



Holy Hustle: Embracing a Work-Hard, Rest-Well Life

Crystal Stine

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**Work without Shame,
Rest without Guilt**

Balance. It's what we long for in our lives as we hear shouts of "Work harder!" in one ear, and whispers to "rest more" in the other. What if God's plan for us isn't just one way or the other?

Enter the *holy hustle*.

Crystal Stine followed the path to success as she climbed the corporate ladder. Now she explores "hustle" in a new light as a self-employed, work-from-home mom. She invites you to join her in experiencing...

renewed peace as you focus on serving, not striving

reawakened potential as you ditch comparison and embrace community

redefined purpose as you seek the roles God has for you

You were created to work with enthusiasm for the right reasons—and you were also made with a need to rest. Discover the place where these two sides meet in a happy, holy hustle.

Holy Hustle: Embracing a Work-Hard, Rest-Well Life Details

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Author : Crystal Stine

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From Reader Review Holy Hustle: Embracing a Work-Hard, Rest-Well Life for online ebook

Darcy Schock says

Holy Hustle came at a perfect time in my life. I had been struggling to find a balance between family and work. I felt guilty working because I worried I was neglecting my kids, but if I just played with them, I felt like I was being unproductive and wasting my time. I picked up this book because I wanted a healthy balance so bad. I wanted to fight off all the guilt I was feeling and step into healthy work/rest balance.

Not only did this book speak truth and life into my heart on the work/rest balance, it also lifted me up out of a lie I was believing. The lie that my work wasn't good enough, or big enough. Crystal spoke to my heart in ways I didn't know it needed spoken to. She spoke on the truth that whatever work we do, if it is for the glory of God, it is important, significant, and enough. It doesn't matter how big or small from human eyes it is, if it is for God's kingdom it is important.

When I first picked up this book, I assumed it was for working women. That is not the case, this book is for every woman out there because we all work whether that work is paid or unpaid. This book is for the stay at home mom to the working business woman. I recommend it to every woman because not only is it easy to get caught up in too much rest or too much work, can also believe the lie that our work isn't good enough.

I love this book because the content is amazing and speaks so much truth, but I also love it because of how it is structured. In every chapter Crystal includes a Holy Hustle story from someone, scripture to dig deeper, and a reflection section with journaling space. Not only do you read this book, you interact with it. If you are a woman struggling to find balance between rest and work, this book is for you. But it doesn't end there, this book is for every woman out there because it is a book on much more than just work and rest. It weaves scriptural truth into our daily lives in an incredible way, and is a push of confidence to move us forward in our calling in God's kingdom.

I received a copy for free in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own. It was an amazing book!

Maria Marino says

I've been rubbing my hands in eager anticipation for Holy Hustle to make its debut. For more than a year. It sure was worth the wait! I just finished re-reading the parts I highlighted and have been inspired, encouraged, and helped all over again.

Realizing we need work-rest balance is not rocket-science, but knowing how to achieve it can be a daunting challenge. That's what makes this book so valuable and useful. It comes alongside you like a companion with a compass and all the tools you need to get to that sweet-spot.

It's a smart, practical softcover you get to work through and learn much from. Each chapter includes Crystal's life, lessons, failures, and insights, Digging Deeper with biblical reference, a Holy Hustle Story from diverse women in different walks of life, space to engage with Reflection and plenty of journaling pages.

What I love best about this book is how it simply gets to the heart of the matter by offering perspective and

wisdom. If you've ever wondered what God's Word says about work and rest, Holy Hustle has you covered. If you've ever questioned at what point working hard ventures into striving or rest drifts into laziness, Crystal spells it out for you. She clarifies what work looks like and what rest is. You'll be happy to hear its not the same for all of us.

As you go through this book you'll discover more about the superpower of serving and claiming the freedom to work without guilt, rest without shame. You'll find hope for the future and peace in your present circumstance with the reassurance your work matters and has great worth whether you're preparing a meal with love, scrubbing a toilet, or running a multi-million dollar corporation. With joy and gratitude, work will take on new meaning and success a new look.

