

MOVING FROM VISION TO REALITY

HAPPY ABOUT® FULFILLING
YOUR TRUE PURPOSE

BY CYRIL RAYAN



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Moving From Vision to Reality

Happy About Fulfilling Your
True Purpose

By Cyril Rayan

**Subset of the book brought
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WHITE PAPER Table of Contents (included here)

Introduction
Chapter 1: Leadership, Purpose & Vision: Steps I & II
Conclusion
About the Author

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Contents

NOTE: This is the Table of Contents (TOC) from the book for your reference. The eBook TOC (below) differs in page count from the tradebook TOC.

Intro	Introduction.	1
Chapter 1	Leadership, Purpose & Vision: Steps I & II .	3
	Leading the Vision	7
	General vs. Unique Purpose	9
	Your Unique Purpose	9
	WORKBOOK – Chapter 1	11
Chapter 2	Team Building: Step III.	13
	Steps for Team Building	15
	Qualities you Need to Look for in Team Members . .	17
	Motivating the Team	18
	WORKBOOK – Chapter 2	21
Chapter 3	Leadership Qualities: Step IV, Part I.	23
	Leaders are Hardworking	24
	Leaders are Able to Face Challenges Alone	25
	Leaders are Loving and Compassionate	25
	Leaders are People of Ethics and Integrity.	27
	Leaders are Honest	28
	Leaders are Forward- Looking	28
	Leaders are Inspiring	29
	Leaders are Competent	29
	Leaders are Credible	30
	Leaders are Courageous	30
	Leaders are Able to Preempt Problems	31
	Leaders are Able to Grow and Develop Continuously.	31
	Leaders are Able to See the Big Picture	31
	A Long List	32
	WORKBOOK – Chapter 3	33

Chapter 4	Leadership and Management: Step IV, Part II	37
	Steps to Effective Planning for Your Life	42
	How to Stick to the Plan	44
	WORKBOOK – Chapter 4	46
Chapter 5	Foster Innovation: Step IV, Part III	49
	Steps to Foster Innovation	50
	WORKBOOK – Chapter 5	54
Chapter 6	Leadership and Faith: Step V	57
	What are you Saying?	60
	WORKBOOK – Chapter 6	63
Chapter 7	Leadership and Servanthood: Step VI, Part I	65
	WORKBOOK – Chapter 7	71
Chapter 8	Leadership and Communication: Step VI, Part II	73
	Steps for Effective Communi- cation	76
	WORKBOOK – Chapter 8	80
Chapter 9	Perseverance: Step VII	83
	Navigating Through Failure and Change	84
	WORKBOOK – Chapter 9	87
Chapter 10	Transforming Communities	89
	Model for Community Transformation	90
	How Can My Vision be Involved?	91
	WORKBOOK – Chapter 10	93
Close	Conclusion	97
Author	About the Author	99

Seminar	'Moving From Vision to Reality' Seminar	101
Your Book	Create Thought Leadership for your Company .103	
	Why wait to write your book?	104

Introduction

The reason I decided to write this book is that I often hear visions and dreams from many people around me, but do not see them being implemented or even acted upon. This led me to ponder on what it takes for a vision to become a reality and why so few really venture into acting upon their vision. I am optimistic that after thorough reading and comprehension, this book will allow more people to be inspired to act upon their vision; hopefully making the world we live in a better one. This book brings together the elements needed to take your vision and make it a reality.

There are seven steps, which are necessary to move from vision to reality. Some of the steps are addressed in one particular chapter while others are addressed in multiple chapters. At the end of each chapter, there are workbook exercises that contain key summary points and space for you to make notations in the book. These have been established to help reinforce the key message of each chapter. There are also questions to help apply what you learned to your personal life.

The Seven Steps

Step 1: Find your Purpose and Catch the Vision

Step 2: Decide to Act and Write the Vision

Step 3: Build a Team to Accomplish the Vision

Step 4: Manage the Team & Foster Innovation

Step 5: Believe in the Vision

Step 6: Run with the Vision

Step 7: Hang on to the Vision

1

Leadership, Purpose & Vision: Steps I & II

The Seven Steps

Step 1: Find your Purpose and Catch the Vision
Step 2: Decide to Act and Write the Vision
Step 3: Build a Team to Accomplish the Vision
Step 4: Manage the Team & Foster Innovation
Step 5: Believe in the Vision
Step 6: Run with the Vision
Step 7: Hang on to the Vision

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."
--Warren Bennis

"What would you do if you knew you could not fail?" One of Christ's followers said, "...be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble."¹ If you know your calling and do accordingly, you will not stumble. You can do what you are called to do and not even get paid for it, but you can still enjoy it because you find it extremely satisfying and pleasurable. It is like a school of fish swimming in the water or a flock of birds flying in the air; they are created for that purpose and are most comfortable executing on it. Similarly, each one of us has a purpose and once we find it, we are able to execute on it with ease and pleasure. However true these thoughts may be, many do not even attempt to act on their purpose for the fear of failure. But your ancient friend (quoted above) reminds you that if you make your call and election sure, you will not stumble or fail.

