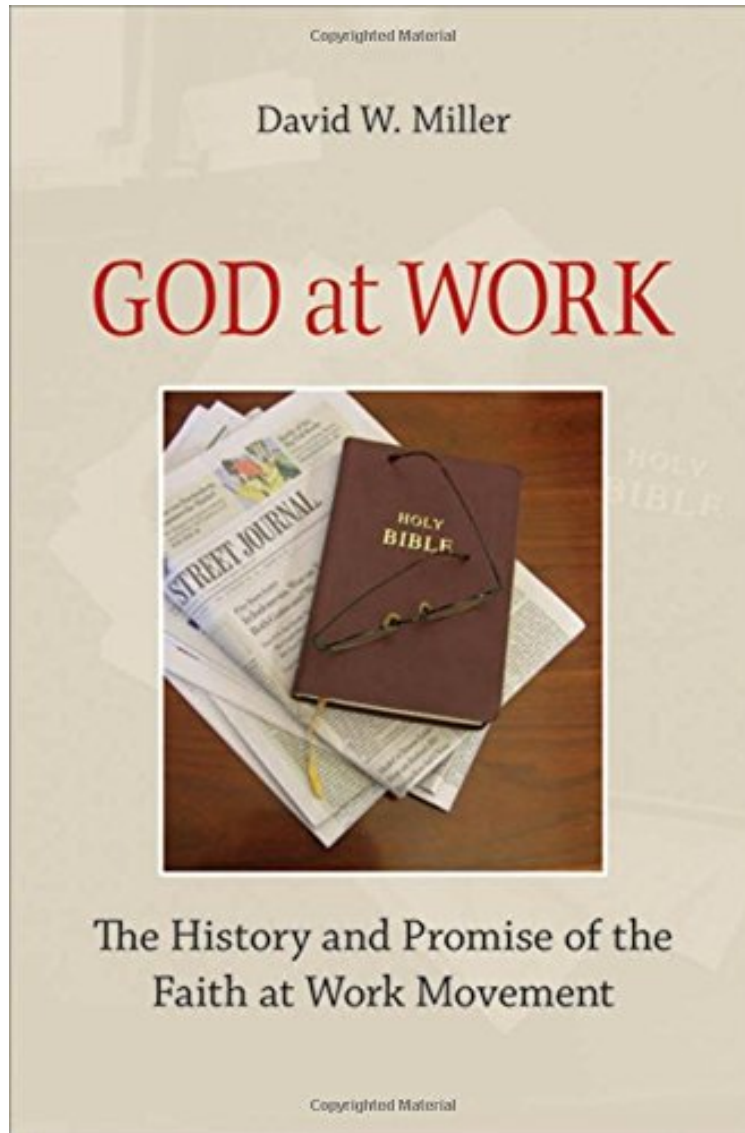


[Download ebook] God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement

God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement

David W. Miller

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David W. Miller : God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hoping Author's Goal are Accomplished.By Danny SmithSubtitle:

