# The Ruthless Elimination Of Hurry PDF

John Mark Comer, John Ortberg (Foreword by)





### About the book

### ECPA BESTSELLER

Discover a transformative perspective on life that advocates for slowing down and simplifying your journey, brought to you by the New York Times bestselling author of \*Practicing the Way.\*

#### Praise for the Book:

"Prophetic, practical, and profoundly life-giving... It offers hope, ignites desire, and paints a vision of a fulfilling life. I deem this essential reading!"

— Jon Tyson, Lead Pastor of Church of the City New York, author of \*Beautiful Resistance\*

### Contemplating Your Future

John Mark Comer, a pastor and author, found himself pondering a pressing question: "Who am I becoming?" Although he seemed to be thriving on the outside, his inner turmoil was undeniable. Seeking clarity, he consulted a wise mentor who advised him to:

"Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life."

This unexpected insight became a vital mantra for him. In our fast-paced society, many are addressing only the symptoms of contemporary anxieties,



rather than tackling their true causes. Increasingly, experts point to the relentless pursuit of busyness as one of the primary culprits.

### Find Your Calm

Step away from the clamor of everyday life with \*The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry.\* This captivating guide offers a path to attain emotional well-being and spiritual vitality amidst the disarray of modern existence.



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### **The Ruthless Elimination Of Hurry Summary**

Written by Books1





## Who should read this book The Ruthless Elimination Of Hurry

"The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" is an essential read for anyone feeling overwhelmed by the demands of modern life and seeking greater peace and purpose. It's particularly beneficial for busy professionals, parents juggling multiple responsibilities, and anyone struggling with the anxiety and stress caused by a fast-paced lifestyle. Additionally, spiritual seekers and individuals interested in personal growth will find the book's insights on slowing down and nurturing a deeper connection with oneself and others profoundly impactful. Comer's practical advice combined with a compelling narrative makes it a must-read for those yearning for a more meaningful and reflective life.



## **Key insights of The Ruthless Elimination Of Hurry in table format**

**Chapter/Section**	**Summary**
Introduction	Introduces the concept of hurry as a spiritual poison and sets the stage for the discussion on the importance of slowing down and simplifying life.
Part 1: The Problem with Hurry	Discusses the cultural obsession with speed and busyness, outlining how this lifestyle affects mental health, relationships, and spirituality.
Part 2: The Solution	Explores various spiritual practices and lifestyle changes that can help individuals combat hurry, such as Sabbath-keeping, silence, solitude, and slowing down.
Part 3: The Life of Jesus	Examines how Jesus lived a life free from hurry, illustrating his rhythms of work, rest, and community.
Part 4: The Way Forward	Offers practical guidance for integrating these principles into daily life to foster deeper connections with God, others, and oneself.
Conclusion	Encourages readers to commit to a lifestyle of slower living, underscoring the benefits of choosing depth over speed.





### The Ruthless Elimination Of Hurry Summary Chapter List

- 1. Introduction: Understanding the Dangers of Living in a Frantic World
- 2. Chapter 1: The Case for Slowing Down Your Life
- 3. Chapter 2: The Spiritual and Emotional Benefits of Stillness
- 4. Chapter 3: Practical Steps to Eliminate Hurry from Your Daily Routine
- 5. Chapter 4: Embracing the Gift of Sabbath and Rest
- 6. Chapter 5: Cultivating a Life of Depth Amidst Digital Distractions
- 7. Chapter 6: Conclusion: Living a Life with Intention and Purpose





## 1. Introduction: Understanding the Dangers of Living in a Frantic World

In today's fast-paced society, the notion of slowing down often feels counter-intuitive, if not entirely impractical. John Mark Comer, in "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry," delves into the escalating dangers associated with a life lived in constant chaos and frantic activity. This introduction sets the stage for a critical examination of how our hurried lifestyles not only affect our spiritual and emotional well-being but also tarnish our relationships and diminish our capacity for joy.

The world we inhabit is one that is perpetually in a state of motion, marked by a relentless barrage of obligations, expectations, and distractions. The culture of busyness has become not only socially acceptable but is often celebrated. We equate productivity with worth, resulting in a cycle of anxiety and burnout. In this whirlwind, the fundamental aspects of life — connection to ourselves, to God, and to others — are often neglected. Comer highlights that in our pursuit of success and efficiency, we inadvertently sacrifice our peace and mental clarity, as the frantic pace leaves little room for contemplation or genuine interaction.

