

# Faith in Business

*Sleep Peacefully by Tackling 10 Crises Not Discussed in the Boardroom*

WARRIOR

By:

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## Introduction

### Who is this book for?

This book is for you if you are a business professional that has asked any of these questions:

- I'm a business professional that wants to do more than just succeed by the world's standards. Sure, **I want to be successful, but I want to do it with integrity.** I want people to know I am honest and trustworthy. When I stand before God, I want Him to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, you have done well with the gifts I gave you." Will He say that?
- There is no shortage of business professionals that will lie, cheat and steal to get ahead. How can I compete with them as long as I am honest— even if I work harder and longer?
- "Good guys always seem to finish last". What do I have to do to finish first? Why does God allow the bad guy to succeed?
- Can I succeed in business if I am generous and purposefully make time for my family?
- Will God punish those that twist the facts and distort the truth for their own gain? If so, when?
- How do I live out what I know to be right in my every day business life?
- Is it ok to occasionally flirt with or be overly attentive to some coworkers?
- If I know my company or a coworker is behaving inappropriately, am I obligated to do or say something?
- How do I bring to my business life what I know to be right in my heart?
- How do I avoid becoming a hypocrite? I don't want to act differently in my business life than I do at home, in a religious setting or in my community.
- Is it possible to be really honest in business? Don't I have to tell some white lies at times to sell myself, my company and my company's products and services? It's certainly okay to avoid disclosing some information to customers at times, right?
- More than 50% of my waking hours are spent doing my job. **Is God happy with how I spend my time?**
- Is it stealing if I come to work late, make personal phone calls or use office supplies for something not related to my job?
- **Will the way I handle myself in business allow me to get to heaven?** Do I need to make some changes in my work behavior to ensure that happens?



## Why do business professionals need a book like this?

Most business professionals are genuinely good people who want to do what they believe to be right in their heart and in the eyes of God. True, there are some “bad apples” in the business world, but most people would like to succeed in business and do so with a clean conscience. Most business professionals want to be recognized as honest, full of integrity, generous, joyful, kind, patient, and genuinely good. They want to be seen this way by their peers, customers, vendors, managers and anyone else with whom they do business.

**The character of a good person is tested in some business environments.** Pressure to show results and increase productivity can cause business professionals to feel as though they must place unrealistic demands on employees, “sandbag” on projections, oversell the company or its offerings, or ignore inappropriate behavior by the company and/or its management. Difficult choices have to be made regularly by business professionals that try to do right in business when the business sometimes seems to demand actions and behaviors that are less than scrupulous.

This book is designed to help those business people triumph over spiritual issues such:

- [Good and Evil](#)
- [Balance](#)
- [Forgiveness](#)
- [Greed](#)
- [Bullying](#)
- [Honesty](#)
- [Life after Death](#)
- [Miracles](#)
- [Sexuality](#)
- [Wisdom](#)

*Most business professionals want to be recognized as honest, full of integrity, generous, joyful, kind, patient, and genuinely good.*

## I need a book like this

As a young business professional new to the working world, I loved my company and my job. I felt good about

- **My company** – I liked what we stood for and the differences we made in the world
- **The management at my company** – The executives seemed capable and passionate for what the company did, the employees in it and the customers it served



- **The way we did things** – I didn't always agree with every decision, but as long as I did what I thought was right and worked hard, I felt I had a home for my entire career

I felt that way about several of the places I have worked. I invested blood, sweat and tears into them. I was loyal to the company, the people in it and the results we produced.

But somewhere along the way, **things have changed for me**. Perhaps, the business world changed. Maybe companies are less loyal to their employees. Maybe short-term profit driven motives have caused business cultures to be different than they once were. Maybe technology, globalization, economies of scale or some other broad business shifts have caused businesses and business professionals to behave differently.

Or maybe it's me. Perhaps I was just young and naive. Maybe I have grown up a bit. Perhaps it is that I have seen the ugly side of business and business professionals and been hardened by them. It's possible that I was once blind to the greed, deceit, gossip and backstabbing that I now observe in some of my business dealings.

I still **want** to be loyal. I **want** to do the right thing. I **want** to be fully honest. I **want** to feel good about what I do and what my company does. I **want** to feel like I have made a difference through my work. I **want** to be proud of my job and how I do it.

But I wrestle with how I can behave like that when **other business professionals will use those qualities against me** as they step on my back to get ahead. Doesn't God care about business and business professionals? If He does, why doesn't He make it a little easier for the good people to succeed? Why does He allow it to be so easy for those that compromise moral standards to thrive?

