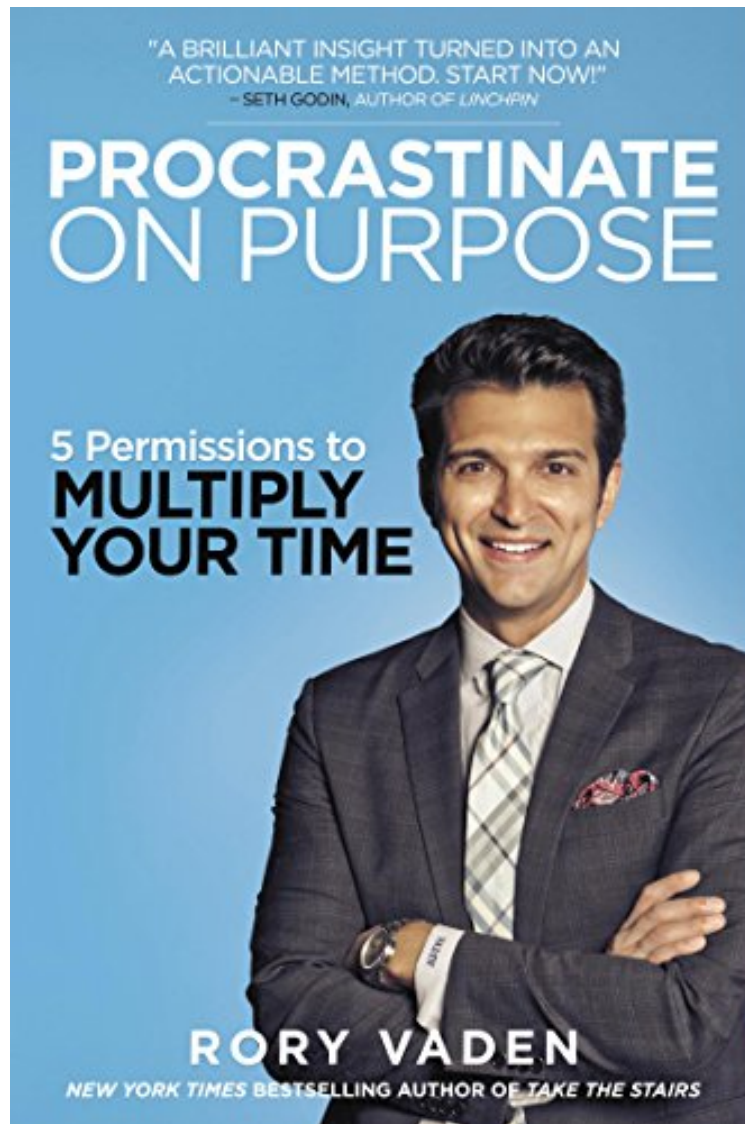


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Procrastinate on Purpose: 5 Permissions to Multiply Your Time

Rory Vaden

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Rory Vaden : Procrastinate on Purpose: 5 Permissions to Multiply Your Time before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Procrastinate on Purpose: 5 Permissions to Multiply Your Time:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book with great lessonsBy KyleI enjoyed the book overall and thought it was a worthwhile investment of my time and money, however, the writing style was my favorite. That being said, I thought the principles in the book were well thought out and could apply to people at any level in their career and life. It's a fairly easy read as well. If you are interested in learning about different ways to think about time

management and task prioritization, I would definitely recommend the book. I have recommended to multiple friends and colleagues. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you want to have the time of your life, change how you use the time in your life. By Customer In Procrastinate on Purpose, Rory Vaden guides the reader through the thinking that makes people high achievers. We all get 24 hours in a day. But what we do with those hours determines the course of our life. As someone who has built and sold a business, this book nails a core concept integral to creating a successful life. You need a framework for determining what matters, what YOU must work on now. Using Vaden's "Focus Funnel" gives you that framework. If you'd like to make the next year measurably better from the prior one, I'd suggest you make an investment of this book. Huge return on investment. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book I read and listened to it twice By Dikran Iskenderian Great book I read and listened to it twice. I wish there were more concrete ways shown to multiply time...but for that we have to work hard

Rory Vaden (Take the Stairs) brings his high-energy approach and can-do spirit to the most nagging problem in our professional lives: stalled productivity. Whether we're overworked, organizationally challenged, or have a motivation issue that's holding us back, millions of us are struggling to get things done. In this simple yet powerful new book, Procrastinate on Purpose, Vaden presents the five permissions that set us free to do our best work—on time and without wasting energy battling stress and anxiety. Using the POP model, readers will learn to:

- Eliminate
- Automate
- Delegate
- Consolidate
- Procrastinate (yes, you heard that right)

Anyone seeking to up their game, do meaningful work, and ditch the stress of looming deadlines and too many tasks on the front burner will embrace this smart, insightful guide.

