

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS NOT ABOUT TAKING RISKS

Would you like to be an entrepreneur? Would you like to have a business of your own? I'm sure many of you would but are just afraid to take that step because the idea connotes the willingness to take great financial risks. Taking GREAT financial risks is synonymous to entrepreneurship because studies show there are more business ventures that failed compared to those that succeeded. In fact, starting one's own business is considered a big gamble. That is why many prefer to just become or remain employees.

Do you know that the idea of entrepreneurship originated from the French word "entreprendre", which means to undertake? It also refers to a musical director. I do not know if the original idea included the concept of taking financial risk, but I am sure it means taking care of whatever is before you.

For years, I have been looking for a biblical definition of entrepreneurship, but have not found one that supports our present day definition. But if I take the original meaning "to undertake" then Ecclesiastes 5:19 (ESV) gives an excellent explanation, "Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil - this is the gift of God."

As I transitioned from being a corporate man to becoming an entrepreneur, I have learned that entrepreneurship is not about taking risks. When I had that mindset in the beginning, I lost part of the money we had then. But when I changed by taking on the mindset of a steward for the Lord, things turned around and God allowed us to enjoy the fruits of our labor. Instead of taking risks, I focused on taking good care of what we have, working to grow our abilities and maximizing the returns of our limited resources.

It amazes me to learn that Solomon knew about this concept even thousands of years ago. If his definition is right, then we can all be entrepreneurs! You can take out the financial risk if you focus on taking good care of what you have. You can also remove the risk of failing if you content yourselves with your lot (or portion) and are willing to toil hard to create wealth, so that someday you will experience the fruitful life God desires for you.