I am a Christian. I go to church on Sundays to worship God and learn about Christian living. I am convicted on Sunday mornings of the need for right living. I know I need to forgive more and be honest in my dealings. I seek to give my family time and attention. I want to share with people less fortunate than me. I try to exercise and care for my body. I attempt to use Godly wisdom in decision making. I want to honor my wife, my children and my parents. In short, I seek to do all the "right" things that come with living a Godly-life.

*It's possible that I was once blind to the greed, deceit, gossip and backstabbing that I now observe in some of my business dealings.*



Then I arrive at work on Monday! **At work I am often compelled to behave differently:**

- Be “creative” with the truth to close a sale fast because the company needs the sale this quarter
- Stay late to finish the budget that is due, even though I know my wife and kids are waiting for me to join them for dinner
- Coddle and pander to demanding customers and managers that treat my peers and me with disrespect

**Meanwhile, the business professionals around me that are willing to compromise their integrity seem to thrive!**

How do I possibly act at work on Monday in a way that is consistent with what I know to be true on Sunday? Can I stand before my Creator and with a good conscience explain what I have done for my employer 40+ hours every week? When I go to church I sometimes feel hypocritical because I know what is going to happen when I get back to the office.

I want to be a God-fearing, “good” man that wisely uses the gifts God has given me. I want to be faithful in and out of work. And I want to do so in a way that is **guided by my moral compass**. That is increasingly hard for me to do as a business professional.

I need this book because I face difficult spiritual issues in my business life. I have struggled with countless spiritual issues in my profession as have many other business professionals. I need to constantly evaluate how I am living out my spirituality in the workplace. This book helps me do that.

*I sometimes feel hypocritical because I know what is going to happen when I get back to the office.*

### **What can this book do for you?**

Questions of morality and integrity don't typically have a single right and wrong answer. Plus each situation is different. Therefore, this book does not provide specific answers to all of your questions. Instead, **this book provides ten life-saving essentials:**

1. Comfort that you are not alone: others ask similar questions and struggle to find answers
2. A chaplain's (spiritual teacher's) responses specifically written for business professionals
3. Guidance about living out your faith at work in a way that is consistent with your beliefs



4. A framework for wrestling with tough spiritual issues faced by business professionals
5. Questions to ponder, meditate on and pray about to further explore your own beliefs
6. Resources to understand views adopted by others
7. Theological direction
8. Real life examples and outcomes
9. Direction for nurturing your spirit
10. The ability to sleep more peacefully

*This book will help you exercise your spirit.*

In the same way that your body needs physical exercise and your mind needs mental exercise to stay sharp and grow, your spirit too needs exercise. This book will help you exercise your spirit. Regular exercise of your spirit can improve your ability to effectively cope with spiritual crises such as the following:

- Death or critical illness of a family member or coworker
- Serious breaches of ethics or morality
- Questioning of your integrity
- Broken or dysfunctional relationships
- "Life events" such as marriage, divorce or the birth of a child or grandchild
- Challenges stemming from greed, a lack of forgiveness, lying or abuse

Productivity declines often occur during times of spiritual crises. However, the drop in productivity can be minimized by regularly attending to and nurturing one's spirit.

### **What is spiritual care?**

Spiritual care is sometimes referred to as pastoral care or chaplaincy. It is counseling and guidance that is or could be provided by a spiritual teacher. That is, it is the words, advice and thoughts that a person trained in theology (the study of God) might give.

Spiritual care is not psychological care. Nor is it emotional counseling or mental health counseling.

Spiritual care is focused exclusively on the care and development of one's spirit.

*People are physical, emotional, mental and spiritual beings. These four aspects of our being are an integral part of us. They are inseparable from who we are.*

People are physical, emotional, mental and spiritual



beings. These four aspects of our being are an integral part of us. They are inseparable from who we are and from one another. Businesses spend hundreds of millions to provide their employees support and development opportunities in several of these areas:

- **Physical** – wellness programs, exercise facilities, medical and dental insurance programs, eye care, short and long-term disability programs, sick days
- **Emotional** – vacations, personal days, counseling resources, parties, celebrations, recognition programs
- **Mental** – schooling, professional development, training, books, eLearning, intranets, mentoring, on-boarding programs

However, the spiritual aspect of people has been largely untouched by business. As a result, employee productivity, satisfaction, and loyalty have not been maximized.

