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Gleanings

Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.



Strategies@Work
LLC
Solutions That Transform

Services

*Consulting
Strategic Planning
Executive Coaching
Training
Investment Advice*

Web Site

www.StrategiesWork.com

Email

info@StrategiesWork.com

Phone Number

972 473-8655



Blessed by Divine Strategy

Alex was climbing the corporate ladder in the mid-90s when he decided to invest in an oil and gas deal. The investment failed and the investment broker admitted that he had not handled the deal properly. Many investors sued the broker, but Alex felt that he was not supposed to, so he refrained.

During the next eight years, Alex worked for several different companies including a stint as the CEO of a public company. When Alex considered a job opportunity, his due diligence was typical of most executives, the main issue was money and whether he thought he would like the job. However, a pattern developed in Alex's career. Alex consistently worked for unscrupulous people. As a result of his minimal job consideration standards, each work opportunity ended in disappointment.

In 2004, Alex joined a technology service company. Having learned from his experiences, he validated that his new employer was ethical. In fact, Alex discovered that the employer professed to be a Christian. So Alex accepted the job with high expectations.

Alex worked hard to make the company successful. His contract specified that part of his compensation would be an incentive bonus based on the company's performance. The bonus would be paid in January of each year based on the previous year's performance.

Alex's hard work was paying off, or so he thought. He expected a nice bonus in January 2005. In December 2004, however, he came to work one day and was met at the front door by the owner of the company who summarily fired him charging him with sexual harassment and fraud on his expense reports.

Stunned, Alex knew that the charges were blatantly untrue and was determined to exonerate his good name. But how was he to financially manage the requisite legal action? He struggled with how to support his family, much less pay the legal bills associated with a lawsuit. But his reputation was very important to him. He could not allow the false allegations to stand.

While pondering his dilemma, Alex received an unexpected phone call from the broker who had sold him the oil and gas investment that failed years before. The man thanked Alex for the way Alex had treated him. While others blamed the broker for the failed investment, Alex took responsibility for his investment decision. Now over the phone the broker acknowledged that he had made some mistakes and, though not legally required to, he offered Alex full restitution. This unexpected money, which was substantial, not only provided Alex the money he needed to support his family, but it also provided the funds to pursue his wrongful termination lawsuit.

Alex's good name was cleared within a year. His former employer and antagonist acknowledged in writing that his charges against Alex were false.

To this day, Alex nearly breaks down in tears as he recalls the incident. It is amazing to him how God works all things together so strategically. How could Alex have known that God's provision for him would come from a broker who wanted to clear his own conscience? God's ways are marvelous and beyond our understanding.

There are two key lessons to learn from Alex's experience. First, God is strategic about everything He does. Alex learned that God is very creative in providing for His people. God knew exactly what Alex would need in 2005 and years before had set up a means to provide for that need. Oh, how we fret over money! Instead, we need to simply obey God and trust Him for our daily needs. Let Matthew 6:33 be more than a Bible verse for you; let it become incarnate in your life. Then you will recognize the divine strategies at work in your life.

The second lesson is simply to recognize that our responsibility before God is to obey by following God's principles. Alex refused to blame the broker for his own bad investment decision even though the broker acknowledged that he had made mistakes. Blame casting was the second mistake Adam and Eve made in the Garden, second to the outright disobedience of eating the forbidden fruit. Take responsibility for your actions; don't get into the blame game. In our litigious society, it seems that every time there is a problem, people are looking for a scapegoat. Part of living as a mature godly person, is taking responsibility for your actions. Alex did and God used his obedience to prepare a means for future blessing. The blessings and mystery of divine strategy makes obedience to God more than dutiful. It makes obedience intriguing.

Coming Events (For information, click here.)

Building Equally Yoked Leadership Teams: A Business Transformation Series Seminar
Friday, October 20, 2006 in Plano, TX

Strategic Life Alignment
Wednesday, December 13, 2006 in Shrewsbury, PA

Strategic Life Alignment
Friday, February 16, 2007 in Plano, TX

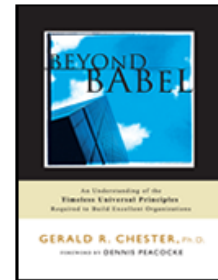
Book (For information, click here.)

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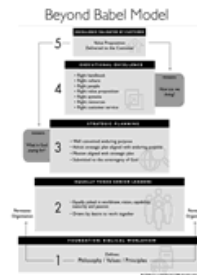


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