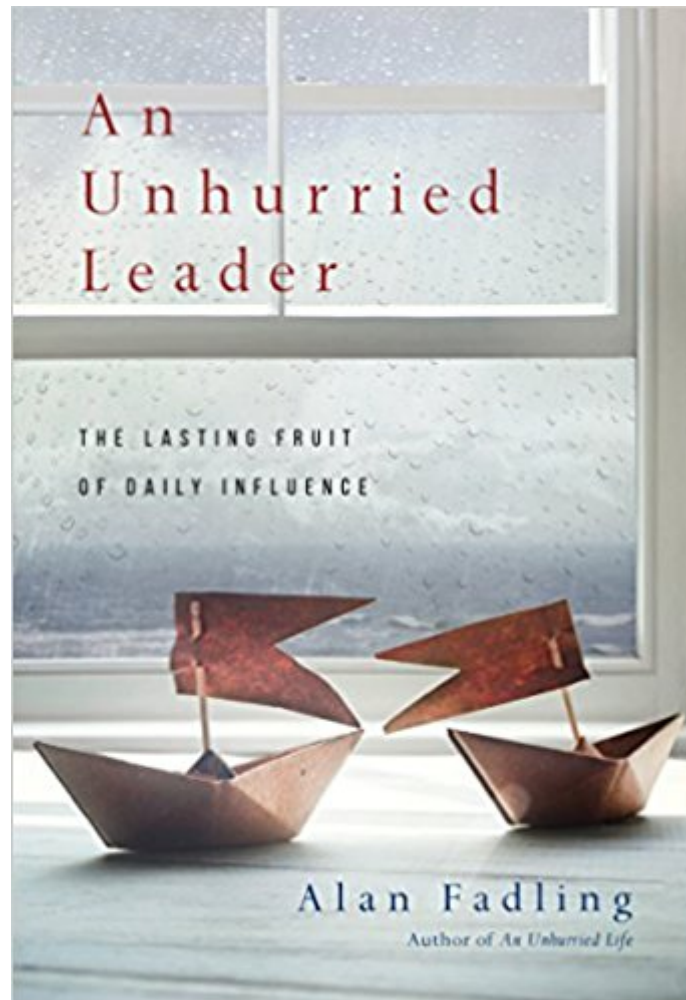




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An Unhurried Leader: The Lasting Fruit Of Daily Influence



Synopsis

What does grace-paced leadership look like? Spiritual mentor. Pastor. Executive director. Parent. Professor. Spouse. We have many roles and relationships. And in the midst of all we do, we're tempted to frantically take control of situations in hopes of making good things happen. Alan Fadling, author of *An Unhurried Life*, writes: "That kind of unholy hurry may make me look busy, but too often it keeps me from actually being fruitful in the ways Jesus wants me to be. Jesus modeled grace-paced leadership. To learn that we begin not with leading, but with following." In these pages Alan Fadling unfolds what it means for leaders to let Jesus set the pace. Through biblical illustrations, personal examples, and on-the-ground leadership wisdom, this book will guide you into a new view of kingdom leadership. Along the way you just might find that the whole of your life has been transformed into a more livable and more fruitful pace.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"As my own leadership responsibilities have significantly increased in recent years, I can only say 'many thanks!' to Alan for offering such a timely, rooted, and integrated vision of the very real possibilities that exist for leaders who choose an unhurried life. It's all true! And it's an ongoing pursuit, which is why his book is so helpful. Rich with practical examples of practices to support this way of life and leadership, *An Unhurried Leader* is a great guide for anyone who seeks to lead from a place of overflow rather than deficit." (Mindy Caliguire, founder, Soul Care)"In *An Unhurried Leader*, Fadling uses the Bible to unpack the wisdom of choosing to be led by Jesus as we lead

others, so that our pace, ways, and results align with God's will. This is a book I highly recommend to everyone who is intentional about joining God at work and working God's way." (Jean Paul Ndagijimana, corporate chaplain, Lift Up Limited, Rwanda)"At the heart of Christian spirituality is love. Jesus instructed us to love God and our neighbor. Paul said the greatest virtue is love. But love takes time—and time is the one thing a hurried leader does not have. The results of unloving, anxious, fear-based Christian leadership are now all around us, as seen in the culture-wide rejection of church. In *An Unhurried Leader*, Alan Fadling points the way out of hurried leadership that kills the souls of leaders. He reveals leadership steeped in spiritual abundance and joy. This is not a how-to book. This book lays out a path to becoming a better sort of person, who is then naturally a better kind of leader." (Todd Hunter, Anglican bishop, author of *Christianity Beyond Belief*)"Alan set out to offer an inspiring vision of leadership that is less hurried and more fruitful, less hectic and more joyful—and that he did. With the biblical text as his consistent backdrop, each principle, practice, and suggested reflection creates a unique mosaic for every spiritual leader desirous of living an abundant life." (Stephen A. Macchia, founder and president of Leadership Transformations, and author of *Broken and Whole*)

Alan Fadling (M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary) is president and founder of Unhurried Living, Inc. in Mission Viejo, California, inspiring people to rest deeper, live fuller, and lead better. He speaks and consults internationally with organizations such as Saddleback Church, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Cru, Halftime Institute, Apprentice Institute, and Open Doors International. He is the award-winning author of *An Unhurried Life*, honored with a Christianity Today Award of Merit in spirituality, and he is also a contributing author to *Eternal Living: Reflections on Dallas Willard's Teaching on Faith and Formation*. Fadling is a certified spiritual director, and he lives in Mission Viejo, California, with his wife Gem and their three sons.

