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Creating a Vision for Financial Success - Part 2

In the first issue of this two part series on creating your financial vision we discussed background issues of what a vision should look like and why it is worth your time and effort to establish a compelling financial vision. In this issue we will outline how you can go about effectively defining, creating, and implementing your vision so that it truly becomes a guiding force to put you on track and keep you on track to financial success. The following steps outline a process for tapping into your vision, but as the author of your vision, you may choose to modify this process so that it fits your style and motivates you to accomplish your dreams and goals.

1. Examine Your Core Values and Beliefs

In order for your vision to be the compelling force that guides your financial decisions, it has to reflect the values and beliefs that are most important to you. That is why a vision of "being rich" misses the point because it doesn't get to the heart of what is deep inside of you. When you identify the values and beliefs that are meaningful to you and connect that with how your finances can positively impact them, it will give you the direction you need to be purposeful in your decision making.

2. Withdraw from the Daily Grind to a Quiet Place

It can be hard to put the necessary focus on doing those things that require us to listen to our inner thoughts, such as establishing a vision, because we are usually too busy with the tasks of our daily lives to be quiet enough to think. To establish a compelling vision, you need to find some quiet time away from your normal routine to do just that. Whether you physically leave town, go someplace where you won't be distracted, or just shut off communication for a short time, find a way to get away from what you normally do and let your mind go so you can dream and tap into your purpose and passion.

3. Involve the Key People in Your Life

You may go through parts of this process alone, but chances are there are other people who are a part of and will be impacted by your financial success. As you go through the process, their input can be valuable in shaping your vision, and perhaps they can help you arrive at a shared vision so that everyone involved is pulling in the same direction.

4. Let Your Ideas Flow

Once you have allowed yourself to think and reflect on what is most important in your life, you can begin to put your thoughts on paper. When you begin, your thoughts may not all tie in together, but that is okay. Use the brainstorming concept and put everything down whether it seems to make sense or not, so you can get all of the ideas, goals, and dreams out for you to look at.

5. Narrow Your Focus

With all of your thoughts on paper, the challenge then is to pull out the common themes that run through those thoughts and express them in the simplest way you can. You want the statement of your vision to be something you can easily remember so you can call on it when a decision has to be made, something you can visualize so it feels tangible and achievable, and something inspiring that will continually fuel your passion.

6. Put Your Vision to the Test

The final hurdle in the process is perhaps the most difficult, and that is to LIVE your vision by doing the things each day that keep you in line with it, putting your strategy in place to reach your dreams and keeping your eyes on the ultimate prize. I challenge you to put forth the effort to create your financial vision. It will be time well spent.

Stewardship Emphasis

Scripture says that, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." On the other hand, when there is vision, people can be inspired to reach the highest heights in life and achieve extraordinary accomplishments.



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