



**REDEEMING
PRODUCTIVITY**

A C A D E M Y

STAGE 3: Navigating

Christ- Centered Life Planning

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99% of productivity is prioritizing.

Better to work inefficiently on the right things than efficiently on the wrong things.

But *how* do we prioritize? What is the measuring rod we use to gauge the importance of one task, project, or goal over another?

If we want to deploy our productivity in the wisest way possible, we need to clarify a vision for our life.

When I say vision, I'm not talking about a literal vision from God. I'm talking about having a vision for your life in the same way a company has a vision statement to codify their values. It's an exercise in clarifying exactly what you're about.

In this course, I'll show you a unique way to create a vision statement for your life that will enable you to make better decisions, choose better goals, and enjoy a greater sense of purpose.

Objectives for This Course

- Create a personal vision statement for yourself
- Understand the necessity of having a vision that encapsulates an eternal perspective on your productivity
- Know how to use your vision statement for decision making and choosing which goals to pursue
- Evaluate and refine your statement over the course of your life.

Let's get started!



"We must have only one aim.

Had we plenty of time, we might try two or three schemes at once, though even then we should most probably fail for want of concentrating our energies; but as we have very little time, we had better economize it by attending to one thing.

The man who devotes all his thought and strength to the accomplishment of one reasonable object is generally successful."

CHARLES SPURGEON



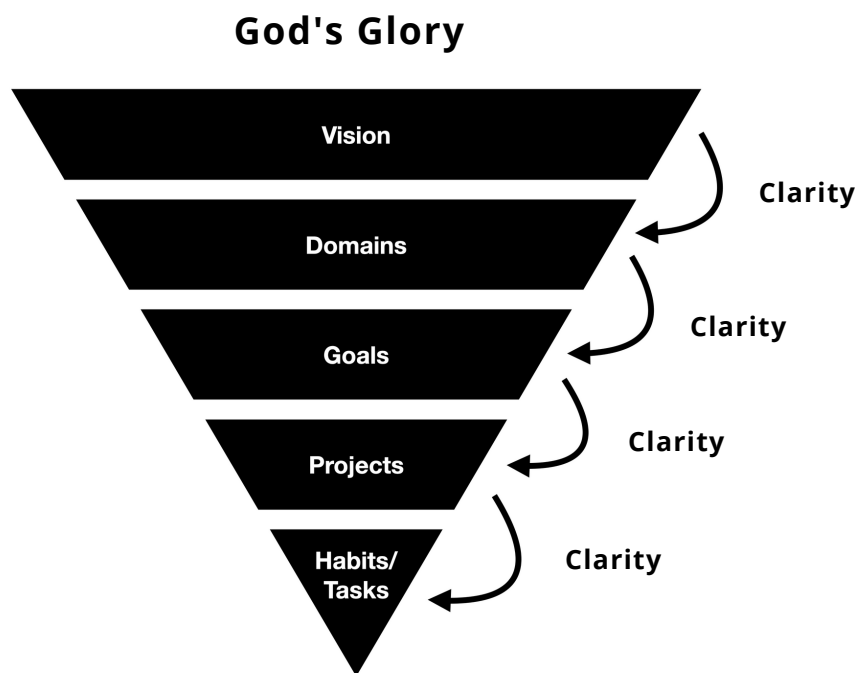
1. The Power of Vision

Vision is having clarity about your unique calling.

We've all been called to glorify God with our lives. But how specifically have *you* been called to glorify God with *your* life?

When you have clarity on vision, it provides clarity to every other aspect of your life as well. Vision clarifies your domains of stewardship, which clarify your goals, which clarify your projects, which clarify the habits and tasks you do today.

But it all starts with having a clear vision.



Knowing who you are and what you're about will enable you to productively serve God with focus.

But is having a vision for our lives biblical?

Biblical Examples of Vision

Many of the characters in the Bible had very clear visions for their lives. They had a life theme.

- **Abraham** → a better land and a great nation (Gen. 12:1–2)
- **Joseph** → preserve God's people through his work in Egypt (Gen. 37:5–8)
- **Moses** → delivering God's people from Egypt (Ex. 3:1–3; 7–8)
- **Jesus** → seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)
- **Paul** → the conversion of the Gentiles (Rom. 15:20)

The problem with these examples, however, is that almost all of these people were told directly by God what their life theme was going to be. So what good is that to us, when God isn't directly telling you, "Here is what I want your life to be about"?

