



NO, don't worship your work. Don't make your work your God.

But yes, your work can be your worship. God can and should be in your work.

In our ongoing powerful and practical series, *9 to 5*, and in Talk 2: *My Work Is My Worship*, we'll continue to learn that God blesses us by the work of our hands, and so that we too can be a blessing to others.

Most people work for one purpose: to put food on their table. But St. Paul thinks otherwise.

He says: *"Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that **they may have something to share with those in need.**"* (Ephesians 4:28 NIV)

Work is God's way of allowing you to share your blessings with others. When you work well, you move from earning just enough to receiving more than enough so that your blessings will flow to others.

A work well done is already serving others – and should be your offering to God.

St. Paul wrote: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."* (Colossians 3:23 NIV)

Get ready to learn more about your work and how it should be your worship to the Lord!

Mayroong Magandang Mangyayari sa 'Yo!

Alvin Barcelona



Happy Family Working in the Garden Now!

“GOD is very happy Family. So happy, that He decided to share this happiness with us... I think he was talking about The Feast -- because you are a happy family here.”

Thus, Rev. Fr. Mark Demanuele started his Homily at last Sunday's Feast, *page 3*.

Why are we happy? We live this way:
We live only *now*.

That's the message of Bro. Bo Sanchez in his intro on the Feast Talk last Sunday of our series, *9 to 5*-- what the Bible says about your work, *page 10*.



Yes, *work* began right in the first book of the Bible-- in *Genesis*. In the Garden. *Flashback* by Bro. Audee Villaraza on *page 15*.

What about that? Bro. Alvin Barcelona gives us a hint as he introduced today's Talk: *Your Work, Your Worship*, *page 1*.



*Come, let's work. Come, let's worship.
Let's worship in the Garden NOW.*

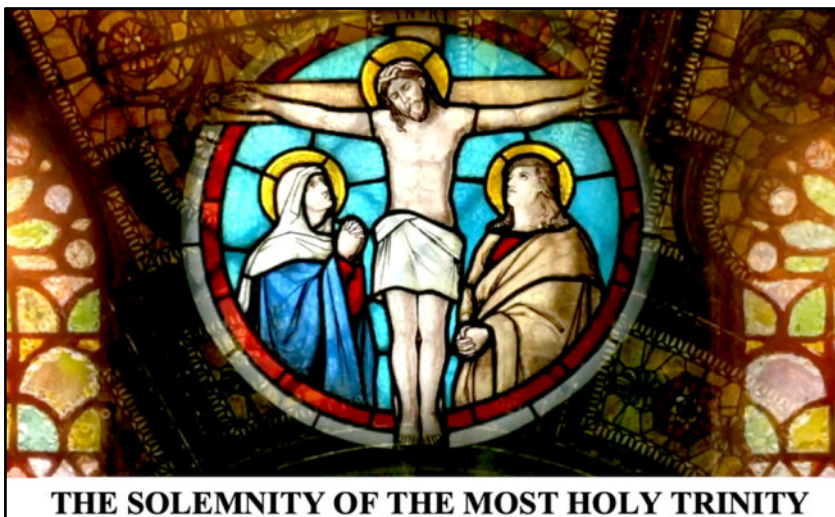
All for God's Glory,

Randy Borrromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





Holy Mass



Homily

REV. FR. MARK DEMANUELE, MSSP

on the Gospel John 16: 12-15

Excerpts:

DO you remember St. Pope John Paul II? One of the very beautiful statements that he said is this: "God is a very happy Family."

I think he was talking about The Feast-- because you are a happy family here.

Listen to this: God is very happy Family. So happy, that He decided to share this happiness with us.

God is a family. When we are celebrating the Holy Trinity, it's not a puzzle. But this Holy Trinity is sharing with us who God is. Sometimes, we speak about this as a mystery of faith. But this is a Family and we are invited to be part of this Family. We are invited to be part of the happy Family of God.

Viva The Feast! Because this is the happy family of God.

Say "thank you" to each other.

Say: "You are blessed to be part of the family of God."

The FEAST FAMILY June 22, 2025 **3**

This Is the Truth

First, we are invited to be part of the Family.

Second, we are called to *belong* to this Family.

Third, remember: Through baptism, we became adopted children in this Family.

When the priest is baptizing the child ,
“In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, He is putting this child as part of the Family.

We try to go through a theological study of the meaning of the Holy Trinity. We won't be able to understand the Holy Trinity.

But if you believe that God is inviting you to be part of this happy Family of God, you are already understanding the Holy Trinity.

Because God is a relational God-- which means He *relates*. He is not an isolated God up there. He *relates* with us.

So, when God the Father sent His Son, He was relating with us.

He wanted you to know who the Father is by sending His Son. And that is a *relationship*. God does not want anyone to live in isolation.

We often say, “No man is an island.”

So, when I am relating with you, and you are relating with each other-- simple acts as saying hello, smiling to each other-- that's a relationship.

When you look into each other's eyes, you are being a Jesus, a God, to each other. You are being the Holy Trinity to others. You are sharing how much God loves you.



First Reading: Acts 8:22-31

22 Thus says the wisdom of God: “The Lord possessed me, the beginning of his ways, the forerunner of his prodigies of long ago; 23 from of old I was poured forth, at the first, before the earth. 24 When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains or springs of water; 25 before the mountains were settled into place, before the hills,

I was brought forth; 26 while as yet the earth and the fields were not made, nor the first clods of the world. 27 “When the Lord established the heavens I was there, when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep; 28 when he made firm the skies above, when he fixed fast the foundations of the earth; 29 when he set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress his command; 30 then was I beside him as his craftsman, and I was his delight day by day, playing before him all the while, 31 playing on the surface of his earth; and I found delight in the human race.”



