



Session 3.18 | Problems Which Can't Be Fixed

You've reached the final session in the Time and Focus Fast Track.

Congratulations! You've made significant progress already on your journey toward freedom.

We started the Fast Track by looking at ...

Time and what it means to all of us. We learned that Time is Running Out and none of us can add more time to our day. When our time is up – it's over!

The question that we should be asking then is – What am I doing with the time that I have left? What is it that I want my life to mean? How do I want others to remember my life when I'm gone?

We learned that if life was going to matter – to my family, to my friends, to my colleagues, to our clients – I would have to begin growing and living intentionally on purpose. I would need to be very intentional about how I live my life and how I do my work.

And that if I am going to make real progress, it will be because I take personal responsibility for my personal and professional growth.

Then we showed you the Simple Leadership Compass and the 4 Greatest Challenges that Leaders Are Facing Today. And you saw how this Fast Track addressed one of those challenges that leaders are facing today.

Then we moved on to:

Module 1 - DISCOVER – Finding the Right Tools for time management, for focus, and for planning.

Module 2 - APPLY – Applying the Learning (into sustainable life and work habits). And we looked at how everything that we do involves applied learning and how this applied learning is critical to seeing significant and dramatic improvements in your life and in your work.

Module 3 - REVIEW – Measure, Track, and Celebrate Progress as you move forward with overcoming time and focus challenges.

So let's look back...

Module 1 - DISCOVER - Finding the Right Tools, we showed you how you can sort through the diverse content and information that's in the marketplace to identify the best tools and resources so that you can develop skills, attitudes, and practices that will stick.

We looked at what to do when there's not enough time for leadership development and we saw 5 Fast Action Steps for making immediate and sustainable progress:

Fast Action Step #1 - Take Control of Your Schedule. Which was all about the mindset and the mind shift so that you could make use of tools that you may have never considered before.

Fast Action Step #2 - Create an *Annual Plan*. This is where you get a 30,000 flip view of what the year could look like, or should look like, and how you could make sure that you give attention to this top priority people and things in your life and in your work.

Fast Action Step #3 - Complete The *Best Week* Worksheet. Complete this tool to help you create what your ideal week would look like. So that you can get a whole lot closer to accomplishing what you want to accomplish every week.

Fast Action Step #4 – How to Setup your Calendar. We took the annual plan and the best week worksheet and showed you how to put those items right into your calendar.

Fast Action Step #5 - Complete the *Time Tracking Journal*. Which was all about as we make progress with the other tools, with the annual plan, with the best week worksheet, with setting up your calendar, the time tracking journal helps you to look deeply into how you're using your time and to ask critical questions "Does this make sense?" "Is this how I want to use my time?"

Then we spent a session walking through what to do when you're dealing with something incredibly challenging at work or at home that has you distracted or has you off track.

Then we moved into Module 2 – APPLY where I showed you how to Apply the Learning Right Away (into sustainable life and work habits).

We started off by tackling one of the most pressing challenges that you and I experience with applied learning. We often are consuming so much leadership information that we don't have sufficient time to apply it. And we asked the question, Why do we struggle to apply learning? We looked at 3 primary reasons we have trouble applying what we learn...

1. Investing in Other People. We already spend so much time investing in other people that setting aside time to invest in self is difficult.

The second reason we struggle to apply what we learn...

2. Busyness & Distraction. We often have so little margin that we live and work every day distracted, frustrated, and overwhelmed with busyness.
 - i. Productive. How to get more done.
 - ii. Priorities. How to better manage priorities.
 - iii. How to Keep up with your Email more effectively.
3. Don't take time to fully recharge. And because we don't recharge, we're continually drained of energy - living in a continuous state of moderate to extreme stress.

Then we looked at two key disciplines for leaders to follow to maintain energy in their life and in their work...

1. Rest. So recharge through rest.
2. Recharge through Time Away

Then we moved on to **Module 3 - REVIEW** where we looked at 3 great tools to **Measure, Track, and Celebrate Progress**

1. Weekly Review Tool
2. Quarterly Review Tool
3. Annual Review Tool

And how all of them differ, and how each of them are critical to your life, work, and your leadership.

