

A Message from:

JobSeekers USA

EIGHT SPIRITUAL LESSONS OF A JOB LOSS

By: Greg Heydel
JobSeekers USA – Gwinnett

A time of job loss can be a period of great spiritual growth for men. Many men, who have gone through JobSeekers, have said that they have been drawn closest to God during this time. What can we learn during this time when we "...seek first the kingdom of God, and all His righteousness?" The following "lessons" were developed by a JobSeeker and used during our table discussions. They include what Satan would like us to believe during this period, what God's truth says through His word, and some responses we could choose.

For further information about JobSeekers USA, including group locations,
please review our website at <http://www.jobseekers.org>
or contact:

Dennis E. Brown
Executive Director
JobSeekers USA
Voice: (770) 551-9263
E-mail: denny@jobseekers.org

**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well
(Mathew 6:33)**

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Satan's Lie</u>	<u>God's Truth</u>	<u>Our Response</u>
Humility	This is just a temporary setback. It's just a matter of getting a job to put everything back the way it was before. I'm good enough to do this by myself.	Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Mat 5:3) For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 14:11) True humility and fear of the Lord lead to riches, honor and long life. (Prov. 22:4)	Understand that the pain you feel in your gut is your pride crashing against your humility. Let these circumstances strip away all your pride and pretension that what you do for a living is who you are. Understand that your value to God is not equal to your career success. Take this time to evaluate your relationships with God, Jesus Christ and your family. Read Psalms 37 and 41. Read Job. Have confidence through the promise of Philippians 4:13 -- I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.

Lesson

Satan's Lies

God's Truth

Our Response

Repentance

If I just get a job, everything will be fine.

I said, O Lord, have mercy on me; heal me, for I have sinned against you (Psalm 41:4)

Once humbled, there are very few times in our lives when we are as close to God's redeeming grace.

Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near (Mathew 3:2)

Read Psalm 51 and David's prayer for forgiveness.

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance. (Luke 5:32)

Get on your knees and present your sins and pride for God's forgiveness. Say this prayer:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Dear Father, I need you. I acknowledge that I have sinned against You by directing my own life. I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ's death on the cross for me. I now invite Christ to again take His place on the throne of my life.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2Cor. 5:17)

Now is the time to accept salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ; at very few times will you be this close to the cross. Everyone is equal at the foot of the cross.

Lesson

Obedience

Satan's Lies

This is up to me. God has nothing to do with my situation. I can do this my way.

Submission is weakness. I can't afford to show weakness in the shark-infested business world.

God's Truth

Yet, O'Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:8)

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. (Psalm 32:8)

So even though Jesus was God's son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. (Heb. 5:8)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on you own understanding; in all you ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Prov. 3:5)

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, and the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. (Psalm 37:5-6)

Our Response

Our humility and repentance require a positive response. But which? Fueled by God's enduring hope, we must be obedient to His will, not ours.

Pray for God's plan to work in your life; God's will be done, not ours. Now is the time to practice the submission to God that will continue during employment.

Read God's word and instructions – the living Bible. Read it daily. Get into the habit of a daily devotional through a one-year bible or through "tracks" provided by your church (The Upper Room, etc).

Be quiet and listen for God's will.

Read Psalms 32 and 37.

Be obedient to God's call to servanthood; volunteer in Christian service.

Lesson

Hope

Satan's Lies

Doubt. Worry. God has abandoned me. Things are going to get worse before they get better.

God's Truth

I alone know the plans I have for you; plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster; plans to bring about the future you hope for. (Jeremiah 29:11)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Rom. 8:28)

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given us. (Romans 5:5)

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (Matt. 6:26-27)

Our Response

The rug has been pulled out from under us. But once our pride, which has falsely propped us up is gone and we have repented of our self-driven ways, the true promise of God enters our lives.

Trust in God's promises.

Believe Jesus who said: *Ask and it will be given to you.* (Matt. 7:7)
Therefore, ask Him through prayer.

You are not alone. Listen to the testimonials of others who have been in our situation.

Talk to Christian friends about your worries.

Read Psalms 23 and 46

Lesson

Perseverance

(The steadfast effort to follow God's commands and to do His work)

Satan's Lies

This is taking too long. Where is God? He has abandoned me!

God's Truth

...we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character; and character hope. (Romans 5:4)

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:4)

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. (Psalm 37:7)

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you or forsake you. (Deut. 31:6)

Our Response

We practice our obedience by persevering and "wait(ing) upon the Lord." This does not mean that we get lazy, but we understand what is in our power and what is in God's hands. We put God's enduring hope into practice.

Listen to testimonials and understand that God is also working in your life

Read the Bible that shows God's steadfast love for His people. Read Psalm 23.

Pray for patience and strength. Memorize Philippians 4:13 -- I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.

Work your plan: make the calls; send the letters. Stay busy: volunteer in Christian service.

Know that it is o.k. to feel frustrated. Talk to your Christian friends about your frustrations.

Lesson

Satan's Lies

Contentment

Why me? This is unfair!

Why make one more call? It's useless.

I'm tired and frustrated.

God's Truth

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Mathew 11:28)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ. (Phil. 4:6-7)

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

I know what it is to be in need and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation... I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Phil 4:12-13)

Our Response

We are humble and repentant before God because we want a close, personal relationship with Him. His enduring hope allows us to be obedient and persevere through our difficulties. Despite our anxiety, we now find a peace that shows through contentment.

We write the letters, make the calls while submitting to His will and timing.

Read Paul's letter to the Philippians; a letter full of joy despite being written from a Roman prison.

Read Psalms 23, 46 and 118.

Listen to worship and praise music.

Practice spiritual breathing.

Stay busy. Volunteer. Encourage others who are going through unemployment.

Lesson

Joy

Satan's Lies

This is the worst time of my life.

There is no silver lining in this cloud!

I have no blessings. As soon as some good things happen in my life, I'll have some joy.

God's Truth

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. (Phil. 4:4)

I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul. (Psalm 31:7)

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might for all endurance and patience with joy. (Col. 1:11)

And we rejoice 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. (Rom. 5:2-3)

...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. (2Cor. 6:10)

Our Response

The **hope** we are receiving through the relationship we are establishing with God through **humility** and **repentance** has led to **contentment**. The result of that contentment is **Joy**. To sustain that joy we must be **obedient** to God's will and **persevere**. The road is rocky but He has promised to be with us every step of the way.

Tape this verse to your shaving mirror -- This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24) – and repeat it each morning.

Each morning, list your blessings. Write them down if necessary. Thank God for them.

Listen to praise music.

Read Psalms 31, 71, 91 and 118.

Lesson

Praise

(The means by which we express our joy to the Lord. The act of adoration and thanksgiving to God)

Satan's Lies

I deserve it all. Look what I did!

God's Truth

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (Psalm 23:5)

And I will send showers, showers of blessings, which will come just when they are needed. (Ezekiel 34:26)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you... (1Peter 1:3-4)

But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your salvation all day long, though I know not its measure. (Psalm 71:14, of David)

Our Response

Having a relationship with God through **humility, repentance, hope** and **obedience**, we are **content** that he is blessing us. We **persevere** in **joy** and **Praise** him for what he has done for us, what he is doing for us, and what he will do for us.

We can't just ask God for his blessings and then not praise Him when he blesses us.

We give all the glory to God from whom all blessings flow. We praise Him for what He is doing in our lives and what he is about to do.

Read Psalms 23, 33, 104, 107 and 150.

Worship Him. Sing praise songs like "How Great Thou Art"

Adore and thank Him through prayer.