

This Week's Message: Work
By Ellie Lingner

Work: n. 1. physical or mental effort exerted to do or make something; purposeful activity; labor; toil 2. employment at a job or in a position 3. occupation, profession, business, trade, craft, etc. 4. something that has been made or done; result of a specific kind of activity or way of working (to have dental work done, skillful brushwork) 5. material that is being or is to be processed, as in a machine tool.

You work at school. You work at home. You work at a job. You decide what kind of work you want to do when you graduate. Your life is filled with work (hopefully, in a healthy balance with play). But what do you put into your work and what do you want out of it?

A high school sophomore attended a leadership seminar and listened to a panel discussion: six professionals talked about their jobs. Afterward the student walked up to one of the panel members and said: "My father always told me that if I did what I loved, I would never have to work a day in my life. After listening to you talk about your work, I finally understand what he meant."

Do you?

Matthew Fox, author of *The Reinvention of Work* writes: "Work has to include our deepest values and passions and feelings and commitments or it's not work, it's just a job. A job is something to pay our bills with. Work is something that touches our heart and expresses our being. That joy is the key to spirit."

So what do YOU want to be when you "grow up"? Have you chosen your major yet? Can you visualize yourself going to work and doing something day after day for the rest of your life? Does it look good to you or does it look like something that might become drudgery?

Lucky you. Today you have the luxury of choice. You can choose the field you want to go into and pursue it. Although change is always possible in life, it becomes more difficult later on. So take advantage of the catbird seat while you're in it.

Week's Quotes:

"Some people dream of success while others wake up and work hard at it."

"Many of the great achievements of the world were accomplished by tired and discouraged men who kept on working."

"Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted."
David Bly.

"There is one thing one has to have: either a soul that is cheerful by nature, or a soul made cheerful by work, love, art, and knowledge." Friedrich Nietzsche, German classical scholar, philosopher and critic of culture, 1844-1900.

“Knowledge comes by eyes always open and working hands; and there is no knowledge that is not power.” Ralph Waldo Emerson, American poet, lecturer and essayist, 1803-1882.

“Success is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm.” Winston Churchill, British orator, author and Prime Minister during World War II, 1874-1965.

“Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude.” Zig Ziglar, American motivational speaker and author.