"Managing your time is a lot like managing your money. It's not about the numbers; it's about your behavior. The best time-management tricks in the world won't do you much good if they don't actually make your life better. In Procrastinate on Purpose, Rory builds on what we've all heard about time management and adds the two things that have always been missing: emotion and significance." --Dave Ramsey, New York Times bestselling author and nationally syndicated radio show host "A brilliant insight turned into an actionable method. Start now!" --Seth Godin, author of Linchpin "We all have the same 24 hours in a day to make an impact but what if you could actually create more time? Procrastinate on Purpose shows how the greatest leaders in the world have figured out how to literally multiply their time. This book is a game changer." --Jon Gordon, bestselling author of The Energy Bus and The Carpenter "Rory Vaden has invented a way to manufacture more time in your day! This book has brilliant insights on how to become more productive in every area." --Randy Gage, author of the New York Times bestseller Risky Is the New Safe "Rory Vaden is a contrarian - and that's a good thing. Most rail against the evils of procrastination, but in Procrastinate on Purpose, Vaden shows us how to use it to our advantage. In doing so, we get more of the one resource that used to be finite: time." --John G. Miller, bestselling author of QBQ!, Outstanding!, and Parenting the QBQ Way "Procrastinate on Purpose will alter the way the professional world thinks about time - I've never read anything like it. Useful, unique, and relevant; this is an absolute must read for every leader." --Sue Schick, CEO of UnitedHealthcare of Pennsylvania and Delaware "Procrastinate on Purpose is the unorthodox guide for mastering time-management and productivity in our 24/7 business world. If you only read one book this year on how to become more effective and focused at work with less stress - and fewer emails - read this one." --Jason Dorsey, Co-Founder of The Center for Generational Kinetics and bestselling author of Y-Size Your Business "Rory's commitment to living life on purpose has challenged and inspired me again and again. In Procrastinate on Purpose, he shares a fresh take on time management, giving you tools and techniques that will empower you to say no to the mediocre in order to say yes to the best." --Crystal Paine, founder of MoneySavingMom.com and New York Times bestselling author of Say Goodbye to Survival Mode "The thing I love about Rory Vaden's books is that long before he writes about principles, he lives them. If you've ever thought, "I wish I had more time," read the great principles in this book. And then I dare you to do what Rory does: live them." --Jon Acuff, New York Times bestselling author of Start and Quitter "We all wish we had more time. It turns out we have plenty to spare. In Procrastinate on Purpose, Rory Vaden shows us how to take our time back and sets us free from the shackles of tired time management techniques." --Ken Coleman, author of One Question and host of The Entrepreneurship podcast "Every once in a while you read a book so impactful that you buy a copy for each of your teenage kids and make them memorize it. Take the Stairs was that book for me. The world NEEDS Rory Vaden. He is a big thinker and action taker who will challenge the way you are living your life. I couldn't wait to get my hands on his second book. Procrastinate on Purpose will not disappoint." --Sarah Petty, owner of Joy of Marketing and New York Times bestselling author of Worth Every Penny "All of our days are numbered, but in Procrastinate on Purpose Rory Vaden reveals the unconscious method that top performers have been using for years to multiply their results. For the first time ever, now you can understand their same methodology." --Robert D. Smith, author of 20,000 Days and Counting "Every once in a while a book comes along that completely shifts the way an entire generation thinks about a specific topic. When it comes to time management and productivity, Procrastinate on

Purpose may be the one!" --Andy Andrews, New York Times bestselling author of *The Traveler's Gift* and *The Noticer*

About the Author: Rory Vaden is a self-discipline strategist, cofounder of Southwestern Consulting, and the New York Times bestselling author of *Take the Stairs: 7 Steps to Achieving True Success*. Vaden's unique insights have been shared on Oprah radio, Fox News, CNN, CNBC, and CBS. A well-known public speaker, he has appeared before a number of organizations, including Bank of America, Trane, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Wells Fargo Advisors, Mary Kay, AFLAC, and many others. Vaden is a regular contributor to the Huffington Post and is the weekly radio host of *Take the Stairs Talk* on the Lifestyle radio network. Excerpt. copy; Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

