad to see you rising to the noble elevation God designs that you shall reach. Jesus loves the precious youth; and He is not pleased to see them grow up with uncultivated, undeveloped talents. They may become strong men of firm principle, fitted to be intrusted with high responsibilities, and to this end they may lawfully strain every nerve.

But never commit so great a crime as to pervert your God-given powers to do evil and destroy others. There are gifted men who use their ability to spread moral ruin and corruption; but all such are sowing seed that will produce a harvest which they will not be proud to reap. It is a fearful thing to use God-given abilities in



such a way as to scatter blight and woe instead of blessing in society. It is also a fearful thing to fold the talent intrusted to us in a napkin, and hide it away in the world; for this is casting away the crown of life. God claims our service. There are responsibilities for every one to bear; and we can fulfill life's grand mission only when these responsibilities are fully accepted, and faithfully and conscientiously discharged.

Influence of Religion

Says the wise man, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." But do not for a moment suppose that religion will make you sad and gloomy and will block up the way to success. The religion of Christ does not obliterate or even weaken a single faculty. It in no way incapacitates you for the enjoyment of any real happiness; it is not designed to lessen your interest in life, or to make you

indifferent to the claims of friends and society. It does not mantle the life in sackcloth; it is not expressed in deep-drawn sighs and groans. No, no; those who in everything make God first and last and best, are the happiest people in the world. Smiles and sunshine are not banished from their countenance. Religion does not make the receiver coarse and rough, untidy, and uncourteous; on the contrary, it elevates and ennobles him, refines his taste, sanctifies his judgment, and fits him for the society of heavenly angels and for the home that Jesus has gone to prepare.

Let us never lose sight of the fact that Jesus is a wellspring of joy. He does not delight in the misery of human beings, but

loves to see them happy. Christians have many sources of happiness at their command, and they may tell with unerring accuracy what pleasures are lawful and right. They may enjoy such recreations as will not dissipate the mind or debase the soul, such as will not disappoint, and leave a sad after-influence to destroy self-respect or bar the way to usefulness. If they can take Jesus with them, and maintain a prayerful spirit, they are perfectly safe....

Our Stewardship of Talents

Young friends, the fear of the Lord lies

Dream High

at the very foundation of all progress; it is the beginning of wisdom. Your heavenly Father has claims upon you; for without solicitation or merit on your part He gives you the bounties of His providence; and more than this, He has given you all heaven in one gift, that of His beloved Son. In return for this infinite gift, He claims of you willing obedience. As you are bought with a price, even the precious blood of the Son of God, He requires that you make a right use of the privileges you enjoy. Your intellectual and moral faculties are God's gifts, talents intrusted to you for wise improvement, and you are not at liberty to let them lie dormant for want of proper cultivation, or be crippled and dwarfed by inaction. It is for you to determine whether or not the weighty responsibilities that rest upon you shall be faithfully met, whether or not your efforts shall be well directed and your best.

We are living in the perils of the last days. All heaven is interested in the characters you are forming. Every provision has been made for you, that you should be a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the

world through lust. Man is not left alone to conquer the powers of evil by his own feeble efforts. Help is at hand, and will be given every soul who really desires it. Angels of God, that ascend and descend the ladder that Jacob saw in vision, will help every soul who will to climb even to the highest heaven. They are guarding the people of God, and watching how every step is taken. Those who climb the shining way will be rewarded; they will enter into the joy of their Lord. —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 82-86.

A High Ideal to Reach

Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached. Before the student there is opened a path of continual progress. He has an object to achieve, a standard to attain, that includes everything good, and pure, and noble. He will advance as fast and as far as possible in every branch of true knowledge. But his efforts will be directed to objects as much higher than mere selfish and temporal in-

terests as the heavens are higher than the earth. —*Education*, 18, 19.

Channels of God's Grace

It is the privilege of every soul to be a living channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. There is nothing that Christ desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and character. There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the holy oil to be a joy and blessing to human hearts. —*Christ's Object Lessons*, 419.

Ellen G. White

Is not Jesus Coming Anyway?

By Damaris Hunger

We are not the first generation to wonder about this, but we are definitely living in a time where the signs of Jesus' coming feel more present than ever. Just the other day I was talking with a friend about how "knowledge shall be increased (Daniel 12:4)" really describes our current world and the use of AI in our time.

But here is the big question: If Jesus is coming soon (and we don't know exactly when), how should we think about our future plans? Is it even worth planning for a career, education, or goals

here on earth? Jesus compared His return to a thief in the night—unexpected and sudden. So how do we balance that reality with preparing for our future?

The Parable of the Talents

Jesus told a parable that addresses this question. In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30), the master goes away without giving his servants an expected return date. He gives one servant five talents, another two, and another one. When he comes back, the first two had doubled what they were given. To both he says: "Well

done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee a ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matthew 25:21

But the last servant, afraid of losing what he had, buried his one talent and had nothing to show for it. The master was disappointed and rebuked this servant.

This story is about more than just money—it is about what we do with that which God has given to us. What do you plan to do with the talents God has given you? Have you identified your talents yet? Our Master and Redeemer is coming at any moment, maybe when you least expect it. Do you think He will be

Well done, ^{Good and} faithful servant

honoured to see that you have buried your talents? Maybe you are artistic, maybe you are a natural leader, maybe you love solving problems, maybe you are great with people, or maybe you are curious and love learning. Other talents also include influence, time, speech, mental capacity, health, and strength. Whatever it is, God's plan is not for you to bury those gifts—it is for you to multiply them and to use them for His glory.

“The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. All are to be employed in Christ's service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men.” —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 328

Why Education Matters to God

Sometimes young people think: “Why study hard or pursue a career if Jesus might come back before I even graduate?” But here is the thing—Jesus does not call us to waste our potential. He calls us to train it, grow it, and most importantly—use it in His mission, to serve the world, make Him known, and hasten His coming.

“The Saviour did not despise education; for when controlled by the love of God, and devoted to His service, intellectual culture is a blessing.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 249

True education is not just about getting a degree or a paycheck—it is about preparing our bodies, minds, and hearts for service. “True education is the preparation of the physical, mental, and moral powers for the performance of every duty; it is the training of body, mind, and

soul for divine service. This is the education that will endure unto eternal life.

“He desires us to study how we can best advance His work and glorify His name in the world, crowning with honor, with the greatest love and devotion, the Father who ‘so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ John 3:16

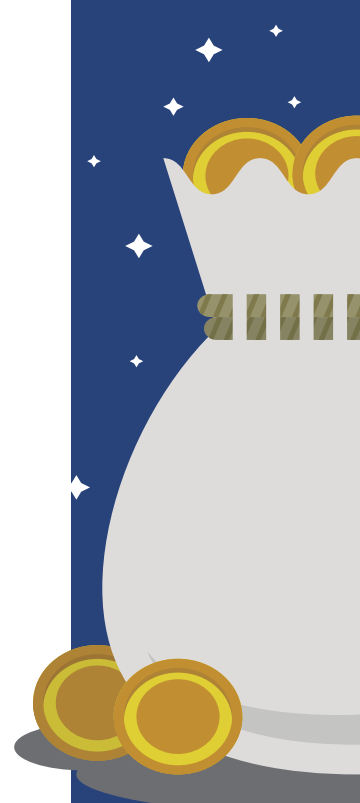
“If placed under the control of His Spirit, the more thoroughly the intellect is cultivated, the more effectively it can be used in the service of God. The uneducated man who is consecrated to God and who longs to bless others can be, and is, used by the Lord in His service. But those who, with the same spirit of consecration, have had the benefit of a thorough education, can do much more extensive work for Christ. They stand on vantage ground. The Lord desires us to obtain all the education possible, with the object in view of imparting our knowledge to others.” —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 330

Instead of seeing education and career plans as a waste of time before Jesus comes, see them as ways to serve Him better right now.

The Danger of Earthly Treasures

At the same time, Jesus gives us a warning. Success, money, and possessions can easily tie us down to this earth. Jesus said it is harder for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter heaven (Mark 10:25).

