

# GROWING A LIFE VISION & DEVELOPING PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT

*“Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because **he never lost sight of where he was headed** - that exhilarating finish in and with God - he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever...” Hebrews 12:2 (MSG)*

*Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained. Proverbs 29:18 (NAS)*

## I. Thoughts on vision...

- ❖ Vision is the art of seeing things invisible. **Jonathan Swift**
- ❖ A vision is the dominant factor that governs your life. It determines all the choices you are making. It's what's left after all the layers are peeled away like an onion. Clinging like glue to the inside of your rib cage...It's what your mind naturally gravitates toward when it is not legitimately concentrating on something else. It's ... what determines your friendships and your relationships that you are cultivating. It's what your prayers are about--what you dream about and are giving money toward. **Phil Grant**
- ❖ Vision is merely hope with a blueprint. **Anonymous**
- ❖ It would be easier to develop great statesmen if vision were as available as television. **Indianapolis Times**
- ❖ If you treat an individual as he is, he will stay that way, but if you treat him as if he were what he could be, he will become what he could be. **Goethe**
- ❖ Two men look out through the same bars: One sees the mud, and one the stars. **Frederick Langbridge**
- ❖ Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do. **John Wooden**
- ❖ Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow. **Ralph Waldo Emerson**
- ❖ A vision without a task is but a dream; a task without a vision is only drudgery; but a vision and a task are the hope of the world! **Anonymous**

## II. Thinking It Through – Turning Vision Into Reality

Getting a grasp on God's vision for our lives requires that we make an investment. It's not just a process of looking at other people's vision statement and picking one that we like. It's a personal matter between God, and us and His vision does not come without cost. If we are serious about knowing His will and doing it, God will impart to us this precious gift. Following are seven overlapping guidelines that will help in the process of acquiring that vision:

- ❖ Read Philippians 3:12-17. **Determine core values.** Motivation is always closely related to our own value systems, desires, needs and ambitions. So we ask ourselves: What do I value most? What consumes my time? What are my deepest desires? How am I doing in fulfilling them? There will be three-six core values that mark you as a distinctive person.
- ❖ Read John 5:19-21; 16:12-15. **Realize that motivation is continuous.** We are always motivated in some direction - good or bad - to do something. So right now, as you begin, ask your self: What is my direction? Where am I heading? If resources, location health, or \_\_\_\_\_ were not obstacles, what would I do with my life?
- ❖ Read Proverbs 2:1-5; James 1:5-8. **Seek wisdom.** Remember that divine wisdom is the second greatest resource at our disposal.
- ❖ Read Psalm 90:10-12; Ephesians 5:15,16. **Be realistic about limitations.** We must be sure to set initial goals within our reach. Attempting the impossible will destroy our motivation overnight, yet we must stretch ourselves.

- ❖ Read Matthew 25:14-30. **Be willing to take some risks.** Identify your spiritual gift-mix and talents and invest them wisely in Kingdom endeavors.
- ❖ Read Proverbs 13:16; 16:9; 22:3; 24:34 (in the *Living Bible* if possible). **Make lists.** Make a list of the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4); as well as what you need to do today, tomorrow, and next week.
- ❖ Read Psalm 32:8-11; Acts 1:14; 2:42. **Pray!** More is accomplished by prayer than by anything else the world knows. Prayer is an integral part of our desire for redemptive motivation in our lives.

### III. Six Elements of a Life Vision:

#### 1. Spiritual gift-mix

*Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts...* **1 Corinthians 14:1 (NIV)**

*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.* **1 Peter 4:10 (NAS)**

#### 2. Spiritual passion

*Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.'* **Matthew 22:37 (MES)**

*Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.* **Romans 12:11 (NIV)**

#### 3. Temperament

*But my dove, my perfect one, is unique.* **Song of Solomon 6:9 (NIV)**

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...* **Psalm 139:13,14 (NIV)**

#### 4. Talents

*He (God) has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work.* **Exodus 35:35 (NIV)**

*Others with skills of every kind will volunteer...* **1 Chronicles 28:21 (TLB)**

#### 5. Level of maturity

<sup>13</sup> *I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. <sup>14</sup> I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.* **1 John 2:13,14 (NAS)**

#### 6. Schedule

*Make the most of every opportunity you have for doing good.* **Ephesians 5:16 (TLB)**

*We should make plans--counting on God to direct us.* **Proverbs 16:9 (TLB)**

#### **IV. How Has God Shaped Me? Your Unique Desires**

**A Personal Inventory of My Values** (Click the gray block and begin to type.)

1. What activities do I consider of greatest worth?
2. When my mind is in neutral, I usually think about...
3. When I lead, or am led, what has to take place for me to be satisfied?
4. The qualities of character I most admire and desire for God to shape into my life are...
5. Identify the roles and titles God has entrusted you with (father/mother, spouse, son/daughter, employee, employer, pastor, leader, etc.). Answer for each role or job title, what would you like to hear at your eulogy?
6. Review your answers to these assessment tools. Find key phrases or mega themes that describe who you are. Look for terms that are pregnant with story and can be unpacked to describe your vision.

My list of biblical values in order of priority...

**My life verse:**

**V. What Is God Calling Me To Accomplish? (Personal Vision)**  
**Clarifying My Dreams and Future Vision**

1. When I think about ministry in the future, the area of ministry I would love to concentrate upon is...

Why?

2. From a stewardship perspective of my ministry life, the activities I sense God calling me to do which make the greatest contribution to God's Kingdom are...

Why?

3. People who know me well believe I am most used by God when I am involved in...

Why?

4. Though I may have dismissed the thought many times for various reasons, at times I have felt what I really should be doing is...

5. When people talk about a passion for ministry, I often begin to think about giving my life to accomplishing...

6. What burdens and needs has God given me a special faith (call) to act upon because they cry out to my heart to come and do something about them? This is not a have-to but a want-to!