INTRODUCTION

Where I'm Coming From: You are about to radically alter the way you think about time. And if you're like the Multipliers you're going to read about in this book, then chances are you're (justifiably) protective about what you allow to enter into your mind and whom you allow yourself to learn from. To me personally, there is nothing more frustrating than learning something from someone who hasn't done what they are talking about. The ideas in this book come from a variety of disciplines, but one thing you can be sure of is that they have been tested through the fire of real-life situations—including my own. Like most business books you will read, my writing includes original data from polling and statistical sampling that we have done, as well as synthesizing existing publications and academic research. At Southwestern Consulting, however, while we do appreciate academic research, we pride ourselves on being practitioners, and on providing strategies that are of real value and not just a pithy pitch. In other words, these aren't just principles we have gathered from a smattering of sources and that work in theory; these are principles that we are actually practicing in our own company and learning alongside you. I cofounded Southwestern Consulting with a few other partners in 2006. Shortly thereafter, we merged with some colleagues in London who had been working toward a similar vision since 2001. Since that time, we have grown organically to more than seventy team members and we have worked with more than seven thousand different sales teams. Our core business is providing one-on-one accountability coaching to salespeople. At the time of this writing, we have personally coached more than twenty-seven hundred salespeople, sales leaders and entrepreneurs. That means we've been tracking the daily activity of how each of these people spends his or her time for six months or longer. When you work with people at such a close personal level for that amount of time, they are no longer just clients; they become friends. And more than 75 percent of our "friends" say that "time management" is their biggest challenge and the reason they got into coaching. Because, you see, to a commission-based salesperson or an entrepreneur, time really is money, and it has become more difficult and stressful than ever before to keep up with the growing demands on our time. The most common phrase our clients use to describe their daily work challenges is that they feel like they are always "putting out fires." It is a challenge that we understand because every single one of our coaches—including me—is a salesperson first and a consultant second. We all sell and service our own clients. It might be more efficient and profitable for us to have some people sell and to then just hire a team of consultants to do the coaching, but then we wouldn't know what it feels like to be in a position like our clients'. We wouldn't be practitioners. And so it is through our struggle and through all we've learned from being alongside our clients that we believe we have stumbled upon some truly unique ways of thinking differently about time. We've had to learn how to multiply our time, and this book is going to show you how to do the same—regardless of what type of profession you are in. Although one-on-one coaching is our primary service offering, we have also tested and implemented these principles in medium-sized companies and big business as well. We've provided sales consulting to companies in twenty-seven countries. These clients range from small family-owned businesses to Verizon Cellular Sales and DIRECTV. We help companies build more of a sales culture by helping them create recruiting processes, custom sales scripts, incentive and compensation plans, custom sales, customer relationship management (or CRMs) and anything else they need to hire, train and motivate salespeople. Our U.S. corporate headquarters is in Nashville, Tennessee, and we have offices in London, Singapore and Sydney. We know sales. We love sales. We believe in servant selling and we have for a long time. Our parent company, the Southwestern family of companies, began in 1855 (back then Nashville was the southwestern part of the country, which is where our name comes from) and is one of the oldest privately held businesses in the United States. In 1868, our flagship sister company began working with college students, helping them finance their way through school by training them to sell Bibles and other books door-to-door during their summers. Over the last hundred and fifty years, the company has remained true to that core business, and still today nearly three thousand college students spend their school years building a team of friends and their summers selling a subscription-based web product called "Southwestern Advantage," which supplements what kids learn in school, helps parents help their kids with homework and instills the kinds of life principles contained in my books. Working with Southwestern is one of the most challenging and rigorous opportunities a young person can become involved with—and yet it is positively life changing. Alumni of Southwestern include Marsha Blackburn (U.S. Congresswoman from Tennessee), Max Lucado (bestselling author), Jeff Sessions (U.S. Senator from Alabama), Rick Perry (governor of Texas), Ronnie Musgrove (governor of Mississippi), Mac Anderson (founder and former owner of Successories Inc.), Bruce Henderson (founder of Boston Consulting Group), Chinh Chu (senior managing director with the Blackstone Group), Donna Keene (former chief of staff for the Department of Education), and thousands

