

Supplement V - What Is Your Mission in Life?

You have a mission in life. It's a magnificent adventure to discover that mission and to live it. If you're like most people, the discovery process will take time. Little by little you will see the exact nature of your spiritual destiny. The discovery is similar to turning on a light bulb that is connected to a dimmer switch. Instead of the bulb coming on fully in one instant, there is a gradual increase in light. Step by step the intensity grows. In the same way, you're likely to discover by increments your mission in life. Over months -- perhaps over years -- you'll see more clearly the characteristics of your soul's purpose.

It's a sad fact that in the modern world most people never find their life's purpose. Some people who fail to do so are very successful by worldly standards. They have money, power, and prestige, but they aren't really happy. Something deep inside them is dissatisfied and restless. They may try to ignore or hide this feeling, but often that leads only to illness.

Other people fail to find their mission because they get caught up in agendas that have little to do with their real calling. Their own busyness becomes the obstacle because there is no time for a spiritual search. The hectic, over-committed quality of modern life is actually increasing in today's society. Research conducted by the respected pollster Louis Harris found in fourteen years a drop of 36 percent in free-time hours for the typical American! As he put it, "The competition for time is getting fierce" (*The Virginian-Pilot*, March 20, 1988, p. G5). We can conclude that if we really want to discover our soul's purpose, the quest will have to be a priority.

Already you've taken some big steps toward clarifying the characteristics of your mission: practicing self-observation, choosing a descriptive label for your individuality self, and identifying key talents and abilities. The work you've done in previous sections has set the stage for what you can do now. You're ready to formulate a wording for your life's mission theme.

Remember in the Cayce readings a person's mission was not presented as a job title or single occupation. Instead it was portrayed in broader terms, as a direction for life. That mission statement always left room for many different career possibilities as well as free-time interests and volunteer activities.

For some people the mission is fulfilled most directly through the work they do. For others, their job is principally a way to earn money to pay the bills. Only in small ways do they find a chance to accomplish some aspect of their mission at work. People in this second category have to look outside of the typical nine-to-five workday for activities that relate to a deep, spiritual calling.

What does a life mission statement look like? It defines the purpose of the soul in terms of talents and service. Here are three examples:

- To be a spiritual leader using the arts as a way of reaching people;
- To help and guide others to see the spiritual meaning in numbers;
- To edit and reshape the ideas of others so those ideas can better be understood.

This third example is an interesting case from the Cayce files. A woman in her sixties wrote and asked for a life reading. She was near retirement age but still had a strong curiosity to know the highest calling and purpose of her life. In her reading Cayce revealed the exact nature of her mission. Her true vocation was to act as a bridge between the masses of people and those creative thinkers who couldn't always communicate their ideas very well. Her gift was with words and their meanings. She was sensitive to what was and wasn't clear to general readers.

This case is noteworthy because of what he didn't say to a person of this age. No references can be found to missed opportunity. Nowhere in this reading was she criticized or consoled for having failed so far in her mission. Instead the tone was one of promise and optimism. She was told that there was still plenty of time to get on with the spiritual purposes for which she was born. She wasn't to be concerned about the past. Even if she had floundered about for many years, at the time the reading was given she still had the chance to harmonize with her destiny.

These statements are equally true for anyone living today. No matter how old you are, no matter how little you may have seen or applied your soul's purpose until now, opportunities still exist to get on track with your calling. Of course the ways in which you act upon your mission at age thirty may be different than what you would do at age fifty or eighty. However, be assured that at any point in your life there are things you can do that relate to your highest purposes as a soul.

The same point was made in a reading given for another woman. She wondered if she had any opportunities to fulfill her mission and asked, "Is there anything in particular I can do now to accomplish the reason for the present incarnation?" Cayce's answer was both humorous and wise. He responded, "*If there hadn't been, you wouldn't be allowed to be in the earth in the present*" (3051-7). The same principle holds true for all of us today. We are here because we still have things to do in order to fulfill our missions.

