



Statement of Desire aka. Vision Statement

This process is adapted from that of the granddaddy of self-development, Napoleon Hill. His auspiciously named book, “Think and Grow Rich” was published during the great depression and is now in the public domain. See below for the specific excerpt on how to create his famous “Statement of Desire”.

This process works not only for money. It can also work for any and all areas of one’s life to improve what I call prosperity * – everything from new sources of income, environmental changes (i.e., living arrangements and/or property), new and/or upgraded relationships of all kinds, etc. The list goes on and on – it can include anything you can possibly imagine.

I suggest starting with either writing or perhaps dictating into a Notes app anything and everything you would like to manifest in whatever timeframe you would like. The three things that I (and N. Hill) believe must be included are 1) the amount of money you would like, 2) the time frame in which you would like it and 3) what you will provide in exchange (karmically and/or otherwise). I suggest including as many aspects of your life as possible in the statement.

Once you have written (or dictated) the document, I strongly suggest printing it out on paper (you can transfer it back to an electronic device later) and read it out aloud in the evening before bedtime and in the morning upon waking. I suggest keeping a pencil handy to jot down any errant thoughts that arise as you are reading it aloud (with gusto!) or to cross out anything that just doesn’t feel “right” (however you may define “right”). Eventually, the number of changes will level off and you won’t be editing very frequently so you can put it on to your phone or wherever is most convenient for you.

One final “Power Tip”: once you have settled in on a semi-static Vision Statement, rewrite it in the present tense so it’s as if you already have what you desire – e.g. “I would like to have a beautiful 4-bedroom home in the country” becomes “I have a beautiful 4-bedroom home in the country”. Once you get to this point in the process or if you have any other questions, please feel free to reach out to me for a complementary review of your statement and suggestions on next possible steps.

* Prosperity (noun): the condition of being successful or thriving – especially: economic well-being (Merriam-Webster dictionary)

Napoleon Hill’s method is as follows:

“The method by which DESIRE for riches can be transmuted into its financial equivalent, consists of six definite, practical steps, viz:

First. *Fix in your mind the exact amount of money you desire. It is not sufficient merely to say, “I want plenty of money.” Be definite as to the amount. (There is a psychological reason for definiteness which will be described in a subsequent chapter).*

Second. Determine exactly what you intend to give in return for the money you desire. (There is no such reality as “something for nothing”.)

Third. Establish a definite date when you intend to possess the money you desire.

Fourth. Create a definite plan for carrying out your desire, and begin at once, whether you are ready or not, to put this plan into action.

Fifth. Write out a clear, concise statement of the amount of money you intend to acquire, name the time limit for its acquisition, state what you intend to give in return for the money, and describe clearly the plan through which you intend to accumulate it.

Sixth. Read your written statement aloud, twice daily, once just before retiring at night, and once after arising in the morning. **AS YOU READ— SEE AND FEEL AND BELIEVE YOURSELF ALREADY IN POSSESSION OF THE MONEY.**

*It is important that you follow the instructions described in these six steps. It is especially important that you observe and follow the instructions in the sixth paragraph. You may complain that it is impossible for you to “see yourself in possession of money” before you actually have it. Here is where a BURNING DESIRE will come to your aid. If you truly DESIRE money so keenly that your desire is an obsession, you will have no difficulty in convincing yourself that you will acquire it. The object is to want money, and to become so determined to have it that you CONVINCED yourself you will have it. ***

FAQ's

1. What is the definition of “the amount of money” – is that a salary or lumpsum?
 - A. It can be either. Use whichever (or both) feels best to you.
2. What does “intend to give in return for the money” mean?
 - A. Money or other types of prosperity won't just show up on their own. One needs to do something to get it, but you might want to put attention and energy (doing things) which you feel are the “right” things to do for yourself and perhaps even for the greater good of others. Trust that the universe WILL reward you in foreseen and perhaps unforeseen ways.
3. What if I miss one of the readings?
 - A. It happens a lot. Try to read it twice a day, but if you settle in on once a day it will suffice.

** from "Step 1 - Toward Riches: DESIRE"
Think and Grow Rich, by Napoleon Hill
(available in the public domain online)