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# Halftime Newsletter February 2011

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## ***No Margin. No Mission.***

Last week I had a Halftimer I was coaching decide now was not the time to pursue God's calling for his life. Instead, he took a new marketplace job that will fully occupy his time, attention and energy. He's strong in his faith, and will no doubt be salt and light in his secular world. When he described his decision from practical and spiritual points of view, I understood why he chose this path. At the same time, I couldn't help but feel sorry for him. I wonder if his need to add financial cushion to his net worth is drawing him away from an incredible life of greater purpose and impact. Of course, only God really knows.

Here's the point: This is not an isolated case. We often see people discontinue the transformative process of shifting their focus from personal success to a focus on serving others. In each and every case, the challenge they could not surmount, described in the most practical and non-spiritual way, was the same: *They could not, or were unwilling to, create margin in their calendar.*

Simply put, channeling time toward loving others requires that we channel time away from other activities --- activities that build or protect our wealth, impact our sense of identity, define our security, shape our marriages, and give structure to our social lives. These are all deep, multi-layered, spiritual issues we help Halftimers deal with head-on. For purposes of this discussion, however, we'll stay focused on the most obvious issue: If we want to improve our lives by making a positive impact on other peoples' lives, we have to stop doing some things and start doing other things.

Allow me to boil this down to a simple decision-point that, in our experience over the last 13 years, every Halftimer ultimately has to say YES or NO to: *Are you willing to get creative to find and dedicate at least 8 hours a week to seeking and engaging in God's call on your second half?*

The vast majority of biblical heroes stopped doing one thing and started doing another on their way toward making a difference in this world and beyond. Nehemiah stopped being the King's "taste tester." John and James immediately shut down their commercial fishing business. If you're too busy trying to make ends meet or building your empire (the two ends of the financial spectrum), working on your golf handicap, remodeling the cottage, or otherwise overloaded with non-Halftime "stuff," you won't be able to dedicate time to research, prayer, critical conversations with your spouse, reading the bible, informational interviews, low cost probes, silent retreats, drives across town, journaling, flights to foreign countries, etc.

My concern for people who can't (or won't) create the necessary margin in their calendar is that they end up thinking about Halftime a lot, but get frustrated that they haven't received their "burning bush". Worse yet, it breaks my heart to see people in this situation feel that God is not blessing them or that they simply aren't "spiritual enough" to hear from God. I don't want that to happen to you. God loves us all and we can all hear from Him, but we need to dedicate time to communing with Him in order to hear what He has to say.

Our ministry at Halftime is all about helping people discover more purpose and joy by investing their time, talent, and treasure in a noble cause they have a passion for. We obviously believe that we are "saved by grace not by works" (Eph. 2:8), but this would not be the best scripture to describe the Halftime mission. I would say our ministry is more aligned with "Faith without good deeds is dead." (James 2:17)... and good deeds take time.

So... are you "in" or "out?"

If you are willing to get creative to find and dedicate, at a minimum, 8 hours a week to seek and engage in God's calling for your second half, give us a call and we will guide you on a wonderful journey of impact and adventure.

Read the story below if you want to see the fruit God has produced through one man who disciplined himself to consistently open up time in his calendar to pursue God's call on his second half. Enjoy.