How We Relate with God

Don't forget: We are made in the image of God. And if I am made in the image of God, I am also in relation with God. And since you are also made in the image of God, I am in relation with you. We come to know God, we come to know each other.

When two love-birds meet, they start *relating*-- they start entering into a simple relationship until it becomes an *intimate relationship*.

That's what's happening between God and us. God is adopting us. God is asking us to belong to Him.

So, God wants you to know Him *intimately*.

When I am in a family, if there's tension between a member of my family and me, and I decide to forgive, I am relating God to that person.

When there is indifference in an office, and you are trying to be a presence in the midst of them, you are being in a relationship, like God does. You are bringing God in the midst of the people.

If there is division in a group, and you bring peace, you are relating God's love to those people. God is using us to relate more with people.

It's beautiful to know that God wants to relate with me and I to relate more with others.

When you say, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit," you are declaring to the people around you that you belong to God, the Father who created you. You are declaring that you belong to Christ, who came to save you. You are declaring that the Holy Spirit fills you grace upon grace.

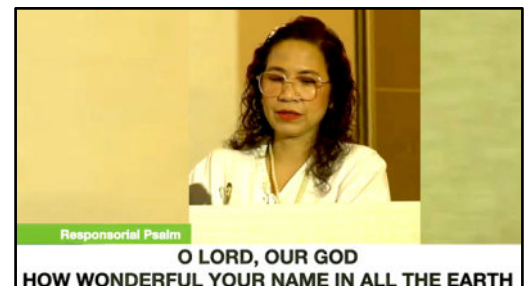
Sometimes, we do the Sign of the Cross like we're just catching flies ☺.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R: O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth! 4 When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place—5 what is man that you should be mindful of him, or the son of man that you should care for him? (R)

6 You have made him little less than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honor. 7 You have given him rule over the works of your hands, putting all things under his feet: (R)

8 All sheep and oxen, yes, and the beasts of the field, 9 the birds of the air, the fishes of the sea, and whatever swims the paths of the seas. (R)



Living Like the Holy Trinity

Here, I ask of you:

1. Speak to the Father as His beloved child: "Abba I trust You."
2. Speak to the Son as a faithful friend. Tell Him: "Walk with me."
3. Don't be afraid to speak to the Holy Spirit. He is there as your inner guide.

Now and then, say: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart."

The Trinity relates to us as a Father, as Jesus, and as the Holy Spirit.

Talk to them in your prayer. God is not isolated up there. He comes down here.

Lastly, remember to live like the Holy Trinity. We are called to live with open arms and with open hands. We are called to be a welcoming community. We are not alone. The Church is not a closed-door church. We are a Trinity open to others.

When the Lord gives you time and talent, use them to welcome others into our Church. Just by making the Sign of the Cross, you show the world that you belong to God.

Say this after me:

"The Holy Trinity is my identity. The Holy Trinity is my Happy Family. The Holy Trinity is my God."

Tell the person next to you:

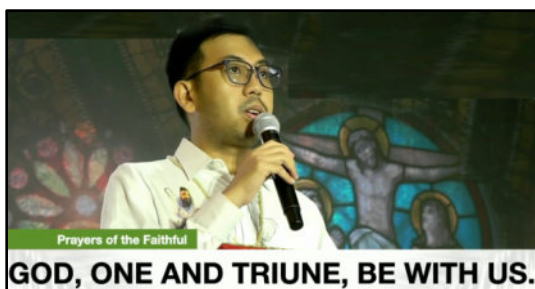
"Welcome to the Happy Family today."



Second Reading: Romans 5:1-5

8 I Brothers and sisters: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

3 Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, 4 and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.



Worship!

SIS. MADZ PAMAONG

Good Morning, Feast! Happy Sunday!
And we greet all the amazing fathers,
Happy Father's Day! We thank you for your love.
But most of all, Happy father's Day to our
Heavenly Father who has been so good to us.

Psalm 23:6 says: *Surely, your goodness
and your mercy will follow me all the days of my life.*

Today, Brothers and Sisters, some of us may be wrestling, not knowing who God is. But receiving His love as our Father. The truth is, His goodness has been with us even when we cannot feel it.

So, today, I invite you, not as people who have it all figured out, but we're going to sing as children learning to trust again. Let this be not more than just a song, but a moment to remember, to open our hearts, to the goodness of our Father.



BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

A few days ago, Air India crashed -- 200 plus passengers died. Right there, one survivor. You probably saw the picture of the family flying there. They took a shot before take-off. They were all smiling -- three small children. They were going to emigrate to London. They were going to live there already. You can just imagine their joy, excitement. And yet all that disappeared in one blink.



It hit me because I take plane rides every week. And yet how life is so fragile. We hang on to life, holding on to a thread. Yes, or no?

My Friends, statistics say -- you might not like to hear this-- the risk of an accident, injury, or death, is higher in car rides than plane rides. And you take car rides every day. My Friends, we can embrace life only now.

Everybody say: "Live life now."

Live *now*. Tomorrow is not guaranteed. Next week is not guaranteed. Next year is not guaranteed. We don't know.