Moreover, the dangers of living in a frantic world extend beyond personal distress; they ripple outward, impacting our relationships and community life. The hurried existence hampers our ability to be present with loved ones,



to listen deeply, and to engage meaningfully. As we rush from one commitment to the next, we find ourselves living in a constant state of distraction, often missing the beauty of daily life and the richness of human experience. This rampant haste can lead to loneliness and isolation amidst the illusion of connectivity in our digitally dominated lives.

Comer argues that this madness is not simply an inconvenience but a spiritual crisis. When we hurry through our days, we frequently overlook the invitations to encounter God in the mundane moments of life. In essence, we miss the opportunity to cultivate a meaningful relationship with the Divine, which requires stillness, solitude, and attention. The hurried soul is not fertile ground for spiritual growth or the practice of presence.

As we embark on this exploration of hurried living, Comer invites readers to reflect on the gravity of their daily pace. The call to slow down is not merely a suggestion for better time management; it is an appeal to reclaim the fullness of life that God intends for us. It is an invitation to challenge the norm, to question the necessity of our frenetic lifestyles, and to seek a deeper understanding of what it means to live intentionally.

The ensuing chapters will unravel the substantial case for slowing down, examining both the physical and emotional benefits of stillness and practical methods to disentangle ourselves from the relentless demands of hurried



living. Through this thoughtful journey, we will discover how embracing moments of rest and Sabbath can lead to a profound renewal of our spirit and purpose.

In summary, understanding the dangers of living in a frantic world lays a foundation for acknowledging the transformative power of slowing down. It is a call to resist the cultural tide that glorifies busyness and to embark on a path leading toward a more intentional, deeply connected, and God-centered life.



### 2. Chapter 1: The Case for Slowing Down Your Life

In today's fast-paced world, we live in a constant state of hurry, with our attention pulled in multiple directions. John Mark Comer begins by elaborating on the dangers of this frantic lifestyle, highlighting how it affects not only our mental and emotional well-being but also our spiritual lives. The relentless pursuit of productivity, fueled by a culture that glorifies busyness, has created a landscape where moments of stillness and reflection are often sidelined or considered unproductive.

The case for slowing down is underscored by the mounting evidence that living life in the fast lane has detrimental effects on our health, relationships, and overall happiness. Comer argues that hurry is not just a schedule issue; it is a modern addiction that robs us of our peace and prevents us from engaging deeply with those we love. This hustle culture encourages us to equate our worth with our productivity, leading to chronic stress and burnout.

Comer stresses that maintaining a hurried lifestyle can distance us from nature, from others, and from God. When we are always rushing, we miss the beauty of our surroundings, the nuances of our relationships, and most importantly, the presence of God in our lives. He reflects on the biblical narrative where Jesus often withdrew from the crowd to rest and pray. This



pattern, exemplified by Christ, suggests that slowing down is not only healthy but spiritually enriching.

Moreover, Comer draws attention to the paradox of our age—while technology affords us convenience and efficiency, it simultaneously furthers our sense of hurry. Notifications, emails, and social media perpetuate a cycle of distraction that keeps us in a state of reactive living rather than intentional engagement. The adverse effects of this always-on lifestyle manifest not just in individual lives but also within our communities, as the quality of our interactions diminishes in the face of multitasking and constant interruptions.

To make the case for slowing down more compelling, Comer invites readers to re-evaluate their priorities through a biblical lens. He emphasizes that God calls us to a life of abundance and fullness, which cannot be experienced in a constant state of rush. By exploring ancient practices, such as solitude and contemplative prayer, we can foster a rhythm of life that values presence over pace.

Ultimately, Chapter 1 of "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" serves as a wake-up call. It invites readers to consider the negative impacts of a hurried life and encourages a fundamental shift in how one approaches daily living. By recognizing and addressing our culture's addiction to speed, we can begin



to see the immense value in slowing down, allowing for a deeper connection with ourselves, others, and God. This reflective journey toward a less hurried life is positioned as an essential step toward true fulfillment, joy, and spiritual depth.

