



Seven Bible Habits for Increased Business Success

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All Bible verses in this study are from *The Message//Remix: The Bible in Contemporary Language*, Eugene H. Peterson, unless otherwise noted.

Purpose of this Study

This study presents scriptures and a quick thought to keep you motivated and encouraged in your business activities through some Biblical insights. You will recognize the ideas: God first, pray, praise, read the Word, worship, stop worrying, reach out to others. Keep this guide in sight to make these principles a part of your daily business life.

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- Learn about business **grants, loans, and start-up costs**
- Understand how to **hire and work with others** to reach your business goals
- Do proper **self-care** according to your Biblical responsibilities (including rest, relaxation and prayer)
- Keep **your values intact** as you compete in the realities of the small business world

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1. Put God First Everyday

“Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met” (Matthew 6:33).

What is your first thought in the morning? Is it about your troubles and worries? Is it about the business decisions you have to make for the day? Are you thinking about the same problem you went to bed thinking about? Did those thoughts keep you up all night?

Jesus told his followers where to focus their thoughts, goals and efforts; focus them on God. That’s your priority job. Focus yourself on the reality of God’s love for you. One of the promises to you in this verse is that when you put God first, you can stop worrying about missing out on anything; the provisions of God will meet all of your human needs.

Start your hectic, lively, challenge-filled, business day, by reflecting on the wonders of your omnipotent God. Nothing is out of His hands, sight, or control. Wrap all of your thoughts around the reality of His love for you, the directions He has set for you, and the abundant provisions He can bring to your life and business.

Know that your concerns, including those for your business, are already being taken care of by God. There is nothing you can do that He can’t do better when it comes to your business operations. All you have to do is steep your attention on Him.

Related Verse

“No other gods, only me. No using the name of God, your God, in curses or silly banter; God won’t put up with the irreverent use of his name” (Deuteronomy 5:7, 11).

Ask Yourself:

- Do you have a business meeting with the Lord each morning?
- Do you often stop during the day to thank God for taking care of everything that’s on your mind?
- What do you need to do to get and keep God as a priority in your business life?

Prayer

Dear Lord, Thank you for taking care of my business day before I even get up in the morning. Thank you for your love and support as I go through this day.. Amen.

2. Turn Worry and Concern into Praise

“Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns”
(Philippians 4:6).

You can always find something to worry about. Actually, it is a pretty well-known fact usually far less than 20% of everything you worry about is ever really a problem. Yet, every problem that you have is something God will work out for you if you let Him handle it.

You have the freewill to do what you want with your life; the choice is yours. God will never force His goodness on you. You can decide to take your problems out of His hands and do all of the worrying by yourself. But why would you try to handle things alone when you have the God of the Universe on your side?

Instead of worrying, turn those worries into prayers and petitions to God. For instance, instead of fretting about the bills for your business, ask God to provide new ideas to generate needed income. Praise Him for dropping ideas into your mind that bring new clients to your business. Do this through faith before you see the results, knowing that what you ask for in faith is already done.

Worries and concerns only cloud your mind. Instead of making frets and worry a priority in your mind and heart, pray, with praise and thanksgiving, and get on with your day. God will handle the rest.

Related Verse

“God’s a safe-house for the battered, a sanctuary during bad times. The moment you arrive, you relax; you’re never sorry you knocked” (Psalms 9:9-10).

Ask Yourself

- Are you spending precious time in worry and concern?
- Do you have a decision to make in your business that is keeping you troubled?
- Are you trying to make it on your own without the leading of God when you get worried?

Prayer

Dear Lord, It feels good to know that anything that would be a worry to me is already taken care of by you. I choose to let you handle all of my worries today. Amen.

3. Pray Always

”At about that same time he climbed a mountain to pray. He was there all night in prayer before God. The next day he summoned his disciples; from them selected twelve he designated as apostles” (Luke 6:12).

