

# From the Handbook for Business, the Bible

## # 1: If My people will humble themselves

The truth: Business & commerce are vital in advancing God's kingdom; Abraham & Job were businessmen; as were the apostles. Paul was a tradie. Jesus, a tradie working in the family business.

To start the Handbook for business 2023, I want to share some thoughts on why Christians aren't the most successful in business and why we seem to struggle as much as everyone else.

Yes, because of our walk with Christ, our values & culture are different; we pursue excellence; but, for many, business is still a tough gig and great success seems elusive. The question is, WHY?

It concerns me because we have access to the best business coaching manual, one that is ignored by others although they may adopt some Biblical success principles (e.g., giving, caring, serving).

A humble reminder: All our businesses belong to the Master; we are His stewards, representing Him in the marketplace. A mediocre or failed business is therefore not a good outcome!

### There are several reasons Christians do it tough in business:

During 4 decades observing & advising SME's, I uncovered many Biblical principles that act either as gateways or barriers to building a successful, God-honouring business.

### The top 4 can be summarised as: *Vision - Preparation - Counsel - Numbers*

Business owners that fail are almost certainly in breach of one or more of these principles. My concern is based on the Father's promise in **2 Chronicles 7:14**, NKJV

*"If My people...will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear...and forgive their sin and will heal their land"* (note: the IF and the THEN)

- \* Assume the "land" here is your business and "their wicked ways" means pride
- \* Pride causes me to do things my way rather than to humbly seek & follow God's way
- \* This pride-versus-humility issue is huge, not just in business, but in life, even in the church!

### What Biblical principles may have been ignored by business owners?

There are 4 crucial Proverbs that, if ignored, cause pride to increase & humility to decrease. For these business owners or intenders, success will be elusive because they walk alone:

**VISION:** 29:18 - *Where there is no Godly vision, people perish* [too often the goal is just to make \$\$]

**PREPARATION:** 24:27 - *Prepare, get ready then build* [too often fatal assumptions are made]

**COUNSEL:** 15:22 - *Without counsel, plans go awry* [too often we seek worldly, not Godly counsel]

**NUMBERS:** 27:23 - *Know the state of your flocks* [too often the wrong numbers are relied on]

Over coming weeks, we will cover each of these with an emphasis on business startups. If you're intending to start a business, **humble yourself**, learn & understand these key Biblical principles; it will significantly reduce the likelihood of failure, that's our promise.

***And...If you're already in business and will humble yourself to learn & implement the principles we share, you will be on the path to business success, that's our promise!***