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### 3. Chapter 2: The Spiritual and Emotional Benefits of Stillness

In a world dominated by noise and constant activity, the practice of stillness emerges as a profound antidote to the frantic pace of life. John Mark Comer delves into the spiritual and emotional benefits of embracing moments of quietude, illustrating how stillness can transform our inner landscape and enhance our relationship with God and ourselves.

The first significant advantage of stillness is the space it creates for deeper spiritual connection. In the busyness of life, distractions abound, often leading to a diluted sense of spirituality. Comer argues that when we intentionally carve out time for stillness, we open the door to experiencing God in a fuller, more profound way. This practice aligns with the biblical invitation to cease from our labors and rest in the presence of the Divine. When we still our bodies and minds, we become more attuned to the subtle whisper of the Holy Spirit, allowing for moments of revelation and peace that can transform our spiritual journey.

Emotionally, stillness serves as a refuge from the chaos of everyday life. It allows us to process our experiences and emotions thoughtfully rather than reactively. Comer notes that many people find themselves overwhelmed, carrying unprocessed feelings of anxiety, sadness, or frustration. In the quiet, we can confront these emotions without the incessant pressure to perform or



keep up with societal demands. This emotional clarity fosters resilience, helping us navigate life's ups and downs with a grounded perspective.

Comer also highlights the transformational effect stillness can have on our mental health. In a society that glorifies busyness, many suffer from chronic stress and fatigue. Engaging in practices of stillness, such as meditation and contemplative prayer, can drastically reduce stress levels, promoting a calm and centered mind. Regularly setting aside time for intentional stillness can cultivate a sense of balance and equilibrium, enabling individuals to approach their lives with renewed energy and focus.

Furthermore, stillness encourages self-awareness. In our perpetual rush, we often lose sight of our true selves; we become defined by our roles, responsibilities, and the expectations placed upon us. However, through stillness, we gain the opportunity to reflect on our lives, our values, and our choices. This self-examination can lead to deeper insight, allowing us to align our actions with our innermost beliefs and desires. Comer posits that this alignment is essential for authentic living and spiritual fulfillment.

Ultimately, the benefits of stillness transcend the individual. When we cultivate stillness within ourselves, we can extend that peace and presence to others. The practice of stillness enables us to become more empathetic and engaged in our relationships, fostering connections that are grounded in love



and understanding rather than in haste and misunderstanding. As we learn to embody stillness, we contribute to a more peaceful and compassionate world.

In conclusion, Chapter 2 of "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" emphasizes the necessity of stillness as a counteraction to the frantic rhythm of modern life. Through an exploration of its spiritual and emotional benefits, Comer effectively illustrates how embracing stillness can lead to a more profound connection with God, a healthier emotional state, improved mental well-being, increased self-awareness, and enhanced relationships. As readers, we are encouraged to consider how we can incorporate moments of stillness into our daily routines, fostering a life marked by intentionality and depth.



## 4. Chapter 3: Practical Steps to Eliminate Hurry from Your Daily Routine

In a world that constantly pushes for speed and efficiency, finding ways to slow down can seem counterproductive. However, John Mark Comer's insights in "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" provide practical strategies that can facilitate a much-needed slowdown in our daily lives. By integrating these steps into our routines, we can cultivate a more balanced existence.

The first practical step suggested by Comer is to \*\*implement time blocks\*\*. This involves dedicating specific time periods for tasks without interruption. For instance, he recommends setting aside two-hour blocks where you can focus deeply on a project, free from the distractions of notifications or multitasking. This deep work approach helps restore focus and reduces the stress induced by constant interruptions.

Next, Comer emphasizes the importance of \*\*prioritizing your schedule\*\*. By evaluating commitments and determining what truly matters, you can eliminate unnecessary obligations that contribute to a hurried lifestyle. Make a list of your priorities and learn to say 'no' to activities that do not align with your core values or long-term goals. Simplifying your calendar enables more space for rest and reflection.

Additionally, embracing the practice of \*\*monastic routines\*\* can



drastically reduce hurry. This involves creating daily rhythms that promote mindfulness and presence. For example, starting your day with a deliberate morning ritual—such as meditation, prayer, or even a simple cup of coffee without distractions—can set a calm tone for the day ahead. Similarly, winding down with an evening ritual allows for a transition from the busyness of the day to a more restful state.

