
MONDAY MANNA
Nov 10, 2025**HIGH CAPACITY, LOW SURRENDER?****By Chris Simpson**

The modern marketplace runs on giftedness. Strategic thinkers. Visionary entrepreneurs. High-performing executives. If you can move the needle, you're given the platform. Your résumé becomes your brand. Your results become your worth.

I've met leaders who can close the deal in the morning, turn a profit by lunch, and still have time to headline a conference before dinner. They are the kind of people others look at and think, That's the standard. And in purely business terms, it is. But in Kingdom terms? Not necessarily.

Because Jesus tells us in Matthew 23:19, the gift isn't what makes something sacred. The altar does.

He was talking to religious leaders who had it backward. They were obsessed with the gift, how polished it looked, how impressive it sounded, while neglecting the altar. And the altar is where something dies. It's where ambition is laid down. It's the place of surrender, where your offering becomes holy precisely because it is laid down.

That's not just temple talk from the first century. That's Monday morning reality in every boardroom, startup pitch, or quarterly review from Quito to Tainan and Miami to Abuja.

I've lived this tension. The skills I honed during my years in the public sector—command presence, decisive leadership, the ability to perform under extreme pressure—were considered workplace gold. Those skills got me noticed. They opened doors. And for a while, I used them exactly the way the world told me to: to climb ladders, to earn approval, to prove I belonged at the table.

And it worked. On paper, I was winning. But in the quiet moments, I realized those gifts, left to themselves, were empty. They didn't carry eternal weight.

Everything changed when I laid them before Christ. When I stopped asking, 'How can these serve me?' and started asking, 'How can they serve Him?' That's when my leadership stopped being transactional and started becoming transformational. The same instincts that once built my career began building people. The same drive that once secured my position began advancing His Kingdom.

That's the pivot point: surrender.

Because here's the truth, your talent doesn't become sacred just because it's successful. A gifted leader can exceed every target and still miss the Kingdom. A visionary entrepreneur can scale their business and never glorify God. Even generosity can become self-serving if it's about optics, not obedience.

When you place your work, your strategy, your deal-making, your influence, on the altar of God's purposes, everything shifts. It stops being about personal gain and starts being about eternal impact. Your leadership becomes worship. And that's the difference between temporary applause and lasting legacy.

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I've seen leaders with extraordinary capacity become a bottleneck to Kingdom work because they refused to surrender what God had given them. High capacity without high surrender is a dangerous combination—it feeds pride, isolates you from accountability, and blinds you to your true mission.

To receive a gift is grace. To sharpen it is stewardship. But to lay it on the altar? That's worship. That's where your leadership becomes sacred ground.

So here's my challenge: Take an honest inventory of your gifts, your influence, and your platform. Ask yourself—are these tools in my hand to build my name, or are they on the altar to magnify His?

Because in the end, only what is placed on the altar will last.

© 2025. Christopher C. Simpson is dedicated to fostering a bold and triumphant Christian faith within the global marketplace, driven by a deep conviction in the Gospel's transformative power. Before becoming President of CBMC International, Chris dedicated 28 years to a distinguished career in the public sector – as a Commanding Officer in the U.S. Marine Corps; and serving in the U. S. Secret Service, responsible for protecting seven American presidents and leading elite teams in complex, high-stakes international missions. With his wife Ana, a native of Nicaragua, and their three children, Chris resides in Boca Raton, Florida.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What gifts or abilities has God given you that you are tempted to use for personal recognition and advancement, rather than for Kingdom purposes?
2. What would it look like to lay those gifts on the altar today – fully surrendered for God's glory, not for yours?
3. Where in your leadership have you focused more on impressing others than serving them in Jesus' name?
4. What ways are you using your influence to encourage and strengthen others in their relationship with Jesus Christ – rather than to build your own platform?

Challenge for This Week

So here is the question for today: Are you leveraging your gifts for your name, for your honor and recognition – or for God's? Are you stewarding your role in the workplace for earthly gain or eternal reward? Because only what is placed on the altar will last.

What practical step can you take to begin turning your workplace into an altar, not just an office? Think about discussing this with someone this week – a trusted friend or advisor, or perhaps your CBMC group..

NOTE:

If you have a Bible and would like to read more, consider the following passages:
Matthew 6:33, 16:24-25; Mark 10:45; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

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