DESTINY AND FREE WILL

Destiny is a word with several meanings and connotations, one of which is equivalent to the mission in life. Destiny implies that you were born with a plan. Even from birth certain patterns and forces were at work to guide your life along particular paths.

Any consideration of destiny invariably raises the question of free will. How can there be both a plan for your life and the freedom to be whatever you want? The solution to this philosophical dilemma begins with the recognition that destiny is not the opposite of freedom. The denial of freedom is predeterminism.

The Cayce readings - while they supported the notion of destiny - clearly stated life is not predetermined. For example, one man asked in his Cayce reading about the accuracy of a prediction made by a psychic using mediumship. The medium had forecast that the man was sure to meet soon a wealthy individual who would support his career. Now the man wondered if this advantageous event was predetermined. Cayce answered that the future depended on the free will of the questioner. Certain opportunities were likely to come, but he had the freedom of his will in deciding how to respond to them. In another reading, Cayce made the same argument in a more poetic way: *"It is not that the entire life experience is laid out for an individual when there has been received that imprint as of the first breath.... Choice is left to the individual"* (281-49).

How far does destiny go in shaping the circumstances of life? Perhaps we can best understand the forces of destiny as a middle ground between free will and predetermination. Destiny implies your soul made choices in the distant past - maybe just before your birth - and those choices make it very likely that certain people and events will come into your life. However, there is still room for you to maneuver. How will you react to those situations? What new things can you create out of the opportunities they give you?

You may have been destined to meet certain individuals in your life - for example, the person who is now your spouse or your boss. Nevertheless, destiny went only so far as your meeting. Ever since you encountered that soul with whom you had a destiny, the two of you have had the freedom to create what you will out of the situation. The quality of the relationship was not predetermined; it's the result of attitudes, feelings, and actions that each of you has freely chosen. Unfortunately the freedom of your will often goes unused. If your life is controlled by the automatic pilot of your personality wheel, old habits probably took over in the relationship. However, it didn't have to be that way because no outside force predetermines your life.

Freedom and destiny also become an issue when we look for signs in the material world. Can astrology, numerology, or palmistry indicate your mission in life? Cayce was asked this question on several occasions. In one reading he responded that astrology might be helpful to as much as 80 percent of the population when it comes to making career choices. In this case, astrology would be used as only one of many different tools in making a final decision.

In other readings, however, we can find stronger statements about the power of free will over astrological influences. Replying to one questioner, the

source of this material offered an arithmetical formula. Here again the figure of 80 percent came up, but this time in a different context. About 20 percent of the influences in our lives can be measured by esoteric arts such as astrology, numerology, and palmistry. The other 80 percent exists within the realm of our free will. If we'll make use of this freedom, it's stronger than any other influence that can be symbolized by planets, numbers, or lines on the hand.

KEEPING THE RIGHT ATTITUDES IN YOUR SEARCH

Proper attitudes can help you start recognizing the specific nature of your soul's purpose. The best state of mind is a combination of three attitudes: patience, peace, and hope. They protect you from a malady that is suffered by many sincere seekers. It's a kind of tense desperation that worries, "I've just **got** to find my mission in life or else I'll ruin everything!"

The words may have come out differently in your own mind, but have you ever felt this way? Does your honest desire to know the next step in your soul's journey ever turn into a compulsive drive for achievement or a fear of failure? If so, don't be discouraged. You aren't alone in that feeling. Nevertheless, this kind of worry, compulsion, or fear doesn't lead to the discovery of your mission.

The remedy is to start with patience, peace, and hope. Patience - an active patience that is involved in things - understands that life is long. It sees that every little moment counts, but more important it knows the continuity of the soul's life.

Peace creates acceptance. It allows you to see that the situations and events around you are happening for a purpose. However, peace doesn't foster smugness or self-satisfaction. As the Cayce readings often put it, "Be content but not satisfied."

Hope is the opposite of doubt. It affirms an orderliness to the universe even when things outwardly appear to be random or chaotic. Hope makes trust—in God and your own Higher Self – possible.

