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# The Inner Game of Blogging

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**A**s many of you know, I dedicated a whole month to talking to as many bloggers as possible not too long ago. It was a free 30 minute coaching call to any bloggers whether they had an established blog or just thinking [about blogging](#). It was the most fun that I have had in a long time for sure. I had conversations late in the evening and early in the morning. I spoke with successful book authors, country music singers, college professors, and stay-at-home moms. It was energizing for me to hear about their passions and what they wanted to accomplish.

Although I was not sure what to expect going into this experience, I did have something that shocked me. There was a serious “mental game” in play that was causing many of these bloggers not to “go for it.” While many of them did struggle on some of the technical aspect, still most had a battle with an inner game. Some of the questions I heard were:

- There are billions of people in the world, why would anyone pay attention to what I have to say?
- Will blogging be outdated? Maybe I am coming to late in the game to make this a success.
- There are so many blogs in my niche I am thinking it is too saturated.
- I don't want to look back a year from now and see that I had just been wasting my time building [a blog](#) for no reason.

These are just a few of the responses that I heard over and over again. These “mental battles” were causing them not to really go for it and take massive action. This is why when Bob and I developed the [Blogging Success Pyramid](#) we placed the “Inner

Game of Blogging” at the very foundation. It really doesn't matter how much you know about blogging but it does matter how you apply what you know about blogging. Too many of us (me included) have taken “weak action” when it comes to blogging.

## Bloggng is an Investment

In our recent blogging webinar, Bob talked about seeing blogging as an investment. I thought that was such a great view of what blogging really is all about. Most people want blogging to be the lottery, the winning ticket, the windfall, the overnight success. Sorry, blogging can't do that for you. If you can begin to get over the mental blogging game that exists and start pouring your time, energy and talent into blogging as an investment that will reward you down the road, then you really got the essence of blogging in your spirit.

## Inner Game of Blogging

There are 5 foundational blocks in our blogging success pyramid. We will expand on this more in future videos and posts, but we will briefly discuss them here:

**Passion** - You must have a passion for the central theme you want to blog about. There must be a deep enough well to draw plenty of content from (especially in the early stages).

**Commitment** - You must fully dedicate yourself to the process. You cannot take weak action and expect strong results. It just does not work that way.

**Focus** - Not only should [your blog](#) have a centrally focused theme, but you need to stop chasing “shiny”

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## The Inner Game of Blogging

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objects. We like to go after every secret traffic system, new software, easy push button traffic tool. Focus alone is what will get you there.

**Consistency** - To be a successful blogger you have to produce fresh, new content on a regular basis. It is like the question someone once asked, "How do you eat an entire elephant." The answer? One bite at a time.

**Patience** - Expect that as a blogger, you will have a "pre-profit" time. Embrace it, face it, and push forward anyways. Embrace that for the first several months you will not see a lot of traffic, comments or action. Again, you are planting a seed and investing for results down the road.

We covered the entire Blogging Success Pyramid in a webinar this past week. If you would like to join us, you can find more details here: [Blogging Your Passion – The Webinar Series](#).

Which of the Mental Hurdles Above Do  
You Struggle With When it Comes to  
Blogging?

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# The Fear of Not Being Good Enough

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**H**ave you ever faced the fear of not being good enough? Feelings of inadequacy and rejection can immobilize us and creep up in our lives without us even knowing it. The fear of not being good enough might be the very reason you are still sitting on the sidelines in life.

No one wants to feel like they do not measure up. No one welcomes rejection and failure into their life. I was reading in a forum about a week ago when this very subject came up. A person was wanting to start a blog in a subject that they were passionate about. However, when they viewed the competition, they began to seriously doubt if they could pull it off. The fear of not being good enough began to creep in.

A few months ago, I was introduced to [radical mentoring](#) through a blog post by [Michael Hyatt](#). The purpose of this mentoring group is for a group of guys to commit to meeting once a month for a year in order to become better fathers, husbands, businessmen, and spiritual leaders. One man becomes the mentor who facilitates the entire process.

I ordered the materials and have been watching the videos with the intent of starting a group. The deeper I dove into the materials a sense of inadequacy began to flood into my heart and spirit. Some of my thoughts were:

- I don't have everything figured out in my own life so how can I lead others
- Maybe a more mature person is better suited for this, I am probably too young
- What if I do this and it becomes a complete failure?

The fear of not being good enough was slowly taking over.