Remember the story of the rich young ruler? (Matthew 19:16–22). He asked Jesus what he had to do to be saved. Jesus pointed to the Ten Commandments, and the man said he kept them all. Then Jesus asked him to sell his possessions and give to the poor. This was a troubling point for the rich young man, as his riches and earthly endeavours had tied him down



Enter thou *into the joy of Thy Lord.*

and had become his identity. For him, a future without wealth and status seemed impossible, but he failed to see that his vision was limited to the here and now.

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:19–21

What this man did not realize, was that in Christ’s invitation to give up his own plans, Jesus offered him something better—joy on earth and eternal treasure in heaven. “No scheme of business or plan of life can be sound or complete that embraces only the brief years of this present life and makes no provision for the unending future. . . No man can lay up treasure in heaven without finding his life on earth thereby enriched and ennobled.” Education, p. 145

So, here is the challenge: are your goals shaping you for eternity, or tying you down to earth?

Carefulness during Study

If we choose to study, we need to be extra vigilant during this time, and ideally seek godly institutions and places to study. “The attractions in these institutions are such, and the teaching so intermixed with error and sophistry, that they cannot discern the poison of sentiment mingled with the useful and precious. There is such an undercurrent, and it works in such a manner that many do not perceive it: but it is constantly at work. Certain ideas are constantly advanced by the professors and repeated over and over, and at last

the mind begins to assimilate and conform to these ideas.

“It would be perfectly safe for our youth to enter the colleges of our lands if they were converted every day; but if they feel at liberty to be off guard one day, that very day Satan is ready with his snares, and they are overcome and led in false paths—forbidden paths, paths that the Lord has not cast up. Now shall professed Christians refuse to associated with the unconverted, and seek to have no communication with them? No, they are to be with them, but not to partake of their ways, not to be impressed by them, not to have a heart open to their customs and practices. Their associations are to be for the purpose of drawing others to Christ.” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 4, p. 47

In such cases, Daniel and his friends, as well as the Waldensian youth serve as wonderful examples of being true to principle, walking in the Spirit, and living out our beliefs (*Ibid.*, p. 49, 51).

Redeemed for Service

Do not forget—God did not save us just so that we could drift through life. He saved us to serve.

“Christ’s followers have been redeemed for service. Our Lord teaches that the true object of life is ministry. Christ Himself was a worker, and to all His followers He gives the law of service—service to God and to their fellow men.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 326

That means whatever career or path you choose, the bigger question is: Who are you serving with it? Yourself or God?

You can honour God in any career if your goal is to serve Him and other people through it. “The Lord bids us love Him with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and with all the mind. This lays upon us the obligation of

developing the intellect to its fullest capacity, that with all the mind we may know and love our Creator.” –*Ibid.*, p. 333

So instead of asking, “Is it worth planning for the future if Jesus is coming soon?” maybe the better question is: “How can I plan a future that brings people closer to Jesus until He comes?”

In your journey of study and preparation, be careful not to let God slide into second place. “Those who hunger for knowledge that they may bless their fellow men will themselves receive blessing from God. Through the study of His word their mental powers will be aroused to earnest activity. There will be an expansion and development of the faculties, and the mind will acquire power and efficiency.” –*Ibid.*, p. 334

Letting God Write Your Story

At the end of the day, your plans are safest when surrendered to God. “Let us remember that the life of God’s children in this world is a pilgrim life.” –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 478

“Too many, in planning for a brilliant future, make an utter failure. Let God plan for you. As a little child, trust to the guidance of Him who will ‘keep the feet of His saints.’ 1 Samuel 2:9. God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him.” –*Ibid.*, p. 479

This is why Jesus told us: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33

So yes—study, work hard, dream big, and prepare for your future. But do it all with God first. Use your talents, pursue education with a mission, hold loosely to earthly treasure, and live to serve God and humanity. Then, when Jesus does return, you will hear the words we all long to hear:

“Well done, good and faithful servant. . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” Matthew 25:21. Amen

How Do I *Finding Your Path*



Know What I Like?

When You Don't Know What You Like

It's Normal to Feel Lost

If you have ever stared at a university application or been asked what you want to do with your life and felt a wave of panic, you are not alone. Many of us grow up in communities where adults seem to have it all figured out and younger friends proudly declare their career goals. In reality, most high-schoolers and even university students are still figuring out who they are. According to career counsellor Paige Buttels, it is unreasonable to expect young people to commit to a single lifelong career—instead, they need tools and steps to explore different options. These words are written especially for Christian youth who are uncertain about their interests, passions and future direction.

Feeling lost does not mean God has forgotten you. Jeremiah reminded exiled Israelites that God had good plans for them (Jeremiah 29:11). Scripture depicts a Creator who lovingly forms each person in the womb and writes every day of their lives in His book (Psalm 139:13–16), gives diverse gifts through His Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4), and invites us to trust Him (Proverbs 3:5–6). If you are not sure what you like, be encouraged: discovering your interests is a journey God wants to walk with you.

Throughout this article we will combine practical career-discovery

strategies from educational researchers at Harvard and Oxford with Christian wisdom from the Bible and Ellen G. White. You will find exercises you can do right away, a framework for ongoing exploration and stories from peers who have faced similar uncertainty. Our goal is to help you see career exploration as both a practical process and a spiritual calling.

Why You Might Feel Confused About Your Interests

Many young people feel uncertain because they have not tried enough things, and because outside voices can be loud. Harvard researchers note that purposeful work begins when you reflect on your interests, strengths and values and align them with career options. Oxford adds that career satisfaction comes from aligning motivations, strengths and preferences. Parents sometimes impose their own visions, yet students need freedom to discover their identities. You are also not alone if you wonder how faith fits into the picture; the Bible reminds us that we are created for good works (Ephesians 2:10), but we must seek God's wisdom (James 1:5) and trust Him (Proverbs 3:5–6). Your worth comes from knowing and serving Jesus Christ. "Our purpose in life is not found in success or possessions, but in knowing and serving Jesus Christ", not from worldly success.

Begin with Self-Discovery

Discovering what you like starts with understanding yourself—your strengths, values, curiosities, and personality. Sister White advises that “success depends not so much on brilliant talents as on the wise use of those we have,” and she urges young people to develop all their faculties, not just those they naturally prefer (*Education*, p. 232). Natural aptitudes can indicate the direction of your lifework, she says, but balanced training and diligent application matter most (*Ibid.*).

Exercise 1: The Weekly Joy Journal

Set aside a week to notice when you feel most alive. Each evening, jot down the activities you did (school subjects, hobbies, conversations, chores) and rate how engaged you felt. Did time fly while you were playing music, solving a math problem or helping a friend? What were you doing when you felt drained or bored? After seven days, look for patterns. Harvard’s MCS encourages students to reflect on what they enjoy in coursework or internships and what energizes them.
Your

Joy Journal can reveal the sparks that might point toward emerging interests.

Exercise 2: Strengths-Interests Mapping

Using a sheet of paper or spreadsheet, create columns for “Activity,” “Skills Used,” “Level of Enjoyment” and “Values Expressed.” Fill in a few recent experiences – maybe you organized a youth group event, helped siblings with homework or coded a simple website. Notice which activities used your natural strengths (like communication or problem-solving), which ones you enjoyed, and which aligned with your values (such as helping others or being creative). Oxford’s “career drivers” framework encourages students to identify not just what they enjoy but why—whether it taps into motivations like collaboration, autonomy, or making a difference.

Exercise 3: Informational Interview Challenge

Many students discover interests through conversation. Choose someone who works in a field you are curious about—a teacher, nurse, engineer, musician, entrepreneur—and ask to interview them for 20–30 minutes. Ask questions like “What do you love about your work?”, “What challenges do you face?” and, “How did you discover this path?” Paige Buttels en-

courages students to talk with trusted adults about the difference they want to make and the activities that make them lose track of time. After the interview, write down what aspects of their career appeal to you and whether you could see yourself in a similar role.