If you can frequently maintain a state of mind that combines these three attitudes – patience, peace, and hope – you're likely to make an important discovery. Not only are you searching for your mission in life; your mission is searching for you. In other words the pursuit of your soul's purpose has both active and receptive elements. On the one hand are things you can do in order to discover the exact nature of your mission. On the other hand are the overtures for which you can listen and watch.

Your individuality self, which is so often unconscious to you, is always active. It leads you into situations and directs you to certain people. It provides hunches, intuitions, and quiet promptings. This deeper and more authentic self

knows your highest purposes. It is ready and able to fulfill that mission. The entire burden of discovering your soul's purpose doesn't rest with your conscious, personality self. Help is frequently available because the mission is actively seeking you. No doubt there are important steps you must take, but don't forget to listen and be receptive too.

HOW MANY MISSIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Are you a busy person whose life is full of responsibilities and demands? Is almost every day packed with multiple tasks and challenges? If so, then the idea of a solitary mission may seem foreign. You might expect boredom if your life focused on just one spiritual task. Since you are already accustomed to juggling several balls daily, why not take on many soul purposes? After all, more spiritual growth can be accomplished that way, right?

The Cayce life readings shed some light on this riddle. First, we should keep in mind that ultimately we all have only one purpose in life. It can be stated in a variety of ways, but it is essentially the same:

- To bring love consciously into the physical world.
- To make the infinite finite.
- To know ourselves to be ourselves, yet one with God.

Second, the Cayce readings proposed that each soul chooses just before birth a customized and specific mission that relates to the universal purpose. It's customized because it fits the needs and the abilities of that soul; it's specific because it focuses on certain ways of serving and creating.

However, you have many meaningful experiences that don't exactly conform to your mission statement. There are many supplemental opportunities to serve and create throughout your life. As an analogy, consider what happens if you marry. You make a commitment to love a particular man or woman, but marriage doesn't eliminate relationships with others. There are many ways of lovingly interacting with people besides romance. For example, a woman may be devoted to her husband and still love other men. The way she expresses her love and caring to the other men will be different than to her husband, but marriage doesn't necessarily cut off other ways of reaching out. In the same way, the mission you have chosen as a soul is not the only way you will serve and create in the world during your lifetime. There are likely to be many additional approaches.

So your life will probably continue with many balls to be juggled. The Cayce readings suggested that some of the issues have to do with karmic problems you're trying to overcome in this lifetime. Other focal points involve new talents you're attempting to develop for later in this lifetime or another incarnation. And yet, in the analogy of juggling, one ball corresponds to your

mission in life. Finding your soul's purpose doesn't mean that you drop all the other balls and keep just one in the air. Certain balls may take on a special importance - you might want to toss them up a little higher than the rest - but all of them are meaningful experiences for you.

This conclusion leaves another problem unanswered. Can a soul's purpose change in the midst of one lifetime? Do we ever fulfill a mission before one life ends and therefore qualify to take on a new one? This is a genuine possibility. From a spiritual angle life is continuous and so the milestones we call birth and death are somewhat arbitrary. There is no reason why a mission couldn't extend well beyond one lifetime – or, for that matter, be fulfilled in less than one lifetime and prepare the soul to take on a new direction.

We must be careful, however, on this point. We may prematurely decide that we want to try something new. For example, when things are tough, it's easy to look for excuses. When the challenges are especially difficult, we may be tempted to say, "I'm ready to find my next mission in life."

Success also may lead to restlessness. When you're good at something for a long time, you may get bored. Then you face a question. Have you now fulfilled one mission and stand ready for the next one, or is it time to find new groups of people to touch with that same mission? For example, suppose a woman discovered early in her adult years that her soul's purpose was "to be a channel for healing through words." For twenty years she worked successfully as a nurse. Her loving, supportive comments to patients were often the best medicine they received. She always seemed to know just the right thing to say to give courage or hope to someone struggling to regain health. However, she now feels restless and wonders if she's ready for a new mission. Perhaps she is, but first she should explore different ways to be "a channel for healing through words." Does she have a gift for story writing or poetry through which healing words can touch a new audience? Might the next phase of her mission involve counseling or teaching?

