A Lessons For Life Book

TRANSFORM YOUR SCHEDULE

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TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

7 Ways to Go from Madness to Ministry

Keith Hammond

INTRODUCTION

TRANSFORM YOUR SCHEDULE TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

is a book that teaches Christians how to transform our schedules from doing busy work for the world to being real living sacrifices and doing ministry work for God. It gives practical instructions on how to go from a schedule of madness, to a schedule of ministry.

Ministry work is about putting our faith into action. Without faith it is impossible to please God. And faith without works is dead. That means we can attend all the church we want, but if we never go outside the church and put our faith into action, it means nothing. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Scripture is clear, but many Christians lose sight of what those 'good works' actually are.

A Christian's main priority should be to help win souls for God, through Christ. In Matthew 9:13, Jesus said He did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. So, if those of us who are in the Body of Christ never go outside the church to reach those who are not, how will we ever lead them to salvation? Do we sit in the pews and wait hoping they will walk into the church? NO.

In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus teaches what would happen if people just display their faith, but not put it into action. Using the metaphor of a line of sheep and a line of goats, Jesus explained that if His sheep do not go feed, clothe, visit and minister to people, we would end up in the line with the goats with hell being their destination.

Thus, the simple message in this book written to all Christians, is that when you leave your comfortable pews on Sunday, get out of that comfort zone of waiting to go back the next week, and go within the week and do the good works we have been created to do!

INTRO...continued

In today's society, the walls of many churches have become a prison of sorts that many Christians use to lock themselves in, and others out, while there are hospitals, homeless shelters, nursing homes, prisons, orphanages, and other places waiting for Christians to show up and put our faith into action Monday thru Saturday.

Transforming Your Schedule is not a miracle pill. There is some work involved. And, you must be willing to do the work in order to see the results. God is not interested in what we think we can do. He's not interested in what we want to do. He's interested in what we are willing to take the first step to do. How do we know this?

Cars are designed to move us from one place to another. Our legs were designed to do the same thing. But if we never put our foot on the gas pedal, or move our leg and take the first step, we'll never go or get anywhere. Using your legs and your car, you've walked and driven in your own direction and to your own destinations for many years. Are you ready to change the places you go for your pleasure, to where God wants you to be, for His purpose?

Again, Ephesians 2:10 says the good works were prepared in advance. That means it's waiting for us to get there. When Jesus started His ministry, He walked everywhere He went for three years, before ever announcing that He was planting His church. Some believe it was planted in Peter. Not true. Jesus is the Rock that the church is built on. In those three years, Jesus met and ministered to tens of thousands of people. He fed them, preached to them, and met their needs. Then He walked somewhere else and started all over again.

The ministry model that Jesus started, still works today. So forget about what you haven't done in the past, let's get to work on what you're going to do in your future. All it takes is your willingness.

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WHY WE NEED TRANSFORMATION

| Wh | at goes on in your daily life? Are you like most peo | pple in that: | |
|----|---|---------------------------|--|
| | You spend time each day and driving to work . | Does any of the time | |
| | You spend 8 or more hours a day at work. | you spend working for | |
| | You spend time driving home from work . | the world, glorify God? | |
| | After work you take time to get something to ear (or fix something to eat for your family) (whether or not its fast food or take out) | Do you win souls at work? | |
| | Then you settle down in front of the TV or the Internet (with or without spouse, and with or without children) | | |

If this is your life "Monday thru Friday"...where does God fit in? Without knowing you, I know that most of your answers are going to be "I go to church on Sunday, and Bible study on Wednesdays." And if you knew me I would respond... "So you obviously believe that working everyday to pay bills, just to keep a roof over your head, clothes on your back, food on your table, keeping your car note paid, insurance premiums up to date, and a host of other things I don't need to mention, and all of which are temporary and have nothing to do with you getting to Heaven...is more important to you than helping to win souls back to God through Jesus Christ?"

