

SUMMARY

In this chapter, Pastor Erwin McManus breaks down the importance of influence in our lives. Everything we do in life is an act of influence - our choices as consumers, as friends, or as leaders all have consequences.

We underestimate the importance of influence when we choose to prioritize gaining success, financial gain, or command. The power of our influence cannot be hindered by a lack of resources or authority. Authority shapes what a person does, but not their character; authority does not equal influence and it does not have the same result. The more energy and time you put into developing your character, the more you build into your influence.

Our influence travels through our relationships, no matter how big or small. Be open, be vulnerable, be accessible - let your relationships be central to your life and your primary focus. When we live with real influence, our influence brings about internal change in others; it can directly impact and shape beliefs.

Inhale the good and wisdom that God has for you and exhale His hope and joy into others. When you keep to yourself what He's doing in your life, you don't get more air to breathe, you begin to suffocate. Everything He gives us is meant to be shared and experienced by the people in your world. Your life will be measured by your influence on others!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you think prioritizing influence would change your relationships and the way you live? Do you prioritize gaining influence over other goals?
- Think of someone who has influenced your character; what did they do to bring positive change into your life?
- What are different ways you have used your influence with your friends or family? Share some examples (ie. getting someone to listen to a band you like, or convincing someone to get a tattoo with you)!

CHAPTER SCRIPTURE

“Do all that you have in mind. Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul.” 1 Samuel 14:7

“Everything you do is an act of influence.”

- Erwin Raphael McManus