Try Things Out: Experimentation and Exposure

Self-reflection is only the first step. You cannot know whether you enjoy something until you experience it. Both Harvard and Oxford emphasize the importance of trying different activities, volunteering and engaging with diverse communities.

Join Clubs, Volunteer, and Take Electives

Oxford’s Planned Happenstance Theory encourages students to intentionally create opportunities for serendipity by joining societies, taking on leadership roles, working on projects and talking to a wide range of people. When you join the debate club, volunteer at a food bank, or take an elective in graphic design, you expose yourself to new skills and people, any of which could spark a passion or lead to an unexpected opportunity. Sister White notes that the true object of life is service; each person has a special place designated on earth where they may minister (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, ch. 25). Serving others through volunteering not only develops compassion but may reveal talents you did not know you had.

Try Part-Time Jobs and Internships

Short-term jobs and internships expose you to industries and

work environments and can quickly reveal what energizes or drains you. Research on youth apprenticeships shows that students who are interested in their field and have supportive supervisors are more likely to complete programs. Taking on part-time work, volunteering, or joining student organizations allows you to “test drive” interests beyond the classroom.

Aligning Your Interests with God’s Purpose

Discovering what you like is only meaningful if you consider how it fits into your calling as a follower of Jesus. Here are some biblical principles to guide you.

Trust God’s Guidance

Proverbs 3:5–6 counsels us to “trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Instead of obsessing over making the perfect choice, commit your exploration to God in prayer. When you sense anxiety creeping in, remind yourself that He sees the road ahead and will direct your steps.

Psalm 37:4 encourages us to delight ourselves in the Lord, promising that He will give us the desires of our hearts. As your relationship with God deepens, you may find that your interests

and values align more closely with His heart for the world.

Recognize Your Unique Design

Psalm 139 marvels that God created our inmost being and knit us together in our mother’s womb. He sees all our days before one comes to be. Ephesians 2:10 declares that we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works prepared in advance. These verses remind us that our talents, personality, and experiences are not accidents. Ellen G. White writes that Christ’s followers have been redeemed for service and that each has a special place on earth to minister (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, ch. 25). Instead of comparing yourself to others, celebrate the distinctive combination of gifts God has entrusted to you. (If you want to take a test in gift and talents, you can contact me directly at elder@4truth.ca, I can provide you the assessment material for it).

Don’t Conform to the World’s Standards

Romans 12:2 instructs believers not to conform to the pattern of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. In a culture that equates success with prestige and income, followers of Jesus are

called to evaluate careers through a different lens: do they allow you to love God and neighbour, steward your gifts responsibly and pursue justice and mercy? When you choose a path that aligns with God’s values—

even if it isn’t glamorous—you live out your calling. Colossians 3:23 echoes this by urging us to work with all our heart as if we are serving the Lord.

Be an Example Even in Your Youth

The apostle Paul encouraged young Timothy not to let anyone look down on him because of his age but to set an example for the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity (1 Timothy 4:12). Your witness in how you explore careers matters: integrity, humility, and compassion speak loudly in workplaces and classrooms. Even when you are unsure of your future, you can exemplify trust in God and diligence in your studies and part-time jobs.

Trust in the LORD

with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Create a Personal Career Exploration Framework

To make sense of the ideas above, it helps to organise your exploration into a simple framework. Here is one you can adapt:

- 1. Reflect** – Use the Joy Journal and Strengths–Interests Mapping exercises to assess your strengths, interests, values, and weaknesses. Pray and meditate on Scripture, asking God for wisdom. Identify two to four key “career drivers” that motivate you.
- 2. Research** – Use tools like O*NET, Job Bank, StrengthsProfile or Oxford’s Career Weaver to learn about professions that match your drivers. Read about required education, daily tasks, and future job outlook. Watch videos or podcasts featuring professionals in those fields.
- 3. Experiment** – Join clubs, volunteer, take electives, shadow professionals, and seek internships. Follow Oxford’s Planned Happenstance approach by saying “yes” to diverse opportunities. Notice which experiences resonate.
- 4. Evaluate** – After each experience, ask: Was I energised or drained? Did it use my strengths? Did it align with my values? Discuss insights with mentors, family, or a career counselor.
- 5. Decide and Adjust** – Based on your evaluations, decide on next steps: choose a major, apply for a training program or pursue a new internship. Remember that your decision isn’t final; many people pivot multiple times. Continue to seek God’s guidance and stay open to new directions.

Personal Stories: Real Students Finding Their Way

Emily: Discovering Passion Through Service

Emily enjoyed science but lacked direction until a youth-group service project at a nursing home showed

how much she loved caring for people. An informational interview with a nurse and research on job prospects confirmed her interest. After praying and journaling, she realised that nursing aligned with her compassion and enrolled in a pre-health program, trusting God to guide her path.

Miguel: Balancing Creativity and Security

Miguel loved music but pursued engineering under parental pressure. Joining a robotics club and leading worship at church helped him see that creativity was his core driver across both fields. A mentor introduced him to audio engineering, a blend of technology and music, so he switched majors and now interns at a recording studio while still serving at church (Colossians 3:23).

Hope for the Journey

Not knowing what you like is not a problem to be fixed overnight; it is an invitation to embark on a journey with God. As you reflect on your joys and strengths, experiment with new experiences, listen to mentors and immerse yourself in Scripture, you will begin to discern the unique path God has prepared. Sister White encourages us that even if we have only one talent, we can hear Christ’s “Well done” by using it faithfully (*Messages to Young People*, p. 304). Remember that our purpose is found not in success or possessions but in knowing and serving Jesus. Whether you become a doctor, electrician, nurse, teacher, engineer, plumber or parent, your deepest calling is to love God and our fellow men. Trust that the One who formed you in your mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13–16) and knows the plans He has for you (Jeremiah 29:11) will guide you every step of the way.

Amen

How Do I Choose My Future Career?

By Jason Climaco



They say that, on average, you change your career 3-5 times over the course of your life (with some studies suggesting changes of 5-7). It is no wonder that young people are finding it harder to find their “fit” in the workplace these days. A big decision like a career path is not an easy one. And most young people at the age of 18 years old, myself included, have nothing but a general notion of how to align interests, passion, and purpose with a future career. With little guidance, young people opt to test the waters in college or university, only to find themselves in mounds of debt, disillusioned, and back at square one. If they

do finish, many times they work outside of the field that they had initially intended to work in or become part of the growing statistic of career changers. How frustrating!

Is there an easier way?

Not exactly. But there is a way that is wiser.

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 16:3, “Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.” This means that as we are testing the waters and figuring things out, we should always put our “work” into God’s hands. This means trying things out that have piqued your interest and to take

time to truly consider what you like and what you do not like. Do you see yourself making multimedia a career? Do you like writing enough to work in a field like marketing or advertising? Do you like service work, and do you like helping children, adults, or the elderly? One of these micro-interests could help lead you to study something you enjoy as a future career! Alongside the Lord, pray and ask Him to guide you in your brainstorming and direction-seeking.

After you have undertaken self-exploration and have consulted the Lord, the next thing to do is to reach out to your circle. Trusted brothers and sisters in the church, your parents, and mentors know a lot about you (and sometimes even more than you know yourself)! Invite feedback and look for guidance. Think of questions like “What do you think I’m good at?”, “What skills do you think I have?”, “I’m interested in ___, do you think that would suit me?”. This exercise will be a stepping stone in your process of figuring out a suitable career, as you will be able to listen to others and hear more than one perspective. It is no wonder why Proverbs 15:22 states that “Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” Our friends, family, and mentors can provide an incredible sense of direction and guidance, especially when we feel stuck or confused.

