

Are You Too Busy Earning a Living to Make Any Real Money?

The wisest man I ever met told me
something I'll never forget

Special points of interest:

- ◇ Why did all the “gurus” die in WW II?
- ◇ The real secret of not working for a living
- ◇ The ONLY thing you should trade for money
- ◇ What differentiates my Formula from everything else?
- ◇ What have I “done” lately?
- ◇ How did Marlon “freaking” Sanders find his way back into my life?
- ◇ Who should you listen to?
- ◇ why big gross product launches may not NET a lot
- ◇ The single consistent message I’ve had since 1998
- ◇ What the “trap” is and how to escape it

By Marlon Sanders

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Joe Karbo wrote this question in a famous ad many years ago.

Are you too busy earning a living to make any money?

See, Joe was one of the originals to discover the real secret of the direct response marketing business.

If you're working hard, it means you're trading your time for dollars. Since there's a limit on your time, there's a limit on your dollars.

It's the problem I have with the way a LOT of people teach what they call "Internet marketing." Really, all they do is trade time for MORE dollars.

Why?

Because they don't really do Internet marketing. They do sales pitches on webinars, teleseminars and from the stage. Which is all fine and dandy — if you know how to automate it.

But if you're just slaving away trading time for dollars, even if it's more dollars, you're STILL in the TRAP.

Have you ever wondered why so many gurus and Internet marketers spring up one day as an overnight success then just as quickly fade away into oblivion?

That's because they work within the TRAP and have never discovered how to get OUT of the fundamental time for dollars trap.

I'm going to be the first to admit there ARE Internet marketers who put more in the bank month in and out than I do. Why? Because almost without fail, they're working really hard for that money.

They're still IN the TRAP.

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And here they are pretending to get others out of the trap when they're still IN it.

Others say that the only way to get out of the TRAP is to get a big office, lots of overhead and lots of employees.

Since 1996, I ran this business from home. I have a small, relatively modest office now, and it's 2X or 3X the size I really need.

It's true that you can work your tail end off and make a zillion dollars on a launch. But it took 3-6 months of hard labor before the launch and another 3-6 months AFTER the launch.

That's nothing but a glorified job.

Every day there's a new Johnny-Come-Lately with glowing screen caps blaring out massive numbers with some new method. Now, apart from the questionable legalities of what is often done, notice how these people also tend to vanish off the face of the earth after a year or so.

I've been doing my "Amazing Formula" of online marketing since 1998, and really before then on AOL and Compuserve using my early beta methods of the Formula.

Whether you have a "real" job or your home business IS a job, sucking up all your time, I'm the only person I know who has proven my "Amazing Formula" for personal freedom, income and success over time works — because I've been LIVING IT since before many "gurus" even knew about Internet marketing.

Gosh, some of them were 12 years old when I started doing this full time.

Here are my 7 steps to get out of the time for dollars trap:

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1. You're either at the top of the food chain or the bottom.

I've been teaching and preaching this since 1998 and before. See, you either own your own products, software programs, iphone apps, membership sites and intellectual property that OTHERS sell.

Or you sell products FOR others.

I'm probably the ONLY person who consistently for years and years has steadfastly advocated that you get on the side of the coin where you're the one with the products that OTHERS sell.

It's cost me money in some ways to teach and preach this.

Why?

Because many of my top affiliates "got it" and went on to become famous gurus in their own right. In the past, my top affiliates have included Russ Brunson, Ewen Chia, Mike Mertz, Kevin Wilke and Matt Gill, Jim Edwards, Yanik Silver — and many others.

Now obviously, while I'd LIKE to take credit for their success, I can't. But I'd like to think that consistently hammering home my theme over and over of create and sell your own products has had an influence.

I'm all for being an affiliate to learn the Internet marketing game. But at some point, you need to climb the food chain and be on top, not on bottom.

A lady the other day wrote my customer support and asked what the credibility was behind Amazing Formula. How about the fact that it was selling \$200,000 a year+ before most gurus were gurus.

I had to chuckle.

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How about the fact that many of the top gurus were once my top affiliates and affiliates for Amazing Formula?

Then on rare occasion someone will say, "Well, what's Marlon done since Amazing Formula?" This doesn't happen often. It's more like behind closed doors with a few insecure, jealous wannabe gurus.

Uhhh, I guess they forget about creating a whole genre of software with Push Button Letters. They forget I created the 2-page web site model with Gimme My Money Now.

They forget I created the first product on how to create big tickets (actiongrid.com).

They forget about our highly innovative Dashboard line, including Marketing Dashboard, Product Dashboard, Design Dashboard and Promo Dashboard.