Some business professionals have found spiritual care and development resources on their own. They have turned to churches, mosques, temples, synagogues, religious leaders, religious television programming and holy writings. Often, though, these resources don't comprehend the specific trials of business. Business professionals that have found spiritual care have had to translate that care into a business context. Many business professionals have just gone without spiritual care.

*This book is not a suitable substitute for long term spiritual care.*

**This book is designed to give business professionals essential spiritual care.** It is my hope that the spiritual care provided by this book will allow readers to realize, develop and care for their whole person including their spirit. I want to emphasize though that this book is not a suitable substitute for long term spiritual care. It is simply a starting place. I encourage you to find and develop practical and regular ways to exercise your spiritual being, just like you do your physical, emotional and mental being.

### Everyone needs spiritual care

Religion is a set of beliefs shared by a group of people. Religion generally involves beliefs based on higher powers, deities and/or God. Some of the major religions of the world include Islam, Hindu, Buddhism, Christianity and Judaism. Each religion has different branches, sects or denominations which have specific sets of beliefs.



**Spiritual care involves care of the spirit regardless of religion.** However, the counsel provided by a spiritual caregiver or chaplain is often derived from a limited religious viewpoint. That is because spiritual caregivers typically ascribe themselves to a single religion.

Religions do have quite a bit in common. Spiritual care from a Muslim spiritual leader may not be entirely different than spiritual care from a Jewish or Christian spiritual leader. The holy writings referenced and the specific examples of tradition may vary, but the fundamentals of obediently caring for and developing one's spirit tend to be very much the same across religions.

*The fundamentals of obediently caring for and developing one's spirit tend to be very much the same across religions.*

### **The uncommonly common experience**

I have been raised Christian and attended a Christian seminary (A seminary is a university specifically focused on teaching Christian theology and spiritual care.)

I have a broad appreciation and understanding of various world religions, but because of my Christian heritage, the majority of the references in this book are from Christian witnesses such as the Bible.

I have tried to incorporate several concepts and views from other religions where it is appropriate and where I feel comfortable and confident with my knowledge and experience of those other religions.

**(For a more thorough understanding of my personal spiritual beliefs and framework, refer to Appendix B: Ongoing Spiritual Care.** In this appendix to the book, I share and expand on my religious views. I discuss my relationship with God and my ongoing struggle to honor Him in and out of my work context.)

I believe that the spiritual issues identified in this book are the same regardless of religion. I also believe that the manner in which people deal with tough spiritual issues often remain the same regardless of religion. I have spent a significant amount of time learning from, studying with and praying with and for Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Christian brothers and sisters. These people have come from a variety of backgrounds and sects in their respective religions.



I have been impressed by how much we all have in common. Certainly we have more in common than we have differences.

## Getting Started

### How can this book be used?

Here are three ways to use this book:

- **A general read** – to help you triumph over tough spiritual issues that weigh you down
- **A reference** – when a particular issue emerges, you can refer to the content specifically related to that issue
- **A group discussion guide** – groups of business professionals may read this book in whole or in parts and discuss how they deal with these tough issues in their work settings

In the [first section](#), ten weighty spiritual issues are explored. For each, the following is covered:

- Common experiences
- What is the issue?
- How is this issue evident in business?
- Chaplain's response
- Possible steps that you, the business professional, can take

Also included with each issue are some personal stories, additional resources and questions for you to think about, ponder, meditate on, pray over and discuss with your colleagues.

In the [second section](#), I share some selected personal experiences that relate to these issues. The names, dates and places have been changed or withheld. These stories have been carefully selected to demonstrate how I have wrestled with some tough spiritual issues in my work life. They are not designed to be a recipe for success. In fact, you will see that some of the stories ended terribly.

The [third section](#) is a resource to support your ongoing spiritual care. In this section, I provide a window into my own spiritual struggles and care. The most profound life lessons generally come from personal witness. Whether or not your struggles are similar to mine, by sharing my own ongoing spiritual struggles and attempts to nurture my spirit, I hope you will find ways to care for your own spirit well after you have finished reading this book.