more. Oh, and don't forget me—I worked in the program for four years as a recruiter and sold door-to-door for five summers, over which I earned a combined total of about \$250,000 to help pay my way through college and grad school. The Southwestern family of companies consists of more than thirteen different business units in different industries, including the number one Raymond James financial planning office in the world, one of the fastest growing direct sales companies (Wildtree), and the largest school fund-raising company in the world (Great American). All together we have more than four million customers a year and generate several hundred million dollars in revenue. At Southwestern, our mission is simple: to be the best organization in the world at helping people develop the skills and character they need to achieve their goals in life. So while there are many things that we do as a corporate family, the primary reason we exist is simply to help people achieve their goals in life.

Let's start with yours; . . . Part 1 The Truth About Time | What You Thought You Knew Everything you know about time management is wrong. That is the premise we started from as we began the journey of trying to answer the question "How do the most successful people today choose to spend their time?" After working with more than seven thousand different teams in twenty-seven countries and coaching more than twenty-seven hundred people one-on-one in their daily lives for six months or longer in the past eight years, our team at Southwestern Consulting has validated that premise. Successful people think differently. And it is their thinking that shapes a different set of choices they make, which ultimately yields incredibly different results from the rest of us. The most popular frameworks that the majority of the working world uses to understand, discuss and dissect time management have either been drastically enhanced or completely discarded by the people who most effectively multiply their time. Why do these people think differently? It's not because they wanted to; it's because they had to. It's because these Multipliers have realized that creating the next level of results requires the next level of thinking. It's because the pressure to produce results has increased, but so have the tools available to us to achieve those results. It's because they know that, as it relates to the demands on our time, things have changed. Consider a given day . . . We get up. We get ready. We run errands. We pay bills. We do housework. We cook. We eat. We clean up. And then we get ready for bed. These tasks alone can tally as much as five hours of time a day. It was reported in Newsweek that the average person spends one hour a day . . . looking for stuff! When you add in the routine daily work tasks, the number of hours grows even larger. We recently did a six-month analysis of more than eight million e-mails coming into companies from a half-dozen different industries, and found that the average executive gets 116 e-mails every single working day. * Obviously, however, it's not just e-mails we have to keep up with. Voice mails. Text messages. Meetings. Conference calls. Paperwork. Reports. Social media updates. It's not uncommon for working professionals to spend more than three hours every day keeping up with the basic routine activities—before we even get any real work done. The result is that a new form of procrastination runs rampant. Quickly and quietly it has engulfed the workplace like a swarm of killer bees, creating a host of insidious problems: . . . Stifled innovation . . . Employee turnover and burned-out human capital . . . Perpetuating miscommunication . . . Failing projects and missed deadlines . . . Disengaged and underutilized team members . . . Wasted potential and a culture of overwhelming speed, stress and anxiety. These are just a few of the destructive by-products of this phenomenon that cost organizations millions of dollars each year. Not to mention the years of an individual's life that are taken by the pressure that it creates. Pervasive and powerful, this productivity killer and new form of procrastination is the most expensive invisible cost in business today. . . . Priority Dilution Unlike traditional procrastination, Priority Dilution has nothing to do with being lazy, apathetic or disengaged. Yet it is the same net result: We delay the day's most important activities by consciously or unconsciously allowing our attention to shift to less important tasks. Ironically, Priority Dilution affects the top performers and the chronic overachievers, the people who are well intentioned and trying to do their best job. Because of their extraordinary competency, however, these people typically have more and more responsibility dumped on their plate until they eventually overload. To someone struggling with Priority Dilution, it can sometimes feel like the harder they work, the more they fall behind. For every e-mail they send out, they get two in return. And each task they complete seems to hold behind it two more additionally that need to be done. While they work incredibly hard, they seem to find that the Parkinson's Law is also true: "The amount of busy work always expands to fill the amount of time we allow to be available." Their life is often characterized as a constant state of interruption. The most common phrase they use to describe their situation is delivered with a hint of hopelessness in their voice as they plead, "It just seems like I'm constantly putting out fires." They are spread thin. Overwhelmed. Under-rested. And they feel like they are falling further and further behind. Unsure if they can keep up with the pace that life is throwing at them, they operate under a dark cloud, sometimes desperately asking themselves in the back of their mind, "Is this ever going to get better?" If it sounds like I know this person well, it's because I do; it's me. Unlike many of my fellow writers, researchers, speakers and "experts," being an author isn't my "real" job. I am an entrepreneur, a salesperson, a sales manager and an executive with a team of now more than seventy people whom I'm trying to serve every day. And while the success of my first book, *Take the Stairs*, has suddenly made me into an international author, I never thought I was