I've innovated so many things in this industry I forget about half of them. There are some people who think that the ONLY marketers who are worth anything are those who do big product launches. But your real players realize that a LOT of those launches don't NET what they GROSS.

And if you're working your tail end off to DO the launch, you're STILL in the time for dollars trap!

It's NOT how many people promote your offer.

It's NOT what you gross because after affiliate commissions, product fulfillment, refunds and chargebacks, that net often quickly diminishes.

It's NOT about bragging rights to the biggest launch.

It's about the lifestyle. Do you trade time for dollars or products? Do you wear a watch or don't you?

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I laugh about a lot of this stuff because it's so blatantly obvious to me. You know, I'm at Starbucks drinking ice tea, shopping at the mall, hanging out reading in bookstores, talking to friends on the phone, and doing other things I enjoy while they're slaving away trying HARD to be this big celebrity.

2. You either trade time for dollars or products

I don't care if your products are Facebook apps, iPhone apps, membership sites, stuff you sell on ebay, ebooks, cd's, dvd's, coaching programs, or physically delivered products.

You still have to trade something for dollars OTHER than your time.

3. If you're spending all your time selling other people's products, then you're STILL trading your time for dollars.

Hardly anyone has the guts to be honest about this. Because the moment you're honest about it, you cut your own throat a bit.

Why? Because basically I'm telling my own resellers that ultimately they're best served by creating their own products and affiliate base. So I'm in the business of making my affiliates very successful but at some point they aren't my affiliates any longer.

So many people will gloss over this truth. I choose not to.

4. Nothing happens until someone sells something

We're in the SALES business. Yes, we get our leads and prospective buyers mostly on

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the Internet. Yes, parts of it are automated. But at the end of the day, this is NOT some highly complicated business.

We get or create products.

We create sales presentations that show people how it'll benefit them if they trade their money for our products.

Then we encapsulate those sales presentations in Power Point videos, podcasts, blog posts, teleseminars, webinars, stage presentations or sales letters.

It's ALL a sales presentation or sales MESSAGE. Do you get that? The SAME formula I taught in Amazing Formula back in 1998 or 1999 is the SAME formula that STILL sells like crazy.

Only difference is, now you can do it in webinars, Youtube videos, Ustream presentations, podcasts and so forth.

Or, in the case of a product launch, you post it sequentially to a blog. But it's STILL the same basic sales process and sequence.

It ALL boils down to a sales message.

And you know what? You'll find out there are ONLY 12 steps to such a message. And it's easier, faster and simpler to learn and do than you quite possibly think.

It's more PRACTICE than anything. And if there's any bugaboo that holds people back in this business it's fear of practicing at delivering a sales message because it might not work. Then they'd feel like a failure!

That's got NOTHING to do with it.

If the sales message doesn't work, you change the message and who you're delivering

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to. One or both. This isn't rocket science!

Sheez. See, people have a huge VESTED interest in making themselves and their processes out to be rocket science because that substantiates big prices. Which is a great sales tactic.

But the TRUTH is, you create and deliver sales messages using a 12-step formula. It works or it doesn't work. If it doesn't, you change or tweak it. Or find someone else to deliver the message to.

Where? Wherever they hang out. That's where. You can quote me on this bit of rocket science here:

You fish where the fish are.

If they don't bite, you change the bait. The message. I make this HUGELY clear in Amazing Formula. Some people don't get that. A few. Not a lot. But a few people think it needs to be all rocket science and stuff with 45,000 flow charts that are really super duper impressive.

Surely it can't be as simple as a 12-step formula, can it?

This is not a complicated business. People make this thing complex to get people to spend more money. Which isn't a bad sales tactic. But let's get real here.

We find or create products.

We create sale messages.

We then DELIVER those sales messages via:

a. Email

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- b. Teleseminars
- c. Webinars
- d. Sales letters
- e. Blog posts
- f. Online videos
- g. DVD's
- h. Power Point presentations
- i. Ustream events
- j. 1-on-1 "strategy" sessions

But do I need some whole new sales message because I'm delivering it via a teleseminar vs. posting it in chunks on my blog or delivering it in a PDF or series of online videos?

It's the SAME message!

The delivery vehicle changes. But 90% or more of that message is the same.

This business is ALL about the sales message. It's funny that some people reading this right this very minute will realize how far they've strayed from the truth.

How they've been sent on a goose chase by people who have a vested interest in making things complex.

And the question pops into their mind, "How did Marlon freakin' Sanders find his way back into my life?"

And the answer is that I'm a truth teller.

The answer is that I speak the essence.

We sell things.

