

The Leadership Academy at Hope Chapel Kealapono  
A Biblical View of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People  
Habit One: "Be Proactive"

2 Timothy 1:7 & Deuteronomy 28:13

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As humans, our tendency is to play the victim. And unless you're watchful, it will sneak up on you and you'll start blaming outside forces – parents, spouses, bosses, the weather, the government, circumstances, "that person," whomever – for your problems. Being Proactive comes down to two things. First, take responsibility for your life; and second, take initiative. It's that simple. Be an agent, not a victim. Don't wait for life to happen to you; happen to it. Be the driver of your life, not just a passenger. Live out of your imagination, not your past. All this and more as we invite the Loving, Supernatural Presence & Power of Jesus Christ to "Be Proactive."

I. Be Proactive: Reaction verses Response

- A. Proactivity: As human beings we are responsible for our own lives. Our behavior is a function of our decisions, not our conditions. We can subordinate feelings to values. We have the initiative and the responsibility to make things happen.

Look at the word responsibility— "response-ability"—the ability to choose your response. Highly proactive people recognize that responsibility. They do not blame circumstances, conditions, or conditioning for their behavior. Their behavior is a product of their own conscious choice, based on values, rather than a product of their conditions, based on feeling.

The ability to subordinate an impulse to a value is the essence of the proactive person. Reactive people are driven by feelings, by circumstances, by conditions, by their environment. Proactive people are driven by values—carefully thought about, selected, and internalized values.

- B. What Happens Between Stimulus and Response?

- C. Reaction and the Blame Game

1. Determinism
  - a. genetic
  - b. psychic
  - c. environmental
2. Circle of Concern/Circle of Influence
3. The Problems we Face
  - a. Direct
  - b. Indirect
  - c. no control

4. The Language of Reactive People Absolves them from Responsibility. That language comes from a basic paradigm of determinism. And the whole spirit of it is the transfer of responsibility. *I am not responsible, not able to choose my response.*

D. Proactivity and the Freedom to Choose (Respond)

1. Self-Awareness
2. Imagination
3. Conscience
4. Independent Will

II. Be Proactive: Take Responsibility for Your Life [2 Timothy 1:7]

A. The Demonic Spirits of Fear and Timidity

1. The Fear of Failure [Romans 5:1]
2. The Fear of Rejection [Colossians 1:21-22]
3. The Fear of Punishment [1 John 4:9-10]
4. The Fear of Shame [2 Corinthians 5:17]

B. God's Gift of His Power, His Love, and His Sound Mind (self-control) through Salvation in Jesus Christ [Romans 8:14-17]

C. The Other End of the Stick; Reaping What We Sow [Gal 6:7-9]

1. While we are free to choose our actions, we are not free to choose the consequences of those actions
2. The Proactive approach to a mistake (sin) is to acknowledge it instantly, correct, and learn from it
3. Grace+Truth+Time [Luke 13:6-9]

D. Making and Keeping Commitments [Matthew 5:37]

III. Be Proactive: Take Initiative [Deuteronomy 28:13]

- A. Be an Agent, not a Victim
- B. Be the Driver of Your Life, not Just a Passenger
- C. Live out of Your Imagination, not Your Past