

Faith Driven Entrepreneur: What it Takes to Step into Your Purpose and Pursue Your God-Given Call to Create

By Kaestner, H., Greear, J.D., and Ingram, C.

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Kaestner et al.'s (2021) *Faith Driven Entrepreneur: What it Takes to Step into Your Purpose and Pursue Your God-Given Call to Create* is written for Christian entrepreneurs with a general focus on expanding the definition of entrepreneur to include anyone who “makes something new” (p. xiii). Ephesians 2:10 serves as a model for the authors to define entrepreneurs as creators, describing entrepreneurs as walking in God’s footsteps. The book provides a rare and refreshing perspective of entrepreneurs—one that empowers entrepreneurs as “core to the work God is doing on earth” (p. 2). A more specific audience will appreciate the compelling connections made between pastors and entrepreneurs, which is a less often noticed or appreciated correlation.

Kaestner et al. provide 1) an outline of characteristics associated with a faith-driven entrepreneur, 2) stories that display what these entrepreneurs look like, and 3) encouragement for how others can see entrepreneurs as “making something new.” Each of the eleven chapters is written by one of the three authors. There is strong integration of Scripture and resource connections with other authors. Examples of these connections include Simon Sinek’s (2009) *TED Talk* on “why” as well as Timothy Keller and Katherine Leary Alsdorf’s (2012) book, *Every Good Endeavor*. Shared themes include calling, work, faith, and identity in Christ. The book’s foundation builds upon the belief that God is the original entrepreneur, which means that entrepreneurial work is part of bearing His image in the world. From this perspective, the authors affirm entrepreneurship as a legitimate pursuit or calling that, when done well, brings honor and glory to our entrepreneurial God (p. 12).

Kaestner et al. (2021) provide an outline of a faith-driven entrepreneur. They indicate this type of entre-

preneur has the following characteristics: a deep love for God and others, generosity, stewardship, partnership, contentment, integrity, carefulness, faithfulness, humility, eternal perspective, an abiding attitude, and ministry. As the authors describe these characteristics, stories are shared that are helpful for others to better understand faith-driven entrepreneurs. For example, faith-driven entrepreneurs submit their entrepreneurship to God and become excellent at their work but do not turn work into a god, not serving their work but using their work to serve God and serve others (p. 65). Another story describes how faith-driven entrepreneurs do not make products or services that just meet market demand but exceed it as working for the Lord. This is accomplished through a focus on reflecting “Christ as creator,” which results in the creation of products and services that are meaningful, albeit not perfect; only His craftsmanship is perfect (p. 86). The authors connect the characteristics and stories to Colossians 3:23: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

Many of the characteristics and stories shared are applicable for any Christian in business. For example, “A well-loved employee is in a great spot to love the customer” (p. 107). Any Christian in business can find much of this book useful as a reminder to keep one’s inner perspectives in line with outward actions to live out the calling God has placed on one’s life. Yet, toward the end of the book, the authors circle back from broad Christian characteristics in business to strongly remind readers that a faith-driven entrepreneur has a different purpose and calling of discipleship through creation and distribution of products and services. Proverbs 22:29 is deployed to remind readers that developing meaningful or unique products or services could get them (along with their

products or services) into places within this world that no mission board could reach. God wants to use individuals' entrepreneurial spirit for the great commission, reaching people right where they are.

Probably, one of the most fascinating parts of this book occurs in the Afterword. This section is written by Ingram and connects entrepreneurs and pastors. I agree with Ingram that "a lot of pastors—especially church planters—can relate" with entrepreneurs (p. 136). Ingram refers to this relationship as a two-way street, where pastors need entrepreneurs, but entrepreneurs also need pastors, as entrepreneurs face many challenges such as loneliness, hurt, and discouragement (similar to what pastors can also endure). The shared perspective of our identity in Christ being first and foremost helps both pastors and entrepreneurs to not lose themselves in their work. Dallas Willard once said, "The greatest gift we can ever give anyone is who we become" (p. 141). So, at the end of the day, pastors and entrepreneurs are more similar than different.

This book is well-written and it is easy to follow the variety of viewpoints of the different authors. I recommend this book be a part of entrepreneurial and mission-based curriculum in faith-based higher education as well as seminary programs for pastors. However, I think the authors could have placed more emphasis on the point that faith-driven entrepreneurs are not just those creating products and services for the unreached parts of the world, but that same opportunity exists for all believing entrepreneurs to serve with this mindset, no matter the location or mission field. Nevertheless, this book provides a very strong intersection between faith and entrepreneurship and is an excellent reminder of why entrepreneurship should be a part of ministry. "Entrepreneurship provides a place where you get to commune with God through the creative process. It provides a way through which you can love God and love others" (p. 12). Kaestner et al. call us to live out the calling God has placed on our lives and to question what hard choices we have made to live out our calling as a faith-driven entrepreneur (p. 79). When people live out their calling as faith-driven entrepreneurs, they represent more than themselves and their businesses. They represent the God they worship (p. 82).

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