Many Christians believe that their work schedule is OK. IT IS NOT. God does not want our last, He wants our first. He's not pleasd with waiting until you're tired from spending 40 plus hours working for the world, to spend a few hours in church, and no hours helping to reach the lost, help others, or win souls. Jesus taught that in order to be His disciple, we must sacrifice everything, seek Him first, then He would give all the things we work so hard for, back to us. Let's learn how...

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If your schedule is anything like the one described in the introduction you are going to have to make a sacrifice in order to take the time to be transformed.

The process of transformation will not happen without your complete attention and your participation. It is exactly opposite of what the devil wants you to do. It is going to be difficult unless you're ready.

The devil wants you to stay wrapped up in a schedule that wears you out, keeps you tired, and causes so much stress that you don't have the energy to do anything else, especially not add anything else to your schedule that brings God glory. But you must. Must what?

You must take the time to be transformed. You must make the sacrifice to start with an hour 2-3 days a week added to your schedule, even if it means sacrificing your lunch or dinner hour.

How do you do that? You just do. You don't allow anything (except an emergency) to stand in your way of making it to the ministry work you will start doing by the time you've finished this book. If you're ready, by the time you've read the last page, if you've applied what I've taught to your schedule, you'll understand why transforming your schedule to do what God wants first, can help transform your life.

Taking the time to be transformed requires a sacrifice of your time. If you're not willing to take this first step, which is the most important step, stop reading and put the book down because you're not ready. If you are ready, know and understand that God uses people who are willing vessels for His will, His way and His purpose. He will be with you at every one of the ministry activities you are about to put on your schedule. And He will use you as the vessel to help you be a blessing to others by His very presence being manifested through His Spirit that lives inside of you, being in the presence of others for His sake.

I can't reiterate this enough, whatever is on your schedule now, if it is not church or ministry work, that brings glory to God, at some point you are going to have to make the decision to either be a living sacrifice for God, or a dying sinner for the devil. It is your choice, no two ways about it. You can't serve two masters. You can't reinvent the wheel. And you certainly can't make God change His will. So which will it be? If you've selected the dying sinner route, close the book. If you've chosen the living sacrifice road, let's go forward.

- 1. Read Matthew 25:31-46, and then Pray.
- 2. Get out your current calendar. (You will need it later).
- 3. Get a pen or pencil, and another blank piece of paper. (You can transfer it to a computer later).
- Get somewhere you won't be disturbed.
 (You need to make this sacrifice so you can concentrate).

5. On the blank piece of paper, create six boxes like this. In each of the boxes, at the top, write:

Food and Clothing Ministry Team,

Prison Ministry Team, Shelter Ministry Team
New Creature Team, Hospital Ministry Team

6. Set this paper aside, we'll come back to it later.

day, and because you say you're saved, think again.

The purpose of this exercise is to help you understand why Jesus sent people out two by two to do the ministry work He trained them, equipped them, empowered them, anointed them, and had them come back and report what they saw His Spirit do. If you think you're going to Heaven by just going to church on Sunday, Bible study on Wednes-

Noah took the time to be transformed.

God used him to save his family before destroying a nation of people.

Moses took the time to be transformed.

God used him as leader when He delivered an entire nation of people.

Joshua took the time to be transformed.

God used him to prepare for battle, an entire nation of people.

Abraham took the time to be transformed.

God blessed his seed to give birth to an entire nation of people.

David took the time to be transformed.

God used him to kill a giant in order to protect a nation of people.

Jonah took the time to be transformed.

God used him to preach a sermon that helped save a nation of people.

There are many more Biblical examples of God using ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Can you name any more?

Once you take the time to be transformed, can you see how God will use you to be a blessing to people? Will you make yourself available for God to use you to be a blessing to people?

God used the gifts or resources in each of the men listed above that He had already planted in them, to help be a blessing to others, and to bring about change in the lives of many people. What gifts has God already placed in you or resources has He given you that if you make them available, He can use to bring about transformation for others? Remember...

Jesus took the time to be transformed,

God used Him to bring salvation to the entire planet of people.

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Moses had a ROD.

Joshua had a SWORD.

Abraham had his SEED.

David had some ROCKS.

Jonah had his MOUTH.

