

Growing a Vision? Do Not Throw Your Pearls before Swine

God has given each of us certain abilities and equips us to achieve what He has called us to do. Identifying what you feel called to and your strengths for achieving it will give you confidence. As your confidence in your purpose grows, so will your enthusiasm and determination. If you are not able to identify your strengths, it does not mean they are not there, only that you have not yet discovered your potential.

In endeavoring to discover your talents, you need not focus only on what you do better than anyone else. There is not much room for being the best in the world at anything. But search for the skill you have that is your strongest ability. It may not be the best of the best, but it is your *personal* best. And that is what God calls us to; doing the best with what He has equipped us, for the purpose for which He has called us and with the strength and guidance He provides. This is what the apostle Paul is getting at when He says, “I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.” (Philippians 3:12)

Do not throw your pearls before swine. Surround yourself with people who are encouraging. Detractors can have a powerful influence that can rob you of your courage. By entrusting your vision only to those who can help you achieve it, either through their encouragement or their ability to lend their strengths to it, you are better able to maintain course. That does not mean it must always be a secret mission, but it does mean you should, as much as possible, protect your vision from the attack of those who will try to undermine it. This is necessary for anything in its developing stages. It must be nurtured, fed and protected until it is big enough to stand on its own.

Don't short change yourself. Even if circumstances around you do not seem to allow you to move toward your vision, and others are critical, you do have the power to take control of your ideas with courage and determination. By keeping the vision clearly fixed in your mind, you gradually begin making the little decisions that bring it to fruition. Those little decisions lead to gradually bigger and bigger decisions. Then opportunities to make great strides toward your vision will suddenly seem to “present themselves” as if by accident, but in reality as the result of determining to achieve the mission and all the while becoming more alert to subtle opportunities to move closer and closer to it. This applies to a business vision, a vision for your family, your finances, your spiritual life, or any other worthwhile goal.

We all have days when we just don't feel like giving the required effort. The difference between success and failure is working through those times when you want to stop, or the work is more than you thought it would be. In the children's movie, *Finding Nemo*, Dori says when she feels that way she tries to “just keep swimming, just keep swimming, just keep swimming, swimming,

swimming.” That’s a great illustration of the fact that in order to succeed through times when we just want to quit, we have to do just one more little thing, then another and another. Soon, our motivation is back, the steps are quickly falling in place, and we are back on track.

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