

Don't Blow an Uncertain Trumpet

The Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, a priest in the Roman Catholic Church best known for his 35 years of service as president of the University of Notre Dame, said that the essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision.

“It’s got to be a vision you can articulate clearly and forcefully on every occasion,” he said. “You can’t blow an uncertain trumpet.”

An uncertain trumpet? What did he mean by that?

An “uncertain trumpet” is usually the result of an individual who either lacks a vision or is trying to lead with someone else’s dream. There is a vast difference between a person with a vision and a visionary person, such as ...



- A person with a vision talks little but does much.
- A visionary person does little but talks much.
- A person with a vision finds strength from inner convictions.
- A visionary person finds strength from outward conditions.
- A person with vision continues when problems arise.
- A visionary person quits when the road becomes difficult.

Demosthenes, the greatest orator of the ancient world, stuttered. Julius Caesar was an epileptic. Napoleon was of humble parentage and far from being a born genius. Beethoven was deaf, as was Thomas Edison. Charles Dickens was lame. So was Handel. Homer was blind. Plato was a hunchback. Sir Walter Scott was paralyzed.

What gave these great individuals the stamina to overcome severe setbacks and become successful? Each person had an inner dream that lit a fire that could not be extinguished. Great visions begin as an “inside job.”

Napoleon Hill, an author best known for his book *Think and Grow Rich*, which is among the 10 best-selling self-help books of all time, said, “Cherish your visions and dreams as they are the children of your soul: the blueprints of your ultimate achievements.”

The question for you today: What is your vision, your dream? What lights your fire?

Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained (Proverbs 29:18 NASB).

– Beecher Hunter