Finally, let us finish by taking in a hard pill to swallow:

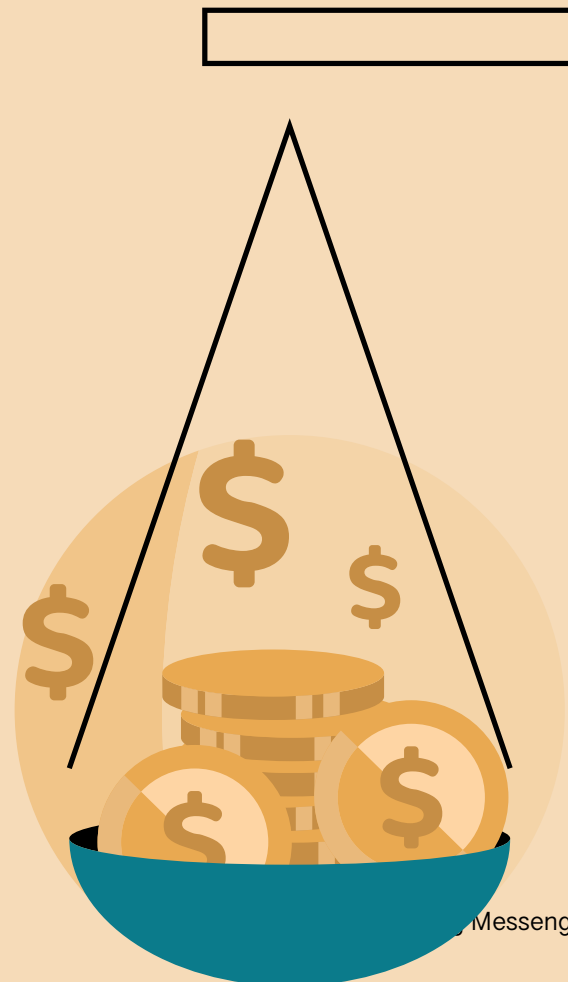
Good things take time.

This is the truth for most things, and it’s the truth in this case too.

Some people (not most, but some) know what they have wanted their future career to be since they were kids. But many people take time to figure out what they like, what they are good at, and what is purposeful for them. If you are like the majority of people, you will need to take time to figure out what you like and how your interests intersect with a future career. Rather than rushing into things, I encourage you to take the time you need—even if that means taking a gap year or adjusting a life plan. If you do, I assure you that the time you take to develop and plan will be of far greater value than any post-secondary experience, internship, or apprenticeship can give you.

You are not alone in your search for a career that works for you. And while it may seem a little hopeless right now, I encourage you to wait on the Lord, follow these steps, and continue in hope. Amen.

My dear youth, you may find yourself at a crossroads, uncertain about your career direction. Perhaps you are a recent graduate, still discerning your path, or actively searching for a profession that feels right. As Christians, choosing a career is more than securing financial stability—it is about pursuing a path that honours God and reflects His Word. The world often promotes competition, profit, and personal gain, yet Scripture calls us to humility, service, and love. Jesus reminds us in John 17:16, “*They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*” This distinction challenges us to navigate career choices, overcome obstacles, and resist temptations with steadfast devotion to Christ. Remember the promise of Proverbs 3:6: “*In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.*” Let this truth give you confidence as you step forward, knowing that God’s guidance is sure and His calling greater than any worldly success.



Choosing a career with conscience

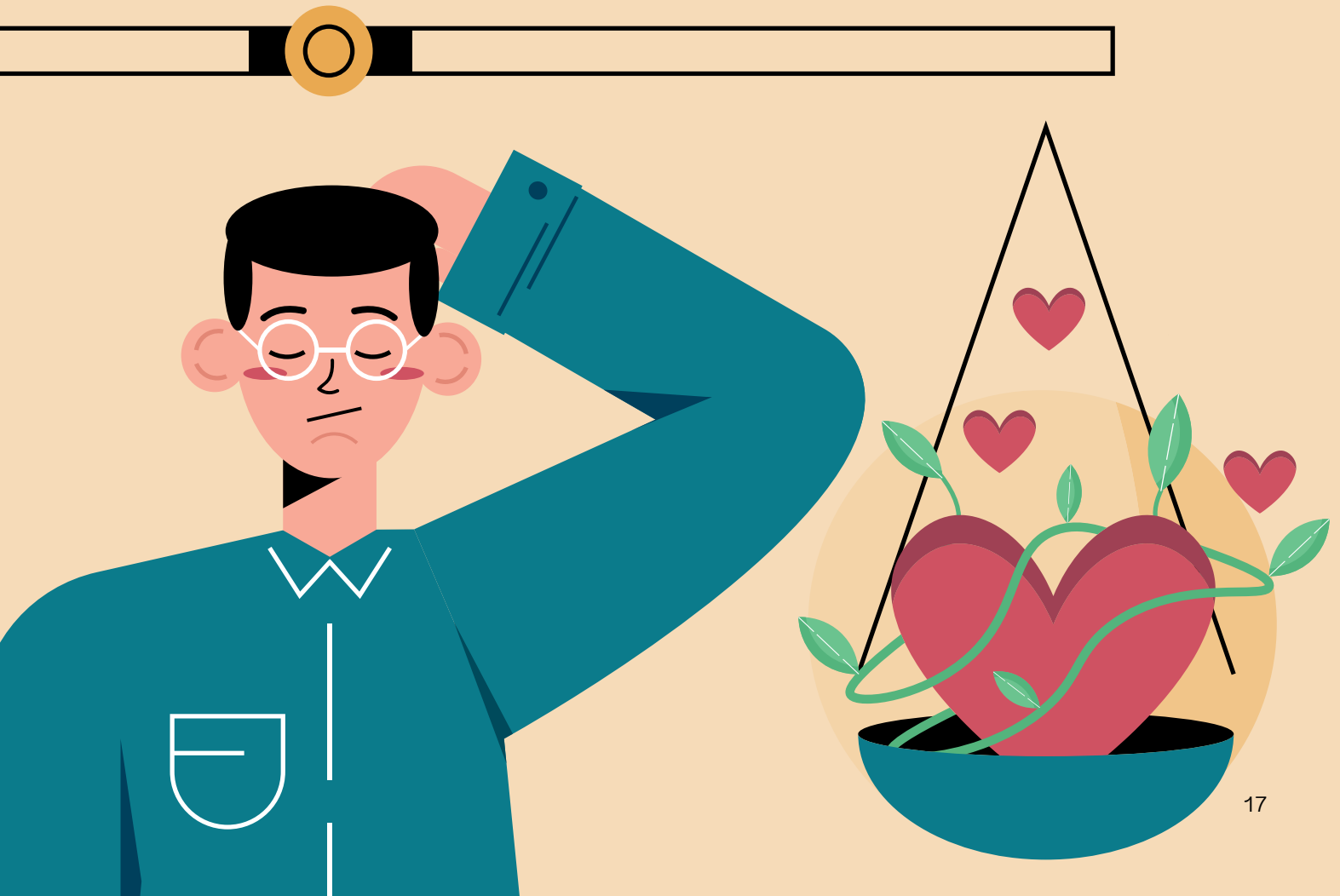
The journey of career discernment begins with carefully considering whether a path aligns with God's principles, because not every job is suitable for a believer, and our work is never neutral. As young people, we must strive not to step into fields that we already know could lead us astray or test our faith, drawing us into temptation and struggles of conscience. We must prayerfully ask: Does this role pressure me to be dishonest? Does it neglect the Sabbath? Does it profit by harming others? Some industries, built on exploitation or deceit, may demand unethical behaviour, while specific corporate or sales roles pressure employees to mislead clients, exaggerate results,

or compromise Sabbath rest. Even fields often considered noble, such as healthcare, research, or technology, can present ethical dilemmas. In my personal journey pursuing biotechnology, the Lord impressed upon me the importance of avoiding areas that manipulate life in ways contrary to His design. Reproductive biotechnology, in particular, raises profound moral questions: procedures like in vitro fertilization may involve discarding embryos to select candidates for implantation, while cloning or genetic modification of embryos can push the boundaries of God's natural order. Other careers, including

Career vs. Faith

By Ylenia Gallo

positions in hospitality or emergency services that demand constant availability, or work in the military, law enforcement, or security, where one may carry weapons or take actions that could harm others, simi-



Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness;

larly challenge our conscience. These examples remind us that career choices are never neutral; each path either honours God or risks compromising our faith. By prayerfully discerning our vocation, we can pursue professions that reflect His principles, serve others with integrity, and protect our conscience.

