

CHAPTER 3

The Value of Vision

DREAMS + VISION EQUAL UNPARALLELED SUCCESS

A dream is a thought, an idea and your imagination of who you could become one day. Vision is a snapshot of who you will become one day once you decide to do so. Building and activating a vision around your dreams will propel you to become your future self. Sometimes our visions are difficult to see and understand. Seeing a clear picture of one's vision is a journey that needs to be embraced. It does, however, require due diligence and dedicated work on your part.

It is also important to understand that we do experience both outer and inner visions. I call the outer visions characteristics of our outer self that, at some point, may need to be brought into your inner self.

Outer vision is the ability to envision things we decide we want or things we think we are entitled to have in our lives. It's all about us and those humanistic desires we have that include success, dreams, and passions. Success requires that we set goals for ourselves so we can move from one level to the next.

Then, there are those daydreams that we have about how great we are going to be one day, or how many material possessions we will one day own. And last, but not least, there are our passions: those things, projects, and those causes we feel strongly about and dearly love to work on. We are willing to spend many hours and much money working hard to accomplish those burning passions.

20 years ago, while traveling on my life's journey, I opened a travel agency. I felt there were too many families who believed family travel was completely out of their financial reach. I disagreed. I knew there was a way they could travel at an affordable rate and was determined to show families how they could enjoy the same travel excitement that others enjoyed, except on a shoe-string budget.

Did the shoe-string budget matter? No. They were on the same airplane and same cruise ship as everybody else, kids and all, seeing many places first hand they had only heard about or seen on TV. They were enjoying Disneyland, Sea World, and many other exciting places.

I was *passionate* about the purpose for my agency and helped many travelers see the world at an affordable price over and over and over again. My travel agency was one of my many passions propelled by my outer vision.

Some have not recognized what our visions are, or we see them and continuously ignore them. Sometime we think our dreams or our passions are our life visions. For some it may be true; but for most, it is not. Most people experience many passions during their lifetime and devote many hours to a project or a cause they passionately believe in.

For many years, I did not understand the difference between dreams, passions, and visions. Then I worked on ideas I was interested in or I thought I was good at doing, without the long-term success I desired.

How many of you are continuously working on one idea after another? Are you having much success?

It is so important to understand that all three terms - dreams, passion, and vision should be important and serve an invaluable purpose as we journey through life. They assist in propelling us to greater heights and help us fulfill our purpose while traveling to our destiny.

Let's explore each of these valuable words.

Dreams are thoughts, ideas, and our imagination of who we *could* be. More often than not, dreams occur during an inactive state of mind.

These kind of dreams often come and go and are easily forgotten.

Some experience spiritual dreams. God determines who will receive messages from Him by way of the Holy Spirit. This kind of dream is part of one's inner being. These kinds of dreams can translate into visions that are lasting and wait to be recognized and received by the dreamer before moving forward.

Passion, on the other hand, is an emotional display or connection to a project or cause you strongly believe in. You're willing to exert much energy on your passion. Most people will practice on their passion with true commitment in order to obtain success. Your passion may even cause you to enlist the support of others.

Stop and think for a moment about the many young people who appear on the TV program, *American Idol*. They feel with all of their will and might that they can sing good enough to compete for the title, 'American Idol'. They dream of getting an opportunity to try out for the show, hoping to become a contestant and move to the next level of their career. I can imagine, prior to trying out, most of them practiced over and over and over again preparing to render a perfect song for that audition of a lifetime.

Vision is the act or power of seeing. Physical eyesight is a form of vision God has given us, allowing us to see the world in which we live every day. It helps us see the various paths of life we can choose to follow. Even those who are visually challenged are provided with tools to help them determine the path to follow without the benefit of physical eyesight.

Our eyesight is a valuable and prized possession we all cherish. We will do whatever it takes to protect our eyes in order to maintain healthy eyesight. That might mean purchasing eye glasses, wearing contact lenses, or even having lasik eye surgery. And yes, making sure tools for the visually impaired are always available.

I'm amazed when I observe a visually challenged person walking down the street alone, especially when the person comes to an intersection. Although I'm tempted to help when it's time for the person to step off the curb and cross the street in a timely manner, I hold back when I see the faith displayed as he proudly moves forward alone.

Obviously unable to see the green light like most, he still chooses to step off the curb and cross the street, believing he will be able to do so safely. His visual impairment serves as no stumbling block.

Additionally, although the blind man cannot see the street he is walking on, just the mere fact that he has enough faith to walk alone on the busy city street, lets me know he has chosen to walk toward his own personal vision based on his belief that if he does his part, the vision will come to fruition.

As I continue to observe the blind man walk, I admire him because he is walking into his purpose and physical eyesight is not required.

Vision is also unusual foresight one possesses with or without physical eyesight. Vision is an image of us in our calling. It brings clarity and alignment, allowing the forces to work together. This is the most powerful form of vision.

Helen Keller once said:

"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight and no vision."

Inner vision is an extremely important form of vision because it captures the core of our inner being. It's that spiritual and intuitive awakening from within that presents to us an image of each of us in our own purpose. It's the power of knowing things without knowing why. You just know and strongly believe that the vision you see for your life is possible.

I call that power of knowing the Inner Spirit a life force that is activated by a power bigger than you and I. It's a calling God has blessed each of us with. However, each individual has to recognize, accept, and activate their own inner vision, helping them develop a clear sense of purpose.

Although recognizing and accepting our true life vision within us is not always the most popular thing to do, most of us experience many visions throughout our lifetime.

If you are not strong and do not stand on your faith, there is a chance you will allow discouraging comments from others to interfere with your progress. I

encourage you to not listen to negative comments about your vision. When you realize that the time has come for you to move your vision forward, I urge you to move immediately and on purpose. Only you will know when the time is right.