This morning, my son, he embraced me, and he said, "Happy Father's Day!"

I embraced him, and I embraced him a little bit longer. Why? I don't know if I can embrace him tomorrow. God may take me home.

My cousin died of aneurysm. He was so healthy, oh, my gosh! But one day, that vein erupted in his brain, and he's gone. I embraced my son a bit longer.

You and I, we need to live now. Do I hear an "Amen"?

My Friends, where are you now? You are in the Presence of your Friend. His Name is Jesus. I want you to get all your worries, all your fears, all your concerns-- set them aside. Focus on *now*. You *are* with Jesus.

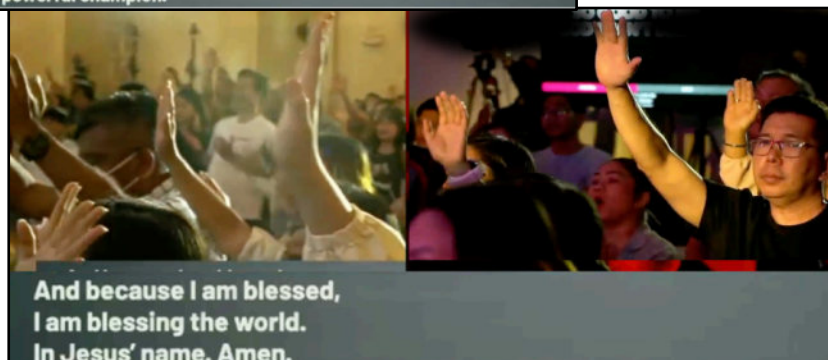
Heavenly Father, Thank You. Jesus, Thank You. Holy Spirit, Thank You. We decide to live now. We're embracing You, You're embracing us. And we're going to bask in Your Presence.



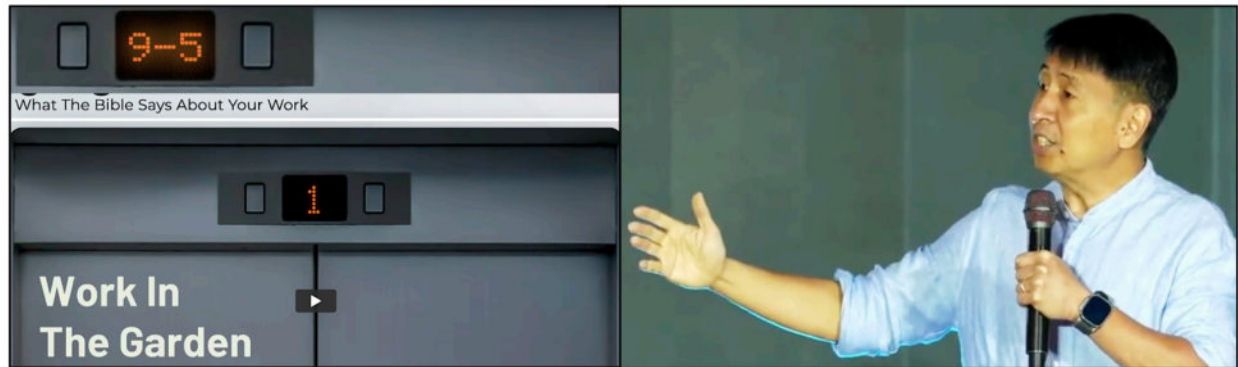
NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE **DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE**

Oh, we love You, Lord. We Thank You, Lord.

Friends, lift your hands for our Family Prayer:



Talk



INTRODUCTION

BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

MY FRIENDS, we live only *now*. We don't know what will happen one hour from now. You live *now*. I want you to greet that person beside you -- if a family member, or a friend-- just greet that person with a handshake, a hug -- just tell that person: "Live *now*!"

We live only *now*.

To the fathers, Happy Father's Day!

This morning, I met a woman... You know, her two sons are already adults.

They brought their mother to me and said, "Bro. Bo, meet our *father*."

Single mom. But she's their father.

To all the fathers and father-figures in this place: Happy Father's Day! You're amazing.

I want to welcome you to our brand-new series. For five weeks, we are going to talk about work, about your job.

How many of you want God to bless your job-- your career, your business? You want that?

Everybody, say: "I want that!."

Tell somebody beside you: "God bless your work."

"Ay, Bro. Bo, I'm a housewife. Are those five weeks for me?"

My dear Housewife, you have and you hold the most important job in the world.

Who are students here? That's your work, that's your job: being a student. And you want to do it well. And you want to prepare yourself well for the future.

Retirees, raise your hands. Your job is important. You do so many tasks in the house. Maybe you do *apostolate* (taking care of grandchildren)... Huwag ninyong i-lang-lang 'yan. Don't take that for granted. That is very important. You're shaping the next generation. Very important.

So, one more time: How many of you want God to bless your job, your career, your profession, your business?

