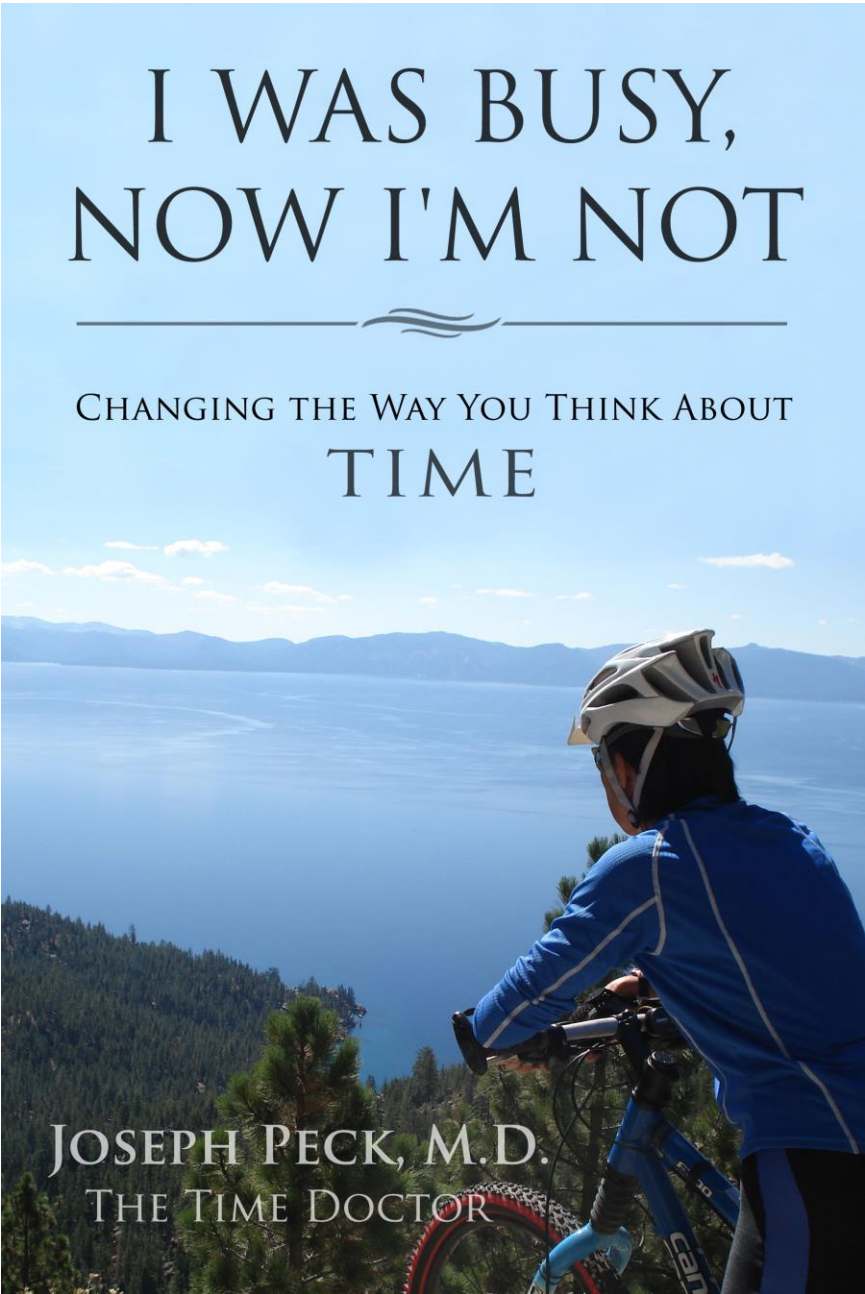


# I WAS BUSY, NOW I'M NOT

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CHANGING THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT  
TIME

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THE TIME DOCTOR



# A Special Tribute to My Father

Over the years, I have come to discover that many people did not have a loving father. Some fathers are absent, abusive, addictive, apathetic, authoritarian, passive, or unavailable.

But my father was always there for me. I do not remember a single day in my life where I did not feel loved by him. Consequently, it has always been easy for me to believe in a loving God.

When I was growing up, my father took our family to church nearly every weekend. He did not quote scriptures often, but he modeled the book of Proverbs to me and our family. When I began reading the Bible regularly in my forties, many of the Proverbs reminded me of my father. For example, every time I read *Proverbs 13:22—A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children*—I think of my father.

My father always made family a high priority. Despite his positions of leadership in the U.S. Army and at the Pentagon, he was home for dinner on time nearly every day. He always said a prayer before meal time.

When I was an adult, my father planned regular family gatherings for our whole family. Whenever, we went to visit my parents, we could count on good family meals and good conversation. My father and mother came to nearly every special occasion for my immediate family.

My father is an extremely humble man. He never bragged about any of his accomplishments, either personal or at work. When I stepped away from my full-time job as an anesthesiologist in 1999 and started Empower 2000, I asked my father if he would serve as Secretary for my company. When he agreed, I asked if he had a resume. He told me

“no,” but said he did have a Washington Post article from 1994 summarizing the second half of his career.

When I saw that, I was blown away. I was completely unaware of my father’s tremendous accomplishments. For example, that newspaper article stated: “Unquestionably, the single area for which Mr. Peck is most widely renowned is Government ethics. He was the Army’s Designated Agency Ethics Official and served as overall manager of the Army’s ethics program for over 15 years, planning and directing the program since the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 first took effect. Under his direction, the Army’s program has been widely recognized as among the best, Government-wide. Many of its features have been adopted by the Department of Defense and other departments. Demonstrating his recognized preeminence in this area, he is the only person invited to chair a panel at every national Government Ethics conference, from the first in 1980 through its latest in 1993.”

I say this not to brag, but to show the value of humility and the environment I grew up in. *By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life. (Proverbs 22:4)*

My father is a good listener. It took me more than 40 years to understand and appreciate the value of that.

My father never pressured me to do anything or to pursue any specific career. He simply asked good questions to help me make better choices. He was there for me whenever I needed him.

When I went through financial challenges during my transition from working as a physician to a leadership coach, my father was there to help me out. Even though some of my decisions frustrated him, he never gave up on me or turned his back on me.

My father modeled a godly marriage. When I was going through a difficult season in my marriage, my father told me when two people get married, they become “one flesh” (Ephesians 5:31). That helped me realize when I said negative things to my wife or about her that I was actually hurting myself as well as both of us.

My father taught me by example that the best father is a good husband and the best husband is a good father.

As Abraham Lincoln said, “A good example is worth a thousand sermons.” Thank you Dad for being a great father and role model. And thank you Mom for being a great mother and Dad’s best friend. You helped him be a great success.

### **Prayer Power**

*Father God, thank You for the precious gift of a loving father and mother. May this tribute to my earthly father inspire many other fathers and mothers to be the best parents they can be for their children. May you use this tribute to “turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers” (Malachi 4:6). In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen and hallelujah!*