By the time you turn the last page you'll be fully equipped to answer what holy hustle means to you and embrace a fresh, new beginning to the days ahead, working hard with all your heart, and resting well. For the glory of God.

I received an advanced copy from the publisher. This unbiased review reflects my own thoughts and opinions.

Jenifer Metzger says

I long for days of prayer and Bible reading. Not just the "quiet time" I spend with God in the morning, but entire days with worship music, vases of flowers, and burning candles while I spend my waking hours with nothing but prayer, Bible reading, in depth Bible study, singing worship, and just being alone with God all day long with nothing on the agenda.

That is certainly not my reality. And I'm sure it's not yours. The reality is laundry to wash, dry, fold, and put away. The reality is meals to cook and dishes to wash. The reality is school, sports, vehicle maintenance, errands to run, doctor appointments to attend, jobs to show up to, and the list continues to the point of exhaustion.

Crystal Stine knows all about this hustle of life while desiring the holiness of life. In her new book Holy Hustle, she says, "What if there was another way to live? A place where we can find ourselves embracing the work God has given us while honoring His command to rest - holy hustle?" Crystal says, "Tucked into holy hustle is a freedom that takes away the guilt of work and the shame of rest."

In Holy Hustle, Crystal teaches us how to stop the striving and harvest the blessing. Through her own life experiences, reflection, and Scripture, she gets us past the point of living a life of chaotic hustle and helps us transition into a holy hustle. A hustle that honors God's call in our lives while also honoring His command to rest. Whether you are in a season of hustle or feel as though your life has been nothing but hustle, Holy Hustle will help you embrace the work and the rest of the Lord.

Leah says

Everyone in LA has multiple hustles. Because it costs so much to survive? More likely because the energy, ethnic and cultural diversity, and (probably) the anonymity of the second largest city in the USA attracts ambitious creatives. I routinely inform anyone who'll listen I have several hustles: I mainly hustle as a

graphic artist-designer; theology's a not too far behind side hustle; I'd love to make my only very occasional music hustle more central. They're all freelance, so those hustles absolutely require my ongoing initiative and imagination—you can't expect gigs to fall out of the sky, though the best ones sometimes do.

Crystal writes about getting laid off or fired a couple of times; like Crystal and many others, I've had my share of jobs not continuing, maybe most significantly when I was working in industry as a designer and then – due to crashes of overall economy and housing markets coupled with internet expansion to third world countries – along with several thousand other North American designers, I found myself pushed hard into far more freelancing than I'd anticipated. In turn that pushed me into hustling harder than I otherwise might have done.

Chapter 5: "Our holy hustle is not limited by our vocation or our location." [page 90]
"What field has God given you to work in, in this season?" [page 91]

The estimated 30%-35% of North Americans of both genders who work at least part-time in the freelance economy would benefit from reading Holy Hustle, though when Crystal Stine assembled her launch team, she particularly wanted as many women as possible to know how possible it is to embrace (to hug!) "a work-hard, rest-well life." Nothing in her short, scripture-grounded, highly reflective book wouldn't equally apply to most guys, but from my own experience and from observing other women, it's clear we have a stronger, more persistent inclination or leaning toward believing we need to try as hard as possible, produce more than imaginable. Maybe you've heard, "Women need to be twice as good at what they do in order to be considered half as good as men. Luckily, that is not difficult."

To hustle means to work quickly and energetically—doesn't imply anything about productivity. God commands us, "You shall be holy, for I your God am holy." We accurately can define holy as set apart from others by one's attributes or set apart for a purpose; however, more than anything, in Jesus of Nazareth we acknowledge as the ultimate revelation of the Holy God, we recognize holiness as life lived for others (for the neighbor, for all creation) in full communion with God. Crystal explains it perfectly on page 161: "Holy hustle means using your light to brighten the lives of others while shining the spotlight on God." The author sharing her own recent experiences and including hustle-and-rest vignettes from several others gives the book value it might not have if it had originated even during the end of the last century. The times they sure have changed!