Trusting God even when job hunting is hard

Many youth in the church often experience frustration when their Sabbath convictions seem to limit opportunities, leading to feelings of discouragement. They may regard keeping the Sabbath as too costly a condition, turning down a potential and appealing job opportunity. It can feel as though observing God's law hinders their life here on earth, and they may worry about how they will provide for themselves and their families. Yet Scripture offers hope. Jesus reassures us in Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and

all these things shall be added unto you," and again, "and let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9. Holding to the Sabbath is an act of faith in God's promise to provide—even when it means walking away from a potential job. Turning down a job opportunity because of the Sabbath can also be a powerful testimony, demonstrating to others the light and God's principles in action: "The light that I have is that God's servants should go quietly to work, preaching the grand, precious truths of the Bible—Christ and Him crucified. His love and infinite sacrifice showing that the reason why Christ died is because the law of God is immutable, unchangeable, and eternal. The Sabbath must be taught in a decided manner." — *The Southern Work*, p. 128–136

I always remember my father sharing his own experiences with the Lord, telling me how he never went without the necessities of life or suffered hunger because of faithful Sabbath-keep-

ing. His testimony reminds me that God always provides a way. He can open doors to opportunities that honour our faith without forcing us to compromise our convictions. Do not be dismayed, the Lord already has a place suitable for you. "Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God." — *Christ's Object Lessons*, 326–327

Integrity and Faith in a Worldly Workplace

Christians are called to be employees of honesty, conscience, and integrity, upholding God's standards even when faced with temptation or pressure to compromise. Every task, no matter how small, is an opportunity to serve the Lord and demonstrate His principles in action. We can ask ourselves, "How can I do this job to make an eternal difference for me or someone else?" Demonstrating faith through daily work—living out values of honesty, kindness, and depend-

and all these things will be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

ability—is essential, even when colleagues or supervisors request actions that violate our principles, such as dishonesty, cutting ethical corners, or prioritizing profit over people.

Joseph serves as a powerful biblical example: though pressured by Potiphar’s wife, he refused, declaring, “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” Genesis 39:9. Similarly, Daniel demonstrated unwavering integrity while serving in a pagan government; his enemies could find no fault in his work because he performed every task with honesty and excellence, bringing glory to God (Daniel 6:4). Scripture calls believers to put off falsehood and speak truthfully (Ephesians 4:25) and to work “as the Lord, and not unto men.” Colossians 3:23–24.

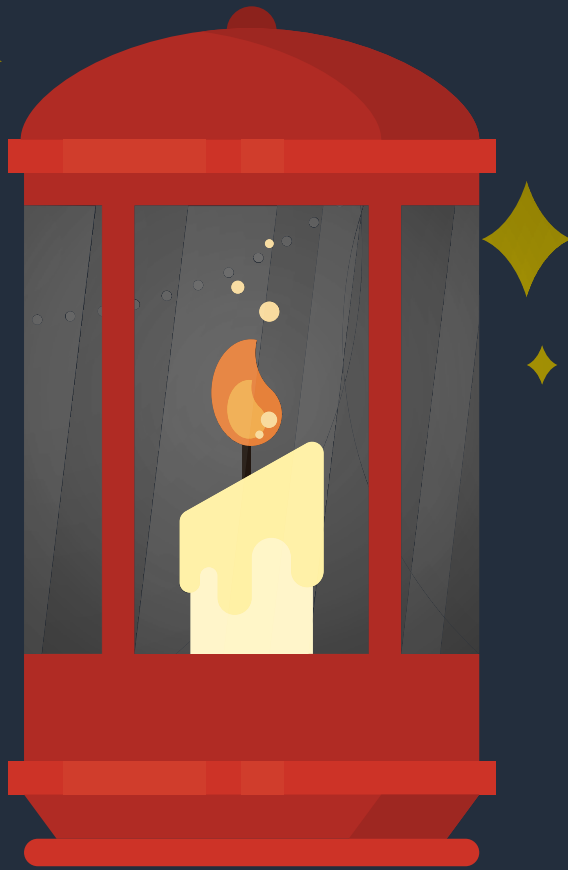
I personally experienced this when a manager pressured me to forge someone else’s signature to cover their lack of diligence and protect the company’s reputation. Despite feeling intense pressure, I reminded

myself that lying is never acceptable and that honesty is a valuable quality in the eyes of the Lord. Thankfully, another Christian coworker supported me in my decision, showing that God often provides encouragement and allies when we stand firm. As Ellen G. White teaches, “In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 329. Maintaining integrity in the workplace is not always easy, but it is a powerful testimony of faith and a reflection of God’s principles in action.

Conclusion

Dear youth, as you step into the career landscape, please remember that a career is ultimately about more than earning a living—it is an opportunity to testify to God’s character through your daily actions and choices. Adventists, in particular, are called to discern roles where Sabbath-keeping will not be compromised: “We should jealously

guard the edges of the Sabbath. Remember that every moment is consecrated, holy time.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 356. When choosing a career, do not settle for convenience alone; seek work that aligns with God’s principles, where you can practice truth, integrity, and holiness in all that you do. Remember that standing firm in faith may involve sacrifice, but God’s Word and the Spirit of Prophecy assure us that those who honour Him, He will honour (1 Samuel 2:30). With courage and divine assurance, you can thrive as workers “together with God” (1 Corinthians 3:9), upholding His truth, His love, and His Sabbath in every workplace. Just as Daniel refused to defile himself with the king’s food (Daniel 1:8), you are called to pursue work that does not compromise your faith. By remaining faithful to God’s principles, you can build a meaningful, God-honoring career that serves others, preserves your integrity, and shines as a testimony of faith in a world full of pressures and compromises. Amen.



A Christian in the Workplace

By Aines Abragan & John Mark Bienvenido

Living in Canada, I learned that there are three sensitive topics that should be avoided in the workplace: financial status, politics, and religion. "If so, how can I be a light in my workplace?" This question rings the loudest in my heart every workday I have.

Have you ever wondered if being a Christian really matters at your job? Maybe you think, "I just want to do my work and go home." But here is the truth: every workplace is an opportunity to shine for Jesus. Whether you work in an office, a store, a school, or at home—God has placed you there for a reason. Your behaviour, attitude, and work ethic can speak louder than any sermon. People are watching how you live, and through your simple, daily actions, you can make a difference. Let us take a look at some simple principles from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy that can help us live out our faith at work.

Honesty and Integrity

In the workplace, honesty is more than just telling the truth—it is about doing the right thing even when no one is watching. The Bible says in Colossians 3:23, "*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.*" This means that your true boss is God. The Lord does not delight in the ways of dishonest men. In the workplace, we are expected to comply with, not only to the standards of the industry, but also to uphold the heavenly principles. We are not called to separate our work and our spiritual life. Success in the eyes of God is not determined by our worldly position but by walking uprightly. "*A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is His delight.*" Proverbs 11:1. With honesty and faithfulness comes true success. God honors in-

tegrity, even when the world does not.

