



CEO Devotional – July 15, 2013
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Feeling Overwhelmed?

Have you ever checked off something from your to-do list only to find three more items mysteriously appear? Does it ever feel like you're taking one step forward and then two steps backwards, making it impossible to catch up? Have you ever taken a vacation only to come back to a mountain-sized pile of work making you feel like you need *another* vacation? You're not alone.

As I sit here tonight, my desk is covered in countless paperwork that needed action yesterday, my email inbox is overflowing with hundreds of unread messages (yet it was at zero this morning), and I have a growing list of projects that still need to be taken care of around the house. Am I starting to sound like one of those whiny, I'm-so-busy CEOs? The truth is we're all busy. It's the nature of the job, right? We lead the businesses and co-workers we see every day, work to add value on multiple boards, make time for charitable endeavors, manage the family investment portfolio, advise friends and others on various items, work to win the World's Best Spouse/Parent/Friend Award each year – all the while attempting to prioritize time between God, family, friends, and work. And did I mention squeezing in some actual "me time?" It's easy to see how someone might feel overwhelmed.

When I find myself sitting at my desk wondering why I'm working so hard, presumably without reward in sight, I remind myself this isn't all on me.

"God is mighty in strength and wisdom." Job 36:5

We serve a *mighty* God! So much peace can be found in this. Yes, we need wisdom to know when to say yes or no to an opportunity that arises, *but* we also know that God has all things in His hands, including our very situation.

When I started Art.com/Allposters.com almost 18 years ago, I thought that when I became successful I would be sitting on the beach, refreshing my laptop screen to see how much money I made. Funny. Little did I know that, contrary to popular belief, with success comes even more responsibilities, not less. It's clear in scripture that burying your talents is the absolute wrong way to go. We are called to multiply our gifts. I personally find great peace in knowing God's called me to grow my talents as best I can and I work diligently to make that happen. So in those moments when I feel overwhelmed, I ask God for wisdom in all the choices that abound. I remind myself that God's in control of the situation, however dire it may seem. I ground myself in knowing I'm in the center of God's will, not my own, and then I simply take things one step at a time.

The bottom line is that if you look only at the work around you – without faith in the outcome God has in store – then you'll most certainly feel overwhelmed. Yet faith can move mountains (Matthew 17:20) – perhaps the very mountain you see in front of you! It's amazing to think what can be done when matching faith *with* works. Even with everything on your to-do list, there's no need to feel overwhelmed. There's no need to feel discouraged. With God in the midst of your works, nothing is impossible. I encourage you to lift your eyes from the papers on your desk, close the computer screen for a moment and remember to gaze upon our mighty Lord who has everything in His control. God wants to change the world through you and through me. Let's rid ourselves of our anxieties and allow Him to do exactly that.