ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

Big thinking always precedes big achievement. Our vision of the future will profoundly shape our destiny. Winston Churchill said: “The empires of the future are the empires of the mind.” We create things twice – first mentally and then physically.

It is essential that we think about, dream about, and ultimately envision our futures. A compelling vision provides meaning and direction. People with a vision can overcome seemingly insurmountable odds. Holding a clear picture in your mind of the desired future will mobilize your creative efforts and generate the desire and energy to perform.

All significant accomplishment began with someone daring to think it possible. So often we sell ourselves short, we aim well below our potential. You can do far more than you’ve ever dreamed or imagined. You are currently surrounded by breakthrough opportunities. Put aside the doubts and fears; claim the future! At this juncture knowing how you’re going to get there is not important. What’s important is knowing where you want to be. Once decided, you can determine the best route, and the appropriate tactics to get there. For now Focus on the Future.

“The indispensable first step to getting what you want in life is this: decide what you want.” – Ben Stein

BUILDING YOUR VISION

In this First step you will be asked to do some initial vision work. While it sounds simple enough, vision work can require a fair amount of effort. In formulating our vision, we must let our mind expand to imagine and even embrace possibilities we often push aside in our daily lives as being not immediate enough to command our attention, impractical, or even too audacious to even consider, let alone pursue. There is no right or wrong answer in vision work.

Please get comfortable, remove distractions, and let’s get started.

On to Exercise #1 – creating your long-term vision....
ASPIRATIONAL VISION

In this exercise we will start with a long-term, aspirational vision. Construct a vision of your life 5, 10, 15 years into the future. Be bold, be courageous; create a life vision that inspires you and fulfills your purpose. There are no right or wrong answers. This is the life you deeply desire.

My Long-Term Vision

3 YEAR VISION

The Second step is to bring your vision more near term and craft your three-year vision. Your three-year vision represents a stake in the ground for you. It is time-bound, and more specific than your longer-term vision. It represents progress toward your long-term vision, and it also defines what greatness looks like for you three years from today. It may include elements of your long-term vision, and will most likely be a mix of personal and business/career.

In the box provided, enter your age three years from today. Then determine what you want your life to be like in three years. Consider the following areas:

• Spouse, Family, Health, Spiritual, Social, Financial, Intellectual, Emotional, Life Style

• Income, Customer Profile, Marketing, Value Offer, Staffing, Strategic Partnerships, Time Off
LEVERAGING YOUR VISION

Now that you have a compelling vision, the secret is to stay connected with it. Here are three things you can do to make it even more powerful:

Action 1: Share it With Others

By sharing our vision we become committed to it. When we tell someone important to us what we want in life, we feel more responsibility to act.

Action 2: Stay in Touch with Your Vision

Print it out and keep it with you. Review it each morning. Update it every time that you discover ways to make it more vivid and meaningful to you.

Action 3: Be Intentional

At the end of each day, take a few minutes to reflect on the progress that you made today. Did it move you forward, or was it filled with activity that wasn’t related to your vision? Resolve to be intentional to make progress on your vision – what action will you take tomorrow?

Armed with our vision for inspiration, it is time to begin the exciting process of creating your roadmap to the future of your dreams – your 12 Week Year™ Plan!