

WORK FROM REST

By Wynand du Plessis
Christian Centre Abbotsford

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Introduction

Henry encouraged us to be salt and light in the workplace.

Three practical steps:

- Take your unseen partner to work
- Transform your attitude
- Realise your job is your mission field.

Last week, we had a testimony from Zuko and three interviews with Thricilla, Roy and Clive about their journey at work with Christ.

This week the topic is: "Work from Rest". **Is that possible?**

- We'll **look at the big** picture where work fits in.
- Captivated by God.
- Read where the disciples went out fishing. – Labour
- Read about where the Israelites could enter the Promised Land. (**God's rest**)
- Share a faith journey Marietjie and I have been on for the last 5 years.
- Conclude by asking, where do we find ourselves today? Is there something that prevents us to work from rest?

How do we work from Rest?

1. Knowing - Captivated by God
2. Hear **God's voice** – see His vision and hear His calling.
3. Obey – take the first step onto the road that leads to the goal.
4. In faith and trust in God, we work – Keep taking steps in the right direction (perseverance), trusting God.

Captivated by God – Revelation 1:4-8

⁴*To the seven churches in the province of Asia:*

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

⁷*"Look, he is coming with the clouds,"*

*and "every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him";*

and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him."

So shall it be! Amen.

⁸*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.*

Captivated by God - Ephesians 1:5; 7; 13; 14 (NLT)

⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ.

⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.

¹⁴ **The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.**

When we are captivated by God, everything falls into its proper place. Our priorities are in order.

What are you captivated by, your situation or circumstances?

It is difficult to be captivated by the beauty of nature while running from a lion.

To enter his rest – obedience and faith

Hebrews 4:11-12

¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (Israelites) ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Strive - make great efforts to achieve or obtain something.

Let us spend time with God in his Word, that he may captivate us afresh.

Hear God's voice, obey and faith

Disciples going fishing - John 21:3-15 (selected)

³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ...

⁸ The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. ⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ...

¹² Jesus said to them, Come and have breakfast." ...

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than **these**?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.

Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." "Tend my sheep." "Feed my sheep.

Israelites were brought to a choice **to enter God's rest** - Numbers 13:1-30 (selected)

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel.

¹⁷ Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them, "Go up into the Negeb and go up into the hill country, ¹⁸ and see what the land is...

²⁰ ...Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.

²³ And they came to the Valley of Eshcol and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them; they also brought some pomegranates and figs.

²⁶ And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. ²⁸ However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large.

³⁰ But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it."

The same facts were presented to the whole congregation of people; the reports of the 10 and the 2 were the same.

How they looked at the facts was completely different.

- 10 focussed on the giants and the tribes with fortified cities, fear gripped them.
- 2 focussed on who God is and what he said and united their faith to it. – Verse 2

The Israelites did not enter because of disobedience and unbelief.

Hebrews 3:18&19

¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

The Israelites were captivated by fear, which led to disobedience and unbelief. God calls us to be captivated by Him, who He is, what He has done and His promises.

Personal testimony: Hope Academy Journey (5th year)

Infrastructure & Governance:

1. Building in Central PE. 2019, in March 2020 Covid happens.
2. Lord how do we (Marietjie & I) steward this for your kingdom?
3. Meeting with leaders in the area, suggest a Christian school. Resonated with our spirit. **Hearing God's voice.**
Two pictures in our minds:
 - Children voices praising the Lord.
 - Parents walking their children to school.
4. After many challenges, the construction work was completed, and final changes made to the building to obtain all the compliance certificates needed for complete our application to be registered as a school.

Educators and learners:

1. We were told that we will be flooded with children.
2. Principal and staff to receive the children in January 2022.
3. We were praying before the time at the school. At 8 am one child walked through the door.
4. We ended 2022 with 5 children and 5 staff. Due to the economic environment, several parents could not afford the fees or the full fees.
5. The following year 2023 we ended the year with 14 learners at Hope Academy, spread over several grades with combined classes.
6. An unexpected breakthrough came when the principal was approached in approximately August 2023 by a church - Hill Cross Day Care Centre in Central, indicating they wanted to close the daycare facility.
7. We met with the leaders and agreed to take the Day Care in with Hope Academy. On 1 October about 30 little ones came into the facility, bringing new life and energy with them. This was a God moment.
8. We are now in 2024, with 49 children in daycare (1-2 years; 2-3 years; 3-4 years; 4-5 years), 37 in Hope Academy (Grade R to 6), total 86 children. We believe we have reached a tipping point and now trust God for continued growth.

Fruit:

1. Children are taught a biblical worldview in a loving and caring environment.
2. Twice a week chapel with a word by one of the teachers, prayers and songs with guitar and a bible study period once a week.
3. See parents walk to school and leave their children in the care of the teachers instead of relying on public transport.
4. Stephen relates to the local community to impact Central with the gospel.
5. Support from a team of people to bring the school to where it is.
6. Prayer group and friends of Hope Academy & Hill Cross.
7. Access to 86 homes and families with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Journey:

1. What do you have? The question that Jesus asked so many times.
2. Lord we have a building, how do we steward this for your kingdom? Start a Christian School.
3. Lord did I hear correctly or was it my own presumption? I have asked this question probably 30 times. Wrestled.
4. To obtain municipal approvals took a lot of hard work. The final document, our health certificate we got 2 years after the date we initially hoped for.
5. The day the school opened one child arrived, scripture I got was 1 Kings 18:44 – Elija prayed and asked his servant to look and after the 7th time his servant said: Behold, a little cloud like a **man's** hand is rising from the sea.
6. To continue financing the operation and building costs for the next 2 years, were very challenging. Every month end was a challenge not only financially, but spiritually, Lord if this is your plan, where is the provision?
7. Yet every time we prayed, we sense we were on a faith journey with God, and that we should persevere.
8. During this time of perseverance, I woke up one night with the scripture: *John 21:6 Where Jesus told the disciples "Cast the net on the right side of the boat"*.

9. Lord what does it mean in the context of Hope Academy? It became clear that I need to be willing to create space for God to move in the supernatural. Keep on trusting that God will create a breakthrough that is not of my doing.
10. During the time of wrestling with God with very small numbers of learners, financial pressure and struggle to get the certificates from the municipality. Reading John 21, God spoke to me through John 21: 15 – 17. Do you love the people of Central or do you love your project?
11. Through this time we have learned many lessons, one of which is that God is more interested in what happened in our character and spiritual life than what happen to our projects. Heb 4:12 *and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*
12. This was the first time that Marietjie and I were working together on something other than our marriage and family. This has done our faith life a lot of good, trusting God together. Get excited about every little bit of progress, every staff member and every child that joins the family.
13. The journey is far from over, in a sense it has just begun.
14. We work in an environment where we are faced with social needs and challenges daily. It has opened our eyes and hearts. It gives us the opportunities to speak into the lives of the little ones that are facing it each day.
15. Grateful for people that are part of this journey on an ongoing basis – ELBP, Irma, Volunteers.
16. We choose to join our faith with Caleb when he said: Numbers 13:30 “Let us go up at once **and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.**” Not because of who we are but because of what Jesus Christ has done on the cross.

Ministry Opportunities:

What does your boat look like?

What is your choice as you consider the reports to occupy the land that God wants to give you?

Today is the day, to be:

1. Captivated by God
2. Hear his voice.
3. Be obedient
4. Endure in faith
5. Work from rest