

Personal Mastery – God’s Way

Part 2

Last week we examined the importance of facing reality, taking responsibility, and developing a growth mindset. This week we will continue to answer the question, what do successful people do differently? Our focus, this time, is going to be on some of the visioneering themes. We tend to struggle with vision because of all the time we spend putting out fires. It is important to see that God has vision, God has goals and so must we. The good news in all of this is that God is a God of second chances and for some people it is time to re-dream.

4. Successful people have a clear vision of a preferred future

Whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe and enthusiastically act on...must inevitably come to pass!” Paul J. Meyer.

Your vision is a compelling picture of a preferred future. If you were to take a photo of your future life now, what would it look like? What do you want to be recognized for one day?

Many people have some kind of vision, but their downfall is that it is not vivid; it lacks clarity. To accomplish great things in life you need others to come alongside you. In order to enrol others, you must have a compelling vision. If you tell me that you are a leader, the first thing I will ask you is, “where are you going?” If your vision is misty in your mind, it will be foggy in the minds of those following you.” Do you have a God-sized vision for your life? **Do you have a vision for all aspects of your life including family, social and recreation or is your vision limited to finance and career?**

This is one of the unique features of being human, we can aspire. We can visualise a preferred future. We can use our imagination to God’s glory.

There are many barriers to visioneering that need to be overcome. Many people are too afraid to dream. They have been wounded in life and don’t want to be hurt by more disappointments. You hear people saying, “I am afraid to hope, because I might get disappointed.” Vision always works hand in hand with hope. In God’s dealings with the Patriarchs, He would always instil vision into their hearts. He would get them, for example, to try to count the stars in the sky and then explain how they will have so many descendants. This is all vision. Some people struggle to write a vision down because they feel trapped by it. They think that if it is written then it can never be changed. Others resist the visioneering process because they think it is too pie in the sky and not realistic.

It is important for us to be grounded in Biblical Theology with regards to vision.

Hab 2:2 -3 Then the Lord replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald[b] may run with it. 3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

Although this verse may be speaking of a spiritual vision or revelation it is important to see our life visions as such. We prayerfully seek God’s face and He reveals to us things to come in our own lives. This scripture shows me that when we make this plain, we are more likely to run with it. It is important to embed your vision with a healthy view of God.

Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

It is important that God is the source of our vision.

Jer 23:16 This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord.

1 Cor 2:9 However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” — the things God has prepared for those who love him—

Is your vision similar to this or is it just more of the same?

Here are some examples of great vision and mission statements:

“To inspire and nurture the human spirit – one person, one cup and one neighborhood at a time.” – Starbucks mission statement.

To establish Starbucks as the premier purveyor of the finest coffee in the world while maintaining our uncompromising principles while we grow. – Starbucks vision statement

Joseph A. Michelli, author of “Leading the Starbucks Way,” writes that Starbucks’ success is largely a result of its ability to create an emotional tie with customers. Such engagement starts with the stores’ homey, intimate atmospheres. This is at the heart of the company’s mission.... Ultimately, according to many business experts, Starbucks is a perfect example of a company that has grown by sticking with its mission, no matter how lofty it is. <https://www.reference.com/business-finance/starbucks-vision-statement->

Google’s official mission or vision statement is to organize all of the data in the world and make it accessible for everyone in a useful way. Google also has an unofficial motto to avoid being evil.

Can you guess which vision statements these are for? (Adapted from Kirstin O’Donovan)

A just world without poverty. – Oxfam

To be Earth’s most customer-centric company, where customers can find and discover anything they might want to buy online. – Amazon

Honda (1970s vs Present):

We will destroy Yamaha (1970s)

Serve people worldwide with the “joy of expanding their life’s potential” (2022)

Nike (1960s vs Present):

Crush Adidas (1960s)

To bring inspiration and innovation to every athlete in the world (2022). (Co-founder explained that an athlete is anyone with a body).

To create the most compelling car company of the 21st century by driving the world’s transition to electric vehicles. - Tesla

5. Successful people have clear, written goals with action plans

If you are not making the progress that you would like to make and are capable of making, it is simply because your goals are not clearly defined. Paul J. Meyer

If someone comes to me and says, “Paul I want to lose weight this year.” That’s a wish not a goal. However, if they say, “Paul my ideal weight is X, therefore by June next year I need to have lost 7 kgs. I am enlisting Person X to be my personal trainer and Person Y to be my dietician.” This is goal-setting and action-planning and this is what gets results.

It has been found that when you write down your goals you are 10 times more likely to accomplish them than when these goals are left in your head. The power of writing out your goals is partly to do with reviewing them. Goals are powerful when mixed with plans and habits. When you set goals, it helps you to be more conscious of what you desire. You block out what’s unimportant using a section of the brain called the reticular membrane. This is seen when you first take note of a vehicle you were not familiar with, after some you begin to notice similar vehicles everywhere. Your reticular activator blocks out unimportant information and helps you to focus on what you deem to be important. Here are some powerful verses on goal-setting and planning:

Psalms 20:4 “May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.”

Psalms 33:11 “But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.”

Psalms 37:4-5 “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Proverbs 16:3 “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”

Proverbs 16:9 “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”

Proverbs 19:21 “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

Proverbs 21:5 “The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.”

Having clear goals helps you to remain focused. **Successful people are focused.** I recently completed a book on Focus by Thibaut Meurisse, who explains that there are 3 levels of focus:

1. Short-term focus (Concentration)
2. Mid-term focus (Routine and schedule)
3. Long-term focus (Vision)

It’s important to ask yourself on a daily basis, “is what I am doing today helping me to achieve my vision?” The things I concentrate on must be linked to the bigger picture. Someone once said, **the secret to greatness is hidden in your daily routine.** We become more effective when we create routines and schedules that reflect our vision.

6. Successful people create culture

They create a culture that is embedded in their vision and values.

Look how Paul the apostle created culture. *1 Cor 4:17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.*

Great leaders have a way. There is the GE Way, The Coca-Cola Way, the McDonalds Way. These companies have been successful because they were led by people who were clear about the culture they wanted to create. Are you clear about what you believe and why and what you don't believe and why? Are you clear about what you stand for?

Eg Paul's way, Zweli's way.

You create culture by what you teach, model, reward, measure, inspect, punish, celebrate and how you react to crises.

It is important to be authentic about creating culture. Someone once said, **"Consciously, I teach what I know, unconsciously I pass on who I am."**