The Apostle Paul put it quite appropriately, "Not that I am already attained or am I already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me."² Paul understood clearly the concept of God-given purpose. He points out that he is not perfect but presses on to accomplish his purpose. Though God has made you for a purpose, that does not mean that it will be easy. There is an element of pressing on to accomplish your purpose. You need to persevere and act on your purpose to accomplish it. Our Creator reminds us that He has a special plan in mind for each of us: "Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet

1. *The Holy Bible: New King James Version*. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1982), 2 Peter 1:10.

2. Philipians 3:12

there were none of them."³ God has planned each day in your life; He has a plan and purpose for each one of you.

As God has created you, He is the one who knows your purpose. It is therefore God who you should ask for your purpose in life. To fulfill this purpose, God will give you a vision. Not everyone is called to start a ministry, a church or a business. But each one is definitely called to fulfill his or her purpose. You could even be called upon to be part of another person's vision.

Vision is to see something that is far off but coming into view. The Greek word for vision is *hazon*, which means, "to see." The Hebrew word *optasia* means "coming into view." Vision is for a particular purpose, which is not yet a reality but will become a reality if the visionary is willing to pay the price.

Indulge me for a moment as I go back into memory lane when I first began to seriously consider my God-given purpose. I had been working as a chip designer in Silicon Valley and was eventually promoted to Product Marketing Manager. This position took me to 13 countries in less than 18 months, where I was able to launch two products in two continents. During my entire tenure in the corporate world, I knew that I would some day be launching out on my own. In fact, if the truth be told, I can remember having this deep desire early in my high school days. After seven years of valuable experience, I knew the time had arrived for me to act upon this aspiration. In August of 2000, Mindbrook Inc. (www.mindbrook.com) was founded to provide leading edge software for corporate manage-

3. Psalm 139:16

ment and compliance. The lessons to be learned in the pages of this book can be traced directly to the knowledge gained at Mindbrook.

***"If the vision can be accomplished with your paycheck it is not a God-given vision."
-- Myles Munroe***

Once you discover your God-given purpose and the vision to accomplish that purpose, the next logical step is to take action. You need to resolve for yourself that your vision needs to be accomplished. Most of us do not discover our purpose in life and only a few of us act upon it. There will be questions like: How will I live? How will I support my family? Such questions might convince you to procrastinate or even abandon the decision to act on your vision. Yet, you must understand that God will make a way where there seems to be no way. If you do not take action you will not fulfill your purpose. Myles Munroe, author of the best-selling book, *'The Principles and Power of Vision'*, says that the graveyard is the most expensive real estate in the world because many hopes and dreams have died there. You should not make the graveyard richer. You must choose to act on your vision.

Once you decide to act on your vision, it is imperative that the vision be written down. God once spoke to Habakkuk, a religious leader in Israel's past, "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."⁴ Habakkuk

4. Habakkuk 2:2

was troubled by the prosperity and rise to power of the wicked Babylonians both in Judah and its neighbors, Assyria and Egypt. God spoke to him and asked him to write the vision on tablets so that the people could run with it and the tablets containing the vision were in fact not very big. God not only says you need to have a vision, but that it should be succinct and to the point. The reasoning behind writing the vision down is not just so you, yourself can see clearly what lies ahead, but also to allow you to refine it and make it as succinct as possible. Once you write the vision down, it can then be used to share with others in your sphere of influence so that everyone understands the destination and the direction of the vision, allowing those who choose, to follow you. God gives the vision to one person who in turn decides to act on it and share it with others. This will help each person to run with the vision based on his or her part in it.

Leading the Vision

There are many definitions of leadership. Webster's dictionary defines leadership as "the office or position of leading, or capacity to lead, or the act or instance of leading." There are many people in positions of leadership who do not function as leaders. Conversely, you do not need a position or a title to function as a leader.

According to John Maxwell, author of the best-selling book *'Developing the Leader Within You'*, "Leadership is influence".⁵ This definition of leadership captures the impact leadership has in influencing others. Fred Smith, founder of FedEx, defines leadership as "getting people to

5. *'Developing the Leader Within You'* by John Maxwell (Nashville, Tennessee by Thomas Nelson Inc. 1993) page 1

work for you when they are not obligated to."⁶
This definition is not my favorite as it focuses on obtaining followers. Though it's true that the leader will attract followers because of who he is, leadership should not be defined around that aspect.

Myles Munroe's definition of leadership is defined simply, yet profoundly, as self-discovery. Myles has captured the basic element needed for leadership, which is; understand who you are.