Well, Joseph is the exception on this list. And the way he realized what God had called him to was the same way we figure out our calling and vision: He interpreted providence.

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

Genesis 50:20

Betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, wrongly imprisoned, appointed as Pharaoh's second in command—Joseph did not see these as random events, but puzzle pieces in the calling God specifically had for him. That is why he was able to say with such confidence, that "God sent me before you to preserve life." (Gen. 45:5).

Joseph's high view of God's sovereignty allowed him to infer purpose from providence. And that gave him clarity of vision for what his life was about.

We can do the same.

We can look at God's providence in our lives, our upbringing, unique skills, relationships, opportunities, strengths, weaknesses, and spiritual gifts and reasonably derive a life theme.

This theme, or vision, will likely change over time. But we only need enough clarity to take the next step. And a vision helps provide that clarity.

Own Your Calling

But what happens when we look at God's providence in our lives, the unique way he's fashioned us, and sense that God indeed has a theme for our lives, but we don't want to own it?

There is a lot we miss out on when we refuse to own our calling.

- We have no theme to unify our stewardship
- We feel aimless in our productivity
- We try to do too many different things
- We envy the calling of others
- We dishonor the unique way God has made and gifted us.

We know who we are and what we're about and thus we are able to productively serve God with focus.

The best way to own your calling is by producing a written vision statement for your life.

3 Benefits of a Written Vision Statement

1. Helps you to make decisions.
2. Helps you connect long-term and short-term productivity
3. Reminds you of your motivation when things get hard

When two great opportunities present themselves, having a clear vision statement allows you to ask, "which one of these is more aligned with who God made me to be, and where I want to go?"

It enables you to always draw a line from glorifying God to what you're doing right now, today. You are connecting your purpose, to domain of stewardship, to goals, to projects, and to what you're doing right at this moment. When you have these things defined, you can have confidence that what you're doing right now is exactly what you should be doing.

Not every day is satisfying or productive. When you feel frustrated or lost and start asking, "Why am I even doing this?" your vision statement has a ready answer. "This is what God has called me to."

Next, we will look at different types of vision statements.

Vision Produces Focus





2. Understanding Vision Statements

It's one thing to have a vision, it's another thing to have a vision statement. The purpose of this course is to **clarify** and **solidify** your calling into a written statement that can serve as a compass to you.

So what is a vision statement?

"A vision statement is an aspirational statement made by an organization that articulates what they would like to achieve."

Source: cascade.app/blog/examples-good-vision-statements

We are talking about creating a personal vision statement. But the concept of a vision statement comes from the corporate world.

Here are a few examples of corporate vision statements:

Amazon Vision Statement

Our vision is to be earth's most customer-centric company; to build a place where people can come to find and discover anything they might want to buy online.

Our Vision



*Create the most compelling car company
of the 21st century by
driving the world's transition to electric vehicles*

What makes a good vision statement:

- Based on the future
- Where we're going
- Inspires you
- "This is what we want to achieve"

But we're not making corporate vision statements. So let's look at a few types of personal vision statements.

Types of Personal Vision Statements

There are many ways of writing a personal vision statement. Here are some of the more popular ones you may have heard of.

Vision Board

A vision board is an image-based vision statement.



Written 5 or 10-Year Statement

Another type of vision statement is where you try to develop a vision for a precise time in the future.

"In five years, I will be attending the University of Michigan and majoring in economics."

"In ten years, I will be changing the world by teaching special education students."

