

THE CROSSROADS



THE CROSS ROADS

Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths, ask where
the good way is, and walk in it, and
you will find rest for your souls...

Jeremiah 6:16 NIV



At a crossroads in your career?

More than 150 million workers in America face crossroads in their careers every year. About half are dissatisfied with their jobs. Two-thirds are not engaged at work. Millions are unemployed. How about you?

Is Your Job Fulfilling?

National surveys report that about half of Americans are not satisfied with their jobs. How about you? Take a look at the following lists of work situations, and circle those that best describe you.

Unemployed or underemployed?

- Quit, laid off or fired
- Recently divorced or separated
- Retired but need the money
- Relocated to a new area
- Newly graduated from school
- Part-time/need more money after raising children
- Completed military service

Misemployed or miserably employed?

- Stressed out
- Worried about job loss
- Actively disengaged at work
- Need or want to work from home
- Too much time on the road
- Want to be self-employed
- Boss behaving badly
- Don't like or not good at the job
- Unengaged, bored or in a rut
- Too many hours – too little money
- Maybe own your own business
- Have no purpose or meaning





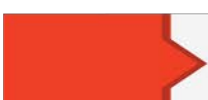
Happily-employed, but?

- Lack sense of purpose and meaning
- Halfway through life wondering what's next
- God is calling you to something else
- Vanity of vanities

Called and Fulfilled?

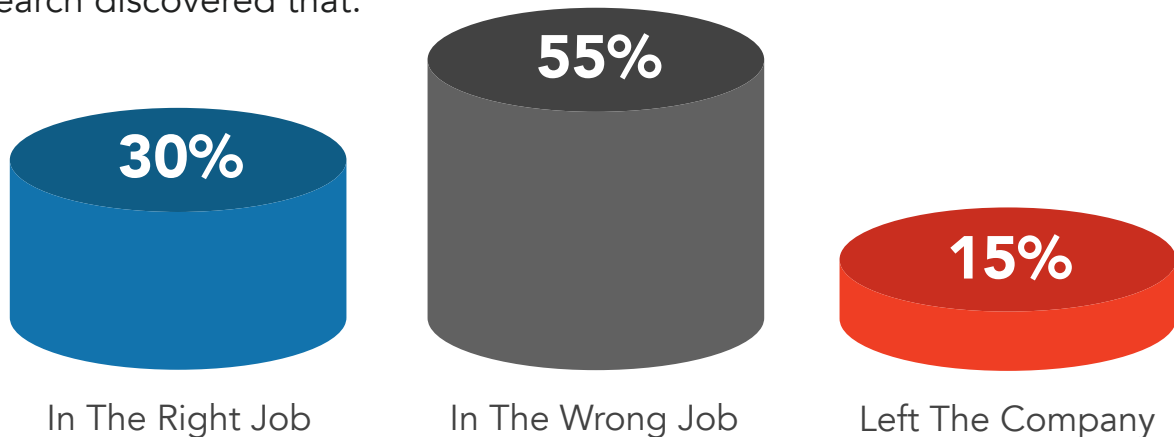
- Using God-given gifts: experiences, abilities and personality
- Living on purpose. Hearing and following God's calling
- Loving Mondays. Passionate about your work

Put your name in each box next to the descriptor that is true of you.

	Fulfilled	<input type="text"/>
	No Purpose	<input type="text"/>
	Something Is Not Right	<input type="text"/>
	Need To Change	<input type="text"/>
	Need Work Now	<input type="text"/>

Do What You Do Best

Do you have the opportunity to do what you do best every day at work? For most of us, the answer is NO! One major employer's career development research discovered that:



What would you say? Are you in the right or wrong job? Explore your passions for what you like and value, as well as your gifts of experience, abilities and personality.

Look for opportunities with your current employer to offer what you do best. Ask your employer about needs and opportunities you see in other positions or departments. Talk to them about how you can contribute and grow. Inquire about additional training and education that you might need. Approach your boss for the possibility of support or help.