Another effective strategy Comer shares is to \*\*take regular breaks\*\* throughout the day. Engaging in short breaks every hour can recharge your mind and improve overall productivity. Whether it's a walk outside, stretching, or simply taking a moment to breathe deeply, these small pauses can restore energy levels and decrease the sense of urgency that often permeates our day.

Moreover, we can significantly reduce the haste in our lives by \*\*limiting technology use\*\*. Digital devices are notorious for increasing our anxiety and sense of urgency. Comer advises establishing boundaries for screen time—perhaps designating tech-free zones in your home or committing to certain hours of the day when devices are set aside. This creates space for deeper connections and reflective practices.

Furthermore, incorporating \*\*hurry-free spaces\*\* in our environments can help in fostering slow living. Dedicate specific areas in your home for



relaxation and creativity, away from the chaos of daily responsibilities. Create a clutter-free zone where you can unwind without the pressure of distractions. Prioritizing these spaces encourages a mindset grounded in peace rather than in productivity.

Finally, Comer points to the value of \*\*mindful practices\*\*, such as being present during mundane tasks. Instead of rushing through activities like cooking or commuting, try to engage fully in the moment. This could mean savoring the flavors while cooking or appreciating the scenery during your commute. The simple act of mindfulness enhances your relationship with your surroundings and instills a sense of gratitude.

By adopting these practical steps, we are not only working towards eliminating hurry from our lives but also fostering a more intentional existence. Each strategy contributes to a profound shift away from the frantic pace of contemporary life, ultimately leading to a richer, more fulfilling experience.



## 5. Chapter 4: Embracing the Gift of Sabbath and Rest

In this chapter, John Mark Comer delves into the profound significance of Sabbath and rest in our fast-paced lives. He begins by framing Sabbath not merely as a day of inactivity, but as a deep, spiritual practice rooted in the very fabric of creation. The concept of Sabbath originated in the Genesis account, where God rested on the seventh day after creation. This act of resting is portrayed as a divine example, inviting believers to follow suit.

Comer argues that the relentless nature of modern life often strips individuals of the ability to experience true rest. He notes that many people fill their schedules to the brim, mistaking busyness for productivity and neglecting the restorative power that comes from intentional time set aside for rest. This chapter emphasizes the idea that Sabbath is a gift rather than a legalistic imperative. It's an opportunity to stop, reflect, and reconnect with God, oneself, and others.

Comer outlines several core principles of Sabbath observed in the Jewish tradition. He highlights that Sabbath is a time to cease from work, to fix attention on God, and to enjoy the good gifts of life. This rhythm of rest is presented as a counterbalance to the tyranny of urgency that permeates contemporary culture. The author encourages the reader to see Sabbath as a profound way to reclaim time and space for spiritual renewal, joy, and



community.

Additionally, the chapter discusses practical elements of observing Sabbath. Comer invites readers to start by designating a specific day of the week to embrace rest, urging them to prepare in advance to make the day special. Suggestions include turning off digital devices, engaging in leisure activities, spending time with loved ones, and dedicating moments to prayer and reflection.

Comer reflects on the transformative effects of Sabbath on one's mental and emotional well-being, emphasizing reduced stress levels, a clearer mind, and deepened relationships during this time of rest. He reminds readers that engaging with God in a relaxed state can lead to deeper spiritual insights and rejuvenation.

Ultimately, the chapter serves as an invitation to break free from the frenetic pace of modern society by integrating Sabbatical rhythms into everyday life. By embracing this gift of Sabbath, individuals can cultivate a sense of peace and alignment with their spiritual journey, reinforcing the idea that in a world that values busyness, the act of stepping back to rest can be revolutionary.



## 6. Chapter 5: Cultivating a Life of Depth Amidst Digital Distractions

In a world overwhelmed by digital noise, where notifications and alerts vie for our attention, cultivating a life of depth has never been more challenging. John Mark Comer articulates the need to create intentional barriers against the constant stream of information that bombards us daily. He suggests that our addiction to technology not only contributes to the hurried pace of life but also impairs our capacity to connect deeply with ourselves, others, and God.