Prayer is the privilege of Christians. It’s your way of talking to the Lord in your own style. Jesus prayed at all times. He prayed before making great decisions and before and after taking any type of actions in His daily life.

You probably pray too, yet, when things get busy, it’s easy to make business decisions before spending real time in prayer. Becoming flustered and frustrated in business is common. Things can go wrong in a second. Yet, things can also go extremely well.

Do you stop to pray about every decision you make? What about the last time you selected an employee or contractor to help in your business? Or did you pick up a resume or go online and find the first person who seemed to be able to carry out the job duties?

God is concerned with every decision you make in your business. After all, it’s His business, you just get to carry out the work and reap the rewards. Shouldn’t you consult with the real boss through continued prayer about every business decision or activity?

Pray always and about everything. Keep an ongoing prayer conversation with the Lord in your head as you go through the day. Do this knowing that God already knows everything you’re going to ask anyway and He listens with the intention of answering according to what He knows is best for you at this time in your life.

Related verse

“Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Ask Yourself:

- Do you take the time to pray about every business decision?
- Do you stop to pray during the business day so you keep your mind on the Lord at all times?
- Do you present the list of possible workers in your business to the Lord in prayer before you hire help?

Prayer

Dear Lord, Today I choose to pray about everything I have to do in my business. Each decision will be your decision made through me. Thank you for being in control. Amen.

4. Follow God's Word as Your Plan

“And don't for a minute let this Book of The Revelation be out of mind. Ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you'll get where you're going; then you'll succeed” (Joshua 1:7-8).

Every business should operate with a business plan. Not only do you need to create a working plan for your business, you need to follow an already tried and true operations plan to keep you on track.

You already have access to the working plan for life if you only do what you're told; follow the Word of God everyday. That sounds like it's not too hard, right? But, have you made it a habit to read the Bible every single day without fail? To be sure your business is on the right track; follow the guidebook of success ---the Bible.

The Bible was written as a guidebook to life for Believers. Within it, you will find the principles necessary to run your business with the highest integrity. It's no small feat to read the Bible everyday. Some of the reading is difficult to understand. But once you read it, the words bring wisdom to your life that could come from no other source.

Find a Bible version that is understandable to you and make it a habit to consult this guidebook on a regular basis. You can start by selecting one of the Bible books to read, complete a specific set of passages, or read one chapter each day.

When you pray or take time to meditate, think about what you read and how it applies to your business. Then you will know the passages, verses, stories, or events of the Bible that relate to any situation encounter. You will have a source of motivation and encouragement you need to keep going.

Related Verse

“God means what he says. What he says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey” (Hebrews 4:12).

Ask Yourself

- Do you make it a habit to read the Bibles each day?
- Do you seek a scripture or passage to follow as your guide for business success?
- What would it take to make following this guidebook a habit?

Prayer

Dear Lord, I believe that your Word is the guidebook for my life and business. I ask that you remind me to read and follow your Word everyday. Amen.

5. Keep Your Life Balanced

“Don’t burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don’t quit in hard times, pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality” (Romans 12:11).

What do you call a Christian woman under stress? A woman in need of the Lord! Being a Christian does not shield you from the realities of life. And encountering stress and overwhelm does not take away from the fact that you love the Lord. It’s how you handle different situations that come into your life that count. Daily, you have to renew your walk with Christ until you come to the place where you will not be a person that gets overtaken by stress.

Being in business means learning how to keep going when the going seems almost impossible. You can’t be a quitter when times get hard. Instead, use hard times to go deeper into your prayer life. That’s the time to get in front of the Lord, tell him exactly what you need, and ask for the strength to endure.

Alleviate some stress by stepping away from your problems and doing something kind for someone else. Be hospitable. Look for ways to support others while building your business. Donate a product for a non-profit to use to raise money, support a kid’s sports team with T-shirts, volunteer at the homeless shelter to serve food or teach a skill, offer your location for a small group to meet, give a free teleseminar on a topic of general interest. When you serve others during times of stress, it actually helps to take the pressure off.

