

# Challenged by Life...Powered by God

(Case Studies in Christian Challenges)

Kevin Shrake

This monthly series of case studies illustrate the challenges presented to us as Christians. Facing these common challenges is inevitable. How we respond to those challenges is what defines us as human beings and whether others observe and mimic or take notice and mock. It should be our desire as Christians to serve as that coveted example worth mimicking 100% of the time. See if this case study has presented similar decision points and challenges in your life. I would love to hear your reactions, thoughts and alternative approaches in the comments section below.

## The Case of Losing a Job

It is a tough business world that we live in and you hear more and more stories about friends, family, loved ones and yes...YOU, losing your job. I have had the experience of losing my job more than once. It can be devastating at the time but sometimes the plan that God has for us takes turns that we don't immediately understand. Here are a few things to consider:

- You are not defined by your job. You are defined and have value because of who you are, not what you do or where you work.
- Good performance does not guarantee a job. There are many factors that have nothing to do with your individual performance that can result in a loss of a job. In my personal case there have been new CEOs of an organization take a job and bring their own team with them.
- Recognize the differences between your friends and acquaintances. Your friends will have lunch with you and provide ideas and networking opportunities. Your acquaintances will want to get together after you get another job. Know who your friends are and treat them like gold!
- Cancel the "Pity Party." There is no job security anymore with a specific company. There is only "employment security." If you position yourself with the right education, experience and attitude, you will always have employment opportunities.
- Stay positive and work your job search like a job.

## God's Plan for US

How many times have you tried to do something in your life including things like keeping a job and for whatever reason it just didn't work out? How many times later on did we say to ourselves, "thank God that did not happen!" The old joke is if you want to make God laugh; tell him what your plan is! Yes, we have free will, but our decisions dictate our path. Sometimes the

paths to our endpoints go in unexpected ways, but know that God is with us on every step of that journey. So how do we restart our lives and enter our next chapter after losing a job. First and foremost, you can gain strength, encouragement, hope and a positive attitude by looking to God for daily guidance. It is amazing how God will answer your prayers; just understand it might not be on your time table or in an expected manner.

### **Take Action**

Positive networking is the most beneficial thing you can do. It helps get you engaged, occupies downtime and statistics indicate that 7 out of 10 jobs are acquired via a connection rather than a job advertisement. So where do you start? How about increasing your exposure to your church family? Or choose to do some important volunteer work that you did not have time to do before. Networking with people who already know your character and personal value really helps jump start any potential job search discussions. If they learn to know your character AND you have other business skills and experience, there will be another job out there for you.

**Romans 5:3-5 “Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character and character produces hope, and hope never disappoints us.”**

What are your thoughts? If you have thoughts or comments on this challenge or any previous challenge, please send an e-mail to [KevinShrake@yahoo.com](mailto:KevinShrake@yahoo.com).