The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement This is a subject near and dear to my heart, and my attempted habits. I read the book in preparation of hearing the author speak briefly at the Austin Christian Business Summit. Britt Harris, an acquaintance, knows Dr. Miller personally and brought him in for the evening. Thanks Britt. The book seems to be written in a very "mainstream" academia manner and a brief visit with Dr. Miller confirmed that was the purpose. While the book does contain much of the history of the "faith at work" movement, it lacked some fundamental points developed by others; Doug Sherman, R. Paul Stevens, and the depth of the Puritans. But, the promise it lays out is done well. A comment on inside front cover makes the book worth its cost and time to read: "Secretaries to CEOs do not turn to their clergy for guidance in bringing their faith to work, but to their peers and a burgeoning cottage industry on spirituality at work." Dr. Miller gets it! Some of my margins notes, underlines, and comments: Lack of scripture and mention of Jesus and the Holy Spirit is obviously due to the audience (mainstream academia) Chapter One - good, solid, and transparent about how the church is not equipping itself to minister to its average member (this theme continues throughout the book with suggestions to the church in Chapter 8) Lack of Biblical history on God at work; mentions R. Paul Stevens' definition of work: simply as "purposeful activity involving mental, emotional, or physical energy, or all three, whether remunerated or not" - I emailed Stevens to see if I could get a dialog going about the book. So far, he has just commented that he has not read the book but did read Miller's doctrinal thesis. Interesting points about pre vs postmillennialists and how that can shape one's view (pg 25-) Manufacturing, demand for labor in cities, and family unit being torn apart (pg 27) Very interesting how he lays out his "Social Gospel Era" and the conservative, radical, and progressive types Author mentions "laity, layperson" quite a bit; doesn't seem to have any real emphasis on priesthood of the laity and doesn't present any argument for or against the lack of New Testament usage of the work "clergy" Nothing mentioned in book about Doug Sherman and his book "Your Work Matters to God" Miller does a good job telling about his departure from his partnership at private equity firm in order to go to seminary to study theology and how his peers and clients responded. He sent out 150 faxes and letters and struck a deep cord among many, if not all. Responses indicated many of the executives were experiencing a deep emptiness and disconnect. Pg 75 - The demand for faith at work may best be understood by identifying and analysing the needs that businesspeople and other workers feel. Pg 76 - Research of this book suggests.....integration of faith and work can be seen in 4 major types of faith issues; Ethics, Evangelism, Experience, and Enrichment (Four E's) Pg 79 - Among the many roles and functions of both the church and theological academy is to think theologically about the nature and purpose of humanity We think the church would be interested in being present in the whole of life, including the workplace.....and the academy through research would support such a view Comments on Chapter 5; author does a great job describing how unprepared the church is to not only help their members on work-related issues, but their sermons are not relevant to our day-to-day lives and what we REALLY deal with - to the point, we don't want to go to the church for help when we need it. Great stuff on page 85, 91, 94 Chapter Seven lays out the author's Four E's (part of pursuing the promise) Pg 145: Pastors and churches that wish to respond seriously to the Sunday-Monday gap will need to develop new strategies of equipping laity ministry of integration that connects the Christian faith to the workplace in meaningful and constructive ways....yet an intentional ministry to businesspersons and the workplace must be more than a laundry list of programs Pg 145: Clergy should go to their parishioners' places of work for short visits as regularly and naturally as they make hospital and home visits. Pg 146-149: Clergy who wish to equip their people to integrate faith and work effectively will first need to develop a ministry of presence and listening, of public preaching and prayer, of teaching, spiritual integration, of gatherings. Dr. Miller wraps the book up by outlining the promise and then commenting that the book "while perhaps providing a foundation for future research into the FAW movement, is hardly complete." He concludes by stating the goals of the book which includes "to raise questions for further research." Good book and while not exhaustive it is a very important read. And.....If it takes more research to get the vocational ministers to get it together to properly minister to their members, then I pray for more research. To that end.....0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Setting The Bar . . . By Timothy Ewest Dr. Miller (a friend) provides a very solid contribution to the emerging field of faith and work (workplace spirituality). I have published with and supported Dr. Miller's research over the last four years, simply because I believe his research provides a valuable and scholarly insight into the nature and reality of how employees of faith - bring their faith into work. Dr. Miller's book does not argue that employees today are trying to include their faith into the workplace, instead his book reveals that employees have always taken their faith to work in four identifiable ways (the Four E's). He asks the reader to consider what the impacts of having the whole person (faith, gender, ethnicity and economic status) at work, not only for increased employee performance, but more importantly, for employee satisfaction. Ewest, Tim Visiting Research Collaborator, Princeton University Faith and Work Initiative. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Start here to learn about the Faith at Work movement By NoVA Reader For many years, it has been considered unprofessional, or at least unacceptable, to be openly Christian at work. Many Christians have struggled with the Sunday-Monday divide. That is starting to change. It is increasingly acceptable to talk about faith in the office. Some forward-thinking companies have even taken the step to encourage faith groups to form and meet at work. David Miller, in this largely academic survey, explores the history and basis of the movement he calls FAW -- Faith at Work. Chapter seven gives an outstanding analysis of FAW by creating a language and framework for further study. The

book comes with an extensive bibliography for those wanting to go further in the topic.

