

Our Handbook for Business, the Bible

The need to repent

God created all of us for a purpose, in both the spiritual and physical realms. In the physical, many are drawn into the marketplace to run a business.

Without doubt, Christians should be the kings of the marketplace, acting on behalf of the King of kings. But in the main, they aren't. The question is, why? And the answer is relatively simple...

First, they don't adhere to Biblical ownership, management & marketing principles; e.g., little recognition of the true owner (Ps 24:1) or their role to model the 2 & 5 talent servants (Matt 25).

Second, most owners don't have a business, they have a job; and if they employ staff it's an enterprise. Generally, they didn't set out to build a business; the main goal was to replace the income earned in their old job or financial independence; or to be in charge of their own destiny!

My counsel for you, as a business owner:

By definition, a business is *"a profitable, commercial enterprise that can continue operating exactly the same even when the owner is absent for any length of time"*

To test this, ring and tell your 2IC, *"I will be uncontactable for a month, see you when I get back."* If the operation can continue without missing a beat (i.e., no input from you), you have a business.

If you currently own a job or enterprise but want to own a business, you need to repent!

That's right, repent! It means to change your mind; find a new way; or go in a different direction, as you transition from the old model to a Kingdom business, that includes these 8 [the number 8 symbolizes a new beginning or rebirth] traits...

1. Recognition that the true owner is the King of heaven (Psalm 24:1)
2. Accepting the true purpose is not to make money but to serve (Philippians 2:3)
3. The vision being pursued is God-honouring (Proverbs 29:18)
4. Every decision aligns with the Word of God (Proverbs 16:9)
5. All systems & procedures are fully documented and work efficiently (1 Corin. 14:40)
6. The marketing strategy is based on loving your neighbour (Matthew 22:39)
7. Management is based on key numbers, targets and tracking variances (Prov. 27:23)
8. AND...a significant portion of profit is invested into the kingdom (Ecclesiastes 5:9)

The Bible, our Handbook counsel, Matthew 3:2, NKJV...

"...Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"

Other Scriptures (NKJV):

Ecclesiastes 12:13, *"...the conclusion of the whole matter, fear God and keep His commandments..."*

1 Corinthians 10:31, *"Therefore...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"*

Acts 17:30, *"...these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men...to repent"*

Proverbs 19:21, *"There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the LORD's counsel...it will stand"*

Isaiah 43:19, *"Behold, I will do a new thing...I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert"*

Romans 8:28, *"...all things work together...to those who are the called according to His purpose"*

Ephesians 2:10, *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works..."*