## Issue #1: Good and Evil

*Glen was a young married man who had done a terrific job for me as a salesman. Month in and month out, he turned in stellar results by rolling up his sleeves and doing the hard work that needed to be done. His honesty and charm contributed to why customers enjoyed buying from him. They were certainly reasons that contributed to his wife falling in love with him. His four year old son shared the same charisma so evident in his dad.*

*When Glen decided to take a pay cut to assume a management job, I was quite happy to give him the opportunity. It meant he and his young, small family would have to move away from the area they had always known, but Glen was committed to our company and wanted the next challenge, even though it meant less money for him in the short term.*

*Glen hit the ground running. He put his good ideas and hard work to good use. A previously sagging business was transformed in short order. His new staff loved him. How could they not? He was just that kind of guy. We talked about the changes he had made and his plans for bigger and better things in his business unit.*

*After several months in the new job, Glen told me that he needed to take a day off of work. His son needed tonsillectomy surgery. It was a common procedure. Glen wanted to be a good father to his son and was pleased to be able to help his wife who was still a little lost and feeling a bit alone in the new environment. Of course, I didn't mind. I wished him well and told him we would catch up in a few days to review the sales for his new business unit.*

*Two days later, my phone rang. It was Glen. "William, my son died!" I was certain that I heard him wrong. I must have heard it wrong. A pathetic "What?" was all I could say. I could hear Glen's voice start to crack as he repeated the terrible news, "My son died!"*

*After what seemed like a very long silence, Glen offered more information. His son had experienced some complications that caused his throat to bleed and Glen told me, "William, he died in my arms!" The tears were pouring for me now. What could I say?*



*How could this be? This four year old was just getting his tonsils out. Nobody dies getting their tonsils out!*

*And then there was Glen. He was separated from family, working a new job and living in unfamiliar surroundings. His agony was palpable. His grief was consuming. What had he done to deserve this? How could something so bad happen to someone who was so good?*

### What is the issue?

**Why do bad things happen to good people?** If there is an all knowing and all powerful spiritual being, how can He or She allow evil to prosper and good people to be hurt? Why does evil thrive in our world? These and questions like them have haunted people of all races, religions and cultures for as long as people have walked the earth.

A parent that is forced to witness their young child in pain or, worse yet, see their child pass away is bound to ask how God could allow such a thing. In war and terror, people concern themselves with, "Where is God and why isn't He stopping this?" After World War II when the full depth of the atrocities against humanity was uncovered, people all over the world sought to understand how God could allow millions of innocent people to be tortured and executed. Every day, children die of starvation. Can't God do something about that?

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In addition to wanting to know how bad things can happen to good people, there is also the desire to know how evil can thrive. Certainly, an all knowing and all powerful God can determine when a person or group is purposefully harming another. **How can a loving God turn His back on the suffering?** How can God not avenge victims by punishing evil doers?

What about natural disasters? It's not fair that an entire village in Bangladesh be wiped out because of a flood or tsunami. Why does God permit earthquakes, tornadoes, volcanoes, severe storms and hurricanes to maim, injure and kill thousands of innocent people each year?

Is it that God doesn't care about the lives of people? Is He incapable of stopping evil? Is He unaware of the evil?



How can a person love a God that is all knowing and all powerful, but chooses to do nothing about the pain, suffering and evil in the world?

### How is this issue evident in business?

The business world is a hotbed for evil thriving and “good guys finishing last”. Any business professional can tell you that there are **quite a few executives that will cut throats and step on others to get ahead**. Similarly, there are shady sales people that earn substantial rewards for winning business in unscrupulous ways. It seems that capitalism doesn't always honor doing the right thing.

*Capitalism  
doesn't always  
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the right thing.*

Perhaps God just doesn't impact capitalism. Some believe that God just doesn't have a place in the business world. It is separation of church and state, or in this case, separation of church and commerce. Yet, many business professionals do believe that God, integrity and spirituality do have a place in business. For them, the same questions asked by all of humanity resonate even more. How can an all knowing and all powerful God allow the evils in the business world to not just exist, but thrive? Why does God seemingly sit idle when businesses and business people produce gain by blatantly sinning and harming others?

The evils of the business world come in all types and sizes. Here is just a small sampling of every day evils in business:

- **Consensual and non-consensual extra-marital affairs**, some of which break sexual harassment laws. Promiscuity in the workplace exists. In some environments it almost seems to be a right of top level managers and executives. (See the chapter on [Sexuality](#) for more on this topic.)
- **The Enron debacle is just one of many cases** where greedy business professionals earned extraordinary salaries, bonuses, stock options and commissions by “**cooking the books**”. (See the chapter titled [Greed](#) for more on this topic.)
- **Customers are promised returns that aren't realistic** and problems with a company's product are left unsaid. Some would call this lying, but these actions create



enormous gain for many business professionals. (See the chapter on [Honesty](#) for more on this topic.)

