

EVICTING ENVY FROM YOUR HEART

The Life You Were Meant to Live
Rick Warren

"Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

"YOU SHALL NOT COVET!" Exodus 20:17

HOW ENVY CAUSES ME TO MISS THE PURPOSE OF MY LIFE

1.

"God, you knit me together in my mother's womb . . . Your workmanship is marvelous . . . You watched me as I was formed in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed."

Psalms 139:13-16 (NLT)

"Who are you, a mere human being, to criticize God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who made it 'Why have you made me like this?'"

Romans 9:20 (NLT)

2.

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24

"Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God." Luke 9:62 (TLB)

3.

"I've learned why people work so hard to succeed; it is because they envy the things their neighbors have. But this is foolishness, like chasing the wind . . . Here is someone who lives alone. He has no child or brother, yet he is always working, never satisfied with what he has. Yet he never asks, 'For whom am I working so hard . . . ?' This is useless, too—and a miserable way to live."

Ecclesiastes 4:4, 8 (TEV)

4.

"For wherever there is envy and rivalry there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony) and every kind of evil." James 3:16 (AMP)

HOW TO EVICT ENVY

Jesus' Story of the Vineyard Workers (Matt. 20)

1.

"Those hired last came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more."

Matthew 20:9-10 (The Message)

"Let everyone be sure to do his very best, for then he will have the personal satisfaction of work done well, and won't need to compare himself with someone else." Galatians 6:4 (TLB)

2.

"The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard . . . He said 'Are you envious because I am generous to them?'"

Matthew 20:10-11, 15 (CEV/NIV)

"Love does not envy." 1 Corinthians 13:4

3.

"Isn't everything you have and everything you are sheer gifts from God? So what's the point of all this comparing and competing? You already have all you need!"

1 Corinthians 4:7-8 (The Message)

"It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else." Ecclesiastes 6:9 (GNT)

4.

"These last workers put in only one easy hour, and yet you have made them equal to us—we who slaved all day under a scorching sun!"

Matthew 20:12 (The Message)

The Owner: *"Friends, I'm not being unfair! I paid you exactly what we agreed on. Take your part and go! What business is it of yours if I want to pay others the same that I paid you? Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?"*

Matthew 20:13-15

"Let us run with patience the particular race God has set before us."

Hebrews 12:1 (TLB)

ONE DAY: THE GREAT REVERSAL

"And so it is, that many who are first now will be last then; and those who are last now will be first then." Matthew 20:16 (NLT)

GETTING READY TO BE USED BY GOD

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"Be dressed for service and well prepared, as though you were waiting for your master to return from a wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. There will be special favor for those who are ready and waiting for his return." Luke 12:35-37 (NLT)

1. Get rid of your sins and leave all iniquity behind you. Then your face will brighten in innocence. You'll be strong and free of fear. You will forget your misery. It will all be gone like water under the bridge." Job 11:13-16 (NLT)

"Joshua told the people, 'Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you.'" Joshua 3:5 (NLT)

"If we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing." 1 John 1:9 (TEV)

2. Sanctify = to dedicate for special purposes

"Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God." Romans 6:13 (NLT)

"Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)

"Athletes practice discipline and self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize." 1 Corinthians 9:25 (NLT)

3. Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

"As Christ's soldier, don't let yourself become tied up in the affairs of this life, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army." 2 Timothy 2:4 (NLT)

"Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God." Luke 9:62 (TLB)

4. Strengthen yourselves so that you will live here on earth doing what God wants, not evil things people want." 1 Peter 4:1-2 (NCV)

"Build yourselves up in your most holy faith." Jude 1:20 (NIV)

"Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit." 1 Timothy 4:7 (TLB)

5. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (KJV)

"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." John 17:4 (NIV)

Next Steps

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SLOWING DOWN

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EFFECTS OF A HURRIED LIFESTYLE

- **I FEEL** _____
"I had no time to care for myself." Song of Solomon 1:6 (GN)
- **I LOSE** _____
"My days go by faster than a runner; they fly away without my seeing any joy." Job 9:25 (NCV)
- **I AM** _____
"Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run; hurry and scurry puts you further behind." Proverbs 21:5 (MSG)
"A person in a hurry makes mistakes." Proverbs 19:2b (GW)
- **I CAN'T** _____
"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

HOW TO START SLOWING YOUR PACE

STOP _____
"It is better to have only a little, with peace of mind, than be busy all the time."
Ecclesiastes 4:6 (GN)

"A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life; jealousy rots it away."
Proverbs 14:30 (NLT)

LEARN _____
"An impulsive vow is a trap; later you'll wish you could get out of it."
Proverbs 20:25 (MSG)

OBEY _____
"You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to me." Exodus 20:9-10 (GN)

"It's useless to rise early and go to bed late, and work your worried fingers to the bone. Don't you know God enjoys giving rest to those He loves?"

