

## **Just whistle while you work**

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**A friend of mine shared some insights he uses to help him deal with life's daily grind. He stated, "You need to accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue. Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them. Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on."**

**Other words of advice: "Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker. When everything's coming your way, you're probably in the wrong lane. We could learn a lot from crayons--some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, and some have weird names, but they all have to live in the same box. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour."**

**I appreciated and even smiled as I read some of his tips, but when it comes to work and the daily grind, I have seven heroes I turn to. They are miners. They work in their mine all day long. They start each day singing, "Heigh ho! Heigh ho! It's off to work we go!" and while they work they whistle and sing, "Just whistle while you work!"**

**Sleepy, Doc, Dopey, Happy, Grumpy, Sneezy, and Bashful are just cartoons, but these guys seem to have it all together when it comes to work! They are doing something they enjoy, something they believe is important, and they get pleasure out of their work. It's not just a paycheck. They sing out, "We dig, dig, dig in our mine the whole day through, to dig, dig, dig, is what we like to do!" Would that we could all derive as much pleasure and satisfaction from our work as do the seven dwarfs. Would that we all could share their attitude about our labors!**

**I have known people who shared, "I go to work every morning and I endure it." Or, "I am just there for the paycheck." When I hear things like that, I think about how fortunate that I am. I feel called to my work. If truth be known, I would probably do it even if I were not being paid. But even still, there are days when I don't want to come to work. There are days when I'd rather be somewhere else. Yes, there are some days even the pastor doesn't want to get up and go to work because work can be hard, and work can be frustrating, and working can be tiring.**

**I think our faith tells us that although no job is perfect, there are ways to get more meaning and joy out of our work. Probably the most obvious way is to realize that our work, no matter what it is we do, touches someone somewhere. Work is about relationships; it is about making life better for someone beside us. This aspect of work may be hard to see in some jobs, but I believe it is there nonetheless. Our work takes on new meaning when we see it as blessing others. And if as Christians we add a little bit of faith to what we do for a living, we may discover our work bringing us more joy and less stress, more satisfaction and less fatigue. We may even find ourselves whistling while we work!**