

- Thank you
- Staying current and marketable in today's challenging environment – “How do I stay relevant?”
  - Experience
  - Focus
  - Balance
- Experience – *the accumulation of knowledge or skill that results from direct participation in events or activities*
  - From an employer's view there are two types of candidates
    - Experienced
    - Educated
  - Candidates with experience and education will win more often than not
  - A candidate with only experience or only education – experience is weighted heavier
  - Example of technical resumes (certifications vs. experience)
  - Resources
    - Microsoft VHD – *Run IT on a Virtual Hard Disk* – [www.microsoft.com/vhd](http://www.microsoft.com/vhd)
    - Microsoft Office – *Free self-paced training courses for Office programs* – <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/training/default.aspx?ofcresset=1>
    - Microsoft Elevate America – *take advantage of free and low-cost resources that will get you workforce ready* – [www.elevateamerica.com](http://www.elevateamerica.com)
    - Microsoft Thrive – [www.microsoft.com/thrive](http://www.microsoft.com/thrive)
    - Microsoft Learning Manager – free online e-learning courses (currently 63 topics) – <http://learning.microsoft.com/Manager/Catalog.aspx?view=free>
  - Connect
    - Volunteer at local church or ministry in church that can you use your experience
    - Pay attention to job advertisements that include contract, consulting, or time limited projects – even if not for pay
    - Utilize your network of associates, both professional and personal, including online sources such as LinkedIn
    - Find online communities of like minded or industry minded professionals – plug-in to their seminars and meetings to network and gain new knowledge
    - Evaluate yourself and your experiences, both career and personal – is there a passion for something outside your career that could open alternative employment opportunities
  - Reflect
    - Proverbs 18:16 – A man's gift clears the way for him, and gains him access to great men.

- Focus – *cause to converge on or toward a central point*
  - The pursuit of meaningful employment can create either great focus or great disarray
  - Use task lists and daily agendas to serve as reminders to maintain greater focus
  - Enumerate objectives in finding employment
    - Define the job you're seeking
    - Find employers that fit that job
    - List people who can help you get in front of those employers
    - Set meeting schedule with these people
    - Execute
  - Resources
    - Prayer is a powerful tool not only to the prayerful, but to the faithful. Prayer can be quiet, contemplative, and silent – words need not be spoken.
      - “When love grows cold and faith falls asleep, the salt loses its savor and is no longer good for anything.”  
**In Conversation With God** by Francis Fernandez
    - Read books about great leaders in business, religious, athletics that maintained their focus and sought after their goals with passion and tenacity – as Leaders often do
  - Connect
    - Talk with family and friends about your objectives – this can often be a good sounding board for how well defined your objectives really are
    - Join local groups that have members which fit the job your seeking
      - City and county Chambers of Commerce
    - Find LinkedIn groups that fit your job objectives – if there isn't one, start one
  - Reflect
    - Proverbs 16:9 – In his mind a man plans his course, but the LORD directs his steps.
    - Psalms 31:3 – You are my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead and guide me.

- Balance – *equality of distribution*
  - Often times our jobs can become our life. We must always ask “if your work exists to serve your family or if your family exists to serve your work”. **The Upside to a Job Search in a Down Economy** by Randy Hain
  - Use this time to do things not done before
    - Date night with spouse
    - Volunteer at kids’ school
    - Attend the practice AND the game
    - Work on those things that you really enjoy; gardening, wood working, writing, biking, reading for pleasure
  - Allow this time to help redefine who you are and what you’re about
  - Use this time to shape the outcome of your next job – at home for dinner every night; help get the kids to bed; leave work at work
  - Create goals that stretch out over a year – career, financial, spiritual, physical, intellectual, family, social – **The Wheel of Life** by Zig Zigler
  - Resources
    - Go for walks with your spouse
    - Ride bikes with the kids
    - Find a social group as an outlet from job searching
    - Read books that are not industry or skill specific yet serve a purpose for career, spiritual, or intellectual development
      - The Go Getter
      - Good to Great
      - 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership
      - Thou Shall Prosper
      - The Four Loves
      - The Great Divorce
      - The Seven Storey Mountain
  - Connect
    - Volunteer at school, church, ministry, civic group – give of your time; of yourself
    - Attend Dave Ramsey – Financial Peace University at a local church
  - Reflect
    - 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 – Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? **Run so as to win.** Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one.