going to write a book on productivity. That's because I never set out to solve the world's time-management problems; I set out to solve my own. Let's start by talking about everything I thought I knew. I thought I was so busy. For years I had convinced myself that I was so busy. I would even make mini presentations to myself in my own mind about how I must be "busier" than most people around me. I would even tell people, "I am just so busy right now." Over and over people would ask me how I was doing and I would reply with the same melodramatic sigh that communicated just how overwhelmed I was. It was almost as if I was allowing myself to perpetuate this story that I was so busy because it gave me some false sense of importance about myself. Sad. Then suddenly out of the blue, one day it occurred to me that the most successful people I knew never complained or even spoke about how busy they were. More than that, they never even seemed to let on to anyone about everything they had going on in their lives. These were people who were at least as "busy" as me, and who had more responsibilities than I did. So I asked one of them about it once and she said, "You reach a point where you realize how futile it is to expend energy sharing or even thinking about how 'busy' you are. Once you get to that place, you shift to focusing that energy productively into getting the things done rather than worrying about the fact that you have to do them." I noticed that they weren't necessarily working less than me; but they had a peace about them that I didn't. It was a sense of peace that resulted from their acceptance of their own situation. What did I take from that? Quit telling everyone how busy you are. Resist the indulgence of saying "I am too busy." Your problem is not that you are too busy; your problem is that you don't own your situation. You get stressed and frustrated with distractions, fine; we all do. But your life is your responsibility. Any commitments you have were either made or allowed by you. It's not even right to complain or whine to others about how busy you are. You and I have the same amount of time in a day as Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa, Michael Jordan or anyone else who has achieved greatness. Once you own your problem, you empower yourself to create your own solution. So the first step is to get over our self-indulgent complaining about how "re so busy" or "there just isn't enough time in a day." If you are saying those things to yourself, then you are allowing yourself to be a victim—like I was. You are not a victim. You are in charge. You are capable. You are powerful enough to decide what you will and won't do with your time. But one thing you are not is too busy. This is just the first of several ways that Multipliers think differently. I thought "balance" was the standard. It seems like the most common encouragement we hear from "time-management experts" is the importance of work-life balance. Yet, the more time we've spent around Multipliers, the more we've come to realize that balance is crap. The concept of balance is not only a discordant metaphor for how to spend your time, but an ineffective strategy. Striving for "work-life balance" is an impractical standard; it's one that won't bring you the results you truly seek—and it should be avoided. By definition, balance means "equal force in opposite directions," which implies that to be balanced, our time and energy should be spread in a perfect distribution across various tasks we have in our life. But if we sleep eight hours a day and work eight hours a day, then to truly be balanced we could only do one other activity and it would have to be eight hours every day. That concept is absurd and outdated. Success in business, at home and in life doesn't come from applying our resources proportionately throughout different areas. In fact, it's just the opposite. Success usually is the result of focusing our talents, money, time or energy in one priority direction for a shorter period of time to create a desired result, which in *Take the Stairs* I called a "season." In one word, a "season" is best defined as "imbalance." For example, if you were thousands of dollars in debt, you wouldn't get out very fast if you were only paying off an extra ten dollars per month more than your minimum balance. You'd have to find a way to make sacrifices in other areas of your life to throw more and more money at your debt problem until it was gone. If you were two hundred pounds overweight, you likely wouldn't get the transformation you wanted by working out ten minutes per week. Instead, you'd have to arrange your life for a while so you could work out more like ten hours per week to get you to an acceptable level of health. An entrepreneur would take forever to get her business off the ground by working just thirty minutes per week on the side. If the effort was going to be significant, it would take much more time than that to get it started. The beauty of imbalancing your resources in one direction for a short period of time is that once you create your desired result, it is usually much easier to maintain that level of performance post-season. It becomes comfortable to consistently stay in the new range and usually requires much less effort and/or little thinking at all. A panoramic view of a season and post-season leads us instead to the strategy that we like to call "working double-time part-time for full-time free time." Once you get out of debt and you have no monthly payments, it's much easier to get rich and stay out of debt. After you get into shape, it's pretty easy to stay in shape working out just a couple times a week and having only a semi-strict diet. A successful business should eventually become a revenue-producing asset for the owner, with only fractional time spent managing it once all the necessary systems and people to make it run have been implemented. As I sit right now writing this book, I have blocked off five days of virtually ignoring everything else in my life because I know that this work in and of itself is a Multiplier for me. And I know that the very endeavor of this book is one that is best produced through a short season of intense focus

