

5 SIMPLE STEPS
TO TURN
YOUR
DREAM INTO
Freedom

↔ Mark West ↔



Have you ever been roused from a dream only to realize that the life you thought you were enjoying was just a dream?

Do you have dreams and aspirations that, if fulfilled, would dramatically change your life for the better? Do you want to move from merely dreaming of freedom to actually living your freedom?

If you were to do so, what would that freedom look like?

- Would you be debt free?
- Would your monthly income be greater than your current annual income?
- Would you find yourself living in that dream neighborhood that you've driven through dozens of times?
- Would you enjoy true financial freedom?
- Would time be something you controlled instead of your boss or business doing so?
- Would travel cross-country or half way around the world be a reality you experienced whenever you chose to do so?
- Would you be free to give back to your church, relatives, and community your time and treasure in a way that would dramatically change their futures?

So how can you realize these dreams and much more? How can you actually live your dream instead of just dreaming your dream?

Let me share with you six simple steps that have worked for me and can work for you too.



1. Dream

I've made an assumption from the very start here that you actually have a dream. But that's a pretty big assumption. You see, all around you in the "Land of the Free" are people who are not free.

A large number of the people you encounter everyday are not free because they've lost their dream. They once had a dream but the struggles of life buried their dream.

Is this you? Do you still have your dream intact or is it gradually diminishing? If so, realize that before you can have whatever it is that you desire it must be more than a hope. It must be a dream. It must be something that you vividly envision. It must be something you dwell on often — like that pleasant recurring dream that you awake from and then, sadly say to yourself, "oh, that was just a dream!"

There is a verse in the Bible that is well known to people that I'll paraphrase here: "Without a dream, you will perish." (Proverbs 29:18) This is so true. Lose your dream and you will die. Perhaps not physically, at least not immediately. But your hopes, aspirations, the goals you knew you'd achieve someday, they will all die. And with them all the good you envisioned for your life will die as well.

So if you want to live, I mean really live the freedom you seek, then dream. Dream Big. Dream so big it scares you a little. But that's just the start. That's ground zero, the foundation, the first step. Let's move on...



2. Speak

Your dream is inside you. It is within your mind and heart. But it cannot stay there if you want to live your dream. You must begin to speak your dream to others. I'm reminded of another scripture that says:

“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

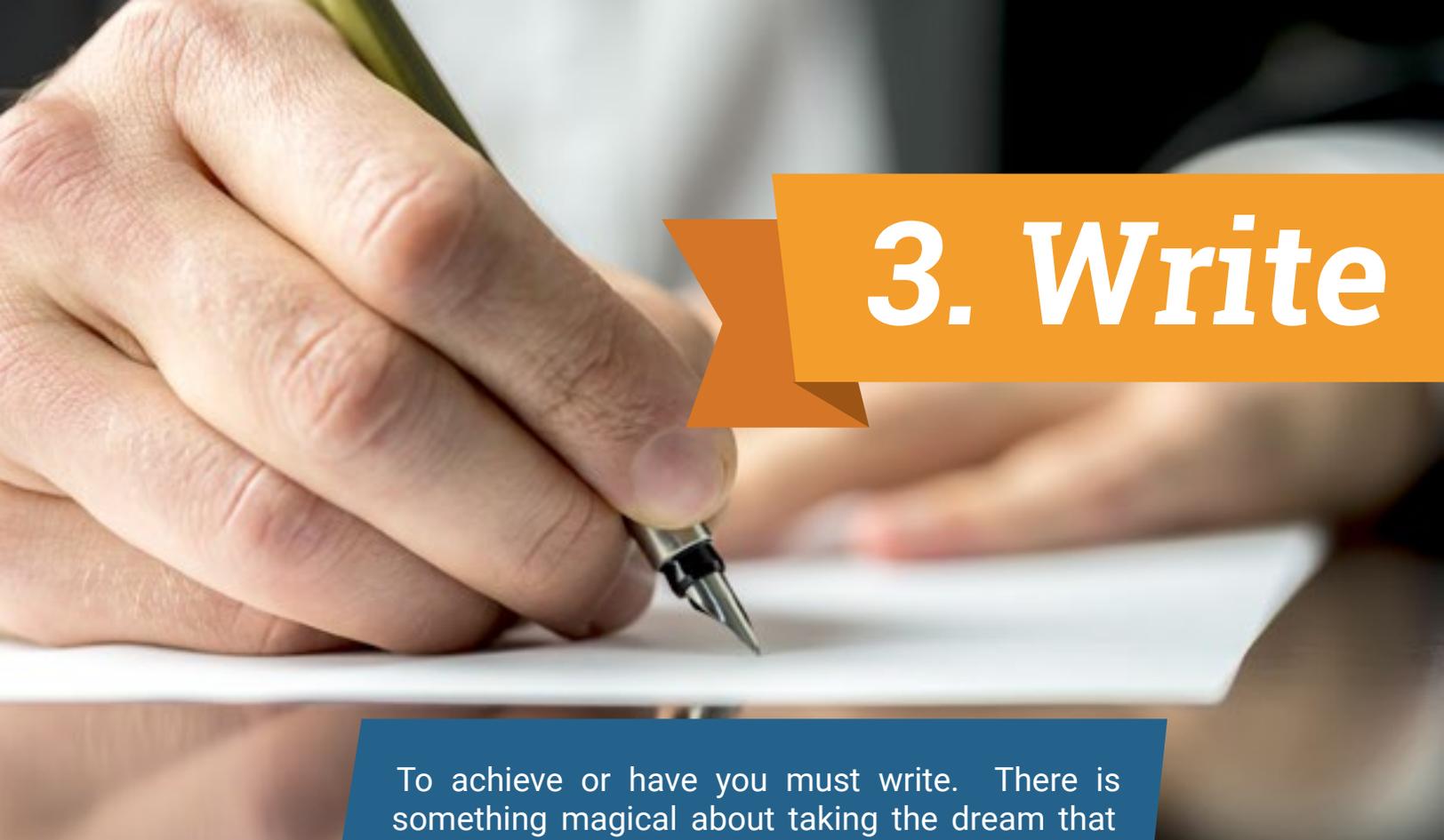
(Matthew 12:34)

As you focus on your dream intently and regularly, it's only natural that your dream should want to escape from your inner core. It will want to slip through your lips. And that's a good thing. But here are a few suggestions when speaking your dream.