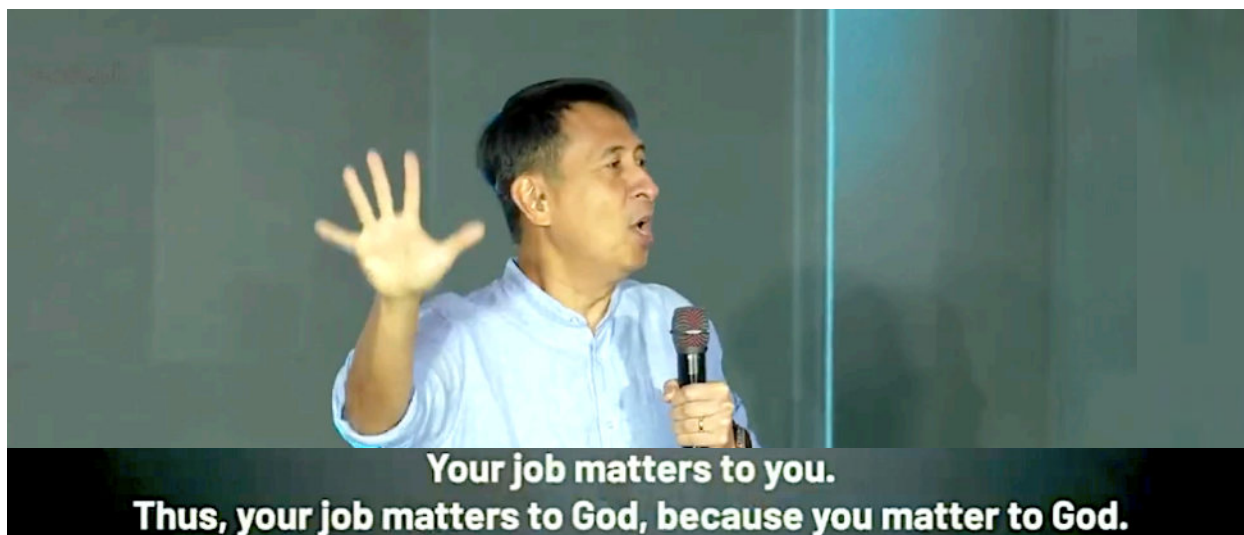
Everybody, say: "Amen."

What I want to share is this: You know why your work matters? Because most of our waking hours are devoted to our work. Yes or no? Your job affects your financial health.

Say: "Amen."

It also affects your physical health. Yes? It affects your mental health. It also affects your relationship health-- in your family.

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Your work matters to you. I want you to know that it matters to God. Because *you* matter to God.

Put your hand over your chest and say: “I matter to God. And, therefore, my job matters to God.”

I’m going to ask you this question:
Does your relationship with God affect
your relationship with your work?

**Does your relationship with God
affect your relationship with work?**

And so, for five weeks, we’re going to work on that statement.

1 2 3 Pray For Three Blessings

I have three prayers for you. I am going to ask three blessings from God to give you, in the next five weeks:

1 First Blessing

**Your secular work will
start bringing you closer to God.**

You might be surprised by this blessing:
Your secular job, your work, will start bringing
you closer to God.

Sounds odd, right? Absurd.

“Bro. Bo, I’m a BPO agent. How can my work bring me closer to God?”

“Bro. Bo, I’m a technician.”

“Bro. Bo, I’m a teacher. It’s so difficult to teach in a public school. What are you talking about?”

Yes. This is the beauty of our message for the next five weeks-- First Blessing: We want your secular work to bring you closer to God.

2 Second Blessing

**Your secular work will
display God to others.**

My Friends, put your hand over your chest
and say: “I’m a preacher.”

Your pulpit is not here. your pulpit is your
profession. And in your job, you display who God is, and you will bless others.



3 Third Blessing

Your secular work will prosper you and others.

That's going to be my prayer: That God will prosper you in your job, and God will *allow* you to prosper others through your job.

But maybe, we need to clarify something that a lot of people believe.

You see, a lot of people think that work is a curse from God.

There was this friend of mine, he came to me and said: "Bro. Bo, isn't that in the Bible: that work is a curse? I remember that my Grade 6 Religion teacher told us that when Adam and Eve ate the apple, God told them: "Work is the punishment for you."

I told him: "There is no *apple* in *Genesis*. It says *fruit*. So, we don't know what fruit that is." But to clarify: Work is not a curse.

Extend your hands towards Scripture today:



*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
And a Light unto my path.*

We're going to read a passage where a lot of people get the idea that work is a curse. It's wrong. But let's read it together and let's find out what this means:

Genesis 3:17-19 NABRE

Cursed is the ground because of you! In toil you shall eat of its produce all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field.

Genesis 3:17-19 NABRE

By the sweat of your brow shall you eat bread, until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

"Bro. Bo, it sounds like a curse."
No, it's not.

"Wait. Isn't Work A Curse For Man's Sin?"

**Work already
happened in Paradise.**

I want you to know that before man fell, and ate the fruit, work already existed in Paradise-- in the Garden of Eden.

Let's read Genesis 2:15:



Genesis 2:15 NABRE

The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it.

Work Is Wonderful

Are there people here who are card-carrying, true blooded, official plantitos and plantitas? If you are, be proud and raise your hands and wave at me.

Those who wave at me, question: Is it difficult to take care of plants? Yes! Oh, my gosh, it is difficult-- under the sun, watering, especially if you have a big garden. It *is* difficult.

But I have another question for you: Is it enjoyable?

Oh, my gosh, is it refreshing? Is it the way you relax?

That is work.

Work was designed by God to make you feel good and wonderful.

Everybody, say: "Work is wonderful."

Everybody, say: "Work is refreshing."

Everybody, say: "Work is fulfilling."

That was the design of God.

What happened? Because of the *fall*, because of our disobedience, because of sin, work becomes disappointing, frustrating, painful.

And this is what God wants us to do. He wants to bring us back into the Garden.

