



HOME RUN Devotional #22 – LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER
By Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

Have you ever had someone looking over your shoulder to see if you are doing a job right? I have and I don't like it. It makes me nervous! However, it is a necessary process in life, especially when we are in training, if we are going to learn. I've always been taught that the correct way to teach someone is to first show them, then have them help, next do it together, help them do it, and lastly have them do it by themselves. Obviously some of these steps require supervision and "looking over your shoulder".

Several years ago finances were VERY tight and I needed to secure additional employment in order to make ends meet. I found a part time job as a custodian. In a short amount of time I worked my way up to being the custodial supervisor where I hired and fired others. Being a custodian is not a job that receives much praise, but when it's not done correctly, EVERYONE notices and the criticisms flow. Bathrooms are highly noticeable when they are not clean. As I hired and trained individuals, I would follow my teaching method and then go a step above and write it down. I would ask clarifying questions to see if they understood and shared the importance of doing the job correctly. All of them understood because I would follow up to check on them (look over their shoulder) for a couple days and they would clean the way I had taught them. But after I stopped checking up on them, I would soon begin to receive complaints about bathrooms smelling, etc. I would follow up with the employee, but most times I was told, "Oh yes, I am doing it exactly how you showed me!" You could see it was not the case. I would correct them, but if their work didn't improve, I had to make the difficult decision and fire them. It was really sad because some of these individuals were "Christians"! The Bible warns against Christians doing "shoddy work" (Colossians 3:22-25 MSG). As Christians, if we are going to "win results", it starts with realizing that everything we do is not for ourselves but for God! **1 Corinthians 10:31** says, "**So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.**" Do ALL... that includes the jobs we don't like to do! I believe, as Christians, if we work hard, doing the job correctly for God's glory, that we will win results and will succeed.

Question for today: Is there a job that you are doing "shoddily"? If so, begin today to do more than is expected and do the job with excellence!

Other Verses to look up: Proverbs 12:11, Proverbs 13:4, Proverbs 21:5, Romans 12:11, Colossians 3:22-25 (MSG)

Prayer for this week:

Dear Jesus, Thank you for TODAY, this moment you have given me! Help me to let go of anything in my life that distracts me from you. Forgive me of my sins and help me to be attentive to you and attentive to others! At the end of the day, help me to have fallen deeper in love with you and use me to influence others.

Today I want to live for YOU and not my career! Help me to trust in YOU, work for You, and realize that You are my provider. Help me to focus my eyes on you and NOT the things of this world!

I specifically ask that there will be breakthroughs in my life, my family, and my church! May I prepare each day this week and look with anticipation to gathering together with other believers on Sunday! I pray for Scout Sunday that lives will be transformed and you will be honored.

May I be the person You want me to be, and may our church be the church You want us to be. Let change begin in my heart and flow over to my home, my church, and my community!