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We sell things via sales messages.

There's a 12-step proven formula for such messages.

But the delivery changes.

5. Therefore, you need to get good at crafting sales messages

This is one of the “elephants in the room” you won't hear a lot of “gurus” talk about. Why? Because most people are a little bit uncomfortable with or intimidated by the idea of creating a “sales” message.

I'd rather do blog posts. I'd rather do a webinar. I'd rather have some automated dealeo that somehow sells people.

Yes, you CAN automate it. But you STILL have to craft and create that sales message BEFORE you automate the delivery of the message. Do you get that?

Why don't more “gurus” tell you the truth: Internet marketing is all about selling stuff. It's all about creating messages that give people reasons to spend their money and buy stuff?

It cracks me up that people get all pissed off at “gurus” for selling stuff. What do you THINK they're going to do? It's ALL about sales.

And if your guru doesn't know how to sell something, you better find a new guru.

6. Remember that all the real gurus died in World World II

My mentor is Lew Williams. He was personally trained by one of the greatest old time copywriters Thomas Hall who Gary Halbert said was also his mentor. I don't know if

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Gary ever met Thomas but I do know he read his direct mail guides.

Lew worked for Thomas and was trained by him. Thomas Hall sold seminars and consulting for \$5,000 and \$10,000 way back in the 50's or 60's.

Lew produced the first seminar E. Joseph Cossman ever spoke at.

Anyway, Lew taught me from day one that all the real gurus died in World War II. Robert Collier. Claude Hopkins. Thomas Hall. John Caples.

These were the real gurus. The real teachers. My friend, They're all dead and gone. The word "guru" simply means teacher. We all are a teacher to someone else at some point in time. That makes us all gurus.

Never put someone else on such a high pedestal that you think they have some magical powers you don't. They do ONE thing better than you do:

Convince other people to give them money. A lot of money.

And this IS a skill you can learn. Yes, there ARE secrets to it. There ARE tricks. But it's NOT something you can't learn.

7. The single biggest secret of online marketing is simply learning by doing

You learn to sell by selling. You create or craft a sales message. You find a way to deliver that message to a target audience.

If they don't respond, do you cry in your milk, go on Twitter and bitch at Perry Belcher or whoever your guru is? Do you go on a forum and proclaim that all the gurus are lying to you and that Internet marketing doesn't work?

Do you go on blog posts and complain how you're broke and can you please have the

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next magical product as a freebie?

NO! You simply craft a new what?

Sales message.

And you see if you can find a way to deliver it to a little more targeted audience. To a greater percentage of your target buyers.

You can even TALK to your potential buyers and ASK them about the sales message. Does it communicate to them or not?

The legendary Gary Halbert used to say that you knew you had a BAD sales letter if people complimented you on it.

You knew you had a GREAT sales letter if after reading it to someone they asked how they could buy that product.

Compliments on your blog, sales letters and web sites mean NOTHING. The ONLY votes that count are sales.

Now, make no mistake. Over the years I HAVE learned new things and secrets. For example, EVERYONE teaches my 12-step formula for creating sales messages. But they regurgitate it. They don't have the ability to create formulas from scratch.

I've created new formulas that make it even faster, simpler and easier to create sales messages that work.

There ARE new ways to deliver sales messages and putting these in your arsenal can haul in lots of sales.

There ARE new types of products you can create that have greater perceived value and are easier to get more bux for.

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So this business is dynamic, changing and growing. I was the FIRST person to create a product on using Amazon Kindle to get business. And that just KEEPS growing as they innovate new versions.

This is a great and exciting time to be involved in Internet marketing. Just understand WHAT the Game really is and don't let people pull the wool over your eyes and make it something it's not.

How do you STOP working hard for a living?

You trade products for dollars instead of time. And you get really good at selling them using automated systems to DELIVER your well-crafted sales message.

Years ago the late, great Joe Karbo wrote: The wisest man I ever met told me something I'll never forget. Most people are too busy earning a living to make any money.

I hope you don't wait too long to discover how true that is. And how to escape the TRAP and get on the path to freedom. I don't consider myself a guru but a guide to light the path and show the way.

If we see clearly, it is because we stand on the shoulders of the true gurus. Giants like E. Joseph Cossman, Jerry Buchanan, Thomas Hall, Gary Halbert, Robert Collier, Dean Dax Duvall, Harvey Brody and many others I don't have time to mention. There are even people like Sheila Danzig and Michael Enlow not to mention Corey Rudl that we owe more to than almost anyone knows. I'd add my pal in there Jonathan Mizel who wrote the first newsletter in print about online marketing.

If we see clearly today....

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