Have you ever felt pressured to lie, cheat, or take part in unethical dealings to gain favor or profits? The Lord tells us in Exodus 23:2 *“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.”* When fear of losing your position and doubt clouds your mind, remember the example of the apostles, *“... we ought to obey God rather than men”* Acts 5:29. Their courage reminds us that loyalty to God must always come first, even above career, comfort, or human approval. In moments of uncertainty, when the pressure to compromise feels overwhelming, we are invited to look beyond the temporary rewards of this world and choose the eternal reward of faithfulness. Standing firm may cost us opportunities or favour in the eyes of others, but it secures the approval of heaven. To put God above everything else is to trust that He will sustain us, defend us, and honor our faithfulness in ways far greater than any earthly employer ever could. *“In all the details of life the Christian is to follow the principles of strict integrity. These are not to be set aside for business advantage or worldly policy.”* –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 490

As a Christian, you are called to be a light to the world. Careless mistakes in integrity can cost us the trust of others, damage our witness, and even dishonour the name of Christ. That is why God calls you to walk thoughtfully and prayerfully, considering not just what seems convenient in the moment, but what is right in His sight. *“Strict honesty must be cultivated. We can go through the world but once; we cannot come*

back to rectify any mistakes; therefore every move made should be with godly fear and careful consideration.” –*Our High Calling*, p. 226. To live with integrity means to recognize the seriousness of every choice and to commit ourselves to walking in the fear of the Lord, knowing that our example may lead someone else closer to—or further from—the truth.

Being honest might not always make you rich or famous, but it makes you trustworthy in the eyes of God and others. People will respect you, and you will feel at peace knowing you stayed true to your faith. Above all, *“He will bless those who have cultivated faith and love for truth.”* –*Manuscript 184*, 1899

Diligence and Excellence

I used to work at a fast-food restaurant, Tim Hortons, for a few years. Although I would transfer from one location to another throughout those years, one common struggle among my co-workers is “boredom”. As you may know, Tim Hortons is a busy place most of the time, so when quiet hours start, some would ask me “aren’t you bored?” or “I’m so bored, what should I do?” Ever since my first work experience, God has put in my heart that the “boring hours” are the best time to show diligence. It might seem like there is nothing to do in these times, but I personally have found myself doing something in line with the job description. Whether it is house-keeping, inventory check, or simple restocking of supplies, there is always something useful to do. Boredom can make you overlook simple, necessary work around you. It is easy to get bored at

work or just do the bare minimum, but God calls us to give our best, even in those boring hours. Proverbs 22:29 says, *“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.”* And Ecclesiastes 9:10 tells us, *“ whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.”* The Spirit of Prophecy reinforces this thought, *“It is the duty of every Christian to acquire habits of order, thoroughness, and dispatch. There is no excuse for slow, bungling habits, or for lack of ambition.”* –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 344. Whether we are stocking shelves, preparing reports, or caring for others, the way we work reflects our character and our faithfulness to God.

Giving our best in everyday duties prepares us for bigger opportunities, whether in our careers, ministries, or personal lives. The Bible reminds us in Luke 16:10, *“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much.”* It strengthens discipline, sharpens skills, and shapes us into people who can be trusted. Moreover, working diligently protects us from idleness and the temptations that come with it. A spirit of laziness can easily open the door to distraction, discontentment, and wasted potential, while diligence keeps our minds and hands busy in fruitful ways.

Doing your best honours God, helps you develop good habits, and shows others that Christians take their work seriously. Plus, working hard opens doors to new opportunities and builds strong character. Going above and beyond in helping those around you can make a big difference.

Kindness and Good Relationships

Workplaces can sometimes feel stressful or competitive, but Christians are called to be the “kind ones” in the room. Kindness is more than just smiling at a co-worker or giving them a hand. It also calls for patience when others are difficult, forgiveness when someone wrongs us, and humility when pride could easily take over.

Working in complex mental health care, where strict safety and security protocols require us to keep everything locked, can bring unexpected challenges. One day, an important key went missing, and some colleagues assumed I was responsible since I was the last person they saw using it. Despite explaining the situation and providing details to clarify that I was not at fault, their suspicions persisted. Fortunately, my teammates, with whom I had built a good working relationship, were the only ones who fully trusted me during this time. For one month, I faced small, subtle comments from other team members questioning my reliability. Eventually, the missing key was found in an unexpected location, clearing everyone’s doubts, and the matter was resolved. I felt a deep sense of relief and gratitude. This experience taught me patience, the importance of maintaining integrity under scrutiny, and the need to understand how people respond differently to uncertainty and conflict. Most importantly, it reminded me to trust God through challenging circumstances and to remain steadfast in character, even when others doubt you.

Conflict may arise through misunderstanding, envy, or workplace politics. The Bible says in Ephesians 4:32, *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”* As humans, when conflicts arise, we tend to instinctively fight back, but as Christians, Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:16, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”* It means that in dealing with conflicts, we need to illuminate heavenly love instead of anger or self-pity. *“If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties.”* – *Early Writings*, p. 119

A Christian's duty is not to retaliate but to respond with humility, patience, and love. Prayer and forgiveness are essential tools for maintaining peace. Ellen White reminds us, *“Kind, cheerful, encouraging words will prove more effective than the most healing balm.”* – *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 162. Kindness changes the atmosphere. People will remember how you made them feel. Even on hard days, a smile, a calm word, or a supportive action can transform tension into understanding and be a powerful witness of God’s love.

Being a Good Example and Witness

Believe it or not, you may be the only “Bible” some people will ever read. Your life is your testimony. Philippians 2:15 says, *“That ye may be blameless and harmless... among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”* And 1 Peter 3:15 encourages us, *“Be ready al-*

ways to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you.” As a Sabbath-keeper, it can be challenging to find a job that aligns with your principles and career. Before accepting and starting a job, I would let the interviewer know that I will not be available to work on Saturdays. However, there will be circumstances that would call for me to stand up for it. In every workplace I have been, whenever my manager asks me if I can work on certain days and holidays, do extra work or help finish a task that may be outside of my expertise, I would gladly say yes. Except, whenever anyone asks me if I can cover for them and work on a Saturday, that is the only time they would hear me say “no”. I have encountered different reactions throughout, but one remark that will always be present would be “I am amazed at your faithfulness to your religion”. From there, religious conversations would start. These moments create opportunities to share beliefs, answer questions, and gently point others to the hope and guidance that our faith provides. It is a reminder that being steadfast in our convictions, even in small, everyday decisions, can spark interest and lead others to explore a relationship with God, simply by observing the way we live. The Spirit of Prophecy says, *“Wherever you go, carry your religion with you... This will have a saving influence upon all with whom you associate.”* – *The Adventist Home*, p. 426

You do not need to preach sermons at work—just live in a way that makes people curious about your faith. When you are kind, honest, and hardworking, others

will naturally want to know more about what drives you.

Trusting God in Difficult Times

Work is not always easy. There are days you will feel frustrated, overlooked, or discouraged. But God reminds us in Isaiah 41:10, “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee.” And Psalm 37:5 says, “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.” There will be times when we feel that quitting or escaping from our duties may seem to be the best option in times of difficulties at work. But before hastily deciding to do so, let us remember, “We shall have trials, but God will help us to overcome them.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 182

Difficult times are an opportunity for us to strengthen our relationship with God. In it, the Lord teaches us to firmly trust and depend on Him. “It teaches that believers are not always to withdraw from positions of difficulty and trial, and place them-

selves where there would be less temptation or opposition.” – Sketches from the Life of Paul, p. 298. Instead of running away in difficult times, you can choose to be peaceful because you know God is with you. Trusting God during stressful times is one of the strongest ways to show your faith at work. Others will notice your calmness and strength, and it might lead them to wonder about the God you serve.

Dear youth, there is no occupation too small for you to be a light to the world. Be faithful in whatever you do. “A consistent Christian life will accomplish more good than could be accomplished by many sermons. Whatever the Christian’s station, be it exalted or humble, he will manifest the power of true religion by the faithful performance of the duties of that station.” –*Sketches from the Life of Paul*, p. 299. Every moment—whether in the quiet hours of routine tasks, the challenges of conflict, or the weight of difficult decisions—is an opportunity to reveal Christ. Others may forget our words, but they will not forget how we carried ourselves,

how we treated them, and how we stood firm in our convictions. In the end, what truly matters is not how high we climb in our careers, but whether we have been faithful to the calling of Christ in the very place He has planted us. When we work as unto the Lord, our labour becomes worship, and our workplace becomes a witness.

