



**Stephen W. Smith** is the cofounder and president of The Potter's Inn, a spiritual formation ministry dedicated to the care of leaders in the marketplace and in ministry. He has pastored churches in Kentucky, North Carolina and the Netherlands, and is the author of *The Lazarus Life*, *Soul Custody* and *Embracing Soul Care: Making Space for What Matters Most*. Steve and his wife Gwen serve as spiritual directors and retreat leaders with Potter's Inn, and previously they lived overseas in Europe planting churches before the fall of Communism.

[pottersinn.com](http://pottersinn.com)

## The Crisis in the Leader's Soul

### What is the meaning behind the title *Inside Job*?

**Stephen Smith:** Our culture has developed a fetish for image management. And sadly, we seem to be shaped more by culture than by God. We value the outside of nearly everything more than we do the inside. The outer markers of success – image, position, money, power, etc. – spike our adrenaline and charge us forward to climb the wrong ladders of success.

### How did you personally get pulled into the lure of “success”?

**Stephen:** Having never even heard that I needed to do my own inside job when I left college and grad school to begin my career, I swallowed the lure of what I thought success was all about. I developed an addiction to work that was applauded by every organization I worked for in my career. I was hooked – as every addiction hooks a person. It was not until I learned about doing the “work within the work” that I found a wholeness I never knew was possible. It truly was freeing and transformational.

### How does *Inside Job* help leaders find true success?

**Stephen:** *Inside Job* helps leaders navigate the raging whitewater of life. Many leaders are climbing the ladder to success only to realize that their ladder is in fact leaning against the wrong wall. When we chase success rather than cultivate a sense of what true success is, we will end up crashing to the ground. *Inside Job* offers practical categories to help emerging leaders and leaders in the trenches gain much needed resources that will strengthen their sense of true leadership and help them avoid the carnage that happens when a leader falls for many possible reasons.

### What do you mean by “the work within the work”?

**Stephen:** The work within the work is simple and life altering. It is becoming self-aware and God-aware while doing your job. *Inside Job* is a practical tool to help leaders in the marketplace and ministry become more self-aware and also God-aware in their everyday jobs. Our inside job is engaging in our inner work while doing our outer jobs. Both are needed – not just one or the other.

### How do you help redefine success?

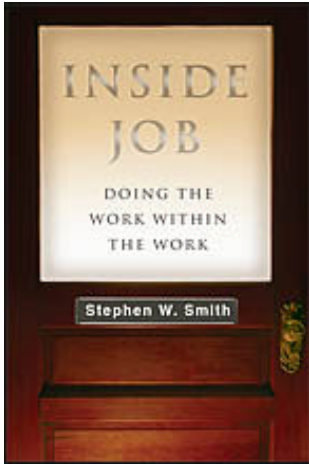
#### **Stephen:**

True success is an inside job.

True contentment is an inside job.

Authentic happiness is an inside job.

Exploring the work/life balance myth is an inside job.



*Inside Job: Doing the Work  
Within the Work*

Available July 2015

\$16, 207 pages, paperback

978-0-8308-4428-9

If a person, a leader in any capacity at all, does not redefine success, they are setting themselves up for failure and an implosion. Our culture is so keen on sweeping emerging and existing leaders into the whitewater of life that we find many colleagues drowning in the swirls and overturned by the force of life's currents. *Inside Job* is an easy-to-get and easy-to-read resource designed for leaders to rethink the whitewater and find a better way for their own well-being in every form of life.

#### What do you hope readers take away from *Inside Job*?

**Stephen:** I want readers to experience the abundant life – not just the driven life. In my career of working with busy leaders in the marketplace and ministry, I have found the vast majority to be ill-equipped to do their inside job. We are so focused and driven in our work that we have not connected the dots and realized that by doing the inside job, the outside work will go better and so will our marriages, our family life, our community life and our God life.

*“Stephen Smith understands that there’s a big difference between living life in balance, and living in rhythm. The former leaves leaders stuck on a treadmill of stress and disillusionment. But the latter helps them truly discover their purpose and live within life’s limits. Inside Job should be essential reading for anyone who is tired of the rat race.”*

– **Jim Daly**, president,  
Focus on the Family

 INTERVARSITY PRESS

Visit [ivpress.com/media](http://ivpress.com/media)



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW CONTACT:

Krista Carnet, broadcast publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or [kkcarnet@ivpress.com](mailto:kkcarnet@ivpress.com)  
Alisse Wissman, print publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or [awissman@ivpress.com](mailto:awissman@ivpress.com)  
Diana Verhagen, online publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or [dverhagen@ivpress.com](mailto:dverhagen@ivpress.com)  
[ivpress.com/books](http://ivpress.com/books)