Then do some self care. Get a rest, go for a walk, exercise, or drink a cup of tea. Keep a balance in your life so work does not become overwhelming. Pray until you get the answer you need to make the next move. Then let go of the problem and allow the Lord to take care of it for you.

Related Verse

“You realize, don’t you, that you are the temple of God, and God himself is present in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)

Ask Yourself:

- Are you working so hard you forget to take a break and rest?
- Has stress and overwhelm become a regular part of your business or personal life?
- What program have you set up to give something back to others? How are you being hospitable in your business life?

Prayer

Dear Lord, Thank you for giving me this body to care for each day. Help me to remember to rest, relax, and think about doing something kind for someone else. Amen.

6. Make Your Business a Part of Your Worship

*God cares about honesty in the workplace; your business is His business”
(Proverbs 16:11).*

Work honors God. And what you do in the workplace becomes a form of worship when you perform your work with honesty and integrity. There is no separation between what you do at work and how you represent God everyday. You are never alone when you enter your office or workspace. Even if you ignore him by not praying or reading His Word, God is on the premises watching everything you do.

Honesty brings great rewards. If you understand that you reap what you sow, you will understand that honest work will bring honest gain. Clients will be attracted to your work or place of business because they know you will give them the best quality product or service at a correct and appropriate price.

Make your work a part of your worship by giving the very best to every person you are blessed to serve. Give the best and put in a bit extra. Bring in fresh flowers or lovely scented candles to make the atmosphere welcoming. Keep a smile on your face and a pleasant tone in your voice. Check your words before you hit “send” on your email. Review your website to be sure it is inviting and beautiful.

The source of your money is never your work; the source of your money is God. He owns everything and gives out His goods as He pleases. He can turn the tide of your situation with the blowing of His breath. When you worship Him with your work, He promises to make your business His business.

Related Verse

“The diligent find freedom in their work; the lazy are oppressed by work” (Proverbs 12:24)

Ask Yourself

- Do you make sure to go the extra mile to make your business a special place for client’s to support?
- Does your work give honor to Christ at all times?
- If not, what adjustments do you need to make?

Prayer

Dear Lord, I want to honor and worship you with every action I take this day. Let my work be a joy to you as I go through this day. Amen.

7. Thank God for Your Business

“And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, “Today, at the latest, tomorrow, we’re off to such and such a city for the year. We’re going to start a business and make a lot of money. Instead, make it a habit to say, ‘If the Master wills it and we’re still alive, we’ll do this or that’ ” (James 4:13, 15).

It is so easy to feel that you can do whatever you want whenever you want to do it. Who knows what will happen later in the day, not to mention tomorrow? Recent events in history attest to this. Without warning, your life could be changed by natural or human made disasters. An accident could happen or an unexpected turn of events could take place.

Business can also be precarious. A business can seem to be on a firm footing, but then the economy changes or the attitude towards a particular product or service shifts. Still, there is hope for a great future, no matter the circumstances when you remember that you work by permission of God.

Of course, making plans for the future is a wise thing for a business woman to do. You want to write your business plan and make strategies for the future. But do this with the knowledge that the future is not known to you. Avoid taking any day for granted but see each day as an opportunity to do more of God’s work.

You have a particular purpose in life and no one can steal your rightful work. Just go about doing the work God has placed in your heart to perform with gratefulness for the unique talents you have been given. Represent God and He will direct your path.

Related Verse

“Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights” (Proverbs 18:15).

Ask Yourself

- Are you telling everyone your business plans before seeking God’s permission to do so?
- Have you stopped to pray about whether or not it is time to talk or time to be quiet in your business pursuits?
- What adjustments do you need to make to be in obedience about talk concerning your business plans?

Prayer

Dear Lord, From the moment I wake up until the minute I go to sleep, I thank you for the work you have given me to do. I pray that you continually guide my work and make each day successful. Amen.

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