



The Secret to Your Success

by Joey Ellis



*“Redeeming the time,
because the days are
evil.” (Ephesians 5:16)*

Have you ever had the feeling of waking up in the morning, hitting the ground running, moving from this activity to that activity, frantically trying to get everything done so nothing gets behind? At night you drop into the bed exhausted, unable to sleep because you are thinking about everything you have to do tomorrow. It's simply a mad dash through the day.

Time—everyone has it. It is equal for all people. Yet some people never seem to have enough. PDAs, e-mail, the web, and other modern inventions of technology were designed to help us save time, energy, and money. Indeed, in many cases they do. But even with the conveniences we live with in this 21st century, having time to do the important things seems to be elusive. Yet I know some people who harness time and make it work for them.

The Secret

The secret of your success in life is found in your daily routine. Write a list of the things that are

the most important to you. Then schedule a time each day to cultivate each one. Because reading the Bible is important to you, purposefully plan a time each day to read it. Do not say, “I’ll read it when I get a few minutes.” Because personal growth is important to you, make time in your daily schedule to read and write. Because your relationship



with your family is important, spend focused time with your spouse and kids. Daily, we must focus on those things that are “most important” instead of letting the “urgent” clutter our schedules.

What's Important

The quickest way to get a job done is not always the best way. My wife, Carla, and I painted the cabinets in our bedroom. We wanted them painted, so we simply painted them. No sanding, no primer, just the finish coat. Now the paint is chipping and the cabinets look awful. We will eventually have to refinish them. Had we spent the proper time preparing the surface, the coat on the outside would have lasted much longer.

So many times, we prepare only those things we know people will see. We do not spend the time needed to build personal foundations that will ensure long-term success. The important should come before the urgent. The urgent will always be with us—ask Martha (Luke 10:38-42).

This week make some time in your schedule to get alone and review your life's most important issues, then plan your daily routine around them. Soon you will realize that when you take care of the important, the urgent will not seem quite so urgent.

Questions for Further Study—

1. What things are important in your life?
2. What are some “urgent” things that often get in the way of the important things in your life?
3. What are some things in your life that will require time to achieve the desired result (like the illustration of the cabinets) rather than the easy way?
4. How can you apply this to your children’s ministry?

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