

Read This First

Don't you just hate it when someone asks you questions like, "What do you want to be when you grow up? What are you going to do after high school? Are you going to college? What are you going to study in college?" I did! I hated to be asked those questions. Why? Because I didn't know the answer, and I didn't have an answer for them. I desperately wanted to give them an answer, but the truth is I didn't even know where to begin getting those answers.

WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK

This book is meant to be personal guidebook for you and sound foundation to your education and career questions and search, based on biblical principles. It simply means that as you go forward in your education and career search, you will use the three keys you will be learning about to help you make informed decisions about your future education and career guided by the Word of God. Once you figure out the career that is a good fit for you, making the choice of what to study in college or a trade school becomes much easier. It will take you through the process of discovering the amazing person God created you to be so that you are, not only able to answer the question, "*What do I want to be when I grow up?*", but you will also be able to ask the question, "*What can I be when I grow up?*"

This personal guidebook will also serve in helping you discover and appreciate the special individual you are, with all your unique qualities and abilities. The bible teaches us that God knew us before we were formed in our mother's womb and that he already knew everything about us when we came into this world.¹ I hope this scripture will give you a sense of peace knowing that God knows you – and everything about who you are.

As you continue, you will discover three valuable keys -- your Abilities, Passions, and Personality -- what I call your A.P.P.s. These A.P.P.s will assist you in figuring out what kind of career is a good fit for you based on who God made you. By understanding how God has gifted you – what you do well, the passions He has placed in your heart, and what kind of unique-to-you personality he has given you, you will have a very good and sound foundation from which to make your education and career choices. Knowing that God had his hand in every part of you and equipped you with all the potential and abilities you need, will help give you an assurance about your ability to provide for yourself and/or your family in the future while doing something you are good at and love to do. What you will learn about yourself will help you understand why a particular career is a good fit for you and why another is not, and what you can begin working towards. Once you decide on the career(s) that fit the unique person you are (because there can be more than one career as you will see), you can then choose your area of study in college, so you can ultimately achieve your career goals.

¹ Psalm 139:15-16 ESV

Sadly, research shows that many high school students feel unprepared in choosing a college major that will lead to a career based on their interests. 20 to 50 percent of college students enter college as “completely undecided,” and 75% of these college students will change their college majors at least once before graduation. This can lead to added education costs and time. I want to help you, so that you will not be one of those statistics. I want to help save you time, money and energy. By helping you to have more information and by learning about yourself, you will be in a better position to make important decisions about your future. These are unfortunate statistics, but you do not have to fear that you are part of this data. When you have the Lord’s favor upon you, as you do because of what Jesus did on the cross, you are insulated and set apart from what the rest of the world will experience.

The truly wonderful advantage you have is that the spirit of the Lord lives within you. As you prepare for your future education and career, you can be sure that you are never alone and when you have decisions to make and feel uncertain of what to do, the Lord is always ready and willing to help you. The bible says in Psalm 46:1, “The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of need.” Jesus knew that you would need a counselor and a guide to lead and direct the righteous, and that is you, and so he sent the Holy Spirit to comfort and be with you constantly as you live for him, plan for your future and live your life on this earth as you grow into adulthood.

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” John 14:26, NIV