Just yesterday, my wife opened up to me [about blogging](#). She has been secretly thinking about [starting a blog](#). She has a particular passion that she is really good at. Yet, her exact words to me: "I'm hesitant because I think other people could do it much better."

The fear of not being good enough can be paralyzing.

I want to share with you some principles that I have learned that have helped me to face the fear and do it anyways. If you find yourself sitting on the sidelines, my hope and prayer is that you will find strength in these principles.

## The Principle of Leading from the Front

This is a principle that has helped me in so many ways. Instead of focusing on what you lack, lead from what you do know. You only need to be a little bit ahead to add value in someone else's life. For example, if you are a blogger that only makes an average of \$500 a month on [your blog](#), there are plenty of people out there that want to learn from you. They would give anything to know what you know. You do not have to wait until you are "super successful" in order to begin assisting others. You just have to be a bit further ahead on the journey.

## The Principle of You-niqueness

Yes, I just made up a word. Please forgive me. 😊 I'm trying to prove a point. I am not talking about unique content, unique [domain name](#), or a unique blog theme. You can take confidence in just being you. You have been given unique talents, abilities,

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experience and knowledge. Other people can learn from you. Give the topic of “budgeting” to 10 people and you will get 10 different articles. People want to hear from you and not a textbook.

### The Principle of Attractive Character

Can I help you out with something? *You will never be an expert.* I don’t say that to be unkind. This fact should be a relief to you. We are all growing. We are all learning. None of us have arrived. I believe the [best bloggers](#) are “learners” at heart and not “writers.” They share with others what they are learning on a regular basis.

You do not have to write as an expert to gain a following. When people connect with you as a person, it is much more powerful. JD Roth at [Get Rich Slowly](#) started writing about personal finance when he was in over his head. The blog [Man vs Debt](#) was started by Adam Baker who was under a ton of debt when he started his blog.

People connect with Pat Flynn at [Smart Passive Income](#) because he posts his online earnings and expenses each month for everyone to see. Put yourself out there and let people connect with you the person.

### The Principle of Continual Generosity

This is a principle that I am trying to teach my kids this month. Life is not about how much you collect, but how much you give. Every day before they go off to school I tell them: “Make it a great day for someone.” I want them to know that the universe does not revolve around them.

There is a great saying in Proverbs that says “*Some people are always greedy for more, but the godly love to give.*”

It should be less about you and your wants and more about what you are giving. That takes the pressure

off of rejection. Giving to others can be a powerful motivation for starting a blog.

It was the main reason I started my first blog. I want to share everything I knew about the “job search.” That way, others could stumble upon it and be helped during the recession.

Are you sitting on the sidelines in life? Has the fear of not being good enough paralyzed you? Work these life principles into you life and step forward anyways. People are waiting to hear from you.

# The Importance of Creating a Personal Life Plan

I am taking a short hiatus from writing [about blogging](#) to let you know what drives me. Just over two years ago, I did something that profoundly changed my life. It gave me purpose, focus, direction and guidance. It helped me to create balance, use my gifts, and think through the important, yet neglected areas of my life. I created a ... life plan.

Up to that point, I was just a goal setter. My goals were often way out of balance. They were mostly career-driven. And here is the funny thing, the career goals I set were really in a direction that I did not want to ultimately go.

What prompted you to design a life plan in the first place?

I have been a long time reader of [Michael Hyatt's blog](#). If you have yet to visit his blog, I would encourage you to check it out. What got me started with designing my own personal life plan was from a [blog post](#) he had written on the subject. Not only that, but he was gracious enough to make his life plan template available to download for free.

I then set aside a whole day to think through the "big rocks" in my life and what I wanted to accomplish in each of those areas. Here are the most important areas of my life:

- **Spiritual** – My personal walk with God is important to me
- **Self Development** – You have to first lead yourself, before you can lead others
- **Family** – Our family motto is to "accumulate experience and not just possessions." At the end of my life, the special moments and experiences with my family is what will put

a smile on my face.

- **Career** – I want to be excited every morning about the work I do
- **Finances** – I want to be a good financial steward for God and my family
- **Physical** – I want to be a man of energy, passion, and physical vitality all the days of my life.
- **Social** – I want to be involved in a community where I can influence others and they can influence me

How can I get started on my own life plan?

If you have an interest in writing your own personal life plan, then here is what I would encourage you to do.