Although with my attempts to reclaim a full life of service to others and participation in the world outside my immediate 'hood I already knew almost everything Crystal wrote, I'll still reread Holy Hustle every so often. It would be an excellent gift—not in the least because of the appealing cover design.

Remember, "Just as striving is the 'gone too far' side of serving [hustling], laziness is the 'gone too far' side of rest." [page 176]

From chapter 5: "Our holy hustle is not limited by our vocation or our location." [page 90]
"What field has God given you to work in, in this season?" [page 91]

Notice of material connection: I received a pre-publication copy of this book from the author with no obligation to write a positive review. As always, my opinions are my own.

S.T. Gibson says

I picked up this book expecting it to be a quick, encouraging read and ended up wrestling with it way more

than I could have imagined. But I'm glad I did. Let me explain.

The branding, tone, and theology in this book are clearly aimed at a female evangelical audience, women who occupy the same cultural space in which I was raised. To clarify, I'm not sure how Stine would identify her denominational stance and I do think she has managed to have wide appeal in her work, but I think it's safe to say she's at least been influenced by contemporary evangelical praxis and belief.

My relationship with this culture is fraught, as it is the culture who stewarded me along in the first few years as a committed Christian, but it was also the culture that nearly suffocated me. Evangelical theology and communities became the crucible in which God refined my personhood and beliefs before delivering me into different Christian spaces where I was able to better thrive and serve. So what does that damage have to do with Holy Hustle?

In short, I almost shut out anything this book had to share with me because it felt like books I had loved in my evangelical teen years that I can't interact with anymore without pain. I got defensive and started positioning myself against everything Stine had to say, just to be combative. But around chapter three or so, I felt God tugging at me to breathe and be patient and let my guard down a little. Instead of just lashing out against a book that vaguely felt like people who had hurt me in the past, I decided to get out of it what I could. And that was actually quite a bit.

I'm a ferociously ambitious, perpetually overbooked yes-woman. I love money, power, the spotlight, and influence, and these loves can often overshadow my deeper, God-aligned love of serving others with my gifts. I need this book as badly as the next girl caught between love of the world and a hard place. In particular, the challenge to determine the ways in which I rest well and to not compare them to other people's forms of rest, and the reminder to find way to serve others and connect to God in my current profession were so helpful to me. More than that, God used this book to show me that women like Stine can do her good work in just the way she is and serve communities who need her, and I can do my work in just the way God would have me do it and serve the communities who need me. Her existence as a female Christian mentor/writer with certain gifts does not negate mine, and in fact, we're both proof that God works through different people for good in beautifully diverse ways.

I know this has been more of a diary entry than an in-depth book review, but I felt like sharing! In short, if you're comfy in contemporary feminine Christian culture, Stine has a great gift for you in this book, but even if you're not, it could be a good exercise to read it anyway. You never know what God might teach you.

Melissa Henderson says

In Holy Hustle, the author gives great insight highlighting how we can glorify God in all our actions and words. In each moment of each day, we are given opportunity to share the love of God in our professions, our home life, our everyday living. No matter what our life may include, there are ways to work hard and rest well, with His help. This book is inspirational and encouraging. I received a copy of the book and this is my honest personal opinion. No review was required.

Jennifer says

Crystal shares real words from her heart about the Word of God in respect to us, women.
"maybe God has brought you to a new place, and your dreams of doing impressive work that would bring

recognition and fame have been replaced with a call to serve in a much smaller way. Maybe you've been serving faithfully in a role that you love but feel frustrated that you don't see the fruit of your work. When we stop striving and start serving, we begin to trust God to harvest what we're faithfully planting. "

She writes passages like this which make you think about your own life, and it puts our faith in perspective alongside world views. In comparison to a Disney movie Monsters Inc. she places this nugget:

"The internet gives us the ability to see the doors God is opening for other people around the world, and we lose sight of the one door God wants us to step through in faith. Not every door is meant for us. Not every door leads us home." Doors on Disney are kind of similar to our real life choices of which path do I take today? Now?

