

EXCERPT



**Women, Work & Calling**  
*Step into Your Place in God's World*

October 24, 2023 | \$15, 128 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0793-8

Though women now have professional opportunities beyond what previous generations ever imagined, the church's vision for women's work has not grown with us. Joanna Meyer addresses this gap in women's discipleship, providing a theological framework for women's work and influence and offering resources for the challenges of working life.

## “The World Needs Who God Made You to Be”

“To be honest, I don't know any women like me . . .” It's a lament I hear often when asking career-minded Christian women to introduce me to faithful women in their network. This feeling of isolation isn't limited to career women—ask any stay-at-home mom how lonely her days can be, and you'll hear stories of carpooling and answering endless toddler questions—but Christian women pursuing professional careers feel it profoundly. And often, the place they feel most lonely is in their faith communities. Maybe you can relate.

This loneliness flows from a critical gap in discipleship for Christian women. As our roles in public life have grown, the church's vision for women's work and calling has not grown with us. Women find themselves navigating expectations for their roles as wives and mothers, complex gender dynamics in the workplace, and social pressure to portray picture-perfect lives (thank you, Instagram). If the church will not disciple Christian women for influence in public life, the world is eager to fill that gap.

This is why I'm so passionate about the themes explored in this book. Since 2015, I've had the privilege of leading Denver Institute for Faith & Work's programming for Christian women about work and calling. My commitment flows from the belief that work plays a critical role in God's mission. As the *imago Dei*, we are made to reflect the image of a creator God, and we join him in making something of the world. To demonstrate the breadth and nuance of God's character, we need women and men to be vitally engaged in workplaces, homes, and organizations across our communities, utilizing the full extent of their God-given gifts.

In part one, we establish a biblical framework for thinking about your various roles. We cut through the cultural baggage surrounding women's roles to help you understand your calling and what it means for your daily work.

Part two turns inward to help you build the spiritual and emotional strength you need to thrive in your roles. You will learn to balance confidence with godly humility as you tackle the limiting beliefs that hold you back. You will also discover ways God can use the circumstances of your work to shape your soul and character.

In part three, we get practical by addressing common challenges women face in their work and leadership. You'll learn to lead more authentically while addressing gender dynamics that affect women in professional settings. And in one of my favorite chapters, we'll introduce the theme of “vocational power,” the unique mix of skills, relationships, and resources you already possess that will allow you to have a godly influence in your setting.

The book concludes in part four with a look at the relationships you need to grow a thriving network. We challenge you to become a relationally generous leader, the kind of woman who brings a life-giving presence to her sphere of influence.

I pray that God challenges, strengthens, and inspires you through each chapter and page! May you embrace all that God has made you to be.

—adapted from the Introduction

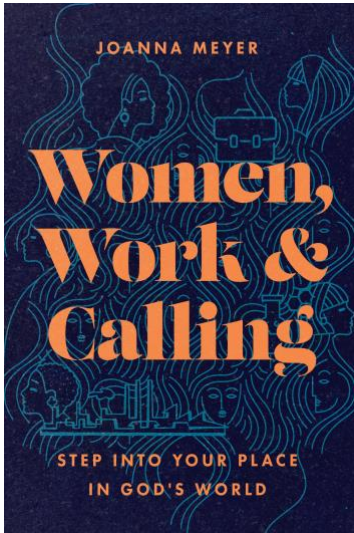


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## Q & A



### **Women, Work & Calling** *Step into Your Place in God's World*

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Joanna Meyer is director of public engagement at the Denver Institute for Faith & Work, where she leads public events, hosts the *Faith & Work Podcast*, and founded *Women, Work, & Calling*, a national initiative that equips Christian women for godly influence in public life. Prior to joining the Institute, she worked in global telecom, nonprofit consulting, and campus ministry with Cru. Joanna served as associate faculty at Denver Seminary and completed a certificate in Women in Leadership through Cornell University. She contributed to *Women & Work* and has written for *Faith Driven Entrepreneur* and various Denver Institute publications.

## Allowing Faith to Inform Your Work

### What motivated you to write this book?

**Joanna Meyer:** Over the last eight years, I've interacted with thousands of Christian women regarding their work and leadership. A common theme has emerged—a discipleship gap exists that leads many women to feel isolated and under-equipped in their calling, as well as to live compartmentalized lives.

### What is distinctive about your approach to this topic?

**Joanna:** There are a number of books available that address women's leadership in church/nonprofit settings as well as devotionally-oriented books that offer spiritual nourishment for women facing marketplace pressures. This book is different. It's intended for a broad audience, but is theologically meaty and presents daily work as a place for both intimacy with God *and* redemptive influence in public life. It's a unique mix, and it reflects the "secret sauce" that makes *Women, Work, & Calling's* programming so compelling.

### What is the central thesis of your book?

**Joanna:** As women's roles in public life have grown, the church's vision for women's work and calling has not grown with us. We're hungry for biblical models that integrate the relational expressions of our calling (friendship, marriage, motherhood, etc.) with our influence in public life (daily work, neighboring, citizenship, etc.). A broad understanding of calling offers room for both and invites us to live with God and for him in all of life. In addition, our daily work plays a critical role in God's mission. It's a way we reflect God's attributes as his image bearers and it's also a powerful place to join God in his renewing work in the world. This book offers a big view of the gospel. By that I mean: Jesus died to save individual lives, but he also died to restore any area of creation that has been marred by the effects of sin or isn't the way God intends it to be. When viewed this way, our vision for the ways God works in the world expands and becomes even more compelling. Any woman or man whose life has been touched by the gospel has a role to play in God's redemptive plan.

### What takeaways do you hope readers gain from your book?

**Joanna:** This book is theologically rich but I wrote it to be accessible for women who may not have thought deeply about how their faith informs their work (YET!). This book offers readers:

- A biblical framework for work that integrates women's various roles and responsibilities;
- Principles that help women gain the spiritual and emotional resilience they need to thrive in their calling;
- Practical tools women need to navigate common challenges they face in their work and leadership;
- And a commitment to relational generosity and a sense of God's pleasure and presence with them as they work.



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