What was once taboo - faith at work - is increasingly accepted in corporate America. From secretaries to CEOs, growing numbers of businesspeople today want to bring their faith to work. Yet they wrestle with how to do this effectively and appropriately in a pluralistic corporate setting. For help they turn not to their clergy, but to their peers and to a burgeoning cottage industry on spirituality at work. They attend conferences and seminars, participate in Bible study and prayer groups, and read books, blogs, and eNewsletters. They see their faith as a resource for ethical guidance and to help find meaning and purpose in their work. In *God at Work*, David W. Miller looks at how this Faith at Work movement developed and considers its potential value for business and society. Done well, the integration of faith and work has positive implications at the personal level, as well as for corporate ethics and the broader economic sphere. At the same time, increasing expressions of religion and spiritual practices at work also present the threat of divisiveness and discrimination. Drawing on the insights of theological ethics as well as the sociology of religion, Miller analyzes the history of the modern day Faith at Work movement from its roots in the late 19th century to its modern formulation and trajectory. He examines the diversity of its members and modes of expression, and constructs a new framework for understanding, interpreting, and critiquing the movement and its future. Miller concludes that workers and professionals have a deep and lasting desire to live a holistic life, to integrate the claims of their faith with the demands of their work. He documents the surprising abdication of this field by church and theological academy and its embrace, ironically, by the management academy. Offering compelling new evidence of the depth and breadth of spirituality at work, Miller concludes that faith at work is a bona fide social movement and here to stay. He establishes the importance of this movement, identifies the possibilities and problems, and points toward future research questions. *God at Work* is essential reading for business scholars and leaders, theologians and clergy, and anyone interested in the integration of faith and work.

"By providing definition, history, and current activity, Miller offers a very useful introduction to this movement." --hoice
"The most thoughtful attempt so far to take both religion and business seriously as partners." --Harvard Business
"God at Work draws on Miller's background in corporate management, theological training, and extensive research to provide an insightful analysis of recent efforts to bring religious faith into more active engagement with the complex decisions of the contemporary workplace. At a time when corporate scandals have rocked the nation, this inside look at the ethical challenges facing top executives is sorely needed. Miller shows that local congregations have seldom provided guidance for members with managerial responsibilities and academia has rarely provided a hospitable environment for discussions of faith and ethics in the business world, either. Still, there are some hopeful signs that this neglect is changing. Miller's engaging discussion helps chart the course." --Robert Wuthnow, author of *The Crisis in the Churches: Spiritual Malaise, Fiscal Woe*
"David Miller explores the next major chapter that most companies are wrestling with on the Diversity and Inclusion journey --- religion in the workplace. He provides excellent insights." --Steve Reinemund, Chairman, PepsiCo
"God at Work, by David W. Miller, is an important contribution to the discussion of the growing role of religion in business life. It ought to find its way into MBA courses on human relations, business ethics, and marketing, among others." --Robert W. Fogel, Charles R. Walgreen Professor of American Institutions, Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago, and 1993 Nobel Prize Winner in Economics
"Rather than celebrate late life atonement to compensate for careers of corruption, David Miller shows a long, proud tradition of leaders who reach for purpose in their work and compassion in their workplace. This richly textured, historically accurate and spiritually uplifting book should be read not only by those who need it the least and will love it, but also by those who badly need it and don't know it." --Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, Senior Associate Dean, Yale School of Management and co-author of *Leadership and Governance from the Inside Out*
"As both a theologian and a business person, David Miller provides a unique perspective on the faith/work movement. This book contains a scholarly review of its roots, a careful and thorough description of its current momentum, and a thoughtful critique of its future. It is a must read for the person who wants to understand how God and worship relate to the reality of the workplace." -- C. William Pollard, Chairman Emeritus, ServiceMaster
About the Author
David W. Miller, Ph.D. is Executive Director of the Yale Center for Faith Culture at Yale Divinity School and Assistant Professor (Adjunct) of Business Ethics. He brings an unusual "bilingual" perspective to the academic world, having also spent 16 years in senior executive positions in international business and finance.