My Friends, work already happened in Paradise. In that beautiful, beautiful place, work was there. And so, this is what God wants you to do: Man's work in the Garden isn't about *punishment* but a *promotion*.

Raise your hand if you have a job. Raise your hand if you have work. If you're a student, you should raise your hand because studying is work. Retirees, you're taking care of your apo, grandchild, that's work. Housewives, you *should* raise your hand.

Do you have work? You're promoted. It is not a punishment. You're promoted. Why? Because God wants you to be like Him: a co-Creator.

**Work was not a curse,
but work got cursed.**

**Man's work in the Garden isn't a punishment
but a promotion.**



And so, this is my message to you:

There are two kinds of work: Work inside the Garden. But when Adam fell, he had to work outside the Garden.

So, the two kinds of work: 1. Work in the Garden with God. 2. Work Outside the Garden without God.

What kind of work do you want to do: 1 or 2?

I don't care if you are a traffic enforcer, or a mechanic, or a manager, or an editor, or a photographer. I don't care if you are a pharmacist, or a doctor, or a nurse, architect, contractor, or carpenter. Any work that you do, you can do it *In* the Garden, or you can do it *Outside* the Garden. It's your choice.

And if you want God to bless you in your job, please work *In* the Garden.

Put your hand over your chest. Everybody, say:

Jesus, help me. Bless my job, my career, my business. Anoint me. I want my work to be wonderful. Help me, empower me, equip me, guide me. Promote me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

If you believe God will answer your prayer, give Him a big hand.

I want you to Hi-5 seven persons beside you and tell that person: "God will answer that prayer."

Everybody, say: "My job will be blessed."

In five weeks, every single week, God will bless your job more and more, and more. Amen.

Hallelujah!

We are now going to listen to God's Word through our leader, our preacher, and our Feast Builder, the one and only Audee Villaraza.





BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

Everybody, give a big hand to Bro. Bo, and shout: “Thank you, Bro. Bo!”

I want to start my part by asking you a real and honest question. And I want you to be a savage and as genuine in answering this question I’m going to ask you to share your answer to the person sitting next to you.

I want you to answer this: On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being the lowest, and 10 being the highest: What is your stress level at work right now?

How many of you, your stress level is No. 1?

Wow, quite a number.

No.2? There are some.

No. 3? Those are not so stressed. Relaxed.

No. 4? There are a couple of persons.

How about No. 5-- 50-50? Sometimes stressed, sometimes blessed.

How about those in the 6th level? There are some.

Level 7?

Level 8? Growing number...

Level 9?

All those in Level 10, raise your hands and make some noise.



Ha-Ha. That’s all of us, right?

Top 10 Signs That You Are Stressed from Work

I want to share with you, right now, the Top 10 Signs That You Are Stressed from Work.

10	Mas gusto mong tumambay sa traffic sa EDSA kaysa sa opisina.
9	Ang parati mong panaginip, natatapos mo yung mga reports mo.
8	Nagpapasalamat ka kapag na-cancel ang meeting... kahit ikaw ang nag-set.
7	Yung dating "fine lines" mo sa mukha ngayon "deadlines" na.
6	73 ang open tabs sa laptop mo, pero ni isa, walang related sa trabaho mo.
6	Naka speed dial ang opisina mo, pero naka-block all calls naman.
4	Mas healthy pang tingnan yung office plants mo kaysa sa yo.



Level 10: You'd rather struggle through the EDSA traffic than stay in your office, your workplace.

Level 9: You always dream your reports are already finished-- done. Not really true. Just a dream. 😊

Level 8: You're thankful when a meeting is cancelled-- even if you were the one who set the meeting.

Level 7: What used to be fine lines on your forehead are now *deadlines*.

Level 6: This one all of you can relate to: You are so stressed that there are 73 open files on your laptop, but not one is related to your work.

Level 5: Your phone is on *speed dial*, but on *block all calls*.

Level 4: Your office plants look healthier than you. The plants have no stress.

Level 3: This one is my favorite. Your office hours are supposed to end at 5:00 p.m., but as early as 4:30 p.m. you've already gathered your belongings and you're ready to go out.

Level 2: You're *out* is 5:00 p.m. but at 4:30, you have already booked your Grab ride.

Top 1 sign that you are stressed from work: You're looking for a sign to quit from your job so, you saw all these signs...

Tell the person right next to you: "Stress is real."

Then tell the other person, "Burnout is real."

It *real is*. And one of the most common sources of stress is our work. Isn't it?

Common Prayer Petitions About Work

My goal for the rest of time we're together here is to change your paradigm when it comes to work.

Just like what Bro. Bo said, "Work is not a curse. It's a blessing."

But the sad truth, my dear Friends, a lot of people are stressed from work. They're burnout.

Let me share this: People would come up to me and say, "Brother, may you pray for me?"

And they would usually ask for three common concerns-- all work related;

1. "Brother, I am tired of my job."
2. "Brother, I have so many tasks in my job."
3. "Brother, I have no job."

Always about work. The truth is, work is very hard-- when you're not thinking the way God does. And I hope we can correct that.

But let's be real. How many of you here dream that one day you will no longer have to work?

I think the attraction to a lot of people is that whenever we think of Paradise, whenever we think of the Afterlife, we think of Heaven, some of us might be excited. But of course, may not be excited.

But we are excited to be in that place someday because it means that there's no more work. No more boss to report to. No more client to chase. No more monthly quotas to meet every week. No more bills to pay.