Make Bad Work Better

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Colossians 3:23-24 NASB

If you are experiencing anything less than being fulfilled and fruitful in your work, you might be contributing to the problem without even realizing it. If you are doing less than your best, you are short-changing yourself, your employer and God. If you have a bad attitude about your work, boss, coworkers or any other aspect of work, your attitude will hurt your performance and relationships. Ask yourself – are you working heartily as for the Lord?

You might be thinking “Yeah, but you do not know my boss!” You are right, but consider this thought about bosses both good and bad...



...submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

1 Peter 2:18 NASB

If “harsh” describes your boss, it is especially important to take your attitude, motivation and performance to their most positive highest. You may be ready to belt, bolt or blow off your boss, but hang in there. You may not know the pressure your boss is under either at work or home. For your own good – now and in the future – take a deep breath, put on a bigger smile and help your boss succeed.

7 Steps Through Crossroads

Walking through crossroads is not necessarily about changing jobs or careers. It is always about you being transformed into the person God has made you to be – His masterpiece created for good works that He prepared for you. You can employ this 7-step action plan in order 1-7, or you can select any of the 7 steps based on your highest felt need right now.

UPWARD

Step 1 Upward

INWARD:

Step 2 Attitude

Step 3 Aptitude

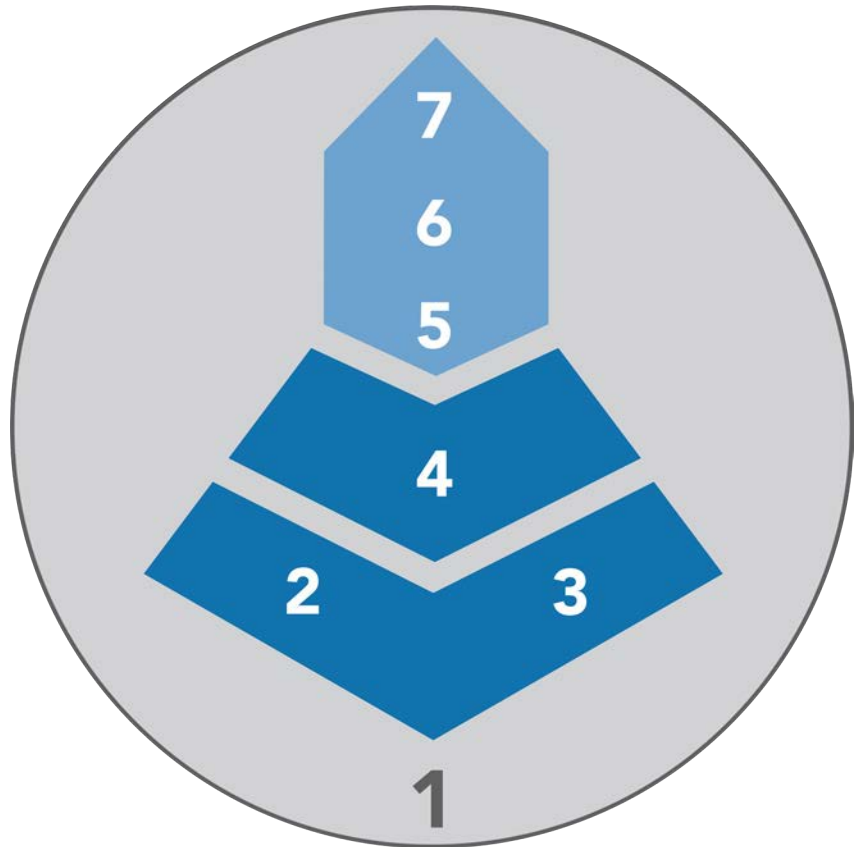
Step 4 Altitude

OUTWARD:

Step 5 Searching

Step 6 Sorting

Step 7 Selecting



Each week, you will find it useful to review where you are and preview what you plan to do next week. What step are you on right now?

TODAY I AM AT STEP _____