

THE 5Ps

My wife and I joke that she has been married to one husband but a few different men. My personal vision kept changing earlier in our marriage because my vision was small and tied only to my job. When I was a civil engineer, I defined myself as that; my only vision for my life was to be CEO of that firm. On days I thought I was progressing toward that vision, I felt satisfied; on days I didn't feel progress or maybe even had a setback because a project didn't go well, I was crushed. I questioned who I was and where was I going.

When I moved into sales, my vision was to be the best sales person and eventually be the CEO of that company or another engineering products company. Once again, my identity would go up and down based on the type of day I had. When I became president of sales for the national contractor, we were owned by a private equity group, and my vision was to be their go-to CEO in future acquisitions.

What is the vision for your life? Is your vision tied to your current job? Does your vision include others outside of your work? As mentioned earlier, my vision changed after I hired an executive coach. After seeing this transformation in my life and in others' lives, God put on my heart my new vision, the one I still live with today:

To connect people to greater performance, and even more significant purpose.

I have experienced such freedom in having a vision for my life. Having a vision greater than a job title or role means it applies anywhere and everywhere. Whether I work for a small company or big company, I know I am to be connecting people to greater performance and trying to help them live into a more significant purpose. Whether I am in my neighborhood or volunteering at my kids' school, I know I am called to help people think about ways to live life to the full.

For me, more significant purpose for others looks like improving a daily walk with Jesus Christ. However, for my clients who do not believe in God or Jesus, I still see growth because they start to believe in something greater than themselves.

YOUR TURN

What is your personal vision statement? We work with clients to better define their current location and their perspective, and from there we help them build out their priorities in order to reach their desired potential.

Claiming our identity as a beloved son or daughter is just part of the perspective and identity piece. Combining this with our life story and how we are uniquely wired helps us complete the

picture. Our achievements, wounds, and experiences are what make us unique. As Chris Hartenstein says, “You can’t truly know someone until you know their story.”

Below is a framework called 5Ps that we use with clients to help give guidance in creating their vision statement. The 5Ps are passions, provision, problems, personality, and potential. These 5Ps will help you to not only see how you are uniquely made, but also proclaim your story and testimony.

Spend some time answering the questions in each of the five areas and then construct a vision statement sentence that gets you emotional. That’s right, emotional! The goal is to come up with a vision statement you are so passionate about that when you say it out loud the first few times, your voice cracks.

I encourage you to think about this at different times and places, such as in the morning over coffee during your journaling time, during an afternoon walk outside, or in the evening with a nightcap. Once you answer the questions, what you choose to use in your statement and the order in which you put them is up to you. We have found that using the 5Ps provides enough of a framework to identify words and phrases that speak to your heart. I encourage you to complete all 5Ps, but as you can see from my example and the examples below, not all the Ps make it to the final vision statement. This is just a guide you can customize to fit your calling. Freedom within the framework.

PASSIONS

What gets you excited? What fires you up? What gives you energy? What do you love to do? List all your passions. Just keep writing them down. Do you like spending time with people? Do you like solving problems? Do you like to be creative? Do you like to write? Speak? Do you like coming up with new ideas or implementing somebody else’s?

Passion is often motivated by love. Maybe there is an area where you have been broken and you are passionate about helping people in that area.

Take some time now to journal about your passions. Use the space below to capture your thoughts and answer the above questions.

PROVISION

What has God provided for you in your life? Relationships, material possessions, accolades, and more. What is God currently providing you? New opportunities, new relationships? Where has God been working in your life? What has God uniquely provided you? Do you have a college education? Are you doing something you love? Do certain accomplishments tell your story? Where has there been grace and favor in your life?

Assessing the provisions in your life shows you where God has been at work in your life. When we see God's provision, we see how much was out of our control and actually provided by God's amazing grace and mercy. Once we see where God has provided in the past, as well as areas he is currently providing, it gives us hope to dream, knowing He has provided before and will again.

Take some time now to journal about God's provision in your life. Use the space below to capture your thoughts and answer the above questions.

PROBLEMS

What is a problem you overcame that you want to help others overcome? What has been a roadblock in your life, but no longer is? What do you want to solve today? This year? Is there an addiction that you want to put a stop to?

Problems are motivated by brokenness, whether it is yours directly or something you see around you. Recently I talked with a woman who struggled with an eating disorder for more than twenty years, so she wants to empower women, especially teen-age girls, to better understand their value and worth so they do not tie it to their outward appearance.

Take some time now to journal about the problems in your life that you have overcome. Use the space below to capture your thoughts and answer the above questions.

PERSONALITY

How are you wired? Are you an extrovert or introvert? A thinker or a doer? A visionary or implementer? A pioneer or settler? If you want to go deeper here, I recommend a personality assessment through DISC, the Enneagram, or Myers-Briggs (go to www.winathomebook/resources if you need an assessment). Personality is also about what gives you energy. We are all wired to do certain tasks, and when we do them, they bring us life. Whereas, if we are not doing them, they are draining.

Take some time now to journal about what makes you unique by your personality. Use the space below to capture your thoughts and answer the above questions.

POTENTIAL

We need to have a vision for ourselves that is built on something greater than temporary achievements and actions. We need a vision that will apply to our life, both at work and at home. A vision that is bigger than ourselves. A vision that is God dependent and not self-dependent.

What do you want to be known for? What legacy are you building? We have heard the question, “Are you building your life for your resume or your obituary?” Your resume is more about you. Your obituary is more about a lasting impact on others. Or try this: Imagine talking to your future self, lying on your death bed. What would your future self tell you about what you need to do?

Take some time now to journal about what makes you unique by your potential. Use the space below to capture your thoughts and answer the above questions.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

Without a vision statement, we drift and wander, so use the bottom of this page to start drafting some ideas for your vision statement. 1, 2, 3 . . . Go!
