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Very rarely are you ever given enough time to get done the things you really want to get done. Quite often you have to pick and choose, or make a sacrifice. I always wish I had more time to think, to read, to observe, to communicate, or to just do. On some nights, as much as I hate to do this, I sacrifice sleep time in order to squeeze in an extra few hours for myself.

My biggest challenges concerning my time crunch are trying to sustain both my column and my professional reading program. I’m often exhausted at night and dose off when trying to do either. It would be nice if there were 32 hours in a day, I never had to sleep, or if I could live for a thousand years, but none of these things are possible. So in the meantime, I have to do what I reasonably can.

When writing my column, I need lengthy quiet time and it is difficult to find that lengthy time these days. I usually can manage to figure it out and get it done one way or another--although not every week. I hope my columns are still helping some people gain or sustain some valuable wisdom.

My reading program, though, is suffering immensely. I admit I’ve fallen behind the power curve. Because I try to obtain a lot of information very quickly, I’ve gotten into the bad habit of simultaneously reading as many as 10 books at the same time, taking turns with each one. Although this breaks up the monotony of reading about a single subject or person, it reduces my effectiveness in retention and my ability to quickly reference something. And sometimes when I stop reading, I stop in the middle of a chapter--not a good

thing to do. I’ve learned I either have to read one book at a time, or if reading two or three different books at the same time, to at least read an entire chapter before closing it up for a break. Focusing on one subject message at a time enables me to make better thought transitions and have better retention on the subject matter.

I carefully pick and choose what I read because I simply don’t have enough time to read every book in existence. If I did, it would take me 2.5 million years, assuming I read one book per week--or to put it another way, take me as long as it would to drink the entire Pacific Ocean with a straw. There is simply not enough time to do it.

When it comes to traveling, I know some people who would like see the whole world--to put “eyes on” every city, town, or geographic feature. But this, too, is impossible. If you spent a day in every city and town in the world, it would take you 10,959 years by the time you get to the very last one. So travelers, too, have to pick and choose where they want to go and what they want to see.

In today’s rat race, we are rarely given enough for anything. Deadlines can be unreasonable. Requests are outrageous. Red tape is everywhere. Bureaucracies stymieing the whole process. Someone or something is always ripping time away from you. It would be nice if you could rid yourself of these time wasters, but you usually aren’t so lucky. So how do you excel when you rarely have enough time?

In order to make a breakthrough against time barriers, you have to increase your focus and energy at precise times. When you do that, you can pierce through the barrier and get to the other side--and your effectiveness will be

observed and noted, both by those who are *on* your side and those who are *not on* your side.

In his memoirs, Ulysess S. Grant told his life story through the end of the Civil War. He began writing his memoirs in the fall of 1884, when he already knew he was dying of cancer. He finished writing the book the following May, but continued reviewing and making changes to the proofs until shortly before his death on July 23, 1885. Grant’s memoirs are a masterpiece.

Grant himself was sorry that his failing health required him to complete the writing of his memoirs in a shorter time period than he would otherwise have devoted to the project. He stated, *“I would have more hope of satisfying the expectation of the public if I could have allowed myself more time. I have used my best efforts...to verify from the records every statement of fact given. The comments are my own, and show how I saw the matters treated of whether others saw them in the same light or not.”*

In today’s world as well, you are rarely given as much time as you would like to complete a project. Instead of complaining about unreasonable time frames, recognize that time constraints can be taken advantage of to force a remarkable concentration of effort that can produce impressive results. If you focus and forge your way through, you will proudly realize the amazing work of art you have in your hands, and so will others!

You can’t stop the clock to get more done and you rarely have enough time to get everything done. Pick the most important and impactful things and get to it.

~ The End ~