What is it that you are willing to build, stretch forth, raise, plant, throw, or speak as an instrument that God can use to help bring about your transformation and be a blessing to others, all for His glory?

Jesus had his BLOOD...that he willingly shed. Apostle Paul had his PERSECUTION of the church, that was turned into passion for the church. Once transformed, Jesus used Paul to carry the message of salvation to a nation, and write most of the New Testament.

In modern times, Billy Graham is one of the world's most noted and respected Evangelists. He had his PREACHING that God used to help bring a message of hope to more than 2 billion people so far. And, like all the other men listed above, Billy Graham's ministry is still going, still being discussed, still being used, still being a blessing to people all over the world.

One man...God's plan. Why?

Because these men were willing to be transformed and made themselves and their schedules available to God.

How about you? Are you ready?

When Jesus offered the men who became disciples the opportunity to follow Him, they had jobs, businesses, and many other things they were willing to sacrifice, and walk away from, in order to take the time to be transformed.

So, if Jesus asked you the question today, "Why aren't you walking into your calling? Or why aren't you doing work in the ministry?" Most of you will still answer, "I have to work to pay bills, to take care of my family." He would probably respond, "You cannot show me that anywhere in the Bible." And, He would probably add, "Don't show me the scripture that says if a man does not work he does not eat." And probably warn you about claiming, "God gave me that job."

I do not believe that God will give you a job to work and benefit a world that does not glorify Him or bless His people. If you are spending most of your time working a job that benefits the world, and keeps you from working for God, you seriously need to stop claiming that God had anything to do with you getting that job.

Think about it this way. God's plan is simple. Win souls. He is not using His power or glory to manufacture, produce, or market any products or services that you see on television except those that offer and promote salvation. Therefore, if you are working a regular job, ask yourself this simple question:

As a result of you working that job, how many souls did you help get saved today? How about in the past week? The past year? How about as long as you've been working there? If the answer is 'none', you seriously need to consider 'who' it is you're actually working for on that job that is not benefitting God or His people in any way.

God did not ask you to go to work in or for the world. He anointed and commanded us to work in the ministry.

Ephesians 2:10, again. We are god's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do the work...

That means "ministry work" not world work. Now, don't get me wrong. There is absolutely nothing wrong with working a regular 9-5 job, or whatever hours you work, IF, IF, IF, you can still put God first, and do ministry work. After all, that's the secondary reason I wrote this book.

However, many studies and statistics show that the vast majority of Christians who work regular jobs to focus on paying bills and doing other temporary and wordly things that do not in any way bring glory to God, use that job as the reason why they are too tired to go and do any ministry work for God.

That reason, is an excuse. Here's proof:

Every pastor who has walked into their calling, knew that in order to pastor a church and work in the ministry full time, had to make the sacrifice to stop working regular, worldly jobs, in order to shepherd, lead, and feed God's people.

Ask those same pastors what the results are of making that sacrifice. They still have homes, cars, families, bill paid, needs met, etc.

Matthew 6:33 puts it this way: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all those things will be added unto you."

Remember, Jesus stopped 12 men from working worldly jobs in order to be trained to carry the good news of the Gospel to others. He trained them, fed them, prepared them, anointed them, then sent them out two by two to help others.

All he ever said to them to start the process was 'follow me.'

CAN TURN US FROM
SELFISH SINNERS,
WORKING WORLDLY JOBS
THAT GIVE GOD NO GLORY,
INTO SACRIFICING SAINTS,
THAT WORK IN MINISTRY
SO GOD GETS THE GLORY!

TRANSFORM YOUR MIND

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ARNIIT THE AUTHOR:

Brother Keith is a born again Christian. He is a Spirit-led man of God, teacher and author. His life has been transformed from things such as pride and prison to passion and purpose.

God is the author of the Bible. It is meant to be our instruction manual, our roadmap home. Without it, we are lost. Use the information in these books to help you and others.

God destroys the darkness behind us, to direct us toward our destiny ahead. So whatever you do on your journey, never ever turn back. God bless you in your walk with Christ. Amen.

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