

What Are You Willing to Sacrifice?

As you manage your career you will likely be asked to make compromises or sacrifices regarding values that are important to you. The more you know what you're willing or not willing to do on a temporary or permanent basis the easier it will be to make those kinds of decisions. They may come as you try to get or keep a job, or as you try to advance your career, achieve your goals, or make a lot of money (if that is important to you.) Clearly, a lot depends on the situation and other factors in your life.

During my career, I've had conversations with people regarding the situations listed below. Knowing where you stand regarding these may make your decision-making easier if confronted with any of them.

Which compromises or sacrifices are you willing to make?

- 1. Working long hours on an ongoing basis.**
- 2. Commuting long distances.**
- 3. Doing a lot of overnight/extended travel.**
- 4. Sacrificing family time – particularly with your children.**
- 5. Sacrificing your personal interests, hobbies, avocational pursuits.**
- 6. Forgoing vacation and time off.**
- 7. Relocating.**
- 8. Living in a geographic area you don't like.**
- 9. Risking your physical or mental health.**
- 10. Working for a boss you don't like or don't respect.**
- 11. Working with people you don't like or don't respect.**
- 12. Working for a company you don't like or don't respect.**
- 13. Working in an environment, culture, or situation you don't like.**
- 14. Working with a product or service you don't like.**
- 15. Compromising your quality standards.**

16. **Compromising your religious beliefs.**
17. **Compromising your integrity.**
18. **Compromising your self-respect.**
19. **Misleading people.**
20. **Being dishonest.**
21. **Taking a cut in pay.**
22. **Taking a decrease in title or responsibility.**
23. **Risking your career progression.**
24. **Compromising your personal/professional development.**
25. **Sacrificing your work satisfaction.**

If you have suggestions for additional work and lifestyle questions, please email them to me at smdarter@gmail.com

For more than forty-five years **Steven Darter** has counseled people, ranging from CEOs of Fortune 500 corporations to troubled teenagers on work, career, and life issues. He is the author of: *Lessons From Life: Four Keys to Living with More Meaning, Purpose, and Success* (2018 2023) which has been ranked by one media company as the #1 “profound book about finding yourself” and *Managing Yourself Managing Others: Learn How to Improve Effectiveness, Productivity, and Work Satisfaction*, which has three editions (2001, 2011, 2015).