

My Transition: Guided by Faith by Mike S.

Job transitions can be quite humbling, whether the departure is your choice or not. After spending much of our adult lives being highly accountable for delivering stellar results year after year, many of us in the business world are under the illusion that we are in control.

When my corporation announced a far-reaching outsourcing initiative, however, it did not take long for feelings of uncertainty, doubt, and anxiety to surface. Having a strong faith helped me stay grounded during that time.

Initially my anxieties centered on the future livelihood of my teammates. I cared deeply for them, so my energies were quickly focused toward helping our team finish strong, handing over a healthy business to the outsourcing firm, and assisting my teammates in landing meaningful jobs.

My own transition has been a profound reminder that we are all called to care for others and pay it forward as we move through all of life's seasons. As a result, my own anxiety lifted. During difficult times, finding the strength to lift up someone else often results in being lifted up yourself! Faith gives me that strength.

Later, I felt pressure to have "an answer" to the well-intentioned questions about what I was going to do in my next season. This pressure was largely self-imposed, but nevertheless I felt compelled to have a response. The My Next Season program gave me a "hall pass"—permission to take time to consider my gifts and desires, share my journey with others, and listen for God's voice and purpose for my life. Committing the time to work through the My Next Season process enabled me to rely on faith as my guiding force.

After much reflection, discernment, and prayer, I'm starting two new endeavors where I hope to use the

gifts and skills I've developed in the business world as I pursue my passion for leading, mentoring, and serving others.

When leaving a job, it's easy to feel like you've lost your identity, because without realizing it, our job often becomes our identity. When the career goes, we may feel like we're trying to navigate a sailboat that's taking on water . . . with no rudder in reach. My transition served as a strong reminder that my job is what I do, not who I am. When I depend solely on myself, my past accomplishments, my reputation, or my bank account, I will inevitably fall short and find disappointment. When I lean on my faith, however, I find grace, peace, growth, revelation, and hope.

Transitioning from a long-standing career to my next season has indeed been a significant life change. It has offered me a unique opportunity to trust God even more. Whether you are affiliated with a specific faith or seek a spiritual connection in other ways, I encourage you to seek the counsel of others who may be further along on their journey. Set aside time daily to listen for direction, read and learn about faith traditions, try a daily devotional or Bible app, and stay open to the possibilities of a next season designed and led by faith.

Yes, career transitions can be humbling. But humbling times can often lead to great discoveries. And as C.S. Lewis reminds us, "True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less." So, I encourage you to allow God to take hold of the rudder and enjoy the journey—it is brimming with hope and possibilities!