2. If you want to read how I developed my own life plan using insights from Michael Hyatt, then here are two [blog posts](#) I wrote on the subject on my [Simple Life Habits Blog](#).

Today is an exciting day for me. I am actually attending a conference where Michael Hyatt will be speaking about the importance of creating a Life Plan. I am sure I will have plenty of hand written notes to share with you in the coming days.



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## Are You Interested or Committed?

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**W**hat separates the full-time bloggers from the struggling bloggers? Is there an elusive secret that A-list bloggers know about? Is there an “easy button” that you need to discover? Maybe a secret society or mastermind group that keeps the real ways to [drive traffic](#) hidden from the outsiders? Did [successful bloggers](#) just get lucky? Maybe they just happen to be at the right place at the right time. What do you think?

Sorry if I am being too simplistic, but I think it comes down to the separation of the committed and those that are just merely interested (excuse my directness). Maybe it is the misconception that online business is simple and easy. After all, there is no lack of sales pages that show pictures of people working on their laptop at the beach sipping on a drink.

The truth is growing a blog is much like parenting. It takes time. There is a lot of blood, sweat, and tears. There are moments of frustration and times of great jubilation. Yet, if you want to produce healthy kids you have to be committed and not just interested.

### Committed Vs. Interested

MJ Demarco in his book [The Millionaire Fastlane](#) makes the following distinction between the committed and the interested:

- Interest reads a book; commitment applies the book 50 times.
- Interest wants to start a business; commitment files LLC paperwork.
- Interest works on your business an hour a day Monday through Friday; commitment

works on your business 7 days a week as time permits.

- Interest leases an expensive car; commitment rides a bike and puts money into your system.
- Interest is looking rich; commitment is planning to be rich.

I can look back in my own blogging journey and see times when I was “merely interested.” There were times when a month or two would go by and I only contributed one blog post. There were times when I mistook learning for progress. Don’t get me wrong you should always be learning, but balance out the ratios. For every hour you spend reading and learning [about blogging](#) you should also spend the same amount of time taking action.

When I really started getting serious about blogging, my habits and focus changed. Suddenly 4 hours of TV every night turned into blogging my passion. I wanted my time to be more productive. I chose to listen to the game on the radio so I could work on my blogs. Use my iPad to play a TV program so that I could keep working. At times, I woke up early in the morning so I could [get a blog](#) post written before my hectic day got started. Today is the day for you to choose to be committed. The road to Someday leads to a town called No Where.

### The Someday Syndrome

The interested crowd have a sickness called the Someday Syndrome. There is always something, someone, or some reason why they cannot do something. We often hear these reasons:

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## Are You Interested or Committed?

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- There is too much competition now, everyone seems to have a blog.
- Blogging doesn't work any more.
- What if I put all of this time into blogging and it doesn't work. I don't want to waste my time.
- There is too much to learn and I am not a very technical person.
- I want to see some success early on before I put energy in this.
- I just want to write on my blog when I feel inspired to write.
- After \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank) I will get serious about [starting a blog](#).

walls are there to stop the people who don't want it badly enough. They are there to stop the other people."

So, I ask you the question: are you committed or just merely interested?

Have any of those reasons kept you from taking action? Are you travelling on the road to Someday? Try this experiment. In the next 7 days actually write down any reasons that come to your mind about why you cannot have a successful blog. Write it down and then actually read it out loud. You may even laugh at what you have written down. The truth is there are brick walls between you and success. You need to begin to see that the brick walls are there to keep the "other people" out. By "other people" I am referring to the "interested crowd."

### Brick Walls Are There for a Reason

Later on in MJ Demarco's book, he quotes the former Carnegie Mellon University professor Randy Pausch when he said:

"The brick walls are there for a reason. The brick walls are not there to keep us out; the brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something. The brick

# The Power of Grit – Does Your Dream Have You?

**C**an I encourage you for a little bit? Pull up a seat next to the campfire and let's chat for a bit. Following [your passion](#) is not the easiest thing you have ever done is it? In fact, if it were simple and easy, wouldn't everyone be doing it?

What separates you from the pack?

