



BLS200 SECTION II:

Establishing Our Spiritual Foundations for Building



SECTION II – LESSON #6

SUMMARY:

This lesson focuses on some principles that are critical to hearing God for your business. Hearing God for your business occurs when you have been faithful to obey the principles in His Word, obey the orders He last gave you, discern the season your business is in, and seek godly counsel.

MAIN LESSON IDEAS:

- We are called to be co-workers together with God (1 Cor. 3).
- A wholistic life before God has many different facets of “ministry” (seamless garment).
- To act in faith, we must be in the process of aligning our motives, thoughts, and actions with God’s patterns and laws for us and the environment in which He has placed us.
- God desires that we discern and cooperate with Him in our “seasons of life” and that we treat others similarly.

How to Hear God for Your Business

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- I. Overview: Partnering with the Holy Spirit in our business ministry
 - A. We are called to be co-workers together with God (1 Cor. 3:9).
 1. God seldom works *for* us, but rather, He works *with* us.
 2. Father’s joy with His children is to develop His work and our growth as we labor together.
 3. The Holy Spirit is our Senior Partner and in following His directions and guiding insight, we achieve the true goal of being in ministry: partnering with God in the building of His Kingdom and provision of His people.
 - B. The purpose of this lesson (John 14:23-6):
 1. To help strengthen the practices of your faith and co-ministering with the Holy Spirit in your ministry.
 2. To help you see how to strengthen your business-related prayer life.

3. To help you better guard and protect what God is building with you.

II. How to hear God for your business ministry

A. We must be clear on the reality that our vocation is, in fact, a ministry and not just a "secular job."

1. If our job is viewed by us as simply a way to provide money or to get the things we want, God will not partner with that.
2. For us, "whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23).

B. We must be clear that our business is not "our ministry," but rather, only a part of our ministry life.

1. Our ministry is our life as presented before God and others.
2. Our ministry is made up of a number of facets (see diagram below):
 - a. To the Lord Himself
 - b. To our family
 - c. To our spiritual family
 - d. To the Kingdom of God through our work in the marketplace
 - e. To the unsaved
 - f. To our community and nation

"OUR MINISTRY BEFORE THE LORD"



3. According to the “seasons of God” for our lives, we must be balancing all these ministries properly.
- C. Other basic priorities that must be nailed down tight in order to stand before God in faith and to stand in the Spirit’s conviction against the enemy’s accusation:
1. We must be in agreement with our spouse (“one flesh”) as to the spiritual foundation (faith) of our business ministry.
 2. Our family priorities (marriage investment, parenting, home care, recreational time, etc.) must be in order.
 3. We should be commissioned for our ministry from the leadership of our church family.
 4. We should have a board or group of trusted counselors to whom we look for important decisions (Prov. 11:14): “in the abundance of counselors there is victory.”
 5. Have we obeyed the last word from God that He asked us to do? Remember the law of Kingdom increase (pitons) (Matt. 13:12)
 6. Are you relationally clear with those at work?
 7. Are you taking any kind of a regular Sabbath?
 8. Are you tithing and giving offerings (investments) to God’s Kingdom storehouse of ministries?
 9. Are you building both your family financial ministry and your business ministry with a clear strategic plan? Please consider studying my “Strategic Thinking” series.
 10. Is your business service one that serves people and one that God can bless?
- III. To act in faith with God, we must be sure that the major foundation issues are clear upon which we are building our business ministry.
- A. The scripture makes it clear that “every house is built by someone” (Heb. 3:1-6). We must therefore be able to ask and satisfactorily answer at least the following questions:
1. Who fathered the business enterprise with which you are directly involved?
 2. Do you need to deal with any sins in the foundation?
 3. Have those over you simply “hired you,” or have they in some way blessed and released you to succeed?
 4. Have you blessed and released those under your authority to prosper and succeed?

5. Is your business properly yoked with godly people (2 Cor. 6:14)? If not, what is God saying that you should do about this?
6. Is there financial integrity in your organization? If not, what does God want you to do about it?
7. Are the employees being cared for in a proper way or simply used?
8. Is the business current with its vendors (Lev. 19:13), or are you playing "cash flow" games?
9. Are the legitimate taxes being paid (Matt. 22:15-21)?
10. Are there incentives for the workers to become proprietorially involved and to prosper for their heart involvement?
11. Do you have a prayer base for "the house" to seek wisdom for God's strategy, the company's relationships with its clients, vendors, competitors, and others?

IV. Are you personally, and is your business (employer, etc.), in harmony with God's seasons for you?

A. While God's plans for His Kingdom and all He is building are progressing linearly (teleology), the participants are relating through orbital seasons.

1. We see this in His universe, and it displays the way God builds (Ps. 8; Ps. 19; Rom. 1:18-23).
2. Our lives, and all that is, similarly go through cycles. Some examples: day-night; four seasons; seven day weeks; sabbatical and jubilee years; female reproductive cycles.
3. It is critical that we have a sense of where we are personally – in our family, and in our career/business, in terms of God's cycle or season with us, and that we don't labor outside of this "rest" (Heb. 4).

B. Christ's recorded miracles, in the main, occurred as He was going to an assigned place or person, and He was "interrupted" as He saw God working with someone on the way (John 5:17).

1. Partnering with God involves hearing and following His strategic directional plans.
2. The spontaneous, miraculous life is found in divinely productive "interruptions" on a daily basis.