

CHAPTER ONE

Job Trouble

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO DEAL WITH LIFE

When I was twenty-nine years old, I went through a job change that caused me a great deal of trouble.⁸ It brought to the surface many of my weaknesses, and I struggled to make sense of my reactions.

Eventually, my inner turmoil led me to change my whole approach to life.

Once I looked at it in the light of God's Word, it helped me to understand a struggle that had raged in me for years.

The new job shouldn't have been that difficult. I had the talent I needed, I was well paid, and those who had moved me to it saw me as a leader whom they expected to quickly succeed. No one wanted me to have trouble. Unfortunately, I couldn't adjust emotionally. The whole situation left me furious and terrified, and I didn't know why.

I was contradicting much of what I believed as a Christian. The Bible told me to do all things without complaining and disputing (Philippians 2:14). I was supposed to obey with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord (Colossians 3:22).

⁸Ibid., 131-135.

Exchanged Glory II

Yet I sat in my office day by day unable to concentrate, wasting hours as I tried to come to grips with seething rage.

In the middle of my brooding, I was tempted to soothe my distress with sex and drugs. Any time life got hard, my desire to medicate myself in these ways grew. These temptations left me feeling worse than I already did. They reminded me of how alone and strange I felt in my battle to escape from the abnormal desires that continued to pull at my heart.

My weirdness was annoying, but my anger over my job was a bigger problem. I tried all sorts of coping mechanisms: I denied my emotions, I brought them into the open, I worked with them, I worked against them...but when all was said and done, my heart was still like a churning volcano.

The best I seemed to be able to do was to let my frustration motivate me to change myself and the world around me. I had been hoping for years that my anger would leave me before it exploded. Instead it had grown into a fury I could no longer contain. It seemed that the only decent option I had left was to ride it like a wild horse, hoping to tame it and put it to good use.