## The Power of Grit

I recently read the above title as a chapter header in Zig Ziglar's book [Better Than Good: Creating a Life You Can't Wait to Live](#). Most of us know Zig Ziglar as a powerful business and personal development speaker. Life wasn't always easy for Zig. By his own recollection it took 20 years for his dream to be a full-time speaker to come true. His dream was birthed in 1952 and it wasn't until 1972 that things begin to really happen for him. Years he spent speaking for free at any place that would allow him. What was the difference? Read in Zig's own words:

*"Through it all, I had some discouraging times when it seemed as though nothing was happening. But not only did I have the dream, the dream had me."*

You often hear Bob and I tell you that there is no such thing as an overnight success in blogging. I had over 100+ [blog posts](#) written for things began to take off for me. Sure there were small successes along the way, but you should expect and embrace a "pre-traffic, pre-profit time" in the life of [your blog](#). Every single one of us has been there. Even the A-list Bloggers.

So, how do you make it during the tough times? Here are 5 principles that have helped me that I want to share with you:

### 1. Look for Ways to Add Value to the Lives of Others

Is your motivation for a successful blog selfish? That is a big question isn't it? Only you can answer the question honestly. If it is selfish, it comes across your blog in many ways. The style in which you write, how you connect with others, and whether or not you see other bloggers in your niche as threats. Before you can really begin to make financial deposits from your blogging you have to make emotional deposits in the lives of others. Add value anywhere and wherever you can.

Answer your emails when readers take the time to write you. Respond to all [blog comments](#) if at all possible. Go out of your way to go above and beyond to invest and build up someone else. Your reputation is contagious. That counts whether good or bad.

*Successful people are always looking for opportunities to help others. Unsuccessful people are asking, What's in it for me? – Brian Tracy*

### 2. Underestimate the Short Term

We often do the opposite especially when starting an online business or blog. We overestimate the short-term (thinking success will happen sooner) and underestimate the long-term (not realizing that this journey is an investment that can pay you dividends in the future the more time you spend in it).



## The Power of Grit – Does Your Dream Have You?

Many times we grow discouraged because we don't see the "instant" results and mistakenly think that it is all a big waste of time. Instead, decide to have a better mindset going in. Tell yourself that you are going to work as if you are already a success, but that you are not going to expect anything substantial for the first year of the life of your blog.

Focus on what you can control. I cannot make traffic come to my site. I cannot make people buy my products or click on my ads. Instead, I focus on what I can control. I can create 3-5 new blog posts each week. I can write high-value content. I can email and reach out to other bloggers in my niche.

### 3. Remain Curious About Your Passion

What has often helped me during times of disappointment was to just stay active. Action always roots out discouragement. The idle mind is the devil's workshop. His favorite tool in his toolbox is the crowbar of discouragement. He wants to work his way into your thought process and keep you discouraged. Instead, stay active, keep learning, and remain curious about your passion. Zig Ziglar also said:

*"Along this journey, I came to realize that the more I knew about my subject, the more creative I could be in my presentations. The more new ideas I acquired from others, the more useful my own ideas became, because truth forms a synergism."*

### 4. View Today's Disappoint as Just a Minor Setback

Grit is all about not letting failures be fatal. So what if you failed? The road to success is built on the pathway of failure. That is just the way that it is. If you are not failing at some level, you will never be successful. I know that is a strong statement, but it is true. A ship was not designed to sit tied to the port.

It was designed to be out in the open sea, taking on the journey with boldness. If your life is about managing and protecting yourself from criticism or failure, then success will elude you. One of my favorite quotes from Thomas Edison states:

*I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work. – Thomas Edison*

### 5. Decide to Really Go For It!

If there is one common thing I have witnessed since becoming a blogging coach is that most people don't really go for it. They dabble, play, test the waters, and sit back and wait. They are committed to the results but not the process. How do we ever get this thing backwards? One of my favorite stories was about an Olympic Gymnast that was struggling on the uneven bars. The coach was telling her that her biggest problem was that she was not committed. He said:

*"Throw your heart over the bar and the rest will follow." – Olympic Gymnast Coach*

So, where are you today (mentally speaking)? Do you have the power of grit? Does your dream have you? Are you protecting yourself from failure? Are you really going for it or just dabbling?

**Question: What helps you to overcome today's setbacks for tomorrow's rewards?**

# Why Following Your Passion Works

I am currently on vacation enjoying some beach time with the family. My kids were playing in the surf as I sat under a canopy enjoying the nice Florida breeze (the older you get the more time you spend in the shade). My brother-in-law asked me this question:

What can someone expect if they choose to follow their passion?

It really was a great question that led to a healthy discussion. I want to share with you what I have learned about following my passion. The road has not always been easy and I certainly have not arrived in any sense of the imagination. Yet, there are small principles that I have learned along the way that keep me going.

