

## Nehemiah, The Godly Administrator

The godly administrator has a calling of God, character developed by God, and conduct that reflects God.

Empathy for staff—Nehemiah 1:5

Understanding of authority—Nehemiah 1:5

Servant's heart—Nehemiah 1:6

Humility—Nehemiah 1:6–7

Accountability—Nehemiah 1:6–7

Faithfulness—Nehemiah 1:8–9

Self-control—Nehemiah 2:2–3

Loyalty—Nehemiah 2:5

Foresight—Nehemiah 2:6–8

Initiative—Nehemiah 2:7–9

Wisdom—Nehemiah 2:11–16

Team-builder—Nehemiah 2:17–18

Organization—Nehemiah 3:1–32

Leadership—Nehemiah 4:13–14

Discernment—Nehemiah 4:19–20

Decisiveness—Nehemiah 4:22

Fairness—Nehemiah 5:6–7

*The purpose of your work should be . . .  
not to fulfill your purposes  
but to fulfill God's purposes for you.*

June Hunt

**Q:** “Ever since I lost my job, I’ve been quick-tempered, which isn’t like me. Why am I so angry?”

Your disposition has not necessarily changed, but you may be experiencing a temporary reaction to the stress created by losing the security of your job. There are four root causes for anger: hurt, injustice, fear, and frustration. If you are experiencing one or more of these emotions, then your anger may be coming from that feeling. Once you have pinpointed the source of your anger, you can devise a plan for dealing with the root cause, and then you will soon find your anger coming under control. Anger can be like the warning lights on the dashboard of your car that alert you to a problem under the hood. Anger can alert you to a problem in your thoughts, your emotions, your body, and/or your spirit. First find the source of the problem, and then cooperate with the Lord by applying His truth—allow Him to do the “fixing” for you.

*“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.”  
(Ephesians 4:26–27)*

## Checklist of Complaints

Many experience job dissatisfaction because . . .

- The pay is too low.
- There is no chance for advancement.
- There are not enough benefits.
- The stress level is too high.
- The hours are too long.
- The work is not challenging.
- The location is not convenient.
- There is not enough responsibility.
- The management is not competent.
- There is too much responsibility.
- The boss is too demanding.
- The working conditions are depressing.
- The coworkers are not pleasant.
- There is no sense of accomplishment.
- There is no job security.

*“Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”*  
(Philippians 2:14–15)

## Consider a Change . . .

### When you may lose your job

- Replaced by advanced technology
- Depressed job market layoffs
- Physically disabled

### When more income is needed because of a major life change

- Divorce
- Death of spouse
- Increased family responsibility

### When your best is not enough

- Evaluate your efforts.
- Evaluate your attitudes.
- Evaluate your skills and natural abilities.

### When you are pressured to compromise your principles

- Is this activity contrary to Scripture?  
(Psalm 119:105–106)
- Seek godly counsel from those in a work related field.  
(Proverbs 19:20)
- Do not compromise your convictions. (Acts 5:29)

## Key Verse to Memorize

*“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”*  
(Colossians 3:23)

## Key Passage to Read and Reread

### The Book of Nehemiah

### Success vs. Stress

See your work from God’s perspective.  
(Colossians 3:22–25)

Accept the fact that God is directing the events of your life. (Jeremiah 10:23)

Lower your expectations in this life: No job will be ideal. (Genesis 3:17–18)

Begin each morning in prayer to commit the day to God. (Psalm 118:24)

Pray for your employer and fellow employees.  
(1 Samuel 12:23)

Allow Christ to reflect Himself through you each day.  
(Philippians 2:13)

- Develop positive attitudes. (Philippians 4:8)
- Display a servant’s heart. (Hebrews 6:10)
- Defuse difficult people. (Hebrews 12:14)
- Discover His power in your weaknesses.  
(2 Corinthians 12:9)

Learn how to make an appropriate appeal to your employer. (Proverbs 22:11)

Put your future into the hands of God.  
(Matthew 6:25–27)

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I [Paul] will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*  
(2 Corinthians 12:9)

## Learn to Make an Appropriate Appeal

**A**uthority—Am I under the God-given authority of my employer? (Ephesians 6:5–9)

**P**osition—Am I fulfilling my responsibilities? (1 Samuel 15:22)

**P**urpose—Are my motives for the appeal pure? (Job 8:6)

**E**ntreaty—Am I positive in my approach, using personal convictions? (Proverbs 16:23)

**A**cceptance—Am I prepared to accept the response as coming from the Lord? (Proverbs 21:1)

**L**oyalty—Am I loyal to my employer although my appeal is rejected? (Ruth 1:16)

*“He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.”*  
(Proverbs 22:11)

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### Related Topics . . .

- Conflict Resolution:  
*Solving People Problems*
- Financial Freedom:  
*Principles of Wise Money Management*
- Purpose in Life:  
*Pinpointing Your Priorities*
- Stress Management:  
*Beating Burnout before It Beats You*
- Success through Failure:  
*From Stumbling Stones to Stepping Stones*
- Workaholism:  
*The Beeline to Burnout*

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*Be Extraordinary among the Ordinary.*

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