

19 Strategies You Can Use to Look for Career Opportunities Everywhere!



- ❖ Discover how to **look for career opportunities everywhere** and **take advantage** of every one that comes your way.
- ❖ Build and use an **action plan** to map out a new career or **revamp your current career goals**.



The “Career-Stalled” Checkpoint



1. ASSESS

- ❖ Assess your **current career condition** and **evaluate what’s restraining you** from achieving your short and long-term career goals.
- ❖ Gain a **clearer understanding** of where to put your energy and efforts as you **recalibrate your career**.

2. DEVELOP

- ❖ Develop a **Career-Boosting Mindset** to consider a broad range of critical issues, rather than look for a quick fix.
- ❖ Learn how to **stay focused, positive and motivated**, no matter what’s going on in your career.

3. PURSUE

- ❖ Discover how to **take advantage of every career opportunity** that comes your way.
- ❖ Build and use an **action plan** to map out a new career or **revamp your current career goals**.



Job vs. Career

Did you know that you can focus too much time on your job at the expense of your career?

Yes, that's right! The average job in America now lasts only 3.6 years. So, if you spend too much time focusing on the micro picture of your job instead of the big picture represented by your career, you could lose out big time! Please don't misunderstand. It is **NOT** okay to do shoddy work or to be hard to deal with in the office. Quite the reverse is true. Scripture states:

"Diligent work gets a warm commendation; shiftless work earns an angry rebuke." (Proverbs 14:35 Msg).

You must excel at everything you do while not allowing yourself to be bogged down by the sheer routine of the task or job. When you're buried in your current job, you tend to say to yourself, *"I have too much work to do to go to that networking lunch"*.

You must resist the temptation to go it alone, and get to know more and more of the key people in your business and industry to develop relationships that extend beyond your current position. This personal investment in your future will result in an enhancement of your worth and career visibility.

A recent survey by the Conference Board showed that more Americans are unhappy with their jobs than ever before. Baby boomers are the least content professionally; their job satisfaction declined the most in the past five years, to less than 47%, or better stated 53% are unhappy.

It is now estimated that American workers will change careers an average of 3 to 5 times within a working lifetime. These career changes may be extreme and unrelated to each other.

What does all this mean for you? And how do you get your stalled career "unstuck"?



19 Strategies You Can Use

1 While making sure you **build a relationship with your current manager**, spend some time meeting and talking with co-workers, other managers, customers and vendors to **build a larger personal network**. Plan to either attend one networking event a month, or to have lunch/coffee with a colleague you do not know. (Proverbs 11:17)

2 **Decide to feel differently about your career goals**. In addition to focusing on the quantitative results you wish to achieve, consider relational goals as well—how you want to **“feel”** about your customers, co-workers, and the company, and how you can meet their needs. As a result, you will approach your interactions differently and develop more meaningful relationships, leading to an improved work life and a high-level career. (Proverbs 11:14)

3 Decide to **stop doing more of what you've always done**. Explore whether you're blaming others for problems in your work or career instead of **examining your own personal and leadership styles**. (Proverbs 15:4)

4 Join **career-related associations** or professional groups. (Proverbs 13:20)

5 **Be clear on where you want to be**. Visualize where you'd like to be in one, three and five years. This includes the type of job you'd like, where it's located, whom you want to work for and with, and your pay expectations. This way, you'll have a **goal in mind** and will be able to make better choices. (Proverbs 20:18)

6 Make sure you have **back-up plans** in the event your job situation changes beyond your control. (Proverbs 21:5)

7 **Excel in your current position**. The best way to be visible and rise higher in your career is by being passionate about your work and doing it exceptionally well. (Proverbs 28:20)



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Market yourself within your existing company. If you're doing an outstanding job and higher ups don't seem to be noticing you, perhaps you aren't talking about yourself enough. Many people don't "*toot their own horns*" because they don't want to appear conceited. They expect others to notice what they've done, but unfortunately, we are all a little selfish and only pay attention to our own accomplishments. **Sometimes you have to tell people what you've done.** (Proverbs 10:26)

9

Refuse to remain "stuck" where you are if you are unhappy in your work. Choose to be happy in your work and find ways to make this choice a reality. (Ecclesiastes 2:10)

10

Consider leaving your current work situation behind and moving toward something new or different to complete what's missing in your current situation. (Joshua 10:25)

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Explore any obstacles and roadblocks. Many obstacles and barriers may be preventing you from pursuing a different kind of occupation or changing the way you work. They might include age, money, time, education or lack of experience. Learn how to get around them. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

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Determine your success motivators. Seek to identify the things that energize, stimulate and give you a sense of personal fulfillment. (Proverbs 23:12)

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Work at being successful. Any dramatic success takes preparation and hard work. It's not enough to be ambitious. The world is filled with ambition. And the path to success is littered with discarded dreams and disillusioned people who never achieved the recognition or success they felt they deserved. It would be great to skip having to make investments of time, energy, and money in skill and credential-building and go straight to the rewards. But there's a learning curve. The lessons and skills you learn on the path to accomplishment can be as rewarding as the goal itself. (Joshua 1:8)



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Consider the little wins as well as the giant successes. Little wins add up to big wins and are more easily achievable. They include the satisfaction of resolving a customer dispute, gaining a new skill, writing a report, getting a good performance appraisal, improving on an existing ability, and learning to handle constructive criticism. These little victories are the building blocks of a good reputation, the name you acquire for yourself through your work. (*Proverbs 22:1*)

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Pursue your career dream with dauntless persistence. Understand your career path, and what you may personally need to do to develop, advance, or even change your career. A career path is the road that will lead you to your career goals. (*Proverbs 16:25*)

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Celebrate your talent, skills and competencies. When you commit yourself to developing your full potential, you'll enjoy the career-building process more because you won't be focusing exclusively on external rewards. The process of growing and developing all your abilities can be inherently satisfying and allow you to create a unique and meaningful career path. It represents increasingly more skilled, difficult, and responsible work within a particular occupation. Learn more about the careers that are available to someone with your skills and training and identify the path you need to take to get there. (*Proverbs 18:15*)

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Manage your own behavior. Your feelings can be your ally or your enemy. Use them to create and accomplish meaningful goals, rather than engage in self-sabotage. Between feeling and productive action lies rational thought. Before acting spontaneously on negative feelings, calm down and then develop and implement an effective action plan. (*Proverbs 25:14*)

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Take calculated risks. When building a career you must be willing to take risks to reap the rewards you seek. This requires knowing how to differentiate real danger from fantasy. A key to successful risk-taking is knowing your risk tolerance. To do that, you must be able to evaluate the potential consequences of your decisions and live with the worst-case scenario. (*Proverbs 10:9*)



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Learn how to perform under pressure. In today's fast-paced business world, many companies operate on tight budgets and lean staff levels. Employees across the board are managing larger workloads and longer hours. Now more than ever, success can depend on your ability to show grace under pressure. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

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