## Why Following Your Passion Works



**Following your passion gives you a deep, rich well to draw from.** When you follow your passion, you are working in your “sweet spot.” You allow yourself to work on energizing activities. I believe that you can divide all work activities into green, yellow and red activities. Green activities are tasks that when you do them you are so energized that

you lose track of time. Reading books and writing for me is a green activity. I can sit down and either read or write for hours and still be energized to do more. Time never drags for me. A green activity is a task that you could work 3+ hours on and still be energized about it in the end. Yellow activities would be items that you can do well but really do not love doing. Red activities do not come naturally to you. In fact, it is something that will take you twice as long to do as someone else. While at times, we all need to work on red activities, we should be looking at ways to minimize them. Web design and graphics is in the red zone for me. I can do it, but it will take me twice as long to do. This is why I always outsource these tasks personally.

Those looking at their watch during the work day and wondering why it is only 2:00 in the afternoon are spending too much time in the red zone. I woke up at 7:00am on vacation to write this post because I was so energized about doing it.

**Following your passion opens up new opportunities along the way.** Many people look at super-successful people and think: “Well, they just got lucky.” They just happen to be at the right place at the right time. They believe that success and wealth are an event. The truth is that success comes to those who are active. There is a long hidden process that is happening below the surface before the “event” ever takes place. The “event” is the result of following your passion every single day and one step at a time. Those that follow their passion are not focused on an event. Opportunities that have opened up for me are things I could have never imagined when I began the journey. They opened up along the way after I took action.

## Why Following Your Passion Works

***Following your passion provides satisfaction in the journey and not just the destination.*** The current American culture is so focused on “arriving.” We want the big house, picket fence, nice car, and easy lifestyle as soon as possible. In fact, we want it so bad, we finance our ways through credit cards just to “arrive.” I have been in this trap in the past. Even further, we spend the majority of our hours each week working jobs we don’t like with people we don’t enjoy being around all for the sake of keeping up our standard of living that we really cannot afford. If you are in this trap don’t lose heart. There is a way out. There is no easy button and things will not change overnight. However, if this is what you truly want, you will make time for it. Start following your passion in the early morning hours before work, in the evenings when everyone else is watching tv, or on the weekends when others are sleeping in.

What you will discover might surprise you. You will want to wake up early. You are actually energized about the task at hand. You will find fulfillment in the creative process of following your passion and not just the result you are looking for. Do this often enough and results begin to happen. When you give your best to the world over and over again, it can’t but help to get noticed eventually. Especially in the Internet age that we live in. You can get your message to the world easier today than ever before. There is nothing more rewarding then being fulfilled in the work you do everyday.

***Following your passion gives your life a sense of purpose.*** We all want to know that we matter. We all want to know that our life counts for something. Following your passion can begin to open up a whole new life for you. Sure the road is not easy and yes you will be discouraged at the lack of progress at times. Blogging Your Passion was something that I began well over a year ago on a social media site called [48 days](#) and it is just beginning to gain traction in the last two months. Yet, I was so excited about

the topic that I kept creating new content, providing value, and helping others for almost a year before it made it’s first dollar online. What kept me going? I was living out my sense of purpose. If you read my [first blog post](#) on Blogging Your Passion, you will recall that I created a purpose statement for my life which states

“My unique purpose is to use my creativity and coaching to support and inspire others to reach their full potential for the glory of God.”

Starting this blog was an application of that purpose. Purpose cannot be purchased, borrowed, rented or sold. It is the best of you that can bring out the best in others. Do you have a sense of purpose about your life? If you say no, don’t be discouraged. Just get really excited about launching out in the journey.

***Following your passion positions you to give your best every single day.*** Ending your work day knowing that your work was given the best of you that there is to give is incredibly energizing. As mentioned before, when you are working in your sweet spot, time never weighs heavy on your hands. In fact, if there is any discouragement along the way, it is that you have to stop working. Yet, the flip side is sitting back, drawing a check for work that you know is not receiving the best of you. Our culture has taught people to head this way. Follow the money, they say. Find out where the big bucks are and fake it till you make it. Sure you may be able to adapt your talents and see some success, but you will never be totally fulfilled until you can begin to give the best of you that there is to give every single day.