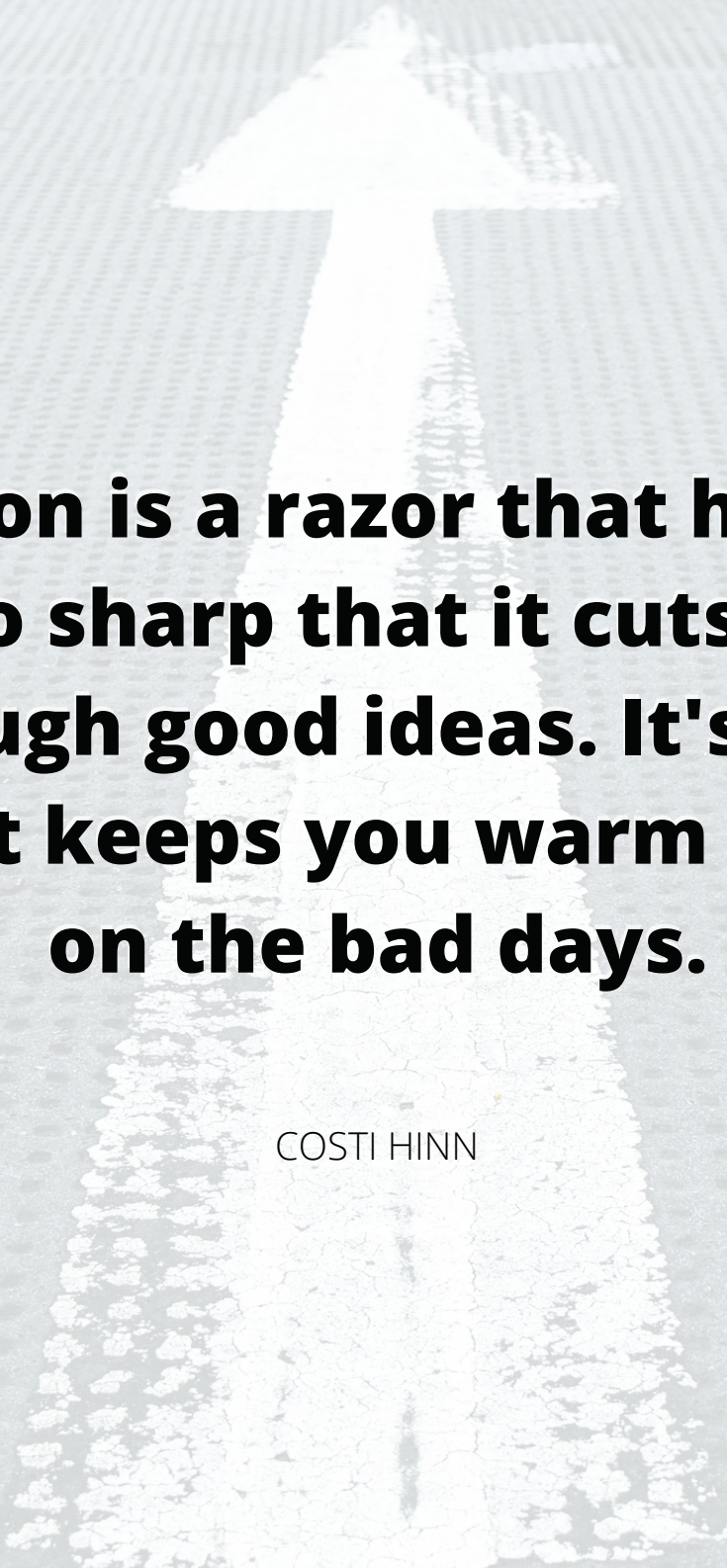
Personal Eulogy

Writing your own eulogy forces you to envision what you would hope people would say about you after you're gone. Then, you can compare your present trajectory and evaluate whether you are on course or not.

"I want them to remember my transparency, authenticity, and generosity. I want them to remember how I exceeded their expectations and gave them compelling, life-changing content and resources. Most of all, I want them to see in me a role model with a life worth emulating."

Source: *Living Forward* by Daniel Harkavy and Michael Hyatt

But we're not going to use any of these for our personal vision statement...

A large white arrow pointing upwards is painted on a cracked asphalt surface. The arrow is the central focus of the image, with its tail at the bottom and its head pointing towards the top. The asphalt is grey and shows signs of wear with numerous small cracks.

Vision is a razor that has to be so sharp that it cuts even through good ideas. It's a fire that keeps you warm even on the bad days.

COSTI HINN



3. The Longest-Term Vision

Eternally-Minded Vision Statement

The thing that is missing from most personal vision statements is an eternal perspective. But since a vision statement is concerned with success, a Christian's personal vision statement should encompass success as God's Word defines it.

And the Bible says our success is not ultimately to be found in this life, but in the life to come.

"[The] missing ingredient in the lives of many Christians today is motivation."

Randy Alcorn, Money, Possessions, and Eternity

Envisioning Eternal Reward

Scripture presents the believer's eternal reward as the ultimate motivation for our productivity. Not money, not temporal happiness, not the praise of others, not even your own legacy—eternal reward is the best motivation for productivity.

That's why it's the fifth pillar in *The Five Pillars of Christian Productivity*.

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9

So to be motivated like Christians, we need a vision statement that is squarely focused on eternal reward.