Your job is not just about making money—it is a place where you can reflect Jesus every day. You do not need to be perfect, but by being honest, hardworking, kind, and faithful, you make God known in simple, quiet ways. True success is not measured by promotions, recognition, or wealth, but by faithfulness to the Lord in the place where He has planted us. Through your actions, you can inspire others and glorify God. One day, when you stand before God, He will say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” Matthew 25:21. Until then, make every workday count by living for Him!

Amen.

That ye may be
blameless and harmless...
among whom ye shine
as lights in the world.

Philippians 2:15



When God

Shifts

By Joseph Sukanob

My Plan

How do you feel when you have a specific plan and throughout the process of achieving it, something comes along and changes the whole thing? For some reason, it is acceptable but in many cases, it is upsetting.

Moses' calling to leadership is an example of those things that proved changes do happen in the process of achieving ones path according to God's purpose. Most of us, if not all, knew how God prepared Moses for a sacred work of bringing God's people from the land of captivity to a land that floweth with milk and honey (Exodus 13:5).

"From the humble home in Goshen the son of Jochebed passed to the palace of the Pharaohs, to the Egyptian princess, by her to be welcomed as a loved and cherished son. In the schools of Egypt, Moses received the highest civil and military training. Of great personal attractions, noble in form

and stature, of cultivated mind and princely bearing, and renowned as a military leader, he became the nation's pride. The king of Egypt was also a member of the priesthood; and Moses, though refusing to participate in

the heathen worship, was initiated into all the mysteries of the Egyptian religion. Egypt at this time being still the most powerful and most highly civilized of nations, Moses, as its prospective sovereign, was heir to the highest honors this world could bestow. But his was a nobler choice. For the honor of God and the deliverance of His downtrodden people, Moses sacrificed the honors of Egypt. Then, in a special sense, God undertook his training." -*Education*, p. 62

From a human perspective, Moses obtained all the advantages over others when it came to educational achievement. And seemed that if the leadership would be given to him, he was more than prepared to carry it because of his educational background. However, the Lord had a different way of preparing his servant for a leadership position. Not with the degree, not with the training and not with the knowledge the Egyptian educational system had offered. And so, God brought him to Midian, to lead those dumb animals and stayed there for forty years (Acts 7:29-30). His forty years of life spent in Egypt (Acts 7:22-23) matched by God with another forty years of life and training in the mountain of Midian, to prepare him for his forty years as leader of the children of Israel.

"Not yet was Moses prepared for his lifework. He had yet to learn the lesson of dependence upon divine power. He had mistaken God's pur-

pose. It was his hope to deliver Israel by force of arms. For this he risked all, and failed. In defeat and disappointment he became a fugitive and exile in a strange land." -*Ibid.*

Lessons Learned from the Shift

"In the wilds of Midian, Moses spent forty years as a keeper of sheep. Apparently cut off forever from his life's mission, he was receiving the discipline essential for its fulfillment. Wisdom to govern an ignorant and undisciplined multitude must be gained through self-mastery. In the care of the sheep and the tender lambs he must obtain the experience that would make him a faithful, long-suffering shepherd to Israel. That he might become a representative of God, he must learn of Him." -*Ibid.*

"Amidst the solemn majesty of the mountain solitudes Moses was alone with God. Everywhere the Creator's name was written. Moses seemed to stand in His presence and to be overshadowed by His power. Here his self-sufficiency was swept away. In the presence of the Infinite One he realized how weak, how inefficient, how short-sighted, is man.

"Here Moses gained that which went with him throughout the years of his toilsome and care-burdened life—a sense of the personal presence of the Divine One. Not merely did he look down the ages for Christ to be made manifest in the flesh; he saw Christ accompanying the host of Israel in all their travels. When misunderstood and misrepresented, when called to bear reproach and insult, to

face danger and death, he was able to endure 'as seeing Him who is invisible.' Hebrews 11:27." -*Ibid.*, p. 63

"The influences that had surrounded him in Egypt, the affection of his foster mother, his own position as the grandson of the king, the luxury and vice that allured in ten thousand forms, the refinement, the subtlety, and the mysticism of a false religion, had made an impression on his mind and character. In the stern simplicity of the wilderness all this disappeared." -*Ibid.*

God shifted Moses' path, his training, education, and discipline from a worldly university standpoint to a simple life and training of leading and feeding the sheep in the mountain of Midian, not because God wanted to downgrade the knowledge and learning of Moses, but because He wanted him to learn the necessary training and learning that would best fit him for the work of leadership that God designed for him. In the simple life of a shepherd, Moses was educated by God in a way that is totally opposite to the standard of the world.

Result of the Shift

"The great work assigned him he desired to make in the highest degree successful, and he placed his whole dependence upon divine power. He felt his need of help, asked for it, by faith grasped it, and in the assurance of sustaining strength went forward.

"Such was the experience that Moses gained by his forty years of training in the desert. To impart such an experience, Infinite

Wisdom counted not the period too long or the price too great.

"The results of that training, of the lessons there taught, are bound up, not only with the history of Israel, but with all which from that day to this has told for the world's progress. The highest testimony to the greatness of Moses, the judgment passed upon his life by Inspiration, is, 'There arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.' Deuteronomy 34:10." -*Ibid.*, p. 64

Moses' success in being the leader of God's people from slavery to freedom was not gained by the knowledge that he obtained in the University and military institutions of Egypt, rather, on the simple training and learning that he obtained as a shepherd in the mountain of Midian. In the military schools in Egypt, Moses was taught the law of force, and so strong a hold did this teaching have upon his character that it required forty years of quiet and communion with God and nature to fit him for the leadership of Israel by the law of love.

Dealing with Detours

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings." Philippians 2:13-14

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, said the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11

In the world of fast-improving technology that we are living in, we like to have our goals and plans achieved as fast as we can,

we do not like detours, and even want a shortcut. But we have to remember that the Infinite One who looks upon His subjects knew more than we know, and He has His own way of putting our plans and goals into its place in His own time. Most of the time, we do not see His leading because we are so linear in the way we think and act for the achievements of our plans and desires. Young people have many beautiful plans and goals in life for their future. It is a good thing for every young person to have those ambitions for the future, but we are never to forget that God's plan for us is best than what we plan for ourselves.

I will share five ways to handle things when God shifts your path from what you ideally planned.

1. God's Ways Are Higher Than Ours

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9

When God redirects our steps, It is often because He sees what we cannot. Our human plans may be limited by sight, but God's plans are guided by omniscient love. What seems like a detour is often divine protection or preparation.

The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that, "In the future life the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have

been among our greatest blessings.” –
The Ministry of Healing, p. 474

When God shifts our path, it’s not rejection—it is redirection. His higher purposes are unfolding, even when unseen.

2. Trusting the Process of Divine Redirection

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5–6

Trust is the heart of every divine shift. It means letting go of control and

In all thy way

Acknowledge Him

and He shall direct

thy paths.

Proverbs 3:6



choosing to believe that God's guidance never fails. Sometimes, God allows closed doors, not to punish us, but to protect us from paths that would have harmed our faith or mission.

"We are never called upon to make a real sacrifice for God. Many things He asks us to yield to Him, but in doing this we are but giving up that which hinders us in the heavenward way. Even when called upon to surrender those things which in themselves are good, we may be sure that God is thus working out for us some higher good." -*Prayer*, p. 112

When our path shifts, faith whispers: "God is still leading."

He is not removing something good; He is clearing the way for something greater.

3. Delays Are Not Denials

"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." Psalm 27:14

Waiting is often part of God's shifting process. Delays teach us dependence, humility, and trust in divine timing. Every waiting season has a purpose.

"God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him." -*The Desire of Ages*, p. 224

When the road seems uncertain, remember—God is not silent. He is working behind the scenes, aligning people, timing, and opportunities for your ultimate good.

4. God's Shift Always Leads to Growth

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Every divine redirection carries a lesson and a blessing. Through it, God refines our faith, molds our character, and deepens our dependence on Him. What looks like loss today may be the seed of a far greater harvest tomorrow.

