**Defining & Keeping A Career**

**Jeremiah 29:11-12** For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 12'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

**Psalms 32:8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

**What is PASSION?**

Passion is a strong or extravagant fondness, enthusiasm, or desire for anything: a passion for music.

**What do YOU have a PASSION for? What do you get REALLY EXCITED ABOUT?**

*You EXCEL your BEST,  
You DO your BEST,  
You PERFORM your BEST,  
at what interest you the MOST*.

**WHAT IS A VISION?**

**VISION is not EYESIGHT.** Can a blind person have vision? Yes.

When a blind person, was asked, what’s worse than being blind, he responded by saying, “Having eyes and cannot see.” The Bible say, “Seeing they see not and hearing they hear not…” and God has blinded the MIND (not EYES) of them that believe not.

1. What is your vision? (Vision is **FORESIGHT** with **INSIGHT** based on **HINDSIGHT** – Dr. Myle Munroe) What do you **see** yourself doing (future)? What have you enjoyed doing (past)? What do you currently enjoy doing? If you can **CONNECT** the dots between these three, that your passion.
2. Walt Disney widow told the MC that told her, “We wish Walt was here to SEE this magnificent architectural feat.” She responded by saying, “Excuse me Sir, Walt has already SEEN it, it is YOU who is SEEING it for the FIRST TIME.
3. What do you see or not see yourself doing in a career?
   1. Do you see yourself behind a desk all day OR do you want to roam around doing things?
   2. Do you prefer not to do public speaking?
   3. Do you like working with numbers?
   4. Do you like doing research?
   5. Do you work well under pressure?
   6. Are you a thorough thinker?
   7. Do you get bored easily doing the same thing?
   8. Do you prefer being in meetings or would you rather be a “working bee”?
   9. Do you want an 8 to 5 job or is working overtime an acceptable path?
   10. Do you want to work for yourself?
   11. Do you like to travel?
   12. Do you like problem solving?
   13. Do you like sales?
4. Finding the right career, the first time so that you don’t lose time or money. Yes, your career goals change but it should be close in line with you career objectives or personality.
5. **CAUTION:** Just because you have a passion for something, does not necessarily means it should be your career. For example, you may have a passion to sing, cook or dance but that may not necessarily translate to a career.  *This should only be a hobby!*
6. **Do prerequisites:** 
   1. Take a career assessment test
   2. Do intern work for the job you think you like. It may not be what you thought.

**What are some of your distraction?**

1. Sometimes we spend times doing things we LIKE to do (e.g., exercises, socialize, play games, social media, etc.) instead of doing things we NEED to do (e.g., studying to develop new skills)
2. Don’t settle for less. Don’t get comfortable where you are.
3. Don’t get struck in a rut

**Know your strengths and weaknesses**

1. Make yourself **indispensable** (e.g., Teaching for me)
2. Make yourself **invaluable** (e.g., job interview for me)
3. Market yourself

**APPLY YOURSELF:**

1. Pray always with all prayers… Play without ceasing
2. Acknowledge God in all your ways, He will direct your path. A path of a righteous man is ordered by the Lord
3. Seek 1st the kingdom of God and all these other things will be added
4. Be aggressive and assertive
5. Managing your time and resources
6. Work hard
7. Study until you are proficient in a subject matter *(Too often I see students don’t do much outside of the class and you can tell when you are teaching material I just covered. I tell students that for every 1 hour you are in class you should be spending at least 2-3 hours outside of class on the same subject. – Cornelius Chopin)*
8. You will not learn everything you need to know in a class. You must employ BLENDED LEARNING (hand-on exercises, videos, practice material, other books, online line resources, online training (e.g., Lynda.com, Udemy.com) and DOING. – *Cornelius Chopin*
9. Don’t settle for easy classes. Learn to strengthen yourself *(According to the scriptures “ A man’s gift will make room for him and bring him before great men)*
10. Can you explain what you know to someone else that’s not in your field and they can get the gist of what you are saying? *(If you cannot explain it simply, you don’t understand it well enough – Albert Einstein).*
11. David said, “I have more understanding than all of my teacher, I understand more than the ancient because I keep thou precepts.”
12. Work hard and get good grades to get a scholarship.
13. Utilize your FULL POTENTIAL. (I see too often students settle for the bare minimum instead of utilizing their full potential in what they can do)

**ENHANCE YOUR SKILLS:**

1. Interviewing skills
2. Resume skills
3. Speaking/presentation skills (Nothing is worse than being very knowledgeable on a subject matter and not being able to market yourself to get a job.)
4. Developing additional or similar skills instead of playing games, socializing, etc. Companies today are looking for workers that know how to do a lot of stuff (e.g., web, SEO, Social Media, video).
5. Constantly sharpen your skills (e.g., on-line resources, additional schooling, certifications, licenses, books).
6. Going to college? Lifelong learners? Need to make money
7. Determine if the career you are going in will be needed in the future or can it be outsourced, move over sea, no longer needed.
8. Sometimes you must do things you don’t like to do to get where you want to go (e.g., Intern).
9. Good grades are not all what an employee looks for. They will look for employees that are well-rounded (e.g., communication skills, how well you get along with others, etc.)
10. What I see is that a student will go to college the first time and not do as well then they go back a second time (typically, on their own dime) and do better. What was the different?