

# COMPASS

## Life Mission Statement & Life Board



Have you ever planned a trip with a specific yet unfamiliar destination in mind? Likely. Did you do it without consideration of navigation needs (map, gps, itinerary, or at least a guide who knew the way)? Likely not. Before gps, people used paper maps with a compass rose on the map, showing geographical points in relation to North. You used the map and the compass to navigate to your destination.

Exploring calling using navigational tools like career and personality assessments can be very helpful. Incorporating the results into a Personal Vision or Life Mission Statement which you can then use throughout life as a guide or compass for important life decisions can bring clarity, focus, and increased fruitfulness. It can provide you with a better sense of direction and a tool for avoiding unnecessary stress. Implementing your Personal Vision Statement using actionable steps, within healthy boundaries, can help you manage your time and bring balance to your life. It details where you would like to go with your life, what you would like to do, and the person you want to be. It's a personal development strategy. It can answer the statement, "When I die, I would like to have been known as a person who..." In this planning, though, remember that "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Proverbs 16:9

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A personal vision statement incorporates goals related to core areas of your life, including spiritual, intellectual, social, physical, emotional, and career. We set the goals of our vision statement in alignment with God's will.

As we develop our personal vision-mission statement, we look for areas of life integration. The more integrated your life areas, the more synergy, less effort, and more time efficiency you will experience. The vision-mission statement can be a great tool for thinking about career direction.

A few of the many things that scripture shares about vision and planning include the passage in Habakkuk 2:2-3, which says, "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." In Proverbs 13:16 we read that "wise people think before they act; fools don't—and even brag about their foolishness", and "good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty." (Proverbs 21:5).

### **Life Board & Life Mission Statement**

A big part of planning a trip often is consulting resources and advice from others. Having an inner circle of people to tap into can help bring a lot of clarity to the process to creating your life vision statement. Enter a Personal Life Board.

A Personal Life Board is a small group of friends and mentors who help encourage and equip you for meeting your life goals. They are part of your inner circle of community. They offer accountability, advice, coaching, encouragement, and suggest resources. They will act as a sounding board and may suggest new directions, based on their insights of you that you may have never considered. They press into the permission you have given them to carefront you when you are drifting, speaking the truth in love and redirecting you to God's principles. They are a personal source of influence. We need good influence: in our own brokenness our understanding and vision is sometimes distorted or clouded.

People are influenced in their perspectives, behaviors, and beliefs not just by people they know and have designated in their mind to a counselor role, but many times by those that they haven't thought of as a counselor or advisor.

To test this, pick about any topic that doesn't deal with trivial personal preference (e.g. of personal preference, "Peanut M&Ms are the world's best candy"), and write down your thoughts and opinions about it. Then, try to dig into why you believe what you believe. How did you come to your conclusions or opinions? Where did you get the info to build the structure or key ideas of your opinion? Who or what has provided a filtering perspective to interpret or explain the info you processed and used to develop your opinion? You may discover that there may be multiple sources behind the opinion you hold, including parents and friends, your interpretation of life experiences, coworkers, books that you've read, podcasters you've listened to, teachers who've taught you, news streams you follow, or social media influencers and social commentators you subscribe to. (Given that we are spiritual beings living in a world with spiritual influencers, e.g. Holy Spirit, demonic spirits, etc..., I believe that we can also be influenced at a spiritual level that then can influence soul and mind.) Formally or informally, intentionally or unintentionally, these various inputs are vying for your mindshare, shaping and influencing perspective and opinion. You can think of all of them as personas sitting around your table.

### **Who's at your table?**

We tend to reflect those we allow to influence us. In Acts 4, Peter and John were confronted by the religious leaders in the temple. Who influenced them became clear: "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they

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took note that these men had been with Jesus.” (v.13) Peter and John had frequently shared a table with Jesus. It’s important that we carefully consider those around our table. King Solomon said, “Be friends with those who are wise, and you will become wise. Choose fools to be your friends, and you will have trouble.” Proverbs 13:20 (Also read Proverbs 18:24.)

We can see the role and influence of advisors/influencers in the lives of three kings in ancient Israel- a grandfather, son, and grandson.

David’s Advisors- wise, biblically grounded, carefronting and encouraging, leading to a growing kingdom.

Solomon’s Wives- slow drift to ungodliness and a corrupted kingdom.

Rehoboam’s Friends- adversarial to godly counsel, leading to a divided kingdom.

Who are the personas eating with you and sharing counsel, perspective, or opinion?

*Personas around your table.*

Include these...

