

## LeaderImpact Podcast Ep. 6 Garth Jestley

Garth's website - <https://www.garthjestley.com/>

Garth's book – [More Than Your Business Card](#)

Organizations Garth is involved with:

- [Teen Challenge](#)
- [Catch the Fire Church](#)

### Show Notes

- Garth's personal life and how his perspective about money was influenced by his early years
  - o His dad was a very successful lawyer and, at the same time, a big risk taker through investments in early stage mining ventures. Predictably, some of these didn't work out well! As a result, his mom, who grew up during the Depression, worried about the family's financial security and spent as little money as possible. In effect, she treated nickels like manhole covers!
  - o This upbringing led Garth to be very careful with money. Based upon his mom's example, he viewed his financial security as entirely up to him and his earning ability. As a result, he was very tight with money. The possibility of ever having to depend on anyone else for financial support was anathema.
  - o At the time, Garth was not a follower of Jesus and charitable giving was not part of his financial habits. When he became a follower of Jesus, his thinking regarding finances changed dramatically and he and his wife Mary began a lifetime journey of generosity. Notwithstanding, he still finds himself from time to time having to resist "echoes" of his past.
- Garth's professional journey
  - o Over 42 years, Garth worked with four different companies in the financial services sector. The first three were large multinational organizations. He wanted to work with "the best of class" and the three large institutions he chose were top ranked globally in the areas in which he was involved.
  - o The fourth company was an entrepreneurial investment management company. He eventually became CEO and a shareholder and was instrumental in establishing investment operations in the UK. The company enjoyed significant success under his leadership and continues to this day to be a leader in its areas of expertise.
  - o While working in the three major institutions, Garth wanted to move up the ranks as quickly as possible.

- His life focus was primarily career progression. This involved meeting and exceeding goals and receiving rewards therefrom including money and advancement.
- At a very early stage of his career, he was promoted to VP of Citibank.
- While that was his short term goal, he suddenly thought, “Is that it? Is this the meaning of my life?” His self-defined purpose in setting and exceeding goals suddenly left him feeling empty and unfulfilled in life, notwithstanding the rewards of career success.
- Garth’s spiritual journey
  - One night over dinner, Mary told him that she had become a follower of Jesus. He could see a significant change in her. She positively exuded excitement, joy, confidence and fulfillment. While he was very happy for her, he could see no direct relevance to him and his drive to get to the top of the corporate ladder as quickly as possible.
  - However, after he received his promotion to VP of Citibank, his identity, purpose, and motivation seemingly imploded. Somehow, an identity based upon his business card no longer gave him a feeling of purpose or satisfaction.
  - After three years of spiritual searching (and a lot of praying by Mary and her believing friends!) and a further promotion with Citibank, Garth had a dramatic encounter with the person of Jesus in Montreal in his mid-thirties.
  - With the change of identity, his life purpose also changed. Now fulfillment came from knowing Jesus better and better making Him known, both in his professional and personal life.

## **My significance is in my identity. I am a child of God.**

- How business is a calling from God
  - Many people hold a less than rosy view of business as a vocational option, and this attitude is often even more pronounced in Christian culture. Many people who attend church view business as a placeholder until something more spiritual comes along. For many believers including pastors, the primary purpose of involvement in business is to generate money for the church. The bottom line: many believers in business don’t treat it as their calling.
  - Many will not say they are called to business by Jesus. Rather, they will focus on their giftedness, their conduct and ability to be financially generous. All these are legitimate and, indeed, are required of us as Christ’s ambassadors. However, calling requires over and above the foregoing that we be open about our faith in the marketplace.
  - In summary, business is a true calling that is both legitimate and extremely important.

## Be 100.0% sure you are in your calling.

- Major influences in his spiritual life
  - His wife Mary. Her example as a passionate follower of Jesus led him to consider for himself the relevance of faith in God.
  - Many pastors including the senior pastor at his current church have encouraged him in his calling to business.
  - Andrew Wommack, founder of AWMI, planted the seed that we aren't called to live for Jesus in the marketplace. Rather, we are called to allow Jesus to live through us in the marketplace. In effect, we are not called to live a changed life but, instead, an exchanged life.
  - Os Guinness, whom he met at Oxford, greatly influenced Garth's thinking concerning our primary calling as followers of Jesus.
- How his book came to be written
  - Wrote a weekly blog while he was executive director of LeaderImpact and was encouraged by readers to write a book. The heart behind the book is to ignite followers of Jesus to respond to their call and not treat business as a placeholder.
  - In another book under consideration, he wants to interview successful business leaders around the world who have paid a significant price for living out their Christian faith in the marketplace.
- Garth's faith legacy
  - Garth wants to be known as someone who loves God and loves people.