Psalm 127:2 (MSG)

WAIT

"...God does everything just right and on time. But people can never completely understand what He is doing." Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NCV)

"These things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed." Habakkuk 2:3 (NLT)

"God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my mind."
Psalm 51:10 (MSG)

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BUILDING MARGIN INTO YOUR LIFE

The Life You Were Meant to Live
Rick Warren & Tom Holladay

"I have no peace! I have no quiet! I have no rest! And trouble keeps coming!"
Job 3:26 (GW)

AREAS OF OVERLOAD

Activity Change Choices	Work Debt Media	Information Accessibility Pace of Life
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MARGIN: THE SPACE BETWEEN MY _____ AND MY _____

THE BENEFITS OF MARGIN

- More _____
- Better _____
- Stronger _____
- Available for _____

STEPS TO BUILDING MARGIN IN YOUR LIFE

1. ACCEPT _____

"I have learned that everything has limits." Psalm 119:96 (GNT)

"Our time is limited. You (God) have given us only so many months to live and have set limits we cannot go beyond." Job 14:5 (NCV)

2. EXPECT _____

Jesus: *"In this world you will have trouble."* John 16:33 (NIV)

"A prudent person foresees difficulties ahead and takes precautions; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences." Proverbs 22:3 (TLB)

3. PUT SPACE _____

"Only someone too stupid to find his way home would wear himself out with work."
Ecclesiastes 10:15 (GNT)

4. PRUNE _____

"Everything is permissible for me—but not everything is beneficial."
1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV)

5. DO LESS AND _____

" . . . We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure . . . As it turned out, it was the best thing that could have happened. Instead of trusting in our own strength or wits to get out of it, we were forced to trust God totally—not a bad idea since He's the God who raises the dead!"
2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NIV/The Message)

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REMEMBERING WHAT MATTERS MOST

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"Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be." Psalm 39:4 (NLT)

"Teach us to make the most of our time." Psalm 90:12 (NLT)

3 TRUTHS TO REMEMBER EVERY DAY

(Make a daily reminder card)

I. THE BEST USE OF LIFE _____!

"Let love be your highest goal." 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NLT)

*"No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love."
1 Corinthians 13:3 (The Message)*

*"There are three things that will endure—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love."
1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT)*

II. THE BEST EXPRESSION OF LOVE _____!

*"We must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words."
1 John 3:18 (GW)*

*"Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ, who loved you and gave Himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins."
Ephesians 5:2 (NLT)*

III. THE BEST TIME TO LOVE _____!

*"Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone."
Galatians 6:10 (NLT)*

*"Use every chance you have for doing good."
Ephesians 5:16 (NCV)*

*"Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it. Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now."
Proverbs 3:27-28 (GNT)*

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HOW TO LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD

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Jesus: “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30 (RSV)

HOW TO LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD

1. _____
“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28 (RSV)

“He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; He offers strength to the weak . . . those who wait on the Lord will find new strength.”

Isaiah 40:29, 31 (NLT)

“Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace.”

Matthew 6:6 (The Message)

2. _____
“Take my yoke upon you.” Matthew 11:29 (NIV)

“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:30 (NIV)

“Pile your troubles on God’s shoulders—He’ll carry your load and help you out.”
Psalm 55:22 (The Message)

3. **When I’m “yoked” with Christ, we move together in the same _____ and the same _____**

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” Galatians 5:25 (NIV)

“Our lives get in step with God by letting Him set the pace.”
Romans 3:28 (The Message)

4. _____
“ . . . Learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Matthew 11:29 (NIV)

“Since the Lord is directing our steps, why try to understand everything that happens along the way.” Proverbs 20:24 (TLB)

“When I am ready to give up, He knows what I should do.” Psalm 142:3 (GNT)

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FOCUSING YOUR LIFE

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MARGIN: The space between my load and my limits

The Purpose of Margin:

Not to live a life of selfishness, but to live a life of SIGNIFICANCE

"I ask God . . . to make your eyes focused and clear, so you can see exactly what it is God is calling you to do." Ephesians 1:18 (The Message)

"Don't be foolish with your lives." Ephesians 5:17 (ICB)

LIFE'S 4 MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. WHAT WILL BE THE _____ OF MY LIFE?

"If your wealth increases, don't make it the center of your life."
Psalm 62:10 (NLT)

"Christ's love has the first and last word in everything we do. Our firm decision is to work from this focused center." 2 Corinthians 5:14 (The Message)

SELF-CENTERED or GOD-CENTERED?

2. WHAT WILL BE THE _____ OF MY LIFE?

"For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him should become like His Son." Romans 8:29 (TLB)

"In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5 (NCV)

"Don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love."
2 Peter 1:5 (The Message)

COMFORT or CHARACTER?

3. WHAT WILL BE THE _____ OF MY LIFE?

My Ministry: Using my S.H.A.P.E. to help others

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings."

1 Peter 4:10 (TLB)

"It is God Himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ago He planned that we should spend these lives in helping others." Ephesians 2:10 (TLB)

GETTING or GIVING?

4. WHAT WILL BE THE _____ OF MY LIFE?

My Life Message

"Your lives are echoing the Master's Word . . . The news of your faith in God is out. We don't even have to say anything anymore—you're the message!"

1 Thessalonians 1:8 (The Message)

"Live in such a way that you are a credit to the message of Christ."

Philippians 1:27 (The Message)

"Life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about God's mighty kindness and love."

Acts 20:24 (TLB)

PROMOTING MYSELF or SHARING CHRIST?

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