

## WHY DON'T SOME CHRISTIANS SUCCEED IN BUSINESS?

If God has given us the power to make wealth, then why don't all Christians automatically succeed in business? There are many reasons why this happens but one of them is because some fail to remember that the power to create wealth comes from God alone.

In 2002, a pastor friend, who used to be an executive for a major real estate company in the country, confronted me when he heard that I was trying to marry the Bible into my business. He told me that it cannot be done! He told me that the ways of business contradict God's instructions in the Bible. He even warned me that I will be forced to compromise my values in order to succeed. I was taken aback by the things he said. I thought people like him would be happy to know about what I was trying to do. In response, I told him, "Pastor, I have no choice! Since the business is not mine but the Lord's, I need to do things according to His ways. If ever I fail, at least I failed trying." I also told him that I cannot separate who I am as a businessman from who I am as a Christian. This means that when I sin during the week while doing my business, I actually sin against the God I worship while I am in church on Sunday.

The journey I decided to take has not been easy. Indeed, there have been times when I was tempted to compromise, and along the way, I stumbled on a number of occasions. But I continue to try to marry the Bible into my business because I learned that the power to make wealth, which was mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:18, is not a promise for success. Instead, it is a condition I need to keep so that I may become fruitful in the business God entrusted to me.

I believe Christians cannot mix the ways of the Lord with the ways of the world. Otherwise, we will invite failure. God does not have to punish us to make us fail. All He has to do is allow us to reap the consequences of our decisions. And that may even be more painful. I wish people would see the Bible for what it truly is, an operating manual the Creator gave us to be our guide in every area of our lives, especially in business. To me the word Bible means "Basic Instructions By which to Live on Earth."