

Introduction: Building a Business with God at the Center

Prayer, Time, and the Eight Watches

Most Christian business owners pray about their business. Far fewer have a way to pray for it. We ask God for customers when sales slow down, for provision when payroll is close, and for wisdom when a decision has us cornered. Those prayers are honest, and God hears them. But a business isn't a string of emergencies. It's a daily responsibility, and it deserves a daily, deliberate relationship with the One who entrusted it to us.

That's what this book is about. It isn't about ambition dressed up in spiritual language, and it isn't a technique for getting God to bless our plans. It's about building a business with God at the center of how we think, decide, lead, and respond when things go wrong.

The Reality of Christian Entrepreneurship

Faith doesn't exempt us from the realities of business. The Christian owner faces the same slow seasons, unpredictable revenue, rising costs,

difficult customers, and sleepless nights as anyone else. We compete in the same markets, make payroll from the same kinds of bank accounts, and carry the same weight that comes from knowing other people depend on our decisions.

Faith doesn't give us an exemption. It gives us a different foundation. We don't have to carry the business alone, measure our worth by a revenue report, or treat every setback as a verdict on our calling. We can face hard things from a settled place, knowing who we belong to and whom we ultimately serve.

That foundation doesn't remove the work. If anything, it raises the standard. Paul told the believers in Colossae, "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people" (Colossians 3:23). A business offered to God should be run with excellence, not excused by good intentions.

Why Prayer Belongs in Business

Prayer isn't a substitute for sound management, and it never was. Prayer doesn't answer the phone, follow up on an estimate, or balance a budget. What it does is form the person who does those things. It aligns our motives, quiets our fears, exposes our blind spots, and opens us to wisdom we wouldn't reach on our own.

Proverbs says it plainly: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take" (Proverbs 3:5-6). That isn't a promise of shortcuts. It's a promise of direction for the person willing to seek it and to walk the path once it's shown.

The owner who prays and works will lead differently from the owner who only works, and differently from the one who only prays. This book is written for the owner who does both.