

## Book Review – Kimberly Sawers

# Faith Driven Entrepreneur:

What It Takes to Step Into Your Purpose and Pursue Your God-Given Call to Create

By Henry Kaestner, J.D. Greear and Chip Ingram

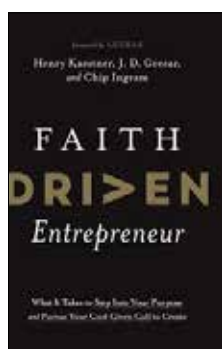
Tyndale Momentum, 2021, 192 pp, USD 21.23, ISBN 978-1-4964-5723-3

The authors describe a Faith Driven Entrepreneur as both an organisation and a type of person. The Faith Driven Entrepreneur organisation provides content (e.g., books, videos, study guides, study groups) for Christian entrepreneurs who are navigating living out their calling as Christians and entrepreneurs. In a book of the same name, *Faith Driven Entrepreneur*, the authors set about trying to define the “values, habits, and traits, that allow men and women to successfully build a business and faithfully pursue a loving relationship with their God.” This book is a useful addition to the existing content provided by the organisation.

Similar to other books on integration of faith and work or faith and business, the authors recognise that the church may still see calling in hierarchical terms, distinguishing between sacred and secular callings. To counter that notion, they describe the work of God in the garden. That work is creative and good, and that God is essentially the original entrepreneur. Further, humans, created in God’s image, got to both commune with God and work alongside God in the creative process. Finally, entrepreneurs create something new that didn’t previously exist, and entrepreneurial work provides a way to live out a greater calling – to love God and love others.

While the book illustrates how entrepreneurial endeavours are part of God’s purpose, it also describes how we should think of our work and the pitfalls that entrepreneurs


may experience, as well as constant reminders that our work is ultimately for the glory of God. For example, it may be easy to construct our identity based on what we do and how well we do it instead of anchoring our



identity in Christ. As leaders who are “in-charge” we may see ourselves as owners of our business rather than stewarding resources on behalf of the true owner (God). If we are stewards, how do we develop an understanding of what it means to be a good steward? Finally, the same energy and drive that draws us to be entrepreneurs may also lead us to make work an idol. In each of these cases, and more, the book describes alternative ways to think about our work and to continue to re-centre our work on Christ.

While the book is a good addition to the Christian faith and work genre, there are parts of the book that caused me a little concern. The authors discuss the outcome of faithful work as leading to blessings and, at times, it felt like the blessings were measured in terms of success or financial returns. While I agree that being faithful to our calling will lead to blessings related

to simply being faithful to God, that doesn’t necessarily mean any kind of worldly defined success and may, in fact, lead to suffering. In working over the years with students who have the propensity to believe that if you are following your calling, then you will be successful, my radar on this topic may be too finely tuned to this issue. That said, there are places in the book that describe frustrations and failures which may serve to help counter this hint of prosperity blessings.

This book is written for the Christian entrepreneur, but I think it has great lessons for anyone who is in a leadership role or has entrepreneurial aspects in their work. It is well written and easily accessible (i.e. an easy read). That said, a reader might be tempted to read through the book quickly without taking time to ponder each chapter, which would be a missed opportunity and miss what I believe the authors intended (i.e. reflect deeply and connect with others). There are resources at the end of each chapter that the reader can access on the Faith Driven Entrepreneur website (e.g., videos) as well as discussion questions (reflection questions). These additional resources provide additional richness to the book as well as providing additional balance to the concern I described above. Overall, I recommend this book to any entrepreneurial minded Christian looking to live a more Christ-centred calling. I would encourage reading the book with others and using the additional resources provided as well. 

1. <https://faithdrivenentrepreneur.org/>

2. For example, two books that are good examples that don’t follow the sacred/secular divide are *Why Business Matters to God* by Jeff Van Duzer and *Every Good Endeavor* by Timothy Keller.



**Most of Kim Sawers' career has been at a Christian university in some capacity – faculty or administration. Early in her career she was a Controller and Director of Finance and then earned a PhD in Accounting and moved to faculty as a Professor of Accounting. Kim is an editor of this journal.**