"Trials and obstacles are the Lord's chosen methods of discipline, and His appointed conditions of true success." -*Letters and Manuscripts*, vol. 11 (1896), Lt. 28, 1896

God's shift is not the end of the road—it is the beginning of transformation.

5. When God Shifts, Follow in Faith

"And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Isaiah 58:11

When God shifts your path, do not fight the change. Follow His lead, even when you cannot see the full map. The One who calls you is faithful. He does not make mistakes.

"Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet." -*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 481

"As a little child, trust to the guidance of Him who will 'keep the feet of His saints.' 1 Samuel 2:9." -*Ibid.*, p. 479

"As we commit our ways to Him, He will direct our steps." -*Ibid.*

Conclusion

My dear young brothers and sisters, the Lord has the best plan for our lives. He knows what the best is for us and for our future. While He wants us to make our plans and have goals for our lives and for our future, whether in the line of career, relationship, business and all aspects of our life, He wants us to lay all our plans and goals before Him and let Him decide what is best for us. He will not fail us in our hopes and aspirations in life. He may make shifts in our path to keep us safe and more successful, He may bring us into difficult paths, but what He wants for us is to be on the safe side and to be more successful.

"Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, 'Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.' This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ." -*Steps to Christ*, p. 70

May God Bless you always, is my wish and prayer. Amen.

LOUD CRY NEWS

WHAT HAPPENED, IS HAPPENING AND WILL HAPPEN



Food for Thought:

Knowing God Out of the Fire

By Jason Climaco, Canadian Field Youth Department Leader

I never feel more nervous than I do when I'm calling 911.

If you've ever been in a situation where you needed to call emergency services, you're probably familiar (at least a little) with the butterflies in your stomach, the nervousness, and the stress.

I think the reason we feel like this is that when we call 911 we are at our most vulnerable, and in panic-mode. In panic mode,

our senses heighten, we hyper focus, and our brain gets to thinking of all the ways to preserve itself. More often than not, our first line of defense for self-preservation is calling for help and rescue from those around us like family, friends, or emergency services.

Christians call 911 more often than you think. When we have a fight with a loved one, we call. When we're afraid, we call.

When we struggle financially, we call. When something goes unexpectedly, we call. As Christians, we have 911 on speed dial, we just don't know it. For Christians, our emergency service is **God**.

How often in the past year did you call God in your emergencies?

Once a month? Once a week? Once a day?

Unlike the stress you might experience when calling 911, calling God in an emergency is familiar. It's almost like a gut reaction to a difficult situation.

"When x happens, I know God will save me" we say.

or:

"God, I don't know what to do anymore. Rescue me."

or the more familiar:

"God. Help me!"

Now there's nothing wrong with this. Calling God in an emergency is what scripture tells us we ought to do. The Bible tells us in Psalm 46:1 that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble". This means that God is our emergency service (apart from ambulances, fire, and police, of course).

Despite this, the Bible expresses clearly in multiple places that God wants a relationship with us (see Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 17:3; and Philipians 3:8). Apart from being our rescuer, our deliverer, and our Saviour, He wants to know us on a deep personal level.

God doesn't want to only be with us in the fire, but in the daily moments of our life.

Let's look at Daniel's life for a second to prove this.

Do you remember when the decree was signed so that anyone

who prayed to someone besides the king would be killed?

What did Daniel do?

Daniel 6:10 tells us that "[Daniel] went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."

As soon as Daniel saw an emergency, he made it a point to kneel and pray to the only One he knew could rescue him.

But hold on a moment. Daniel didn't only call God in emergencies.

The verse makes it clear that Daniel prayed three times that day, and asked God for his help **as he did aforetime**—as he always had!

Daniel made it a habit to pray, and to build on his relationship with God every single day. Not only during disasters. Why did he do this? Because Daniel valued God in his life. He valued him as more than a lifesaver, but also as a friend, and as a father.

Do you value God in the same way?

Do you make God your friend, or do you only make Him your firefighter?

I think we've all (at one point or another) fallen into the habit of treating God like an accessory,

or a keychain almost. We carry Him around, leave Him around the house, put him in our backpack, but **that's about it**. God isn't in our life, so much as He is around our life.

When we treat God like a firefighter, we run the risk of never coming to truly know Him, His will for our life, and how sweet He wants our lives to be with Him.

In addition, we run the risk of praising God when He rescues us from our emergencies, and cursing Him when He doesn't.

The reason?

If we only call out to God in our emergencies and He doesn't fulfill the request we give Him, odds are we'll lose our trust in Him fairly quickly. Not only that, but our frustration might lead us to be His enemy.

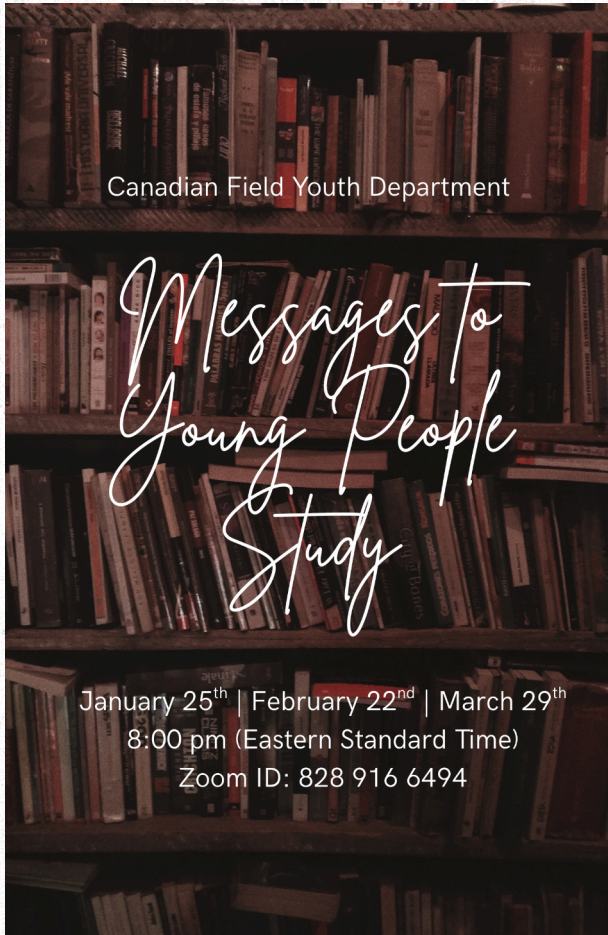
We'll never know Him as a real person, a real friend, a real God.

Daniel teaches us clearly that knowing God takes more than only calling Him in a moment of panic, or stress. Knowing him comes from talking to Him day and night, sunshine or rain, happiness or sadness.

So if you've realized that you've treated God like a firefighter, calling out to Him only to put out the fires in your life, today is an invitation to know Him and how good of a friend He wants to be to you.

*God doesn't want to only be with us in the fire,
but in the daily moments of our life.*

Youth Study Series



Hello all,

The Youth Department would like to announce an upcoming study of "Messages to Young People" happening during January, February and March.

We invite the Canadian Field Youth to join us as we study 3 separate sections of this incredible book! We will study God's Purpose for the Youth, The Conflict with Sin and Gaining Victories. Together, we will learn how to live according to God's will and plan!

Please join us at 8 pm (EST) on January 25th, February 22nd, and March 29th as we learn and study together!

Zoom ID: 828 916 6494

See you there

Voice of Youth Box



"Voice of Youth Box" is a unique online space where you can share your voice. It can be questions about faith, requests for advice about your concerns, suggestions about the youth department plan, or any voice you would like to make! It is all anonymous, so feel free to share your deepest thoughts. Do you have anything to share? Please scan the QR code. Right here in this magazine, we will share our answers to some suggestions/questions sent through this box.

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- Website: www.4truth.ca/youth



“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go:
I will guide thee with mine eye.”

Psalm 32:8



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