There are so many more benefits to following your passion that could be listed here. Just to be fair, your talents have to align with your passions, but hopefully you have already come to that conclusion. Have you begun to follow your passion? Do you know what your passion is? Do you have a purpose statement that can guide your life and your future

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## Why Following Your Passion Works

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work decisions? if not, join us on the journey as we explore all of these questions in the days ahead.

<http://bloggingyourpassion.com/why-following-your-passion-works/>

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## productivity tips for bloggers

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If you haven't already figured it out, blogging can take a lot of work. Many times I see bloggers taking shortcuts for the sake of managing their time better. This is a bad strategy. You should never sacrifice quality for quantity. There is always a balance at play here. That doesn't mean that you take a week to make one post and spend 3-5 hours trying to perfect every little detail. The ultimate goal is to produce quality work as often and as efficient as possible. I manage several blogs at once and I have had to constantly improve my productivity in order to keep several plates spinning at once. Here is a list of some of my current productivity tips for bloggers.

**1. Have a pool of articles titles ready to go.** There is nothing worse then having some time to write, feeling creative, and not knowing what to write about. Have you ever felt this before? You need to have plenty of article topics and ideas ready to go at any moment. I also find this helpful because some topics I am inspired to write about over others at times. I can pick a topic and start writing less then 2 minutes. I use the [keyword strategy](#) tool so I am never short ideas on what to write about.

**2. Write a batch of [blog posts](#)** in one sitting. Sometimes we are just more motivated to write over other times. Take advantage of these times to crank out more content. There is something satisfying about actually scheduling out your posts and feeling the sense of being ahead. It is also very rewarding to go on a trip with the family and know that [your blog](#) is operating as usual.

**3. Spend a block of time a week discovering new [affiliate programs](#).** This productivity tip is similar to the idea of having many article topics ready to go.

You should also have a pool of affiliate programs that are ready to go as well. What most bloggers do is decide on this at the last minute. They want to write about an affiliate product so that go out searching for one. Before you know it 20 minutes have gone by and they are down a rabbit trail. The task of writing a new blog post has not even begun yet. It is much better for you to set aside some time to sign up affiliate programs all at once. That way when you are ready to add another income stream to your blog, you have several programs to choose from to write a review. Keep in mind these programs should be products of high quality as your reputation is at stake.

**4. Use an editorial calendar plugin for WordPress.** This has been a real boost in my productivity when blogging. You can add a calendar to your wordpress admin panel. This calendar allows you to drag and drop article titles anywhere you want to on the calendar. I can quickly re-arrange titles and also add new article topic ideas to the calendar. I like mapping out my new post two weeks or even a whole month out. This takes the first strategy to a whole new level.



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## productivity tips for bloggers

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I have many more productivity tips for bloggers that I would like to share but this post is getting long enough as it is. I may even come back to this post and add to it in the days ahead.

**5. Streamline your social media activity.** As mentioned before I have several blogs that I maintain everyday. That means that I have a lot to keep track of. I have over 5 twitter accounts, 5 Facebook fan pages and adding more each day. This can be a nightmare to keep track of. Thanks to a free service called [nutshell mail](#) I do not have to worry about anything. All I do is add all of my social media accounts and set for how many times a day I want to receive a running summary of the social media activity in my email. I currently choose noon and 5 pm. This allows me to save a lot of time because I can scroll through one single email and view any likes, comments, retweets, mentions that are happening on all my social media sites. I can even make comments and replies from the email as well. This saves me lots of time every day.

**6. Use auto posting services.** We have mentioned these before but you can take advantage of free services that will post links from your blog to Facebook and twitter on autopilot. I like to use networked blogs for posting to Facebook and the tweet old posts wordpress plugin for auto posting to twitter.

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# Finding Fulfillment in the Gap

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I just recently finished an amazing book by John Maxwell entitled [Put Your Dream to the Test: 10 Questions to Help You See It and Seize It](#). The book has really challenged my thinking about some of my long-term goals in a profound way. One of the discussions in the book was about the importance of finding fulfillment in the actual journey as you move toward your dreams. Oftentimes, we think that we'll not be totally fulfilled or happy until we reach a certain destination. The truth is that those who accomplish their dreams have learned the value of finding fulfillment in the gap.

## What is the Gap?

The gap is the space of time from where you are currently and where you ultimately want to be. In the world of blogging it could be the gap between [starting a blog](#) and earning a full-time income from it. Most of us never think about enjoying the journey and being satisfied with where we currently are. If you have 500 unique monthly visitors to your blog, those that are just getting started would die to be where you are now. Yet, you are unhappy. Don't get me wrong...a little bit of frustration can drive us to new heights. Still, we are more likely to quit if we don't find some fulfillment along the way.

