



Creating a Life Vision

What and Why

The amount of income **AND** the type of income you create are just tools to provide you options in life. When developing a side hustle, it's important to see how that vehicle will intertwine with your life in a holistic way. It's not just an independent rogue agent that will randomly kick out some income. Life is more complex than this! Thinking you are going to take your off hours to build a substantial business in a vacuum that won't impact your family, health or relationships is both naive and foolish.

When thinking about your Life Vision, people tend to jump immediately to their income and career or business goals. Do you realize that your financial goals and being an entrepreneur are just a portion of that vision? Your vision should include all the major components of life. Success in one area of life while another part crumbles is not worth it long term. This is a common trap and why it is so critical you know **why** you want to build a side hustle to begin with! We need to decide how our side hustle affects, enhances, and influences all aspects of our lives. The ones we focus on are:

Health
Emotional, physical, and psychological health are just a few components of living a holistic healthy lifestyle. The body you have is the only one you have for the rest of your life. It is the vehicle you will use to get to every destination. Take care of it. Exercise, supplementation, healthy eating, and counseling are a few things you can do to take care of yourself.
Wealth
Money isn't the most important part of your life, but it will affect everything that is important. Making sure you live within your means, having a 6- 8 month emergency savings account set up, having a plan to get rid of debt, putting cash aside to build assets. The most important; creating extra income to handle your 4 basic life expenses (rent/ mortgage, food, basic bills, insurance). These are some of the things to keep in mind to handle your money well.
Relationships
Relationships with your spouse, children, parents, friends, neighbors etc. are probably the most impactful aspects of anyone's life. When those connections are strong and secure, anything is possible. It takes constant and deliberate effort to maintain it, which is never easy. However, without those connections, its harder to having meaningful memories as you go through life.
Spiritual
Most people think a spiritual goal is related to religion, and it is in most cases. The purpose of a religion, in the most general sense, is to give someone a framework of values to live by and a lifelong goal to strive for. This will usually give people a sense of purpose and will fulfill their soul. You can achieve a similar result if you set big goals in your life and create a daily routine to follow to help achieve them. The people you meet in life who have seem to have "found their purpose" create a framework around their daily lives to work towards their goals. They have values that are important to them and cut out things that will not get them closer to their purpose. Even though they may work relentlessly, they rarely lose their smile. It can be a goal to colonize Mars like Elon Musk or raise a strong family unit. Both will give a person, if done right, an honorable worthwhile purpose to strive for. For the luckiest people, a combination of both worldly and religious goals will bring the most fulfillment.



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There is a catch to this. At every point in your life at least 2 of these areas will be in a "bad" state. The way you handle the ups and downs will determine the quality of life you will live.

By combining these aspects of our life into a single vision we are less likely to create success in one area and become negligent in others. What does happiness look and feel like? What would you want to have accomplished? How would you visualize your relationships at an optimal level? What are you known for? How do you want to live? How can you better act in alignment with your values?

Be Specific

Most people have never asked themselves what they want or spent time thinking and planning for it. Sometimes they haven't had a circle of people around them who encouraged these conversations. Sometimes the conversation is avoided because deep down you have no idea how to make it happen....so you live a life of quiet desperation; never aiming for anything and never achieving anything worthwhile. As a result, when finally asked about their goals they often perform poorly and come back with very vague statements such as:

"I want to be financially independent."

"I want to have a lot of flexibility to travel."

"I want to have a great relationship with my husband."

"I want to help my parents."

Your vision and goals need to be specific. There are hundreds of books written on goal setting but for the purpose of our conversation we recommend that each of the 4 categories of your vision include the following:

1. Quantifiable metrics with dates (For those items that allow)
2. Activity goals
3. Values, characteristics, feelings, or visuals that express your desired future state.

Original Goal	Specific Goal
"I want to be financially independent."	Achieve financial independence by Age 40. I'll need the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50K of annual passive income, from at least 2 different sources (Metric) • \$500K in savings, 401K or other. (Metric) • No major financial commitments or debt with home paid off in full (Metric) • Carry a strong feeling of financial security (Feeling)
"I want to have a lot of flexibility to travel."	I want to be able to travel for 4 months out of the year by 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a work from home career or 6-8 month project/ contract work. (Metric) • Have a partner who values traveling and does not want to own a home or have children for several years. (Metric) • Need \$20,000 in liquid savings. (Metric)



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Want the feeling of not being tied down or restricted (Feeling)
"I want to help my parents."	"I want my parents to be able to live with my family, and cover their living costs before they turn 70:" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Own a 5-bedroom home with a clearly separate living space for my parents (Metric)• Support them financially with an extra \$2,000 per month for living expenses (Metric)• Take them on quarterly trips to see their friends and relatives (Activity)• Feel they are secure and supported. (Feeling)
"I want to be strong in my faith."	"I want to be committed to my faith daily and take on a leadership role within my church by next September." <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend your religious place of worship weekly (Activity)• Read two spiritual books per year (Activity)• Feel strongly connected to God (Feeling)

Likely there will be one or two of these categories you will be less energized to work on. Keep in mind, you don't have to set a vision to be a superhero in each category, but you should have some type of standard for yourself. Focus on having integrity about what type of life you want to build. Ask Yourself: What is most important to you?

For example, some people never felt the need to be Ironman champions or even run a half marathon. These are great goals, but they won't be most people's future visions because they would rather have more moderate exercise goals and instead focus on other areas of our life.

Oftentimes putting this life vision together can still feel overwhelming. Few people know exactly what they want their life vision to be 10 years from now, let alone 30. What helped us in putting a framework together is to ask in another way, what are some things you don't want 10 years from now? **Putting a list together of what we don't want can be easier and help us define what we do!**

Personally, I knew in my soul I didn't want to have to work for someone else forever. I didn't care as much how, or what that looked like, but it is this burning desire that drove me to begin visualizing how I wanted to live at 35 when I was 20. Because this was a dominant thought process, I could also start to project certain things I wanted to create at 45.

10 Year Life Vision

Although human beings can make a lot of changes in a year, it is difficult to make a radical shift in your financial lifestyle, personality, confidence, deeper systemic belief systems or to build a business to a level of financial independence. 5 or 10 years are often close enough you can visualize, but far enough you can still make substantial progress. Many people are too naive on how little impact you can have in a year but how much exponential impact you can have in ten years. In terms of finances, another reason we choose to focus on 5 and 10 years is because of the common business timelines we have observed. Keep in mind, by side hustling (and embracing the security of job) you are likely investing less time than someone who has started a business for their full-time career.