

“OUR FATHER” FOR THE MARKETPLACE

Janice L. Christie

OUR FATHER -

We honor You as Lord of our lives. We acknowledge Your Lordship over all - including Work and our places of work. We invite Your Rule into our lives and into the work that You have given us to accomplish for Your Kingdom. We open our lives to You that You may pour into them the work which You decreed, from the foundation of the earth, we should accomplish in Christ Jesus. May the work of our hands, hearts and minds give You joy and glorify You.

MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME AND YOUR WILL BE DONE IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH -

We commit ourselves to discovering and living out the purpose for which you established work. Thank you for opening our eyes to see that You intended work to be a blessing. Thank you that the Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed us from work as a curse, and restored us to blessing. Show us how to work in ways that enable us to establish and pass on the blessing, enriching the lives of others through our work and establishing Kingdom principles in our workplace. We submit to Your Lordship over our work lives.

GIVE US THIS DAY -

Our ideas about work are so entwined with the world's that we do not have a vision of work as a joyful, cooperative venture with You. While telling people that Your Son has won for them a radically new life, we remain trapped in the world's way of working, using its methods, lauding the latest theories, and grinding things out in our own power. Grant us a deep and pervasive renewal of heart and mind. Thank You for transforming us with spiritual wisdom, understanding, enabling us to use our work lives to bring glory to You and expanding the territory of Your Rule.

FORGIVE US -

--FOR IGNORING YOUR AGENDA AND PURSUING OUR OWN--

Father, we confess that we are more likely to ask You to join us where we are moving rather than discerning where You are moving and join You. We spend an inordinate amount of time chasing our own visions, without consulting You. We pursue personal agendas, establishing them without asking how we might fit into Your plans. We are enamoured with our own wisdom and wit and deceive ourselves, thinking we have what it takes to run our families, succeed at our jobs, and expand your Kingdom. At our own peril, we ignore Your admonition that we do not even think like You do. Regardless of the lip service we pay to the contrary, we act as though we believe our ways are higher and better. We repent of self-confidence. Convict us of the idolatry of Self. Open our eyes to see where You are moving and equip us to join You there.

--FOR USING OUR WORK LIVES TO PROMOTE OURSELVES RATHER THAN GIVING GLORY TO YOU.

Remind us to confess pride every day, Father. WE love to be important, to have others think well of us. We delight in our own ideas and are not shy about promoting ourselves. At the same time, we are often bashful about standing up for You and the ways of Your Kingdom. We become tongue-tied and red-faced, unable to speak and silently let the devil have his way in meetings, in planning sessions, in relationships at the workplace, in the community and in our homes. We simply fail to witness with our lives and our words. How much we need your transforming power in our lives. Thank You for binding up our prideful ways and gracing us with humility. Thank You for changing us, daily into the likeness of Christ Jesus.

--FOR HAVING MORE FAITH IN OURSELVES AND THE WORLD THAN IN YOU--

We claim trust in You. We seek the manifestation of Your promises in our lives and work. Yet, when making the choice between spending time with You, seeking Your guidance, and listening for Your voice instructing us in the way to walk, or making a phone call or setting up a meeting, we generally opt for the latter. We believe in what we can accomplish with our own wit and quite frankly are a little nervous about putting things in your hands. These actions are evidence that we have more faith in ourselves and the world than in You. We repent of this grievous offense, praying that You will establish us in faith, having our confidence properly placed in You.

AS WE FORGIVE OTHERS -

We desire to be Your Ambassadors in the workplace, Lord. WE submit our tongues to diplomacy and our attitudes to Your correction. Gift us with the ability to invite others into the Kingdom life with such irresistible invitations they will feel blessed and not condemned. Let our words and actions rest like dew on thirsty stubble, calling people back to life. Grace us with diplomacy, tact and discretion. Forbid that we would be rude, arrogant, or thoughtless. Make us skillful tacticians, mediators of Your Kingdom ways. May we walk in ways that please you, daily bearing the fruit of the Spirit in our spheres of influence.

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION -

Thank you, Father, that when we are tempted, You will prove Yourself strong, giving us victory and strengthening us to stand firm against the schemes of the one who would destroy us. In all temptation may we look to You as our all-sufficient God.

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL -

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for restoring the presence of our Father God to us. We proclaim our freedom to live as children of the Most High God, filled with His Wisdom and overflowing with the power of His Holy Spirit. We say of the Lord that He is our refuge and fortress, our God in whom we trust. We claim the full protection of the blood of Jesus Christ as we join God where He is moving and extend the rule of His Kingdom into our spheres of influence.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY, FOREVER!

Thank You for hearing our prayer, O Lord, and for giving ear to our supplications. Blessed be the Lord our rock, who trains our hands for war, and our fingers for battle. Your loving kindness and faithfulness sustain us. Praise be unto You our shield in whom we take refuge. We sing a new song to thee, O Lord, as you show us the fields that are ready for harvesting in our workplaces. Therein, may our mouths speak of the glory of Thy kingdom, and talk of Thy power, making known to all Thy mighty acts, and the glory of the majesty of Thy Kingdom.

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