- Employees are often jealous of employees in other companies. Companies and executives are jealous of the results of their competitors. **Jealousy** is an accepted motivational practice in business, comparing corporate performances, sales results and a myriad of metrics.

In the business world, it seems that most anything is possible as long as the perpetrator doesn't get caught. And the better someone is at covering their tracks, the more likely they are to succeed and do it again.

Not every business professional or every business environment is evil. There are many people and companies that strive to do the right thing every time. But those people often admit that doing the right thing keeps them from realizing the growth or return that their competitors are able to achieve through ill-gotten means, at least in the short term. Does God just not care about business? Why would He allow this to be so common?

*Does God not  
care about  
business?*

### Chaplain's response

In the Old Testament of the Bible and as a part of the Jewish prophetic writings, a little known author, Habakkuk, expresses concern in his writing over the success of evil and the defeat of good. The book of Habakkuk is only three chapters long, and involves a dialog between the author and God about how evil persists in the world. Habakkuk asks God directly, "How can You allow this to happen?" Habakkuk begins his complaint by saying:

How long, O LORD, must I call for help,  
but you do not listen?  
Or cry out to you, "Violence!"  
but you do not save?

Why do you make me look at injustice?  
Why do you tolerate wrong?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
there is strife, and conflict abounds.



Therefore the law is paralyzed,  
and justice never prevails.  
The wicked hem in the righteous,  
so that justice is perverted.

*Habakkuk 1:2-4 (New International Version)*

A back and forth dialog between God and Habakkuk follows. The Lord responds to Habakkuk's complaints, but never seems to give a direct answer. Of course, Habakkuk waits with bated breath to hear the answer that the Lord just never provides. Yet, Habakkuk ultimately comes to a realization that he expresses in the following way:

Though the fig tree does not bud  
and there are no grapes on the vines,  
though the olive crop fails  
and the fields produce no food,  
though there are no sheep in the pen  
and no cattle in the stalls,

yet I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

The Sovereign LORD is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
he enables me to go on the heights.

*Habakkuk 3:17-19 (New International Version)*

Habakkuk concludes that he cannot understand the ways of God and may never get a direct answer to his question. His solution is to not worry about it and instead invest time and energy in the good he is able to see in his own life. That response leaves many readers wanting more. It is a non-answer. The inquisitive and controlling side of humans needs to know why. Humans appreciate the scientific cause and effect approach to problems. Moreover, humans are eager to see their

*His solution is to not worry about it and instead invest time and energy in the good he is able to see in his own life.*



enemies vanquished. They want to see good people and good action vindicated. And, of course, enemies are inevitably guilty of evil, simply because they are the enemy.

Some theologians will explain that evil exists in the world as a result of "original sin" or "ancestral sin". There is not a single specific view among all religions on this topic, but the notion is common among Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Islam.

Generally speaking, the concept of original sin is built on the premise that humans have a sinful nature from birth.

*If God were to eradicate all "bad", humans would not be able to be fundamentally who they are.*

Original sin is seen by many as the cause of the constant struggle of man (and woman) with the sinful nature and the desire or need to be holy. This ongoing struggle causes conflict between good and evil to exist in the world. In other words, God allows evil to exist because it is a part of defining who humans are.

Some would describe it by saying God grants humans free will; that is, the right to choose the path they take. That path can be "good" or "bad". If God were to eradicate all "bad", humans would not be able to be fundamentally who they are. So God,

wanting humans to have the ability to choose between good and evil, allows evil to persist so that humans can enjoy their humanity, free to choose their own path. In a colloquialism, "If you love something (or someone), set it free."

Similarly, if God severely and immediately punished those who do "bad", it wouldn't take long for people to know that even though they may be able to choose, they would be foolish to choose "bad". Like the toddler that learns not to touch something hot by receiving immediate feedback in the form of pain, if "rules of good and evil" were that finite, free will would hardly be free will. Humans like to think of themselves as different from most life forms by having the ability to reason.

*No one chooses for a natural disaster to wipe out an entire village.*

In other words, **fundamental to humanity is the ability to choose between good and evil** and other paths along the journey of life.



This explanation of original sin and free will often resonates with the scientific human mind. The explanation falls short, though, when a person witnesses serious harm or death of a small child or encounters mass destruction such as earthquakes, fires, floods or any number of natural disasters. These matters seem to be caused by evil outside of the control of any human. In most cases, no one chooses for a person to contract a deadly disease. And no one chooses for a natural disaster to wipe out an entire village.