Are you excited for that time when your life will be like that and you're just sitting around on a beach, sipping your favorite drink?

Let me be the first to pop your bubble today. *Genesis* is teaching us that in Paradise, there is work but not the work that you imagine. The work will be different in Paradise.

Here is the truth: Eden is the Garden that the Lord created for His lovely human beings. But Eden was not just the place of rest. It was also a place of responsibility.



**Eden was not just a place of rest.
It was also a place of responsibility.**

Two Powerful Truths

Let me teach you Two Powerful Truths About Work.

1. There is no retirement from responsibility.

This is the paradigm of life. When you're young, you have more energy so you work hard because you have responsibilities...

As you get older, you will have less energy but you will still have responsibility. The one thing that does not change whether you're young or older, is that responsibility never ends.

When you're young, you're building on your work. You're building your little kingdom.

Now that you're older and retired, you're building God's Kingdom. You're ministering to other people. You will always have a responsibility because in God's Kingdom, the mission never ends. There's always going to be a soul that needs to be saved. There's always going to be some new territory that needs to be conquered. There's always going to be a heart that needs to be healed. It never ends, and that's a beautiful thing. It should not stress you out because if it does, you're still thinking of worldly work.

Now, I'm going to challenge you to think that when the Lord blessed us with work, it wasn't how work we imagined it.

The thing that you call your career, the Lord calls it a calling. For all of us, the calling never ends. Even if you're retired, the calling to make disciples is still in your heart and that should always burn you and push you to achieve the purpose of God. Whether you are working or resting, never do it without God.



**In God's Kingdom
the mission never stops.**

**If you're working, work with God.
If you're resting, rest with God.**

2. You have a responsibility to rest.

While it is true that there is no retirement from responsibility, it's also true that you have a responsibility to rest.

Honestly, Feast Builders are busy but we're not *that* busy. We still have time to have coffee with people. We still have time to watch Netflix. We still have time to go out with our family.

I think it's a great disservice to tell yourself that you're too busy. It's a great disservice to the Lord. It's a great disservice to people because you can never be too busy. You know there's a problem when you're always busy.

You're like Martha in the kitchen. Don't be like Martha who was so stressed out in the kitchen preparing meal for Jesus.

Jesus actually commended Mary who sat at His feet and said, "Mary chose what is better and I will not take it away from her."

Have time to rest. The Lord worked for six days to build the world but He rested for one day. Did the Lord rest because He was tired? No. I don't think that the Lord gets tired. But why did He rest? To show you and me that you also need to rest. That's the secret of life. If you're burdened with many things, have a fresh restart because that's what the Lord taught us. Even though He wasn't tired, He rested because that's a biblical principle: That we need to rest.

The reason we treat work as something that's so burdensome is it's a lie that was perpetuated by the enemy since the very beginning.

When the Devil convinced Adam and Eve to take the forbidden fruit, he was already telling them a lie in advance. The Devil was convincing them that they could do what they want on their own and that they don't need God in the Garden. The lie was that they could actually take matters into their own hands. They could define good and evil according to their own terms because they could become like God.

That lie is in our head.

When you started your business, isn't it true that you were the one who did all the leg work? You were like a one-stop shop. That's great. Praise God!

But the problem with that is it works in your head and you start thinking that you're the sole owner of the company because it's a *sole* proprietorship.

Let me tell you the good news: "You're not the owner."

It's God. God is the CEO of your life. Who gave you the business idea? It's God. Who inspired you to work on that business? It's God. Who gives you the oxygen every day to breathe in and out? It's God.

So, report to God every day when you work on your business.



4 Words To Set You Free

I'll teach you four words that will set you free every day to put you in this perspective that your business is not only yours but it's also God's.

Say these four words every morning when you wake up. This is going to liberate you.

The moment you wake up and start thinking of work, simply say: *"Lord, let's do this."*

It teaches our mind to remember and to reflect that we're not the only one that's supposed to handle all those problems that we're having in our business. Give them to God! The reason you get so stressed out is not the work that you do-- but doing it all by yourself.

Learn how to give the problems to the Lord.

It's a liberating feeling when you know that the Lord is working with you in that Garden that He gave you in the very first place. It sets you free.

You can relax at the end of the day. Why? Because you know that the Lord is working on your business while you're asleep. He's working on those things that you're so worried about because God is your partner. It's a beautiful reminder that work in the Garden only becomes stressful when you're all doing it by yourself. Whenever there's a problem, we all have that tendency to solve it on our own strength. God only becomes the last option.

Here's the solution: Involve the Lord in the process. While the problem is not even a problem yet, involve God in Level 1 before it reaches Level 10.

The first worker in the whole universe was not Adam. It wasn't even Eve.

It was God:

Genesis 2:1-3 NABRE

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. ² On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing; he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.

God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because on it, He rested from all the work that He had been doing in creation. The Lord understands the stress that you're going through in your work because He was the First Worker. He worked on creating the world in six days.

Give the stress that you carry to God. He can handle it. I realized that it's not an accident that the profession that Jesus chose was to be a carpenter. It required manual labor. It required creating, reshaping, and rebuilding something from His hands. I came to tell that Jesus is still in the business of recreating and reshaping lives. He's still in the business of retransforming what is broken into what is complete. Even Jesus knew what work was. He's Somebody who got His hands dirty. Instead of asking people to serve Him.