and not a sentence or two written every day for a lifetime. All of these are examples of the payoff resulting from embracing a "double-time part-time for full-time free time" strategy. The metaphor of a "season" not only makes more practical sense when applied to every area of daily life, but it is also the actual practice of "well-balanced, high-performing people (Multipliers)." Meanwhile, "balance" is more often an excuse for justifying underperformance than a valid explanation for why we're not achieving the results we want in the different areas of our life. Balance is not a benchmark you should be measuring yourself by and it's not a standard that will bring you a life you love. Embrace the season. Embrace the focused imbalance. Embrace working double-time part-time and you shall soon embrace the full-time free time. I thought "leisure" was the goal. I'm not sure where I got this idea from, but a substantial amount of the stress I was experiencing in my life was the result of my thinking that "leisure" and "retirement" were the ultimate goals of a happy life. Maybe it was from the baby boomer mindset of "If you work hard enough, then one day you get to retire." Maybe it was the entrepreneurial dream of my venture capital friends saying, "It only takes one great idea and you can be rich by the time you're thirty." Maybe it was the escalator mentality of an entitled younger generation always convinced there is a shortcut or an easy way. Whatever it was, though, that gave me the idea that permanent leisure as the ultimate goal was incredibly wrong. Have you ever taken a ten-day cruise? Have you ever been bedridden for a few weeks or even a few days? Do you know anyone who retired at thirty? If so, then you know there are only so many margaritas you can drink, so many hours of catching up on sleep and so many reruns you can watch before something awful happens. . . . you get bored out of your mind! I am all about working hard and enjoying your payoff. I believe in pursuing a smarter and better way. I am a supporter of pursuing your dreams and manifesting your ideas into reality. I am an advocate of making time to do the things you enjoy. And I certainly believe in the value of having more money than you know what to do with. But it took me spending time with real Multipliers to realize that work isn't something to be endured, that we should try to avoid whenever possible, and it isn't something that should have a finish line that you race to so one day you can stop. Work is a fundamental part of life and a source of deep satisfaction. We were created to work. Work produces happiness and great rewards that fill our lives with joy. Work is one of the most honoring forms of worship that we have! Not only were we created to work, we've been instructed and warned about the dangers of not working. Do you know that according to a 2012 Nielsen report, the average person over the age of sixty-five watches forty-eight hours of television per week? That is nearly seven hours a day! * That doesn't sound very rewarding, if you ask me. Being a great parent takes work. Being a great leader takes work. Being great at anything takes work. Whom do you look up to who doesn't work at anything in their life, or never worked for the good of another person? Who is there worth emulating who does not work? No one. Why, then, do we subscribe to this myth that somehow our lives would be better if we had less work? It's another misleading misconception that we carry in the back of our minds, holding ourselves up as failures and examples of how we aren't living the right life just because we are working a lot. I love how author Timothy Keller describes the goodness of our work in his book *Every Good Endeavor*: The book of Genesis leaves us with a striking truth—work was part of paradise. . . . We so often think of work as a necessary evil or even punishment. Yet we do not see work brought into our human story after the fall of Adam, as part of the resulting brokenness and curse; it is part of the blessedness of the garden of God. Work is as much a basic human need as food, beauty, rest, friendship, prayer, and sexuality; it is not simply medicine but food for our soul. Regardless of your spiritual beliefs, I hope you can see the value in this attitude toward work, because it mimics the same view that ultra-performing Multipliers have—regardless of their religious faith. I am not saying that life should only be about work. But proper and appropriate amounts of work are a critical part of a satisfied life. Work is integral. Work is freedom. When done the right way, work is joy. I thought "being effective" was the highest pursuit. Efficiency is doing things right, but effectiveness is doing the right things.