And that brings us to where we are right now. And I need to tell you something that's very important...

Most problems can't be fixed.
Most personal problems can't be fixed.
Most leadership problems can't be fixed.

Because people are more complex than a car, or a computer, or an iPhone that can be fixed.

Most problems can't be fixed, but they can be avoided. Most problems can't be fixed, but you can prepare for them. You can properly prepare for leadership problems and then many cases avoid them - so there's less to cope with and less to process later. In other words, you can simplify your life, work, and leadership by making these simple decisions and using these simple tools.

Let me tell you a quick story...

Years ago, when I was working on some of these things, I was really working at getting home on time and being home for dinner so that we could spend time together as a family. One day

I got home and I was in the kitchen with my wife standing across the counter from her and we were talking about my day. And I planned to be home a little bit earlier and for whatever reason I got home a little bit later and so we're talking about that and my daughter had already, she's been home from school for a while and she'd gone across the street to play with her friend, and while we're standing there, my phone rang. And I looked down and it's our neighbor across the street, it's his cellphone. And I remember answering the phone and my daughter was at the other end of the line interestingly enough. And so she says, Dad, I'm standing here and they're getting ready to eat dinner and they said I could join them for dinner.

I'm listening to her and I'm thinking, Okay, our friends are really nice people and they're getting ready to eat dinner and they don't want to kick this girl out of their house and so they told her, Hey, if you want to stay you can stay for dinner. And in my mind I'm thinking, Do they have enough food? Are they doing this just to be nice? Plus I was thinking about spending time with her and spending time with my wife over dinner and I said, Babe, why don't you just come on home for dinner. I'd like to see you for just a few minutes, we can eat dinner together, and then you could head back over there once dinner is over. Well that's not what she wanted to hear. She said, But dad, they said I could stay; and then again I'm thinking, They're all sitting around in the table and she's standing there with the phone pleading with me for dinner.

I looked across the counter at my wife and I said, I think she just hung up on me. She didn't say anything. She's frustrated with me. A few moments later, she came through the door. And it was obvious she was disappointed. And so we sat down at dinner and it was just awkward. I tried to ask questions and typically my daughter who is so compliant and so friendly and so outgoing just didn't work that evening.

And because we're such great parents, as soon as dinner was over, we let her go back over and play.

Several hours later, it was time to come home, to get ready for bed, to get ready for school the next day. And so instead of calling over there, I didn't want to get hung up on again. And I walked across the street. So I walked across the street and I walked up to the door, I knocked on the door when I'm standing there for a few moments when the door opens. And it's my daughter again.

And I said, Hey babe, how's it going? She said, Oh it's good. And I said, Oh, it's time for us to go back home and to get ready for bed and to get ready for school tomorrow. And she said, But dad, we were just getting ready to go back out and ride bikes. And I said, It's okay babe. They're going to be here tomorrow. We can come back over tomorrow. It'll be fine. But she says, But dad I really wanted to ride bikes one more time. And I said, Babe, it's getting dark. It's almost dark. We need to go back, we got to get ready for school tomorrow.

She reaches back and gets ahold of the door and then just shuts it right in my face. And I'm thinking, Man, I can't be standing here when she walks out that door in a few minutes. So I pick up her brother's bike and whatever toys were land there and started walking back across the street. And I walk in the front door and once again I begin venting to my wife and I'm like, She

just slammed the door at my face and earlier she just hung up the phone on me. We've got to say something to her about this.

Madison comes in through the door and she goes upstairs then gets her bath and starts getting ready for bed. And right before she gets in bed, we say, Hey babe, why don't you come, sit down and talk to us. So we sit down on the couch and we're asking her, Hey, help us understand what's going on.

In fact, one of the questions that I asked her because I always want to take responsibility from my part of the responsibility not enable bad behavior, but I want to make sure that there's not the things that I'm doing. For those who are following me make it more difficult for them to follow. And so I asked her, What could Mom and I done differently?

