

# Foreword

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**In today's economy,** lifetime employment is almost extinct. Vocational discernment is not a one-shot thing to be undertaken on college graduation. It is a lifelong process. And I emphasize *process* because, in this extraordinary volume, Aaron Basko has crafted a holistic process of reflection, action, and spiritual development that could serve us all in the lifelong pilgrimage of finding the right fit for our daily work.

In reality there is no perfect fit in this life—that must wait for the new heaven and new earth—but Basko has set out to provide help in finding work that substantially fits our character, giftedness, values, and passions. And he does so in a way that is truly accessible to all. A certified career development counselor and member of numerous professional organizations, Basko has assisted generations of students to find suitable employment. But he offers one more commendable credential as author of this book of devotions: he shares his own job-search story, wringing this inspirational and practical book out of his personal experience.

Aaron Basko is convinced, as I am, that God is more interested in our lives than we are; that God goes before us in all of life's journeys; that God is intimately involved in the details of our lives; and that God wants us to work in a righteous way. Basko elaborates this perspective by choosing a short Scripture on which to meditate, offering a real-life application as it relates to God's purposes in our job search, and then inviting us to take a small but concrete step forward. The author approaches his subject from a Christian perspective, but there is a winsomeness in Basko's unselfconscious references to God and the people and

principles of the Bible that invites all to seek transcendent meaning in our job search. It is this aspect that I find most invigorating in this slim but potent little book.

The one-time President of VISA International said we should hire and promote on the basis of integrity. Experience, he argues, is the easiest thing to get if people have the other requirements—knowledge, motivation, and above all, integrity. It is integrity that Basko sees as the deepest outcome of the divine-human conspiracy to find a good job. This process is not just about the job search but about the person who is searching. And in the challenging situation of work-search, something powerful can happen in us, to us, and for us.

So what can the job seeker gain by taking fifteen minutes a day to read and digest each of these devotional gems? First, you can gain a divine perspective on work in this world. Given by God to humankind, work is a good gift of Creation. Even looking for work (which is itself a full-time job) is good work. Second, from God's perspective there is no sacred-secular divide. So-called ministry is not more holy than making things and offering services in the world. Third, you will gain practical help in being able to present to others your capacities, goals, and gifts. Basko calls this "God's fingerprint in your life." Finally, you will experience job-seeking as a spiritual discipline—something that forms us in our relationship with a transcendent and personal God.

Will you be certain to find a wonderful job by reading this book? Perhaps. But even more important you become a job-seeker that is worth being sought—not only by a potential employer but by the Divine Headhunter who is Author and Founder of our faith. Read this fabulous resource. Inwardly digest, and stick with it to the end, and then go back and read it again—perhaps years later, the next time you find yourself walking this road of discovery again.

R. Paul Stevens  
Marketplace Mentor and Author  
*The Other Six Days, Doing God's Business,  
Taking Your Soul to Work, and Work Matters*

# Introduction

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**The phrase “Help Wanted” gives hope** to job seekers everywhere as they read it online or see it on a sign, but it also describes how we can approach God during this time of transition. The goal of this book is to challenge you to look at your job search the way God views it. Rather than an awkward pause in your career that makes you panic, a job search can be a chance for God to guide you toward what you were created to do, and for God’s glory to show through in your life.

The world is not always kind to job seekers. The market can be incredibly tough for new graduates looking for a first opportunity. It can be just as bad for experienced workers who lose a job or find themselves in an unsustainable situation. But I am convinced that God wants to make the most of this unique time in your life. If you know Jesus Christ, and you can trust him to guide you, your search can result in God’s glory for your good.

Every journey of discovery is made up of smaller practical steps that help you reach your destination. Following each devotion you will find a section called One Small Step for Today. Each of these steps is something you can do right now either to strengthen your job search skills or to deepen your relationship with God during this season of life.

Yes, a job search can be a stressful time, but it can also be a time of great growth and exploration as the Lord teaches you more about his purpose for your life. Let the devotions in this book provide the help you want—to energize, equip, and encourage you for your big leap!

# In the Hope of Glory

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*All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. —2 Corinthians 4:15*

**The world's message** is that your value depends on position—your job title, annual income, and academic degree. According to this way of thinking, the job hunt is something to be ashamed of, perhaps because it suggests that you can't inspire employers to come looking for you. But why do those of us who belong to Jesus fall for this? After all, we believe that the Son of the living God died on a cross to show how much we are worth to him. Jesus did so without checking any credentials, giving up his own position in glory without regard for any of our accomplishments, or lack of them.

In an even bigger gamble, Jesus entrusted his kingdom to a ragtag group of rough fishermen, corrupt tax collectors, and religious extremists who deserted their leader right before the cross. Your résumé looks great compared to those of the twelve disciples! Why should we be ashamed of our talents, our hopes, and our efforts to discover the work for which we were created when God was willing to take such wild risks on us?

Remember the example of Jesus, who gave up a throne in heaven's glory to sojourn with us on the dusty roads of first-century Judea? Is it possible that this trying time in our professional lives, when the job market deals out plenty of black eyes, can actually become a time of triumph? Can it be a time when we hear God's voice more clearly and when God's glory shines through our situation? Romans 5:2-5 says: "We boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and

character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

We can count on God’s promise that we are reaping benefits from our trying time. The Romans 5 passage above may seem scary because it explains that often it is suffering that matures us and grants us unshakable hope. If you are reading this book, however, chances are you are already suffering through the challenges that come with the job hunt. Therefore, you can be sure that the “good stuff” promised in this verse—perseverance, strong character, and God’s hope, which does not disappoint—is on its way if you are seeking the Lord’s will as diligently as you are seeking new employment.

As you take on the challenges of the job search, be on the lookout also for what God is doing. If your eyes are open, you will see the Lord’s glory shine through for your good!

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### **One Small Step for Today**

One of the first steps of a job hunt is compiling an up-to-date résumé detailing your education, skills, work history, and other experience. Imagine the great Bible heroes, such as Moses or Esther, Paul or Mary Magdalene, writing their own résumés. How would those résumés have looked before they discovered God’s purpose—and then after? Now look at your own résumé. Highlight any area that may be a barrier to finding meaningful work—lack of education, experience, or skills. How might the Lord receive glory in these areas of weakness or lack?