## How to Find Fulfillment in the Gap

### 1. Appreciate Any Step That Moves You Forward

There is no such thing as an overnight success in blogging. It just does not happen. Can it happen in a year or even two years, yes! Blogging is consistent slow growth over time. However, when you expand your time frame out, it is fast. What is a year or two

of hard work, if the result is a sustainable, legitimate online business. You will have to work hard for it, but it can be done.

While you are in the middle of all this hard work you will not see or feel the immediate impact for awhile. We call it embracing the pre-profit time in the life of your blog. Yes, it will feel like you are working for free, but every single blog post you write is now able to be read for years to come.

What did you do this week in the life of your blog that you can sit back and smile at?

Did you purchase a [domain name](#) from a new idea? Write several new [blog posts](#) in a week? Get your first comment on your blog? Make your first sale? Get your first AdSense click? What ever it is take time to appreciate the everyday happenings with your blog. This will keep you moving forward.

### 2. Embrace New Discoveries That You Find Along the Way

There is a lot to learn [about blogging](#). The truth is that learning never stops. There is always something new that you could implement in the life of your blog. What happens is that we often beat ourselves up for doing something a wrong way for such a long time. Even worse, we are afraid to take action toward blogging out of fear of not doing it right. After all, who wants to waste their time? This fear can immobilize us to stay right where we are. It is better to fail forward. Whenever I take action, as weak as it may be, new opportunities always open up as a result.

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## Finding Fulfillment in the Gap

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What new discovery have you recently made that is going to make you better?

### 3. Have a Real Love for the Journey

Here is an important principle to remember: "It is the journey toward our goals that gives us purpose not just reaching the destination." If you are truly loving what you are doing, then it doesn't really feel like work at times. Sure it takes effort and energy at times. Still, if you love writing, find fulfillment in the writing and not just whether or not you get 46 [blog comment](#) from it. One of my favorite quotes state:

"It is good to have an end to journey towards, but it is the journey that matters in the end."  
-Ursula K. Le Guin

Have you taken time to find fulfillment in the gap? Are you discouraged because you are not seeing success fast enough? Find ways to enjoy the journey. Besides, happy, positive people get more done.

***Question: What ways have you discovered to find fulfillment in the gap?***

No related posts.

<http://bloggingyourpassion.com/finding-fulfillment-in-the-gap/>

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# 10 Questions to Test Your Passion

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**H**ave you discovered [your passion](#)? Is your passion really yours or was it given to you? Are you holding back from really going for it? These are the questions that we have to honestly answer if we are ever going to [pursue our passions](#). If you think you have some insight as to what your passion in life might be, then I have a litmus test for you to take. By asking yourself these ten questions, you can solidify once and for all that you have discovered your passion.

## Why We Started This Blog

[Starting this blog](#) for me was fulfilling one of my deepest passions. To use my coaching ability to support and inspire others. It is what I think about, dream about, and do everyday. My Dad has been a basketball coach all of his life and many of the same principles exist. There is nothing more fulfilling than seeing the light bulb come on or helping someone improve their game.

## The 10 Question Passion Litmus Test

The questions that I am about to share with you are not from me, but from a book that I highly recommend that you read called the [Passion Plan](#). In the book, Richard Chang outlines 10 questions that you should answer about your passion. The more that you answer yes, the more certain you can be that you have discovered your passion. The important thing to remember here is that you must be truthful. It is better that you answer no and think harder about what your passion might be instead of falsely moving forward with something that you really are not all that passionate about.

1. *Do you lose track of time when engaged in the activity?*
2. *Do you perform beyond your normal capabilities when engaged in it?*
3. *Is your energy level higher when engaged in it?*
4. *Do you get excited in anticipation of engaging in it?*
5. *Do you dream about the activity?*
6. *Is your enthusiasm for it consistent over time?*
7. *Do you feel more confident or empowered while engaged in it?*
8. *Do others notice you based on your involvement/performance in it?*
9. *Do others rally around you or want to be involved with you in the activity?*
10. *Do you feel energized after engaging in it?*

So, how did you do? Remember you do not have to answer yes on all 10 for something to be your passion. This is not an exact science, but it should provide some insight and confidence that you are heading in the right direction.

