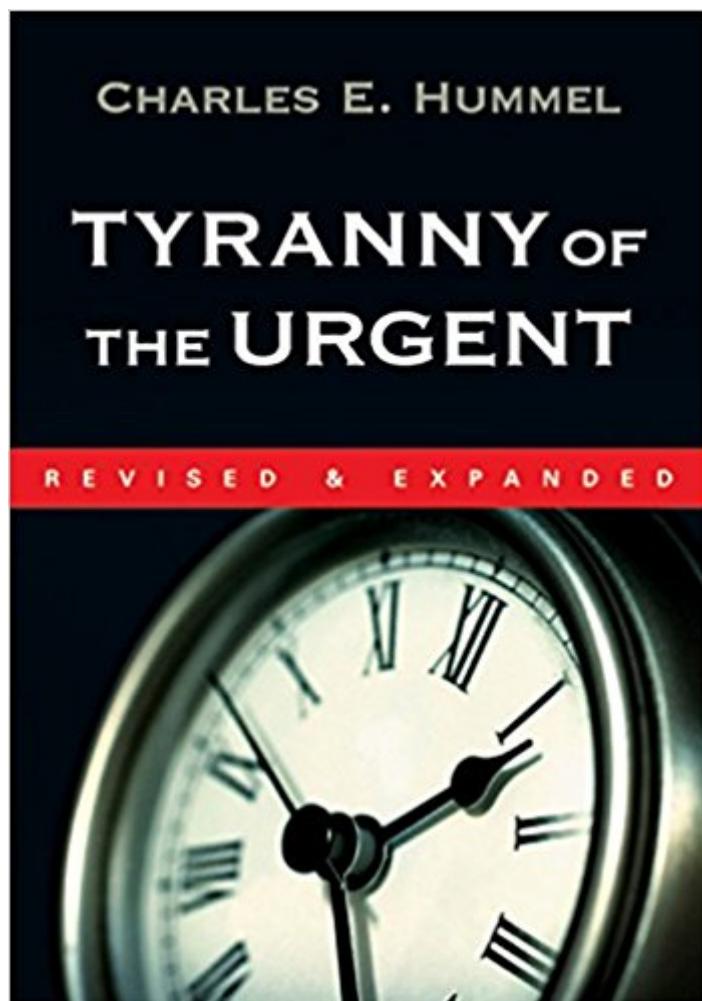


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# Tyranny Of The Urgent!



## **Synopsis**

Now thoroughly revised and expanded, this classic booklet by Charles E. Hummel offers ideas and illustrations for effective time management.

## **Book Information**

Pamphlet: 31 pages

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## **Customer Reviews**

Before his passing in August 2004, Charles Hummel was formerly director of faculty ministries for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and president of Barrington College in Rhode Island. He was the author of fifteen books and Bible studies, including The Galileo Connection, Fire in the Fireplace, Genesis (in the LifeGuide Bible Study Series), and the bestselling booklet, Tyranny of the Urgent.

This is a highly recommended booklet that many Christian organizations require, or at least suggest, for their students, ministers or missionaries. It is short (31 booklet pages that can be read in about 30 minutes or less) and easy to read with simple, practical steps for how to prioritize your life activities so that you can have peace knowing that you are doing the important things that are in keeping with your goals, rather than being tyrannized by "urgent," but less important, things. The booklet is addressed to Christians but a non-Christian can apply the principles. I recommend this little book to anyone who considers him/herself to be a servant of God. If you are too busy serving to read this little pamphlet, you might be too busy. This booklet might NOT be helpful to you if:--You already manage time well AND you feel that you are on track with goals and priorities (but it could be a could reminder or refresher)--You are looking for examples or detailed how-to steps (this book

would be a starting point if you haven't started)--You don't want to read anything with God in it.

Arrived once it was back in print. I wanted one for so long and finally got my own. I will buy a couple more of these. It is a fundamental issue that is covered inside the few pages of this book. This little book had been read by so many of my friends and I now will buy another few more to bless them with their own copies.

This is a classic that every Christian should read. It distinguishes between what is urgent on the one hand and what is important on the other hand. This is an essential distinction that every Christian (probably every person) should learn. Hummel then proposes a way to make the important drive the urgent rather than the other way around. This plan uses a daily time with God, a weekly evaluation, and monthly planning. The examples are somewhat dated; he considers a phone on a wall to be obtrusive without imagining mobile phones with texting and social media. Also, his picture of Jesus tends toward that of a really good human teacher. Still, the fundamental point is worth this read of less than 30 minutes.

I seem to spend my day running after my thoughts. Think of what I need upstairs and take off after it. Only to get there and forgot what I went to get. Which leads to another trip downstairs to go where I was standing when the thought occurred to me. I now keep a pen at the top of the stairs and one at the bottom. Just how much of our lives (daily) are hijacked by all of the urgent things that come up...only to put the **IMPORTANT** things off to another time. If you find yourself in this Vicious cycle, the three piece set is a definite life changer. I think about it everyday and have since I read it for the first time about 20 years ago. Please order these material and you will make a change in your life!!!

Piercingly truthful and spot on in assessing the challenges of choosing the important above the urgent. A quick read and easily understood but the application of knowledge is the path to transformation. May the good Lord help me as I seek to apply what I have read.

This classic little booklet from Charles Hummel was one of the earliest resources (first published in 1967) to first introduce the distinction between the important and the urgent that later time and/or life management books such MacKenzie's "The Time Trap" and Covey's "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" incorporated. But Hummel introduced it in a Christian and Biblical context where

God's Will and Word take precedence in determining what's important. This resource is a simple introduction to time management using the following four steps: decide what's important, discover how one's time is now being spent, budget the hours and follow through. Each step is given some exposition. If one already has Hummel's newer book "Freedom from Tyranny of the Urgent," then this booklet isn't necessary since it is essentially incorporated into the book. But for those Christians who have an initial adversity to the whole concept of time management and scheduling and don't see how it is integral to discipleship or produces greater freedom rather than bondage, this booklet may make you reconsider your belief. For those who want more insight into time and life management from a Christian perspective, read Ken Smith's "It's About Time." Hummel is one of many who recommends it.

The book is excellent in the way it shows the importance of doing things when they are important, rather than letting things go to a fever pitch of urgency. When everything is done in order of priority they are done completely and to satisfaction of the need. It requires diligence on the part of the responsible parties. In the Bible, in Proverbs 27:23, it says, Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. Diligence is required to bring success. Time management is a difficult thing to control if the priority of things is not known. Very good read with excellent guidance.

I first read *Tyranny of the Urgent* decades ago. The title has always stuck with me as a sort of mantra. I've read many books on productivity, and at the end of the day they are variations of this theme: if you don't manage your time then someone else will. Hummel's booklet is by far the best, as he has the foundation right. Anyone in management should keep several copies around and encourage people to read it.

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