God’s Word. If you want to live fruitfully as God intends for you, and want to love God, you will make sure God’s Word has the key chair at your table. (Read Psalm 1.) Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” John 14:15. This is a call of obedience-based discipleship, motivated by love and rooted in the instruction of His Word, the Bible. The Psalmist said, “I am even wiser than my elders, for I have kept your commandments” (Psalm 119:100) and “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. By your words I can see where I’m going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path.” (Psalm 119:105) Knowing God’s Word is the key to discerning godly counsel and living a biblical worldview. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.” Colossians 3:16. Also, “...the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” 1 Corinthians 1:25. See also 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12,

Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit should also have a seat at our table. The Holy Spirit is a Helper who teaches and reminds us (John 14:25), convicts us when we are missing the mark so that we can repent and experience restored union with God, and is a source of revelation, wisdom, and power (1 Corinthians 2:10-11, Acts 1:8, Ephesians 1:17-20, James 1:5.) He guides us to all truth, including knowledge of what is to come (John 16:13-15), gives us spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7-11), and helps in our weakness and intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27). The Spirit makes believers new, gives them eternal life (Romans 8:10-11), and sanctifies and enables us to bear good fruit in our lives (Galatians 5:16-25).

Mentors. Someone who has gone where we want to go, sharing wisdom to help us get there.

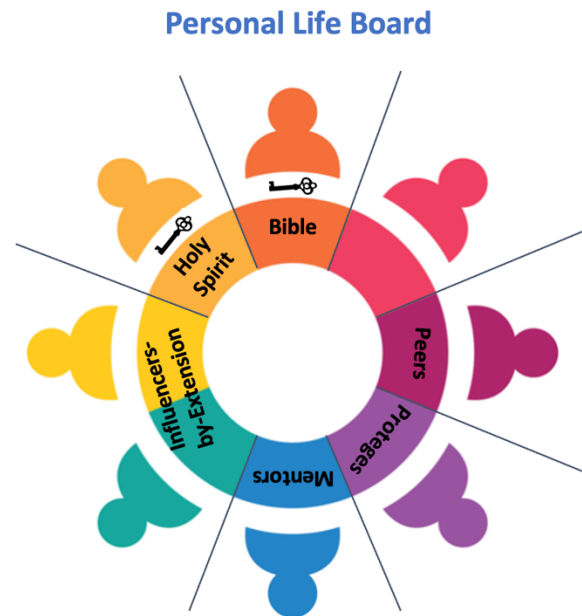
Peers. Someone in a similar phase of life, encouraging and strengthening us, traveling together in the journey.

Mentees: those we are investing in who are journeying with us.

Influencers-by-Extension. Identify and evaluate the role of these personas...

Social media influencers      Podcasters      Media/News Channels      Coaches

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Whoever you place around your table as a consistent presence, evaluate if they have God's Word and the Holy Spirit around *their* table and show the evidence of listening to and obeying it. To what degree do the personas at your table reflect godly perspective and a biblical worldview? See 1 John 4:1) I believe that God can use the common grace gifts and experiences of the ungodly to provide wise counsel that reflects biblical principles. Just be discerning about what. Gauge frequency and depth of influence. Who's an occasional guest? Who's a frequent visitor? Who's consistently there? We all can benefit from having a Life Board of godly people helping us push into and experience the potential God has designed into us. Who's on your Board?

The process of developing a personal vision-mission statement can take many months of praying, seeking, self-reflection, self-assessment, getting input from key people in your life, and so on. But it's worth it! I encourage you to start the journey of creating this statement now. What's holding you back?!

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### **Ask Your Mentor**

1. Do you have something like a personal mission statement? If so, why did you decide to do one?
2. What's in your personal mission statement?
3. How have you benefited from having one?
4. How long did it take to put it together?
5. Do you have something like a life board, formally or informally?
6. Who's at your table? How did you pick them?
7. What value have they brought?
8. What personas have the greatest influence in your life?
9. What do you wish you would have known or done differently either with Life Boards or Life Mission statements?

### **Go Do**

What's one action step you can take with either a life mission statement or a life board? What would it look like to trust in Him with that as you obey?

### **Go Deeper: Further Conversation & Study**

1. What do you think is the central/big idea of this lesson or how would you summarize the lesson?
2. What big problem do you think this session may be addressing?
3. What emotions, if any, did you have from what you learned in this session? Was there anything that surprised, excited, or angered you?

### **Sources & Resources**

Single Page Life Plan by Garret Scanlon, <https://www.amazon.com/Single-Page-Life-Garrett-Scanlon/dp/0975361252>

How to Write a Personal Mission Statement by Ramsey Solutions, <https://www.ramseysolutions.com/personal-growth/mission-statement-101>