Comer discusses how digital distractions dilute our ability to experience profound moments and meaningful relationships. With smartphones in hand, we have become a culture of shallow engagements—swiping through feeds instead of fostering authentic conversations. The perpetual access to digital content leads to a fragmented attention span, leaving little room for contemplation or genuine connection. This, Comer argues, is detrimental not only to our mental health but to our spiritual growth as well.

To counteract these distractions, Comer emphasizes the necessity of digital detox. He proposes practical ways to reduce screen time, which includes creating boundaries around technology use, such as setting designated times for checking emails or social media. By minimizing our engagement with digital platforms, we free ourselves to pursue activities that foster



depth—like reading, spending time in nature, or engaging in deep conversations with friends.

Moreover, Comer highlights the importance of meditation and mindfulness as tools to ground ourselves in the present moment. Instead of filling our minds with incessant digital input, he encourages readers to cultivate a habit of stillness. This can be achieved through practices such as prayer, journaling, or simply taking a moment to breathe and reflect. In doing so, we reclaim our ability to engage fully with life, enhancing our fulfillment and spiritual richness.

Comer also explores the role of community in deepening our lives amidst distractions. Interaction with others who prioritize depth can inspire and support our efforts against digital compulsions. He advises seeking out friendships and communities that encourage genuine interactions, allowing us to journey together towards a more profound existence.

Ultimately, cultivating a life of depth amidst digital distractions is about reclaiming our time and attention for what truly matters. It is a conscious choice to step away from the incessant pull of technology and to lean into meaningful experiences that nurture our souls. By fostering this depth, we not only enrich our own lives but also become more present and loving towards those around us.



## 7. Chapter 6: Conclusion: Living a Life with Intention and Purpose

In the conclusion of "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry," John Mark Comer crystallizes the profound insights gleaned throughout the book, urging readers to reflect on the necessity of intentional living in a world that increasingly values speed over substance. The overarching message is clear: to reclaim our lives from the frantic pace dictated by modern society, we must cultivate purpose and intentionality.

Comer emphasizes that a hurried life often leads to a fragmented existence, filled with distractions and superficial engagements that rob us of what truly matters. He challenges us to confront our habits and the societal pressures that compel us to constantly move faster and multitask, pushing us into a perpetual state of busyness. By recognizing these distractions, we can begin to prioritize our time and focus on what genuinely nourishes our souls.

Intentional living is about making conscious choices that align with our values and aspirations. Comer invites readers to examine their daily routines, identifying moments where they can infuse their lives with deeper meaning. This might involve setting boundaries around technology use, creating space for silence and reflection, or nurturing relationships that matter most. By being intentional about how we spend our time, we create opportunities for authentic connection and spiritual growth.



The idea of rest, framed within the context of Sabbath, stands central in Comer's thesis. He highlights that true rest is not merely a reprieve from work but a powerful act of trust and surrender to a higher purpose. Embracing time for rest allows us to recharge both physically and spiritually, empowering us to engage more authentically with ourselves and the world around us. Without this rest, we risk becoming mere automatons, responding to life's demands without thought or reflection.

Comer also encourages readers to cultivate a lifestyle rooted in simplicity—distilling our commitments to focus on what really matters. By minimizing the noise in our lives, we can gain clarity on our priorities, enabling us to live out our values without them being drowned in a sea of obligations and distractions. This simplification fosters a deeper sense of contentment and gratitude, as we learn to appreciate the richness of the present moment rather than chase after what seems to be just beyond our reach.

In conclusion, Comer posits that living a life with intention and purpose is not only vital for our well-being but is also an antidote to the perils of a hurried existence. By choosing to slow down, reflecting on our values, and fostering genuine connections, we can cultivate a life that is rich with depth and meaning. The challenge is to take these principles and apply them in our



daily lives, transforming theoretical mindfulness into actionable habits that keep us anchored amid chaos. Ultimately, the journey toward a less hurried, more intentional life is both a personal and communal quest, inviting us into a lifestyle that celebrates the depth of our human experience.

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## **5 Key Quotes of The Ruthless Elimination Of Hurry**

- 1. "Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day."
- 2. "We must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from our lives."
- 3. "Love and hurry are fundamentally incompatible."

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- 4. "In a culture of speed, the antidote is to slow down and be present."
- 5. "Practicing the way of Jesus is about creating a life compatible with love, joy, and peace."



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