I'm in awe of Crystal's "holy hustle" concept. Reading this book has created a desire in my heart to slow down. Accepting where God has me right now, I learn to resist the hustle in exchange for some holy moments I'd otherwise miss.

Would you miss a moment to give if you were too busy working on your own needs? Would you strive for the bigger pay check or bonus just to buy more "stuff?" This example she gives in a part about a sermon on giving. The pastor asks what your family would do with one hundred dollars.

"Would you do it? Would you use \$100 for no other purpose than to outdo someone in honor and love by blessing them when God says "Give"?"

Crystal Stine encourages us to seek more to give than to receive. Easier said than done in this "me first" world I feel a part of. Do I save even \$10 to give away at the unexpected moment? I can. But, I often don't.

"...Community is the essential ingredient that sets holy hustle apart from the way the rest of the world works. It looks more like collaboration, care, and conversation than targeting customers."

Her quotes can be numerous. You can highlight away or journal them down. It is a gift to read this book. I'm thankful it fell into my hands. I hope it changes my heart to love others more and be kind. Also, I can go easy on myself with the grace to find holy AND hustle as God directs my steps.

Heather says

Stine's engaging writing held my full attention for this refreshingly short and to-the-point book emphasizing the importance of harmony between rest and work. Holy Hustle gives great perspective on how we need to avoid laziness and cling to rest while also avoiding striving in favor of hustling. Drawing from multiple stories from the Old and New Testaments and much of the teaching of Jesus himself, Stine marries practical advice for balancing rest and work with the theology behind it. She includes many self-evaluations, writing prompts, and Bible reading assignments to guide the reader in their own discovery of what their personal rest and work will look like - Stine recognizes that each person rests and works in a unique way!

While Stine makes many key observations throughout the book, the most prominent is this: work is good, and rest is holy. Work is a mission field meant to bring glory to God! And we must use rest to be refilled, not as an excuse to be lazy.

Two of my favorite quotes:

Holy hustle means understanding the part of the work we're responsible for.

We don't need to do it all. We just need to do all of what God is giving us in this season.

I would highly recommend pairing with the 10-day YouVersion app devotional, or using the devotional as a follow-up to what you learn from the book.

Ginger Harrington says

Inspiring and relevant, Holy Hustle addresses the challenging balance between work and rest. Geared for the woman who struggles to work well and rest well in faith, Crystal Stine speaks to the heart of today's Christian woman. I found encouragement and inspiration in the points, illustrations, and Scripture that filled this highly enjoyable read.

Amanda Whiting says

I'll be honest. Even reading the word 'hustle' brings up feelings of stress, endless to-do lists, and a tightening in my shoulders. I used to use the word proudly, but then found it caused a certain discomfort. Hustle felt hard. Hustle felt frantic and feverish. Hustle felt...unholy.

When I first saw the title of Crystal's book, I felt hope shifting in me. As I opened the very first pages, I was greeted by a beautiful call to the redemption of the word hustle. A redemption that asks us to consider what it means to value hard work in a way that honors God. To give ourselves completely to the things God has set before us, not by striving, but by submitting our own agendas and fears to God's desires for the work in our life.

Why do we work?

Crystal invites us into a journey, and her beautiful book creates physical journal space for us to process and uncover God's holy design for a work hard - rest well life. Rather than days that end with guilt or shame, we learn how to embrace work well. And rest in a way that refuels us. By caring for our hearts and souls, we can find life in the work we do.

Nikki says

I have been trying to advocate rest within my ministry group for a while but it feels like a losing battle but this book seems to articulate a lot of what I have been trying to say. True if we are called to a task we should be diligent but when we overextend and overwork we are doing ourselves a disservice. The writer takes us through this book with a nice flow as she guides us to lean on God, trust Him with His plan for us. To work well and to rest well also. Work is good, rest is holy.