Habakkuk concluded that evil may surround him, but that he would spend his time and energy rejoicing that he was able to achieve the heights he could. In essence, he concluded that the problem with the question is that the search for the answer distracts people from recognizing the good that exists all around. **Habakkuk opted to spend less or no time looking for the evil in the world and the associated causes of that evil, and instead invest his time and energy in acknowledging the good.**

In a relationship, either party can focus on what is wrong with the other person. This focus on the negative consumes energy and constantly puts the relationship at risk of failure. At some point, negativity will overwhelm the relationship and it will deteriorate and possibly fall apart.

A relationship that involves both parties looking for the good in the relationship and each other will most likely blossom.

*A grateful person spends the majority of his or her time recognizing that there is good all around.*

In that circumstance, each party may forgive the negatives, and simply choose to focus on the positives.

Similarly, a person that constantly explores and is drawn to the evils in life often takes on a negative persona. That person can easily become absorbed in finding "bad" and spending a majority of time concerned with analyzing the evil and demanding answers that just can't be found.

Alternatively, a grateful person spends the majority of his or her time recognizing that there is good all around. The finite amount of energy exerted by that person is spent largely focused on appreciating the good that may be undeserved or unexpected.

**Application to business professionals**

In the business world, original sin and free will may explain why bad or



evil exists without God stepping in to stop it, but it leaves business professionals to wonder whether evil will simply triumph.

*Breaking of the rules, as long as a person is not caught, is almost certain to produce quicker and bigger returns.*

Undetected wrong doing can often get to the finish line much faster than the slow and steady pace of honesty and doing good.

**Doing the right thing is often costly in terms of time, money and resource.** Bending or outright breaking of the rules, as long as a person is not caught, is almost certain to produce quicker and bigger returns.

Therefore, why shouldn't business people simply practice the art of covering up? Maybe that's also why some business cultures encourage "out of the box" thinking, as it can be a nice label for bending the rules.

The obvious answer is for business professionals to behave at work as they would at home, in church or anywhere else.

A common reason American Christians choose not to attend church regularly is the presence of church goers!

The non-church goers believe the church goers to be mostly hypocritical. Church going Christians are often perceived by the general population as eager to put on a religious façade at church in front of God and other members of the congregation, but then walk out the church door and do whatever pleases them.

**To avoid evil and hypocrisy, business professionals may consider making decisions consistently using the (John) Wesleyan Quadrilateral.** The Quadrilateral says that Godly decisions can be best made when a person leverages four sources of input in each decision:

- **Scripture** – Divinely inspired religious teachings may not always provide clear cut answers, but can point people in a direction of "good" versus "bad"
- **Tradition** – The Godly men and women that have gone before (spiritual leaders, teachers and elders) have set precedence about what is right and wrong. While cultural shifts may cause changes to how Scripture and proper living are interpreted over time, business professionals of today can learn from the saints of yesterday.



- **Reason** – God provided each person with the capacity to reason and certainly He expects people to use that ability and consult others' reason when making decisions.
- **Experience** – Business professionals have experience in and out of the work setting that can and should be used to guide decision making.

Inevitably, business professionals will make mistakes. No one is perfect in the sight of God.

There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

*Ecclesiastes 7:20 (New International Version)*

### In summary

The question of why evil exists and why bad things happen is a tempting one to explore. And while some philosophers, theologians and otherwise smart people can offer some suggestions that may provide some answers. No answer has been offered in all of history that seems to be entirely satisfying. By recognizing that life itself and all that is in it is a gift, business professionals can minimize the negativity that can come from focusing on the evil in the world.

**By relying on Scripture, tradition, reason and experience to make Godly decisions, business professionals can enhance the chances of propagating good.**

### Scripture to ponder

He has showed you, O man, what is good.  
And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God

*Micah 6:8 (New International Version)*

### Questions for group discussion, further thought, meditation or prayer

- In what ways has life been unfair to you (positive and negative)?
- Is it possible to succeed in business and not "cut corners" on doing the right thing?
- Do you think evil doers will get what is coming to them? When and how?
- If God's creation was perfect, where did evil come from? Did God create evil?
- What really is the source of evil? People? The "devil"?



## My Experiences (Appendix A)

- [Corporate Secrets](#)
- [Gossip by the Boss](#)

## Additional resources

- [Where is God?](#)
- [About Islam: Why Does God Allow Bad Things To Happen?](#)
- [Buddhist Karma](#)