Wow! This book "overflows" with what spiritual leadership looks like, feels like and the lasting Kingdom Fruit as a result of this kind of influence. As a favorite prof use to say..."application is not transformation"! Alan makes this truth come alive and invites us into a leadership and gospel of grace with the goal of abiding in God's presence, trusting the deeper, transforming work of the Spirit to result in fruitfulness for an abundant life that spills over in everything thought, done and said. It is a picture of a "Mary-Martha"! How contemplation and action are integrated with a pace that honors both our humanness and God's Divinity. A must read with simple practices for deep change for anyone that dares to live life with God and others in humble trust, dependency and joyful action. The

practices and reflections in this book will continue to be used to open my heart, mind and life to God. The desired result? ...the outcome?...the fruit? ...the the overflow of His character and grace that will influence my daily life for Kingdom purposes. Loved this book for its integration of spiritual and leadership development and for its inspiration and empowerment.

I'm privileged to write the first review! Alan Fadling invites us to "live at the pace of grace." I want that; don't you? Congratulations, Alan: another wonderful and helpful book.

This book is a welcome subject. There are many books available on personal spiritual formation as well as Christian leadership but Mr. Fadling's book speaks to how spending time with God can transform us to be people with influence and leadership formed by our relationship with God just as Jesus life on Earth accounts to. I appreciated the thoughtful questions and practices offered with each chapter. This book would make an excellent group study. The podcast that the author has at Unhurried Living offers interviews with a broad array of leaders that offer great insights into the Unhurried ways of God.

As the father of three children under 9 years of age, I often find myself in a hurry. A few days ago, for example, I got home from work, grabbed a sandwich and headed back out the door to take my son to baseball practice. One of the other dads was envious that I at least got a sandwich

“Life moves pretty fast,” that great theologian Ferris Bueller once said. “If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

Three hundred years earlier, John Ray wrote something similar:

“Haste makes waste, and waste makes want, and want makes strife between the good man and his wife.”

In short, we hurry to get more but end up getting less. The solution is to slow down. Alan Fadling wrote about following Jesus’ rhythm of work and rest in his 2013 book, *An Unhurried Life*. Now, he returns with *An Unhurried Leader* to show what “grace-paced leadership” looks like. Hint: It isn’t hurried. Also, leadership isn’t limited to people with full-time ministry jobs.

“We need not have a position of influence to be a person of influence,” he writes. Fadling defines unhurried leadership as “a process of learning to work in harmony with the purposes of God. It is also the awareness that so much of what God does begins in people’s hearts.” Truly Christian

leadership, in other words, is heart-work, and heart-work takes lots of time. This is true whether we're talking about the hearts of the people we're leading or our own hearts. For this reason, Fadling spends most of the book helping leaders unhurry. If we're hasty with ourselves, we'll be hasty with others, and we all know what haste makes. To unhurry us, Fadling turns to Scripture to show us what God's purposes for us are and how those purposes change the way we lead others. Chapter 5, "Questions That Unhurry Leaders," made a deep impression on me, so let me share a bit more about it. Fadling uses the five questions Paul asks in Romans 8:31-35 to illuminate "deep truths" about life and leadership. Here are the questions and the truths about God's purposes they demonstrate:

- "If God is for us, who can be against us?" demonstrates God's unfailing favor.
- "How will he not also, along with Christ, graciously give us all things?" illuminates God's unfathomable generosity.
- "Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?" identifies God's unending justification.
- "Who then is the one who condemns?" illustrates Christ's unceasing intercession for us.
- "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" reminds us of God's unconditional love.

These "deep truths" resonate with the soul of every Christian. What makes Fadling's treatment of them unique is that he shows how they change the way we do leadership as Christians. Take the first question, for example: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Fadling comments: "It's remarkable how many Christian leaders have found themselves, in some blurry and ill-defined way, trying to earn God's favor or to prove their worth to him or parents or a spouse, or perhaps to themselves. But God is already for us! If that's true, then who or what in this world could effectively stand against us?" Leaders who allow God's favor, generosity, justification, intercession and love to sink deeply into their hearts lead differently than those who don't. Their leadership comes to be marked by those same qualities as well. In that sense, unhurried leadership is "overflow leadership." Citing John

7:37

“What I bring to Jesus as a thirst can be transformed into more refreshment and life than I can possibly hold. That abundance, that excess, that overflow can become manifest in my work, my service, my leadership. The key thing, then, is for Christian leaders to let Jesus into their hearts. Does that sound too simple? Perhaps. Then again, I was amazed at how often An Unhurried Leader opened my eyes to things in my heart that are crowding out Jesus and thus misshaping my influence. I hope it will do the same for you.

I needed this book. So many leadership books offer up the same, though slightly retreaded, message of so many others, but this book is food for the soul. It’s the best book for pastors, or any in a leadership position, that I’ve read in a long time. There’s no gimmicks here to manipulate people, just a call to commune with God to the point He imbibes your work with His grace. In a day where so many speak of effectiveness, Fadling prefers that we look at fruitfulness instead. He unearths the often-buried scriptural truth that fruitfulness comes from abiding in Christ. If the Lord makes you fruitful, you will influence others and the task of leadership is fulfilled. He makes it all sound so simple while the work of communing with God is at once challenging and the very opposite of work. If that sounds confusing, just read the book. He begins by asking us to be unhurried leaders who stop seeing activity as productivity. He exposes the subtle pride that we often present as spiritual leadership. He explains our blind spot of working for God instead of with God. He challenges us to lead from abundance – a concept we frankly don’t get. He gently scolds us to stop running from the thirst of our souls to unquenching activity. There’s so much more. The chapter on prayer is the most insightful I’ve read in years. More than being condemned as most prayer treatises, I want to implement what he says. Outstanding is an understatement for this book. 5-star plus gets a little closer. I hope many will read and follow and be helped as I was! I received this book free from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255.

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