



How to Develop a Compelling Vision and Mission

Defining Your Vision and Mission

Every leader needs a mandate. They need to know where they're going and how they're going to get there. They have to know who they need and what kinds of gifting and participation they need to get themselves to the finish line and outcome.

"We should always begin every enterprise with the end in mind."

— Stephen Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*

Defining Your Intended Outcomes and The Pathway to Fulfillment

Many people believe that if you define your end result, you're actually putting God in a box. But that's not the purpose of a mandate, vision, and mission. The purpose is to eliminate the various points on the horizon you could be going after. It's to narrow your vision toward the thing God wants for you, knowing He's going to intervene, direct your steps, and guide you into the fruitfulness He's called you to.

It's really important to know a mandate isn't something that hinders God. This is something that empowers your relationship with God to achieve what He has for you.

Mandate: Mandate is vision, mission, and purpose combined.

- **Purpose:** Your purpose is to bring Heaven to earth and glory to Jesus. Everything you want to do corresponds to your purpose.
- **Vision:** A vision is what you see in the future. It's the destination you're called to.
- **Mission:** Mission is what you do to get what you see (vision). To define your mandate:
 1. Define your intended outcomes.
 2. Define the pathways to fulfillment.

What Are You Called to Build?

Ask the Lord, "What are You calling me to build?" Is there a ministry or church out there that seems to reflect what you believe you're supposed to build? Is there a prototype?

Who in history have you really admired and appreciated? What did they build?

Who in the Bible do you really respect? What was the outcome they produced through their life and ministry that you want to emulate?



There is also divine vision, such as Paul's divine mandate (Acts 9:1–6, 15:1–4, 12, 26:12–20; Ephesians 3:1–12).

Once you have your vision and mandate defined, you can begin to establish the stepping stones, objectives, and goals that will help you to get there. You cannot steer a car that's not moving. This will get you moving toward your goal.

The Conjunction of Personal, Organizational and Regional Destiny

The people you're enlisting to work with you have a personal mandate as well as the mandate of your organization. As a wise leader, you have to minister in personal and organizational mandate. You have to treasure the personal mandate of the leaders you're raising up and at the same time value the organizational mandate God's given you.

As your leaders know you value them and their purpose in Christ as much as you value the fulfillment of the vision God's given you, they will not feel exploited, taken advantage of, or a mere utility in your organization. They will know their personal mandate and your organizational mandate have equal value in your mind.

Once you've determined and brought together a team with a mandate, you can assign responsibilities so the mandate can be fulfilled.