## Focus Your Passion in Blogging

I am a big believer in this and it is the main idea behind starting this blog. Whatever you are passionate about I guarantee others out there are as well. By [starting a blog](#) and blogging your passion you

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## 10 Questions to Test Your Passion

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will begin to attract others and develop influence with them. Over time you will be able to promote a cause, write a best selling book, start a coaching practice, or just earn [passive income](#) writing about your passion. Be sure to sign up for our newsletter as we share with you exactly how to do this.

***Question: How did you do with the above passion test? Would love to hear your comments.***



## 7 Time Management Tips for Bloggers

Let's face it, blogging takes a lot of effort. This is especially true for those of you who hold down a full time job, coach your son's little league team, and are involved with your church on the weekends. Can blogging ultimately give you the freedom that you deserve? Absolutely Yes! But as Zig Ziglar says you have to pump that handle on the well for a while before the water starts to pour out. Once it begins to pour out you can ease up on the handle.

If there is one thing that frustrates most part-time bloggers, it is having a 2 hour block of time to actually work on your blog and not knowing where to focus or you work for two hours on your blog and wonder what you have accomplished. In an upcoming [Blogging Your Passion Webinar](#) we are going to focus an entire 2 hours on time management strategies for bloggers. Both [Bob Lotich](#) and I are going to share how we spend our time each day and where we put our focus. We would love to have you join us. For now, I just want to share 7 of my favorite time management tips for bloggers.

**1. Pay Attention to Your Daily Habits.** As bad as you may want to change your life or your situation, your life will never begin to change until you change what you do on a daily basis. It really does not matter how much knowledge you have [about blogging](#) if you are not taking action.

**2. Appreciate Small Successes.** We often overlook small successes in the life of our blogging. Did you get a new comment recently? Did someone re-tweet your blog post? Did you add more Facebook likes on your fan page. Did you get some new email list sign ups? I remember early on being discouraged about not [getting more](#) email list subscribers eve-

ryday. After awhile I forgot about it and then a few months later I logged into my account and saw that I had over 370 subscribers. Small things done on a consistent basis can have massive results.

**3. Take Action As If It Were Virtually Impossible to Fail.** I have said this before: If I had to start all over again from scratch, I would take much more action on my blogs than I originally did. There is a belief in the system at play here. Sure, no one wants to waste their time and it is important to take the right actions, but once credible people share with you the path to blogging, you need to do it with abandonment. It is like a story about a gymnast I once read about. She was having difficulty with the uneven bars and the coach was sensing that she wasn't really dedicated to her routine. He told her, "Throw your heart over the bar and the rest will follow." The same can be said with following your passions and working in your strengths.

**4. Understanding the State of Flow.** Just like a sports athlete can get "in the zone" you should be discovering this in blogging. There is something to be said about putting all your concentration, energy, and focus into just one task. When I am writing a new post, that is all I am focused on. I want to get in the zone and let my ideas, thoughts and passion come out in the way I write.

**5. Have a Get It Done List.** This is different than a to do list. I actually use a small whiteboard so that it is staring right at me all day long. This list is the shorten version of my to-do list. I only allow up to three items to go on there and they MUST get done today (no exceptions). In fact, right above my list it says:

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## 7 Time Management Tips for Bloggers

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“If this is the only thing I accomplish today, will I be satisfied?”

This helps me to determine what makes it on this list. There is nothing more satisfying than accomplishing my “get it done” list before I break for lunch.

**6. Set a Prime Time Schedule.** This can be true for both full time bloggers and part time bloggers. You need to understand the difference between “profit hours” and “non-profit hours.” During profit hours there is no internet browsing, watching of videos, learning new techniques about blogging, reading other blogs, or wasting time on social media sites. During my “non-profit” hours I do allow myself to do all of the previously mentioned things. Just not at the sacrifice of what is most important.

**7. Develop a Study to Action Ratio.** I shared this with our current participants in the [Blogging Your Passion Webinar Series](#), but I want you to understand this important principle as well. Never learn or study longer than you are taking action. So, if I spend an hour learning about blogging then I have just obligated myself to spending an hour taking action in some way on my blog. Eventually, it would be ideal for you to spend twice as much time taking action as you spending learning.

There you have it. I have many more tips and ideas to share but this blog post is getting a bit long. Again, feel free to join us on the [webinar series](#) as we cover the whole process from [starting a blog](#) to earning an income with [your passion](#).

***Question: If you blog, what time management tips do you have to share that works for you?***