In combining the thoughts of Myles Munroe and John Maxwell with my own, we can create a complete definition of leadership: Leadership is first discovering yourself and your purpose, then influencing and inspiring others to join hands with you to turn that *vision into reality*.

Leadership is first discovering yourself and your purpose, then influencing and inspiring others to join hands with you to turn that vision into reality.

Before you can influence others, you need to discover what your purpose is. William Shakespeare once said, "We know what we are, but know not what we may be." Once you know your life purpose, you 1) know what you may be, 2) become passionate about your purpose, and 3) are able to influence and inspire others to join the voyage.

6. heartquotes.net, <http://www.heartquotes.net/Leadership.html>

**General vs.
Unique
Purpose**

The general purpose your Creator intended for you is to praise and honor His Name. The Lord God says, "This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise".⁷ But there is also a specific and unique purpose for each human being who is born on this earth. Jesus had a specific purpose for his life. His disciples were simple people, fishermen and tax collectors; they were not men of vaunted nobility. Yet Jesus knew His purpose, which in turn influenced His disciples to join hands with Him to fulfill this purpose. Jesus truly is the greatest leader and a model for leadership. In fact, we'll be using his leadership style and stories as examples throughout this book. Jesus has impacted and influenced billions of people around the world. As He continues to influence billions today, He is an undeniably good choice as a model leader.

**Your Unique
Purpose**

Everyone has leadership opportunities. Sociologists tell us that even the most introverted individuals will influence ten thousand other people during his or her lifetime.⁸ That means that all of you are leading in some areas, while following in others.

In the creation account God said "Let Us make man in our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man to have dominion on the earth.⁹ Leadership does not mean that

7. Isaiah 43:2

8. *'Developing the Leader Within You'* by John Maxwell (Nashville, Tennessee by Thomas Nelson Inc. 1993) page 2

9. Genesis 1:26

you are the boss, but it means that you have the responsibility to use the talents and skill set with which you have been blessed. Leadership is needed to have order in whatever you do, whether it be at a company, a church, in the family, at school, or wherever people are gathered together in order to achieve something.

***"What you don't do can
be a destructive force."
-- Eleanor Roosevelt***

"All excellence involves discipline and tenacity of purpose," says John W. Gardner, former secretary of the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare.¹⁰ Recognizing your God-given purpose in life will propel you and motivate you to run the race to accomplish this purpose.

***As God has created us,
He is the one who knows
this path and our true
purpose.***

You can't expect to accomplish your purpose or have others join you if you don't know the specific path you are meant to take. As God has created you, He is the one who knows this path and your true purpose. Each of you, therefore, should ask

10. 'Excellence: Can We Be Equal and Excellent Too'
John W Gardner (W.W. Norton & Company, 1995), 76.

God for your unique purpose in life. Finding your unique purpose is vitally important to building a team to accomplish your purpose.

**WORKBOOK –
Chapter 1**

Leadership, Purpose and Vision

**Summary Prin-
ciples**

Leadership is first discovering yourself and your purpose, then influencing and inspiring others to join hands with you to turn the _____ into _____. Leadership does not mean that you are the _____, but it means that you have the _____. To fulfill this purpose God will give you a _____.

Seven steps necessary to move from vision to reality

01) _____

02) _____

03) _____

04) _____

05) _____

06) _____

07) _____

**Life Applica-
tion**

1. In which areas are you a leader and in which areas are you a follower?

C l o s e

Conclusion

Final words from a man who is still running with his vision

As I am sitting here in my home in San Jose with my friend and writing coach Frank, I look back to my opening statements. I really hope to have accomplished just one thing, which is to have inspired you to find your purpose and God given vision and decide to take action.

Not many act...

I trust you will be different.

To know your true purpose from God you need to have a relationship with God. I am not talking about joining a church or finding religion.

Would you pray with me? Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins, I ask you to come into my heart, I make you my LORD and Savior. Please guide me to accomplish my true purpose.

If you prayed that prayer, I believe that you have been "born again". I encourage you to attend a good Bible-based Church.

We would love to hear from you!

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Cyril Rayan is Founder, President & CEO of Mindbrook Inc. a start-up software company in the compliance management space. He has fourteen years experience in the semiconductor/software industry. He has more than 9 years experience in International marketing and sales. In his last position he was a worldwide product manager at ZiLOG, Inc.

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Christian open development network, which is an open source movement in the Christian community for software projects.

Cyril has a passion for studying and speaking on leadership. He holds a master's degree in Electrical Engineering and an MBA from Santa Clara University. For more information visit his leadership blog <http://www.cyrilrayan.com>

Cyril and his wife, Jemima, travel together as seminar speakers and are the proud parents of two children, Hannah and Joshua.

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