

Soul Purpose Inc. FAQ's

1. What prompted you to write this book?
 - a. *I shared a few different ideas for a book with close friends and the more we talked about various topics, the more I realized that a book about faith and work was needed. I did some research and read several books on the topic, but I couldn't find one that included practical steps I could take to engage someone in a faith-based conversation. I felt like a straight-forward, how-to book was needed on the topic.*

2. How did you come up with the title of the book?
 - a. *Oddly enough I had the title a few years before I ever had the content of the book. I love the opportunity to study and teach God's word in any setting. The idea of starting a side business for teaching opportunities seemed like a logical step and the name Soul Purpose Inc. was created. I wanted to capture themes of faith, focus and work in a single name and now I have it. An important theme of the book is the notion of bringing your full self to work – not just your physical and emotional self, but all of you. Our souls, or what most closely links us to our creator is often the thing people leave at home or on a shelf. The title points directly to our souls and links it to the idea of bringing it to the workplace. As soon as the content of the book started to take shape, I knew I had to use the name of my business as the title.*

3. How did you get involved in this topic?
 - a. *When I first surrendered my life to Jesus, God brought a spiritual mentor into my life who invested a lot of time in pointing towards the Bible for daily living. We did a study together on why we go to work that completely changed my thinking on work. As God's purpose for work became clear, I realized my office was a mission field and I was the one who was supposed to bring the message of Jesus. My mentor also modeled what it looked like to work with a Godly purpose, so I just followed his example. Over time, leading with my faith became part of who I was as a businessperson.*

4. Who do you see as the audience for your book?
 - a. *This might sound like a big group, but any Christian who works either inside their home or outside their home that desires to be bolder with their faith is who I wrote the book for. The important part of the target audience is that they **want to** bring their faith to what they do. I know there are many people who are not interested in getting uncomfortable and risking their personal reputation for the message of Jesus, so this book is not for them. Bringing your faith to work is not easy but God designed all of us to be active in what he is doing in the lives of people so a heart for wanting to be part of His work is critical.*

5. What could readers hope to gain by reading your book?
 - a. *I think readers will gain a clear understanding of how good work is and exactly what God designed it to be. Too many people attach their personal value and significance to the product of their work – to how much success they find based on the world's value system. This Bible teaches a radically different way to think about work and I have attempted to present that truth in each of the chapters. I also think the readers will see themselves in many of the stories I share which can help encourage them to take bolder steps with the people in their lives.*

6. What kind of books do you like to read yourself?
 - a. *I am a big fan of both Christian books and business books which is probably no surprise. I especially like books that address hard to understand concepts or ideas and offer new ways to think about things. I am right in the middle of reading Francis Chan's new book, "Letters to Church" and right next to it, I have a book by Ulrich Boser called, "Learn Better." They both challenge the way I think about traditional topics and I really love those types of works.*

7. Where did you get the stories of people in your book?
 - a. *Most of the stories are from my personal experience as a Christian in the workplace. I lean on my time as an entrepreneur operating a few small businesses and my experience as an officer at a public company. Both experiences were so different from a work standpoint, but the purpose and opportunities work provided were similar. I was surrounded by people who didn't know Jesus and there was opportunity to live my faith out loud. I also share stories from people I have watched over the years bring their faith to work. So many people inspired me, taught me and challenged me that I tried to bring many of those experiences to the pages of the book.*

8. What were the biggest challenges you faced writing this book?
 - a. *I didn't want to sound like I was preaching a sermon to the readers when I unpacked the principles and ideas in the book. I know that talking at someone doesn't always prompt them to think. It was difficult sharing a principle in the Bible in a way that simply presented the truth without lengthy commentary to support the truth. Over and over again I had to review where and how I used questions and experiences to illustrate how someone might live out what is being taught in God's word.*

9. Which chapter is your favorite and why?
 - a. *I feel like when you write a book and put a lot of emotion into the stories, picking a favorite chapter is like picking which of your kids you love the most. It's almost impossible to do. But, for the sake of answering the question, I would have to say the Embrace Endurance chapter. As I reflected on my personal experiences while writing the book, I realized how long certain things took to unfold. I didn't realize I was embracing endurance at the time, but in hindsight, there were so many*

things that took a lot of time to unfold. I had to remind myself that one of the themes you find in the Old Testament is “waiting on the Lord.” The book of Psalms and Proverbs are filled with wait on the Lord language. Writing the book refreshed me on how important it is to stay the course, fight the good fight, and depend daily on God to do what He does.

10. Who provided inspiration and encouragement in writing the book?

a. This might sound a little cheesy, but the biggest inspiration was the Lord. After I had written my first book, I knew I wanted to do it again. It was such a challenging and personal growth experience for me that I hoped I could continue to share messages that God was placing on my heart. As I started to think about book number 2, I had a bunch of ideas but no clear direction on where to go. As I spent time praying through each idea, it became so clear to me that faith at work was next. God reminded me how much he had shaped my life through my work experiences that it became the obvious choice.

11. Did you learn anything from writing this book and what was it?

a. Yes – I have a long way to go to more fully be living my faith at work. As I wrote certain chapters, like the purposeful prayer chapter, I realized that it had been awhile since I prayed with someone or for someone at work. When I worked on the courageous conversations chapter I knew I had to step out and have a faith-based conversation with someone at work. The writing refreshed me on my own work purpose and reminded me of the simple steps I can be taking each day to make sure my faith is leading the way in my life.

12. What are your future writing projects?

a. I think I have one more solid concept for a Christian book around the idea of ambition. Years ago, I taught a men’s Bible study based on the question, “is it okay for a Christian to be ambitious?” At the time I was pressing hard at work to move up the ladder, expand my influence and play a more active role in the company. I started to question whether my ambitious desires honored God or stood were distracting me from the life God had planned for me. I spent a lot of time searching the pages of the Bible and I was so encouraged by what I found. I think it will make a great book for anyone who is eager to find success at work and fully serve the God who created them. On top of that, I am now a professor at the University of Houston so I am hoping to put together a business book that combines Biblical truth and modern day sales strategies to equip sales leaders to find success.

13. How can readers contact you if they want to talk more about the topic?

a. I am easy to reach. They can visit my website, soulpurposeinc.com for more information on our business, or they can just email me at craig@soulpurposeinc.com. I really would love to hear their stories of faith at work and answer any questions I can.