This book is divided into ten chapters but don't skip the forward or introduction. Each chapter begins with a short quote to the top, then the meat of the chapter, a digging deeper section, then a Holy Hustle Story, and finally a reflection with questions. This is not a book to just read through. No you work through this book, work through your thoughts, perspective and life stage to get to what works best for you. Holy Hustles is not a one size fits all and working through this book helps you to get to what fits you and your life. I received this book free from NetGalley and Harvest House Publishers for my honest opinion

Tammy L. says

Holy Hustle is moving from the hamster wheel of life, where we are overwhelmed and soul empty, to an experience of working hard and resting well. Each chapter contains Scripture reading and practical application. You will be confronted with choices to make changes in your life as you are encouraged by the tried and true wisdom from Crystal.

Reading this book was as if Crystal were sitting in the room with me holding my secret struggles with her words.

I love Holy Hustle and would recommend it to anyone who is moving too fast through life, empty and overwhelmed, in need of direction which leads to a better way of life.

Amanda says

Excellent book for working moms, women in ministry, and any woman tryin to balance the busyness of life!

Taylor Phillips says

“When we have confidence in the call God has placed on our lives, it changes not only the way we take up physical space, but how we claim space in other ways for God’s kingdom.” #HolyHustleBook by Crystal Stine

“Holy Hustle” has been an answer to a prayer that I didn’t even know I was praying. I recently entered into a new season of life where my “work,” doesn’t look like the world. When people ask “what do you do,” I stare blankly at them trying to come up with a description of something I do to make them think that I’m not staying at home being lazy.

Crystal’s message in this book is finding the balance between work and rest—a holy hustle. Working well and hard in what God has called you to, but resting in His goodness and His equipping you for the task. She tears down the status quo of what we’re “supposed” to do and replaces it with doing what God has called to do—and that every ounce of that work matters.

I honestly struggled writing this review. Not because this book wasn’t good, but because it was GREAT. I so want to convey that this book is EVERYTHING you need to hear in whatever season you’re in. Whether you’re working and you wonder if your work matters, or you’re striving and you’re exhausted but don’t know what to do, or you just need good reading material. “Holy Hustle” has opened my eyes to things I’ve hidden in shame that I’ve honestly thought I dealt with. But it was so full of grace and mercy when it was brought to my attention, I realized that it’s not a point of shame, but redemption.

I highly, highly, HIGHLY recommend this book. I even read some to my husband and he enjoyed it and was challenged to make a change. It released me to do the work I was called to do.

Maybe you’re a mom boss, or a boss babe, or a CEO. I encourage anyone who WORKS to read this book.

Angela Sangalang says

"Holy Hustle" by Crystal Stine arrived at just the right moment for me. I'm in a season of working hard and hustling, only to realize that I need margin in my life to rest and breathe. Finding that margin isn't easy, but this book is helping me through it. Crystal's message of embracing a work-hard and rest-well life and how to do just that is like a friend who gently interrupts your hustle to take you out for coffee and remind you to find and lean into the holy.

One of the things I love about this book is Crystal's Scripture references and insights. These are not just one verse Bible references, but entire chapters that she unpacks in the light of what holy hustle could be in our lives.

Crystal also includes reflection questions and exercises that help me slow down and think through the points she brings up. I am especially grateful for the space she provides in this book to write down my thoughts and answers. This is a good book to mark up!

Another thing I enjoyed in "Holy Hustle" is reading the stories of other women and what holy hustle looks like in their lives. I'm amazed at how Crystal shares her book and platform with other women to encourage and show readers that we're not alone. In this season of my life where I'm trying to figure out what holy hustle looks like for me, it's motivating to hear other women's stories.

I recommend "Holy Hustle" to anyone who wants to find that intersection where work and rest coexist so that you're not just surviving through life, you're thriving in it.

I received an advanced copy of this book, but also purchased a copy of my own because Crystal's message is worth hearing. All opinions are my own.
