

Spreading Joy

At this time of year, during ADVENT, we focus on various tenets and virtues that promote the Christian values of the holiday season. During the first two weeks of December, we learned about having HOPE and embracing PEACE. This week, our focus turns to the idea of spreading JOY as another way that we can focus ourselves and engage others with the Christmas season.

Over my career, I have observed that many business leaders often find it challenging to experience joy during this festive season. At times, I have been one of them. The pressure to navigate complex decisions, manage responsibilities, and maintain the success of the business can create extreme stress and anxiety. Additionally, the relentless pursuit of goals and the constant demand for results before the end of the calendar year may lead to burnout, leaving little room for personal well-being. The competitive nature of the business world, coupled with the need to address challenges and uncertainties, can further contribute to the difficulty in finding consistent joy. We know that balancing professional demands with personal life can be a delicate task, making it challenging for leaders to prioritize and sustain joy amid their responsibilities.

Q: Do you find it difficult to feel JOY at this time of year? Why or why not?

As a Christian, the Christmas season provides a unique opportunity to infuse joy into the world around us. Embracing the spirit of love, generosity, and faith, we can make a lasting impact in our homes, workplaces and in our communities.

Here are some thoughts of things we can do to help spread JOY this holiday season:

Cultivate a Positive Work Environment

Fostering a positive work environment is crucial for spreading joy. **Colossians 3:23** reminds us, *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."* By incorporating Christian values into our lives, we create a home and a workplace where family members and employees feel valued, respected, and motivated. Encourage teamwork, gratitude, and kindness, letting the joy of Christ permeate every aspect of the business.

Q: How can I create an atmosphere in my business that reflects the joy found in Christ's teachings?

Philanthropy and Acts of Kindness

As a Christian leader, it is essential to remember the words of Jesus in **Acts 20:35**, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" Generously engaging in philanthropy and acts of kindness extends the joy of Christmas beyond the office walls. Whether it's supporting local charities, organizing community events, or helping employees in need, spreading God's love through generosity can transform lives and bring genuine joy to all it touches.

Q: In what ways can I leverage the success of my business to bring joy and hope to those less fortunate?

Share the Message of Joy

The Christmas season is a great time to share the message of hope found in the birth of Christ. Reflecting on **Matthew 5:16**, "*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven,*" consider integrating faith into interactions and conversations. We can share the message of Christmas story in many ways. Sometimes in direct conversations. At other times, it can be through a gentle expression of "Merry Christmas" or "Remember the reason for the season". At all times, let your expression of the joy of Christ be the seasoning in everything you do.

Q: What are some ways I can authentically share the message of Joy found in the Christmas story with my colleagues, clients, and the broader community?

As Christians, we have the responsibility and privilege to spread joy during the Christmas season. By cultivating peace at home, creating a positive work environment, engaging in philanthropy, and authentically sharing the message of JOY, we can make a meaningful impact in the lives of those around us.

My Prayer

Heavenly Father, grant me the strength and wisdom to lead with love and joy during this Christmas season. May my actions be a reflection of your grace, and may the joy of Christ radiate through every aspect of my business. Bless my family, those I work with, those less fortunate, and the broader community.

In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen.



Steve Shrou

President, Corpath Forums
Cell: 403-390-3772
Email: president@corpath.ca
Web: www.corpath.ca

"Pursuing Excellence in Business, Life and Spirit