

Seven Pillars of Faith at Work - Influence

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Executive Summary

INFLUENCE: CHOICE OR RESPONSIBILITY?

Scripture: “Don’t become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you.” *Romans 12:2*

What is Influence?

- Influence is the power to affect or move another...a compelling force.
- We are influenced good and bad by many people and things.
- We can identify the people (famous, family, work, faith) who influenced our lives.
- Influence is not a choice. Every person has influence whether they know it or not.
- However, we can choose how we are influenced.
- There is a definite connection between WHO we let influence us and HOW we influence others.
- To have the influence we want each of us must choose to align ourselves with the people we strive to be and be aware of the influence we have.
- Influence at work comes with every encounter with every person every day.
- How we choose to approach each encounter determines the influence we will have.
- Jesus says we are to be the light of the world.
- This means we have a responsibility to influence others for him in all aspects of our lives, including work.
- Influence matters because of the responsibility we have and the purpose it gives each of us as we go through each day at work.

Here’s why Influence matters:

1. Culture. Cultural or worldly influences can create road blocks as we try to live our lives like Jesus. *My dear friends, don’t let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious Christ-originated faith. (James 2:1)*

2. The Battle. Jesus gives us hope to fight through negative influences. *The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different. (Romans 7:25)*

3. Stay Focused. Focus on God and be empowered with His influence on your life. *Don’t become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you. (Romans 12:2)*

4. Power. We can’t even begin to be a good influence without staying plugged in to the power source. Don’t forget where our power comes from. *(Isaiah 51)*

5. Accountability.) As Christians, we are responsible to live out this call wherever God has placed us. This call to be an example and influence can bring purpose to your work. God placed you where you are today and in front of the people you meet. Let your light shine! *You’re here to be light...If I make you light-bearers...shine! By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God... (Matthew 5:14-16)*