

Working Weekends

Written by Steve Marr
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For many years I've developed what some people call an old-school habit of working on Saturdays. I don't treat Saturday in the same way I treat Monday through Friday. However, when I awaken on Saturday morning, I don't put all my work away.

When I was in the international trade business, I tended to arrive at my office between 5:30 and 6 am on Saturday morning. By 10 or 11, I could get a lot done without phone calls or meetings. I could reduce my inbox substantially and increase the traffic in my outbox.

When I marketed franchises to prospective business owners, I learned that several hours spent calling on Saturday morning could be profitable. Some prospects would be more available to chat and take more time. Since most of my competitors did not follow up on Saturday, I had an advantage. I also write on Saturday morning, again without many interruptions.

Moses instructed, "Six days you shall labor and do all your work." (Exodus 20: 9 NIV) To be clear I'm not advocating compulsive work behavior. I realize that some businesspeople work long hours Monday through Friday and the weekend is crucial to keep balance in their life. Most weekdays I don't work 14-hour days. I use Saturday as a day to catch up and get ahead with writing.

I'm not going to cancel a family picnic or miss other activities in order to work on Saturday. Instead, I schedule productive work on Saturday because I believe it literally doubles my productivity. Three to five hours of catching up and getting ahead feels like I worked the entire day. I also use the same principle on many holidays.

Sunday is different. As scripture instructs, "Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death." (Exodus 35:2, ESV) A wise accountability partner told me years ago that if I'm doing more work than I can accomplish during my regular week, then I'm doing more work than the Lord intends me to accomplish.

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There are a few exceptions to the Sunday work, such as when the Lord said, “And he said to them, ‘Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?’” (Luke 14:5, ESV)

As I’ve written before, I have an interest in a damage restoration business and we do include Saturday as a workday when necessary. If a customer’s water pipes freeze and floods the house, we will respond on Sunday because it is an emergency. Otherwise I explain to customers that we take Sundays off and will not handle non-emergency work on Sunday, including inspections.

Look at your schedule. Determine how you might use Saturday to address some productive work. Just be sure to keep Sunday a holy time with your family and the Lord.