

Brother Vijayananda – “How to Spiritualize Business”

September 4, 2011 - Lake Shrine Temple

Inner conflict – devotees equate making money with material pursuits. Devotees think its counter-productive to their spiritual lives. But it depends on your consciousness, motivation, and attitude – the spirit with which you engage in any activity.

We need to support ourselves and our families. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to focus all of our attention on creative pursuits and meditation? But it's not practical. We are not at the point where we can spend 24/7 in God – we'd become complacent and restless. Our minds are not yet ready to concentrate solely on spirit.

Cheerful performance of your earthly duties coupled with meditation is the better path.

When we perform cheerfully, we develop the same qualities that will help strengthen our character and these are important qualities that help us to deepen our spiritual lives. The same skills that we perform in everyday activities are the same that we need for our spiritual life. We are gaining skills we need to strengthen our spirituality.

We all want a spirituality that will strengthen us. We want to be in the world, but not of the world. Don't be a spiritual cream puff!

Growing trend – people are searching for a connection with the sacred. There's a longing for a wholistic healing to our lives and activities.

People want to bring spirituality into the work place. How do we spiritualize our work activities? How do we harmonize making money for personal needs with a spiritual life? Service. Genuinely meeting the needs of other people.

Materially ambitious people, through service, will find purpose in making money. Make service rather than money the goal.

Serve the right needs of your fellow beings. This will expand your consciousness. It will take the focus off of yourself and put it more on others. The more selfless we can be, the more spiritual we will be in business.

Meet the needs of others while meeting your own needs.

Successful companies excel at customer service. They treat employees well and they engage in ethical business practices. Customers want to feel valued and supported.

Have the right motivation and purpose. Spiritual success is what we are. Material success is what we have.

No amount of materialism is going to satisfy us for very long. Contact with God is what fulfills us.

Don't make wealth the be all and end all – it is not the prescription for happiness.

Success is a balance between the material and the spiritual. In making a living, many people forget to live.

The spiritual man needs money and the material man cannot live without God.

Keep the ideal of service upper most in the mind.

Work ethically and morally.

Combined with meditation, we spiritualize not just our business but our lives. Meditation will give us poise and strength in our lives in midst of stress and difficulties.

Be detached about the fruits of your actions.

Ma said, "Without meditation, I would have been just another harried businesswoman."

Serve the needs of fellow human beings. Create institutions that help other beings. Use your wealth to help others help themselves. That is spiritual living.