

BCS D1 - THE SPIRIT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Notebook: Leadership / Business

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INTRODUCTION

"She considers a field and buys it. Out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sees that her trading is profitable and her lamp does not go out at night." Proverbs 31:16-18

These three short verses point to one who is able to spot opportunity and is carefully decisive.

- She makes her assets work for her. As a good steward, she knows how to bring about increase and innovatively creates earnings through what she does with what she has.
- She provides a good service that serves a clientele, at a profit.
- Finally, she is diligent in the ongoing process of managing and leveraging opportunity.
- If business employs the art of managing change, then entrepreneurship is the art of identifying and developing opportunity.

A key part of God's nature is to create and bring increase. These factors are vital components of entrepreneurship. As His nature resides within those of us who believe, there is a certain level at which this entrepreneurial dimension works within each believer.

For some it operates as a natural gift. For others, it represents an enhancement to other forms of gifting, such as the anointed gift of Bezalel in Exodus. Within community, biblical entrepreneurship represents a potential to be nurtured.

"See, I have called by name Bezalel. I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship." Exodus 31:2-6

Entrepreneurship, as God intended is designed to thrive within the community of His people. It is both an individual and a community factor of the "secret things" revealed by God to His own, designed to play a key role in them becoming the head and not the tail.

As a true expression of righteous power, it can change the spiritual climate as it demonstrates the reality of God to everyone.

- Entrepreneurship is not business ownership but attitude.
- Entrepreneurship is a state of mind that affect your extent of sight.
- Entrepreneurship is a spirit; not a skill.
- Entrepreneurship is a sense of ownership in an enterprise irrespective of the owner.
- Entrepreneurship is about service; offering value and solutions.
- Job seekers look for security, entrepreneurs are motivated by liberty and fulfillment.

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL REALITY

The principal base, raw material and infrastructure upon which you build a business or any other enterprise is **INVISIBLE REALITY**.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." - Hebrews 11:1-3

The greatest invisible substance in the building of enterprise is FAITH and then subsequently INTEGRITY, DETERMINATION, EXCELLENCE, etc.

- The entrepreneurial culture is built on the strength of the invisible elements of creation set in place in a man.

You don't start a business to become an entrepreneur but you rather must be entrepreneurial in order to start your own business or enhance the business you are doing. Business is a platform on which entrepreneurs harness resources to fulfill a cause.

*The entrepreneur who engages the invisible forces of faith and creative blessings in building up enterprises for Kingdom advancement is called a **FAITHPRENEUR**. He is the one God uses to steward resources for the benefits of humanity.*

GOD-CENTERED COMMUNITY FAITHPRENEURS

- God-centered community faithpreneurs are in touch with customers and the community they serve.
- Simultaneously, as they let their Light shine, they build bridges with the broader community. In all that they do, they adhere to God's guidance.
- They are generous and participate in purposeful community gatherings that engender unity.
- Their response to customers and community is gratefulness. They understand reciprocity and know what it means to "give back" in the process of making a difference in their community.
- God-centered community faithpreneurs are models of operating with fairness, excellence, honesty and accountability. As good stewards and witnesses, they are spiritually and socially responsible, proactively serving others with the mantle of Abraham as they are blessed to be a blessing.

THE FAITHPRENEUR IMPERATIVE

- This point bears on the biblical theme of employing righteous power in a corrupt world, with truth, serving and influence; thereby making a difference.
- Faithpreneurs are ones who thrive on challenge, uncertainty and chaos.

As a part of the leaders sent to spy out the Promised Land, Joshua and Caleb responded as God's entrepreneurs with faith, not fear. Their comrade's report was of them being as grasshoppers in the sight of the giants in the land. Instead of the grasshopper mind-set, Joshua and Caleb saw both the opportunity and God's intention for His people.

- Faithpreneurs challenge the status quo; they spot opportunity and turn it into a new order of things.

God's highest priorities will always come through His "people" operating in community; cooperating with God, by means of their combined gifts to bring change that advances the Kingdom of God.

- Both the challenge and imperative for God's faithpreneurs is the responsibility to identify your unique sphere and enter that calling to be blessed to be a blessing; and by so doing, changing the spiritual climate.

HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR FAITHPRENEURIAL ABILITY

- Discover your passion and buy into it fully.
"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field". Matthew 13:44.
- Recreate your network: connect with people who complement, challenge, motivate and inspire you. (Mentors, Proteges, Colleagues).
"In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince". Proverbs 14:28
- Purge your heart of bitterness, malice and greed.
No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" Luke 16:13
- Invest in relevant learning materials and experiences.
Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" 1 Timothy 4:13
- Engage the eternal creative dimensions of the heavens. This will boost your capacity to dream, invent and create.
"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep" Psalms 107:23-24

SUCCESS PRINCIPLES FOR FAITHPRENEURS

In God's economy the measures of success differ widely from those of the world. The world's focus is generally on money, prestige and power.

The measure of biblical success, as is its pathway, employs righteous power to be blessed in order to extend the blessing. A few key biblical principles tied to God's pathway for success include:

☐ **Learn the art of diligence.**

Diligence is a precious possession that will lead to an excellence and authority that contributes to the common good.

"The hand of the diligent will rule." Proverbs 12:24

☐ **Become excellent at something you do.**

The mastery of a gift/ a skill that serves will bring about not only purpose, but the recognition of its significance for the benefit of the community.

"Do you see a man who excels in his work, he will stand before kings." Prov 22:29

☐ **Assume responsibility and manage detail.**

Assuming responsibility means managing the way you make a difference down to the details, not only in bringing blessing upon yourself but in that next step of being a blessing to others.

"Be diligent to know the state of your flocks and attend to your herds." Prov 27:23

☐ **Strive for trustworthiness and dependability.**

Being worthy of trust begins in our own hearts with the way we make a lifestyle of the generous and dependable extension of our gifts to help others.

"He who walks with integrity and works righteousness and speaks truth in his heart... who swears to his own hurt and does not change." Psalm 15:2-4

☐ **Treat your customers like family.**

In business, when dealing with issues of customer service and marketing, the most strategic, yet most subtle thing that can be done is to build genuine relationships through treating customers like family.

"A good name is to be chosen over great riches, loving favor than silver and gold. By humility and fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life." Proverbs 22:1, 4

☐ **Discipline yourself to view things from a long-term perspective.**

Wisdom pays the cost in prioritizing and pacing the development of an enterprise. Reach for more, but be willing to be faithful in the small things on a stable pathway to the future.

"Prepare your outside work, make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house." Proverbs 24:27

"Little by little will you drive them out from before you, until you have increased and are numerous enough to take possession of the land." Exodus 23:30

☐ **Be alert for opportunities for ownership.**

Beginning in the books of Moses, the Bible emphasizes the value of private ownership by which opportunity is leveraged.

"She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard." Proverbs 31:16

☐ **Learn to manage risk.**

Faith and risk operate hand in hand. Responding to God's guidance will involve getting out of our comfort zones and the management of risk.

"Against all hope, Abraham believed God." Romans 4:18

☐ **Make your assets work for you.**

The foundation to ruling over the work of your hands is the stewardship that brings increase to that with which you're entrusted.

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things." Matthew 25:18

☐ **Surround yourself with wise counselors.**

The emphasis is on *wisdom* drawn from the "experience" of those who have expertise in the pathway you're walking.

"In the multitude of counselors there is safety." Proverbs 11:14; 24:6

☐ **Make decisions based on the right thing to do.**

The world confuses stewardship with squeezing everything possible out of a deal. In contrast, in the Torah is the principle of gleaning, of leaving something for the less fortunate at harvest time.

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, and to love kindness and mercy, and to humble yourself and walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

☐ **Make the Lord your senior Partner.**

Biblical success will pivot on the level at which God's guidance is sought and accurately adhered to.

"Seek first His Kingdom and righteousness and all these other things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33

YOUR GOD-CENTERED FAITHPRENEURIAL AGENDA

- Your God-centered entrepreneurial agenda is your calling, your destiny. It begins by seeking to know God's heart and his priorities for you.
- It incorporates a progressive grasp of applying the prophetic mantle of being blessed to be a blessing. That involves identifying your mix of "gifts" and personal sphere of influence, along with the authority from the anointing and grace that God has set over you to empower you to bring multiplication.
- This form of multiplication involves replicating your efforts; extending and enabling opportunity to others through proactive mentoring. In this way you will fulfill your God-centered faithpreneurial agenda or calling by ruling over the work of your hands as a cooperative process with the Lord at the helm.