Imagining Your Well Done

We need to go further than writing our own eulogy. We need a vision statement that is fixated not on temporal visions, riches, personal peace, or what others will say of us. We need a beatific vision.

We need to clearly articulate what we would hope our Master will say to us when we see Him face-to-face.

I call this type of a vision statement writing your "well done." Because we are creating a vision statement based on what the master says to the stewards in the parable of the talents in Matthew 15.

Here's what my "well done" statement looks like:

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful to walk with Me daily, reading My Word and seeking Me in prayer. You have been faithful with your family, loving Kim as I loved My church, and raising your children up in wisdom and My instruction. You have been faithful to your calling of helping My brothers and sisters become more faithful stewards for My Father's glory. You have been faithful with your health, stewarding your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, eating healthy and exercising regularly. You have been faithful with your finances, not being foolish and not hoarding My money as if it were your own, but using it to care for your family, give to My church, and provide for the needs of others. And you've been faithful in your recreation, respecting your need for rest as a finite creature and making time to enjoy My creation, eating, and drinking to My glory. Because you have been faithful in these little things, I will set you over much. Enter the joy of your Master."

Now, let me show you how it works and how to create one of your own.

How to Craft Your “Well Done”

Here's how to create a "well done" vision statement for yourself.

1. Begin by writing "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful..." (Matt. 25:23)

This will form the beginning of your statement. The next step is to fill it with *what* you would hope Jesus would say you were faithful in.

2. Write a statement from each of the six domains of stewardship.

Your domains of stewardship are the six major areas of responsibility that typically make up a person's life. Yours might be slightly different. But most people have:

- Spiritual
- Relationships
- Calling
- Health
- Finances
- Recreation

If you look back at my example "well done" statement, you'll notice it's really just filling in a sentence or two for each of these domains.

For example, under finances, I wrote, "You have been faithful with your finances, not being foolish and not hoarding My money as if it were your own, but using it to care for your family, give to My church, and provide for the needs of others."

It's wise to keep each section relatively short because you're going to be looking at this statement every day. If the whole thing is too long, it can become overly time-consuming.

3. Finish your statement by adding “You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”

Finally, complete the statement the same way the master did in the parable of the talents. The purpose of this is to remind yourself why faithfulness matters. You are looking to the reward of Jesus' commendation.

You can use the worksheet on the next page to write your own "well done."

My "Well Done"

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful...

Spiritual

Relationships

Calling

Health

Finances

Recreation

You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

Evaluating Yourself Using Your "Well Done"

Once you have your "well done" in a state you like, now it's time to ask yourself some questions.

1. Is my life currently on the path to hear "well done, good and faithful servant?"
2. What areas might Christ say I've been a good steward in?
3. What areas would Christ say I have not been as faithful in as I should?

The purpose of these questions isn't to beat yourself up, but to do some honest reflection. Because that's what your vision statement is, a mirror. It's a tool you can use to evaluate if the values you say you hold, are actually what's directing your life.

Do you want to live a life that glorifies God? Do you want to be a good steward?

Good.

But does the trajectory of your life say that? If not. It's time to make some changes.

This is where you can utilize the other tools in your Christian productivity toolbox to actually make those changes. Create some goals using "Goal-Setting and the Glory of God," or modify your morning routine using "P.O.W.E.R. Mornings" so that it includes habits that can help you correct where you aren't being faithful.

But don't just look at this statement once and put it away...

Reviewing and Refining Your Statement

In order to put your "well done" statement to work, you need to make time to review it daily and also refine it once in a while as your life changes and you gain more clarity on your calling.

Review

You should review your vision statement daily. I recommend making it part of your morning routine. I have mine written in my journal, and I make a point of reading it every day during my morning routine.

This statement will serve you best if you are constantly confronting yourself with it, so you can make tweaks in your habits and goals that will keep you on course for faithfulness.

Review

My own personal vision statement has changed and been refined many times over the years as my life situation has changed, and I've come to greater clarity about exactly how God has uniquely gifted me.

Yours will too!

It's wise to make refining your vision statement part of your yearly planning, and if you do quarterly planning, include this in there as well.

P.s. if you want help with quarterly and yearly planning, we do quarterly planning workshops throughout the year and an annual planning workshop every December as part of Redeeming Productivity Academy.

**Whatever good thing
you do for Him, if done
according to the Word,
is laid up for you as
treasure in chests and
coffers, to be brought
out to be rewarded
before both men and
angels, to your eternal
comfort.**

JOHN BUNYAN

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