Share your dream, but do so carefully and discreetly. Our broken world is full of scoffers who will not only belittle your dream, but over time they will shake your own belief in your dream. And, if you share your dream often enough with them, they will ultimately kill your dream.

So resist the urge to share your dream with everyone. Rather, share it with your closest and most trusted friends, advisors, or mentors. Naturally, they are the ones who care about you and will want to affirm your dream and encourage you to pursue it.

Speak your dream often, but don't stop there.



3. Write

To achieve or have you must write. There is something magical about taking the dream that you've been sharing with those you trust and then committing it to writing. I know this from firsthand experience and am in the process of writing about the dream I realized in *[The \\$100 Million Napkin](#)*.

But not only have I lived the truth of this step, there are many other hugely successful people who can attest to the importance of writing down your dream. Best selling author Michael Hyatt has a short blog post entitled *["5 Reasons Why You Should Commit Your Goals to Writing"](#)* that I'd encourage you to read.

Write down specifically what your dream is. If it's to have a new Ferrari, then write down the year, model, color, accessories, etc. Locate a picture of the car and include it with what you write to assist you in visualizing it. If it's helping a worthy cause, write the specifics of what you intend to do for them.

Writing will begin to transition your dream from something that is merely conceptual to something that is real. Like the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly, your rudimentary dream will begin to take shape and form as you write it out. You will engage additional senses that will further validate and refine what it is that you seek. And as you do this, you will move one step closer to realizing the dream that you are destined to achieve.

4. Plan



While this step is similar to the step previous one, it is beyond simply writing out your dream. A plan moves to the step of formulating the process and strategy you will undertake to take hold of your dream and achieve it.

Depending on your dream, your plan may be simple or very complex. A plan to realize a dream that would eliminate all personal debt may not require a complex plan to document the strategy. On the other hand, if your dream is to build a business that will grow into a large, multi-state operation, then your plan will likely be complex and involve the assistance of others to develop.

The important point though is that a plan is required. One must count the cost and understand what will be required. We've all heard the challenge to "Plan your work and work your plan." This statement not only encapsulates this step but it leads us to the final one.

5. Do

Wish
Do

This is the most important step beyond the first. The dream itself must exist before any other steps can occur. But if there is no action, no doing, then the dream will ultimately die. Many people get all the way to this step, but they fail to take definitive action to implement the plan they devised. There are many reasons why this is true, but two primary ones come to mind.

First, the dream itself may have stagnated. As one moves from the initial dream and through the subsequent steps we've reviewed already, it's possible the dream may become hazy. If so, it's critical to go back to revisit the initial drive, motivation or vision that birthed the dream initially. When you desire financial freedom, it's not merely the financial freedom that you desire but rather what that freedom will offer you. Revisit the true reasons for your dream and you will once again relive the passion that brought you all the way to the threshold of action.

The second roadblock to action is fear. It takes courage to step out and act upon your belief. There is a lot at stake. It is no longer a passive thought, idea, or even plan. Your dream is now on full display for all to observe.

Will it succeed? Will it fail? It's natural to struggle with the thought, "should I even start?"

5. Do

Wish
Do

It takes courage to launch out and work on fulfilling your dream. But as we mentioned before, it is important to know who to trust and listen to. Recall that in step two we discussed the need to speak your dream but only with those you trust your close friends, advisors, or mentors.

Conversely, as you begin to move forward to take action by implementing your plan, listen not to those who stand on the sidelines and criticize your actions. They no doubt occupy the sidelines because they gave up on their dream. To justify their own failure, they seek your failure. It's the old "misery loves company" syndrome.

You are at a crucial point in the life of your dream. Will you join the naysayers on the sidelines, or will you, armed with your dream and plan, engage on the playing field? Will you listen to the scoffers in the stands, or will you become singularly focused on the strategies you devised and the counsel of those you trust?

Remember, the greatest risk is not taking any risk at all.

So if you are tempted to waiver, go back to your original dream. If it is big enough, there is no question that your dream is worth the risk.



The beauty of truth is that it applies consistently to all. The rules of gravity are uniform and pertain equally to everyone. We understand this and can structure our lives to work within gravity's rules. Likewise, the principles of success are also consistent and pertain to all. We know this from personal experience and the experience of thousands of others to whom we can look.

Dream, speak, write, plan and do.

For me though, there is one other overarching principle that has been foundational as I've worked through all five of these steps in my life. God's direction in my life has been crucial as I communicate with Him in prayer and seek His will. I can confidently say that any success that I have realized in life is directly attributable to God and His blessings.

Follow these principles, and what you dream of will be realized in your life. Whether it's getting out of debt, controlling your time, improving relationships, giving back to your church or community, the ability to travel when and where you desire, or a host of other dreams, one word comes to mind: Freedom.

Are you free? If not, then get started on your dream. And if you need someone to help you on your journey, that's my mission in life: Assisting motivated individuals in discovering and engaging their unique gifts and passions so they can prosper financially, grow their influence, progress spiritually and Awake to Freedom. Find out more at awaketofreedom.com.