In almost without saying she said, If you just had given me a time, I would've been here. If you just had given me a time for dinner or if you would've just given me a time to come home this evening, I would've been here.

Now this may not be true for every child but we know it was true for Madison. When this is a girl who's been getting herself up in the morning, every morning with her alarm clock since she was four years old.

What she was saying was, when I'm prepared, I'm better able to respond in the moment. When you're prepared, you're better able to respond in the moment.

So the way to avoid leadership problems and the way to avoid problems in general is to prepare for them - to prepare for the "unexpected" that comes at us in our life, in our work, and our leadership.

And that's what this Fast Track and these tools have been all about - helping you to much better be prepared for the "unexpected" that is going to come at you later today. That's going to come after you later this week, later this year. And when it does, you're going to remember this moment.

And what you will remember is one of two things - either I was intentional with the tools or I was accidental. Either I apply them consistently? Or I set them aside - and I walked away?

To experience transformation you must consistently apply the principles to your life, your work, and your leadership.

Everything that we do at Guidestone involves proven, universal principles and requires applied learning.

1. A principle is not a rule that you follow. Principles follow you.
2. A principle is not something you choose to apply. They apply to you.

3. A principle is not like a rule or law that you can break. But if you ignore them, they can break you.
4. A principle is not something that's invented. They are experienced or explained.
5. You can leverage a principle for your benefit or you could ignore it to your demise.

See you don't have a problem that needs to be fixed. You have a direction that needs to change.

Many leaders are working and living in the wrong direction.

So often we don't even realize it. You're always lost before you realize it. And you often don't even know at which point you got lost.

Your direction is the best indicator of your destination - where you will end up.

If your current situation isn't working out, you don't need to fix it. You don't need a solution. You need a new direction.

You can't wish your way back. You can't even pray your way back. You must make the decision to change direction.

Many leaders are simply living and leading in the wrong direction. Most of them kind of know, I need to change - you KNOW you need a change of direction. It's why you're here today.

There is no instant solution. There is no quick fix. But you can start today...

To change your direction.

To have the courage to apply what you're learning.

To be more aware - that the problem is bigger than you ever imagined.

AND to know there is more reason for hope than ever before. Hope because you can and will make progress quickly by applying the Simple Leadership Tools and a step-by-step processes.

If you change direction. Your reality will eventually change.

If you change direction, it will make your life better. And it will make you get better at life.

If you change direction, it will make your work better. And you will get better at your life's work.

If you change direction, it will make your leadership better. And you will get better at leading.

I want you to end up somewhere on purpose with a purpose.

If you choose the intentional path rather than the accidental path, two things will be very different for you...

1. Fulfillment will be different for you – You will learn to love your work instead of dreading it. You'll be more fulfilled in your experiences at home and at work. You'll have more margin so your connections in relationships will be better. You'll be more fulfilled.

2. Freedom like you've never experienced it before (no matter how long you've been living and working).
 - a. Free to be your true, authentic self.
 - b. Freedom to fulfill your full potential – Free to decide how your work should fit into your overall life.
 - c. Free to choose your own PATH and your own priorities - to envision what they could be.
 - d. Free to create a PLAN for your vision and follow it for YOUR journey.
 - e. Free from stress when life hits you with the unexpected because you will be better PREPARED to face it.
 - f. Free to spend time with and learn from PEOPLE that you respect and people that you care deeply about.

And freedom in each of this area directly relates to one of the 6 Phases of the SIMPLE Leadership Spiral...

We take a deep dive into these opportunities and more in the *SIMPLE Leadership Masterclass*. For more information about taking your leadership to the next step, click the link in your worksheet or on this page.

And as you continue this journey in a new direction toward transformation, I want you to remember, you don't have to get it perfect, and you just need to take the next step...

Fast Action Steps

1. Define what Freedom means to you.
2. What specifically needs to change about the direction you are going in for you to reach the destination that YOU desire?
3. How can we help you take the next step in the right direction?