

MARKETPLACE **BIBLE STUDIES** 2

Gifted TO DO
OUR WORK

JAMES **BRUYN**

GIFTED TO DO OUR WORK

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ISBN: 978-1-4866-0974-1

Word Alive Press
131 Cordite Road, Winnipeg, MB R3W 1S1
www.wordalivepress.ca



WORD ALIVE
— P R E S S —

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Bruyn, James, 1964-, author

Gifted to do our work : marketplace Bible studies. Book 2 / James Bruyn.

Issued in print and electronic formats.

ISBN 978-1-4866-0974-1 (paperback).--ISBN 978-1-4866-0975-8 (pdf).--

ISBN 978-1-4866-0976-5 (html).--ISBN 978-1-4866-0977-2 (epub)

1. Work--Religious aspects--Christianity. 2. Work--Biblical teaching.
3. Vocation--Christianity. I. Title.

BT738.5.B782 2015

248.8*8

C2015-904202-X
C2015-904203-8

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Chapter 1

Gifted to Do Our Work

HOW DO WE FAITHFULLY USE THE GIFTS
GOD HAS GIVEN US AT WORK?



*Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the
Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

—Colossians 3:17

Ice Breaker:

What was the best job you've ever had, and why?

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, GOD GIVES US GLIMPSES INTO THE LIVES of men and women who were filled with the Spirit of God. We meet mighty leaders like Moses, Joseph, and Gideon. We also meet talented tradesmen and women who sewed the garments for the priests, who built the tabernacle, who farmed, raised cattle, herded sheep and did countless other jobs.

Each of them was chosen by God for a specific task. Even before they were born, God had planned for each of these men to be born with their unique personality, learning styles, and interests. God filled each of them with the Spirit of God and with wisdom, understanding, and knowledge to lead, to design, to build, and to serve at that particular time.

This same God has blessed you and me with understanding to solve the inevitable problems that arise in our jobs. He's blessed us with the knowledge to do what is necessary to fulfill the requirements of our jobs, and he's blessed us with the wisdom to learn the skills and teach others the skills to do our jobs with excellence.

Each of our abilities is a precious gift God uniquely chose to bestow upon us for God's honor and glory.

EXODUS 35:30–35 (SEE ALSO EXODUS 31:1–11)

Then Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic crafts. And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Abisamak, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers.

MATTHEW 25:21

Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!

JAMES 1:5–6

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

JAMES 3:17

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

JAMES 3:13-16

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Thinking of ways that don't include explicitly or verbally acknowledging God, how would your co-workers recognize the Spirit of God in you:
 - a) When you're doing work you enjoy?
 - b) When you're doing work you don't enjoy, or weren't trained for?
2. What does it mean to you to know that God has filled you with the wisdom, understanding, and knowledge to do your work? What difference does that make in the way you approach your job?

3. We see the work of our co-workers and others, and their work is good and appears blessed by God, and it benefits other people. How do we explain this?
4. How do you make sure that you're faithfully using God's gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in your job (both during the tasks you enjoy and those you don't)?
5. For those of you who are feeling like round pegs in square holes, how do you find ways to faithfully use the skills, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding God has given you while you prepare for the future round hole that God has planned for you?
6. Share a story of how God has provided wisdom to you in the past. How could God provide wisdom to you in your current circumstances?
7. Share an example of somebody who communicates their wisdom in a manner you like, and an example of somebody who communicates their wisdom in an offensive manner.
8. How can you share your wisdom with others in a way that is peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere?
9. Why would you or have you given up on envy and self-ish ambition to show godly wisdom? Has there been

a time when demonstrating godly wisdom hasn't resulted in financial reward or increased status at work? Why is it worthwhile to show godly wisdom at work?

SUMMARY

COLOSSIANS 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

God delights over you as each facet of your life so wonderfully reflects His glory. God rejoices over you! He sees his love sparkling as you use your spiritual gifts. He sees his love sparkling as you use the talents and skills he gave you.

Each of our abilities and talents and spiritual gifts is a precious gift God uniquely chose to bestow upon us. Our abilities and talents are not something to be despised or abused. They are not meant to be minimized in comparison to our Spiritual gifts.

Be the best you that you can be today! That is how God has gifted you, how God has created you, and who God has called you to be.

APPLYING GOD'S TRUTHS

What's one challenge, problem, or issue at work that you don't know how to solve right now? Ask God for wisdom to solve this problem.

What is one thing at work that you find boring and uninteresting? Thank God for giving you the wisdom, understanding, and knowledge to do this task with excellence.

PRAYER

Father, thank you for the unique personalities, learning styles, and interests that you have blessed each one of us with. Thank you for the wisdom, understanding, and knowledge that you have blessed us with so that we can do our jobs with excellence. Help us to do our work in such a way that your name is glorified.

Help us, Lord, to do our work in a way that allows our co-workers to recognize your Spirit in us. Help us to be faithful to you in everything we do at work. Forgive us for the times we have been jealous of our co-workers. Help us to encourage our co-workers to use the skills and gifts that you have blessed them with. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



James Bruyn (BMath, MATS, CMA, PMP) is a visionary leader, writer and speaker who enjoys helping individuals integrate their faith in God with their daily life. James is passionate about connecting the rich promises of our loving Heavenly Father with the joys and challenges of living out our faith in the workplace.

James is a consultant and leadership coach for the rail industry. He has a joint honors degree in Computer Science and Accounting with over twenty-five years of experience delivering innovative technology solutions for complex business problems across multiple industries. He also holds a Master of Arts in Theological Studies. James has been involved in many aspects of ministry leadership, including church planting, young adult ministry, preaching and board leadership for churches and the Navigators of Canada. He and his wife, Susan, have three teenage children.

Visit the author at www.marketplace-ministry.ca.

ALSO BY THE AUTHOR

MARKETPLACE BIBLE STUDIES 1

GOD WITH US AT WORK



**Does your faith in Christ change the way
you go about your work?**

As Christians working in the marketplace, we're surrounded by competing ideas that often conflict with our Christian values and beliefs. We may work in environments where loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind is a foreign concept. How do we find joy and peace when our beliefs may not be understood or encouraged? How do we demonstrate the love of God to our coworkers and our customers?

These studies offer a guide to explore how Scripture relates to your work experiences and what God has to say about your vocation and your co-workers. Take some time over a coffee break or lunch to embark on this journey of discovery with your coworkers or friends.