

SURVIVING UNEMPLOYMENT

Simply put, job loss is a “valley” walk—certainly not a “mountaintop” experience—but many times, God does His best work in a Christian’s life during these “valley” experiences. It is important to remember that Romans 8:28 says, “...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” In Jeremiah 29:11-13, you can be assured that God has plans for you, to give you a future and a hope, but you will need to seek Him with all your heart.

As a Christian, you have Jesus’ promise that He will never leave you nor forsake you. You are most assuredly not alone. You are also not alone because Prestonwood Baptist Church has a ministry referred to as Career Transitions for job seekers. This ministry teaches various aspects of job-search skill development, as well as offering networking and job-lead sharing. There is no charge.

You are not alone—God is working mightily in your life during this time of unemployment!



Lost Your Job? You are not alone.

If you have lost your job, you are not alone! Over the past 20 years, more than 280 million workers have changed jobs and more than 40 million were laid off or involuntarily terminated. But it isn’t about numbers or statistics, because you are neither a number nor a statistic —you are a person—a person with a story.



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THE FAITH JOURNEY CALLED JOB SEARCH

You were a person with a story before you lost your job, and you will be a person with a story when you have found another job. Yes, you will find another job.

It is important to remember that in life's journey, the loss of your job is not the end of the road; it is merely *a bend* in the road. You may have been surprised by this unexpected job loss, but you can know that God was not caught unaware or surprised because He is omniscient (all-knowing) and knew before you were born that you would be unemployed at this time in your life.

You may have many questions about why this job loss has occurred. For many, however, once we have explored these causes, we often turn to the spiritual realm and ask, "Why did God let this happen?" The answer could be one of many:

- ... God wants to get my attention.
- ... God wants to have a closer relationship with me.
- ... God wants to remove me from what is now or could later become a bad situation.
- ... God wants me to pay more attention to some area of my life (perhaps my family).
- ... My job was too important to me—it stood between me and my relationship with God.

Everyone who has ever lost his or her job and experienced unemployment falls into one of two categories: unbeliever or believer.

Job search is a faith journey for the believer—the person who has already accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord—because God never promises employment stability—even for the Christian. More importantly, He promises believers an eternal life and relationship that is far better than the best employer-employee relationship here on earth.

Job search for the unbeliever is also a faith journey because many people will accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord during a time of job loss and unemployment—perhaps God is calling you to make that decision today!

If you are an unbeliever, this job loss may be what God is using to soften your heart in order that you might be sensitive to the Gospel message. You might even be asking, "What, specifically, is the Gospel message?"

Simply put, the Gospel message from the Bible is that:

1. God loves you and created you to have a personal relationship with Him. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." —John 3:16
2. Our sin keeps us from having a personal relationship with God. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." —Romans 3:23
3. Only through Jesus Christ can you have a personal relationship with God. "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" —John 14:6
4. You must personally respond by trusting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." —Ephesians 2:8-9

You can respond to God's call by:

- Turning from sin and your own way of living to God (repentance). "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out" —Acts 3:19
- Receiving Christ as your Savior and trusting Him to forgive your sins. "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God . . ." —John 1:12

Receiving Christ means:

- Allowing God to direct your life. Receiving Jesus Christ is not just an emotional experience; nor is it just agreeing with your mind that Jesus is the Son of God. It means total trust and an act of your will.

God's Word states plainly in James 1:2–3 that in the Christian life there are trials of many kinds, and job loss is certainly one of them. We can know that going through job loss in a way that honors God by having faith and trusting in Him produces maturity and strong character.