A Different Creation Story

I want to show you something really cool for all the Bible nerds.

There's a Creation story that's as old as *Genesis* but it's not from *Genesis*.

It's a Babylonian myth called *Enuma Elish* of how the world was created and how you and I were created.

This is similar to a Filipino folklore. We have a legend of how we were created. We studied this in grade school.

This is how the *Enuma Elish* story goes:

In *Enuma Elish*, there are many gods. The name of the elder God is Tiamat. She is a female god. She has tentacles. She rules the galaxy.

There are, however, younger gods who want to rebel against her. And one of them is Marduk. He is the strongest among their kind. He tells the gods that he can defeat Tiamat on one condition: he will be the boss of all the other gods.



Finally, Marduk fights Tiamat and he defeats her.

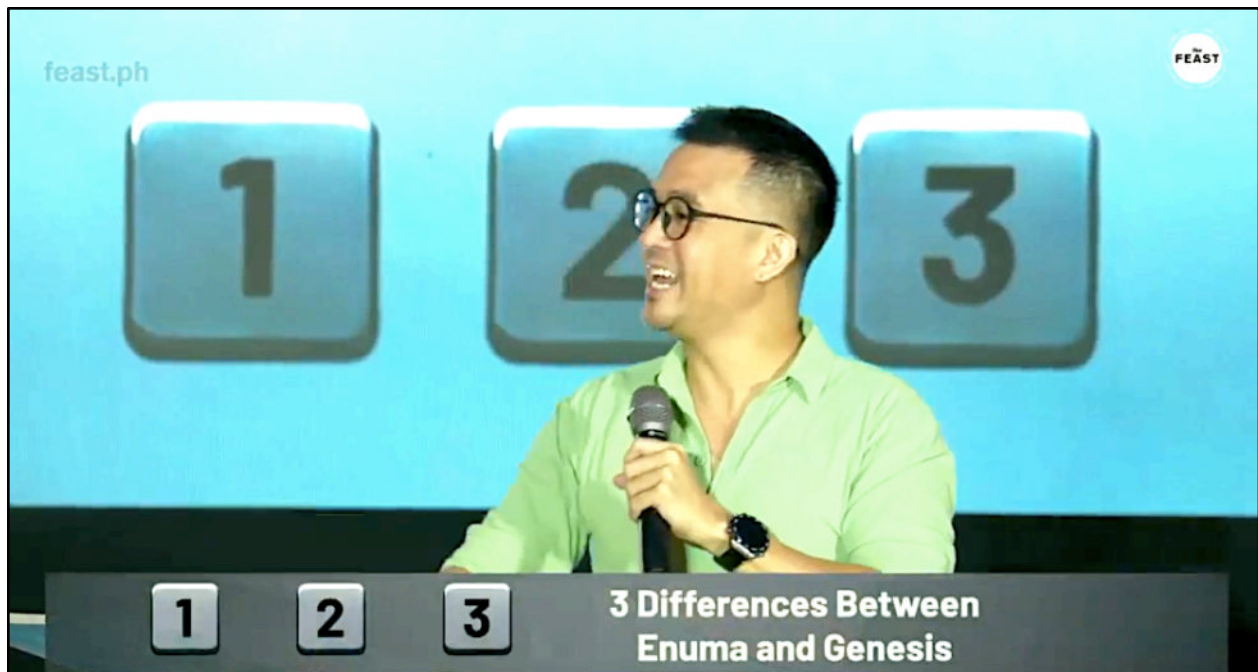
After defeating her, Marduk slices and chops her body into pieces. This is a very much like the Macabre and Gory story. He then distributes the various parts of Tiamat. Thus, from there, different parts of the world are created.

Now that they're gods and they're mighty, they have a problem. All the gods want to do is rest and party again and again. There's no one to do the dirty jobs. What's the solution?

They decide: "Let's create human beings so that we will have servants. We will have slaves and we will be their masters. All we will do is just rest and party."

That's the story of *Enuma Elish*.





Now, if I put the *Enuma Elish* Creation story side by side with the *Genesis* Creation story. Do you see that little pattern where the world was created and then human beings were created? But there's a huge difference when it comes to the intention.

<p>Enuma Creation was accidental.</p> <p>Genesis Creation was intentional</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Enuma man = slaves</p> <p>Genesis man = relationship</p> <p>2</p>	<p>Enuma Work was despised.</p> <p>Genesis Work was a delight.</p> <p>3</p>
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When you're confused about work and what the Lord really intended for work, go back to the *Genesis* story of Creation.

The Lord created you in His image and likeness.

God is a worker.

If God is a worker, you're also a worker.



What is your *garden*? We all have our own gardens. It can be your career, your relationships, or your skills. *Garden* is basically anything that you care for and cultivate.

Here's the principle: Whatever your garden is, don't neglect it. Tend that garden. Grow the gifts that the Lord gave you.

**Whatever your garden is,
God expects you to tend it, not to neglect it.**

I'm praying that this message is changing the way you see work-- through the eyes of the Lord.

Between *Enuma Elish*, where Marduk is the god, and the Creation story in *Genesis*, where the God is our Lord God, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is our God --Three in One--who do you prefer to be your boss? The one who will treat you as a slave or the one who really loves and cares for you?

I want to go deeper on that thought. God is not just the boss but God is Somebody who partners with us. What we're learning here today is that the Lord is not just the First Worker. The Lord is also Somebody who works for you.

Have you ever had a master like that? Somebody who will partner with you and treat you worthy of dignity. That's God.

Whatever your garden is-- whether you're a student, a housewife, you're retired, you're unemployed-- you still have a responsibility.

That's a calling that will never end.



Cultivate Your Garden

I want to point out something that's so glaring to me that I found in the New Testament.

The reason we get so stressed about the work that we do is simply we're doing it on our own. We're not involving God in the process.



That's what happened with Adam. He thought that he could do the work by himself. But then he left the garden and everything turned upside down.

This beautiful place was intended for purpose, abundance, and God's Presence.

Suddenly, it changed forever. We now have to feel burdened because work has now become a curse. It's a lie that the enemy has perpetuated.

I'm praying that this is going to minister to you.

Because there's a story in the New Testament where John talks about Mary Magdalene walking inside the tomb and she was crying because her Master was dead. (John 20:1-18)

The Savior of the world had been buried in the tomb. All of a sudden, Jesus shows up in risen form.

And He says to Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

John 20:15 NABRE

²⁵ "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought he was **the gardener**.

Mary thought that it was the gardener. It's kind of curious that John would insert this little adjective of how Mary thought that it was the gardener. Why is there a gardener in a graveyard? Then, it hit me. Jesus was buried in a *garden* tomb.

Whenever you choose to work outside of the Garden or outside the Lord's sovereignty, you will get burned out. You will get stressed. You will get anxious.

That's exactly what happened to Adam. God created Adam to be the first gardener in the Garden of Eden but sadly, he failed to do his job.

So, God sent another Gardener who would redeem the lie that work is a curse -- because it's not. Work is a privilege and an honor. It's an opportunity to exercise the divine right, to care, and to cultivate the Garden that the Lord put you in.



From Grave to Garden

When Jesus was raised to life, people said that Jesus robbed the grave. He defeated death and He robbed the grave. But that's not all that Jesus did.

Jesus turned the grave back into a garden.

What once was dead because of sin, Jesus said: "Let me work on this garden. Let me use my life as a tapestry. Let me put it back to its original design."

A garden where the Lord can work and walk and be with us all the days of our life.

**Jesus didn't just rob the grave.
He turned the grave back into a garden.**

Today, the Lord is inviting you to involve Him in your 9 to 5 work. Invite the Lord. Involve Him. Because Jesus can be the one to resurrect what have been dead in your life -- dead dreams, dead passions, and dead purposes.

Allow Jesus to raise them into a new level of grace and a new level of strength. That's what He does. He turns graves into beautiful gardens.

I can imagine the kind of graves turning right now because Jesus is here.

Put your hand over your chest. Let's pray:
Father, in Your Presence, there is power, purpose, and peace. Father, look at all Your children who bear the work on their hands, in their minds, and in their hearts. Even now, we're thinking about work and all the tasks that we have to accomplish this week and this month. Father, we know that You are the First Worker and that You did Your work in six days. We're giving our work to You because You can handle it. We're done working by ourselves and doing it all alone. We want You to be our hands, to be our feet, and to be our voice.

Come, we invite You to bless the work of our hands. Bless our heart. Give us the right intentions so we do our work not just for ourselves in our little kingdom but for this Kingdom that You're building here on earth. We pray that whatever has died in our lives, we declare that through the power of Jesus, You are turning that grave into a garden once more. Thank You, Lord, for Your Presence. We worship You in spirit and in truth. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



**Today, invite Jesus
into your 9-5.**



Thank You!

The Feast Family, now organized as the Feast Mercy Ministries, is a spin-off ministry of the Light of Jesus Family founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez.

Earlier named as Kerygma Family, The Feast Family is a unique online, non-physical, borderless, international community of friends who support each other's personal growth.

Partner beneficiaries of the Feast Mercy Ministries flourish because of your generous support.

Thank you for being with us. We pray that you find your daily source of inspiration from the resources that we send to you. We pray too that you may consider giving to The Feast Mercy Ministries. No gift is too small.

Thank you very much in advance for your gift. Our prayer is that God will continue to reward you as you give.

FOR EXISTING DONORS:

Thank you for the Love. Your monthly donation helps us to continue extending support to our Light of Jesus spin-off organizations, including our partner beneficiaries. Your gift will sustain our operations and, we hope, help us reach out to the persons our Lord has called us to make disciples and give them renewed hope.

Be a Feast Family member. Write or call us. Now.

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FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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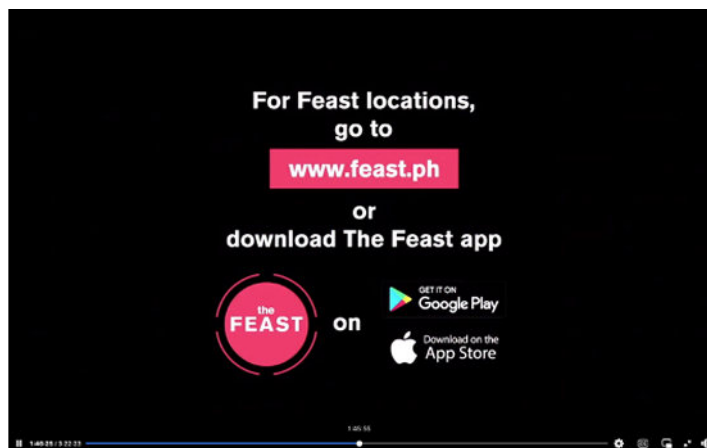
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