Each of us has one central purpose at any point in life, although other forms of outreach and creativity exist alongside it as a supplement. Most people retain that same central purpose throughout their lives. Nevertheless, a time may come when you can honestly say you have started into an entire new phase of your life. It's conceivable that one day you'll discover your mission theme has changed. Suddenly a different set of talents and abilities seem to surface. A new set of opportunities and a different sense of yourself begins to emerge. At that point you are ready to discover anew your mission for the years ahead.

PRELIMINARY EXERCISES FOR FINDING A MISSION THEME

How can you move from a list of your key talents and strengths to a succinct wording for your mission theme? It would be nice to have someone like

Edgar Cayce to do this clairvoyantly for you, as he did for many people in their life readings. One thirty-five-year-old man was told that his most important strengths were intelligence, public speaking, and an ability to analyze people, circumstances, and purposes. His life reading from Cayce indicated that his mission was to be involved in diplomatic or economic relations among the nations.

A forty-year-old woman was told her special abilities included psychic sensitivity, the love of beauty, skills in working with her hands, and an appreciation for nature. She was encouraged to find meaning for her life through this calling: to give expression to the glories of nature and of God.

A fifty-year-old woman was clairvoyantly examined by Cayce and described as a soul who had these special assets: writing, the ability to analyze accurately, an understanding of spiritual law, and abilities to instruct and direct others. Her reading concluded that these talents could best be harnessed through a life's purpose to help people to find their right vocation.

However on many occasions the Cayce readings did not reveal the precise wording of the individual's mission theme. That task was left to each person. There was probably great wisdom in that approach. Some people are more likely to fulfill their mission if they first have to search for it.

Several exercises will help you along that same path. First you'll pursue some preliminary methods that may give you some clues or pieces of the overall puzzle. Later you can combine these insights during a final exercise that will lead you to a "first draft" wording for your soul's purpose. As you proceed through the five preliminary exercises, remember that some of them will probably work better for you than others. Make notes along the way, but expect that one or more of the exercises might not yield many useful results for you. Each exercise should be done with a playful, exploratory spirit.

Exercise 1. Take a few minutes to review your biography. Imagine a timeline that records every experience of your life up until now. As you look back, notice events and activities that created a special feeling for you at the time they happened. They are experiences that made you think to yourself or even say aloud, "This is the real me coming through as I do this. I need to be doing things like this more often." They are probably moments in which you engaged yourself fully in what you were doing, experiences in which you felt "in sync" with what was right for you to do at that time in your life.

As a few of those memories come to mind, notice both what you were doing as well as why and how you were doing it. Sometimes the purpose for the activity or the spirit in which you did it can be the most important thing. Make a note of the events from your past that fit this criterion:

What does your list look like? You may get a clue about your mission in life by recognizing a pattern among some of the entries on your list. Do several of them draw upon the same talent or involve interactions with similar types of people?

Of course you can't jump to the conclusion that what you were doing in these special moments is exactly your soul's purpose. For example, one man wrote on his list the one-month hike along the Appalachian Trail he took after graduating from college. He can't necessarily conclude that his mission in life is to be an explorer or a park ranger. However, there may have been something crucial for him about that experience years ago. Maybe it was the spirit of adventure – something he'll need to recapture in order to now see his mission in life. Or perhaps it was the way in which he got in touch with his physical body.

Exercise 2. What is your fantasy of an ideal day? Although it can be fun to imagine the perfect vacation day that would get you re-energized, that's not the point of this exercise. Instead, envision an ideal day in the midst of responsibilities and involvement with people. Include events and activities that are especially meaningful for you.

This exercise is most valuable if you'll include lots of details. What time in the morning would you get up? What would you eat for breakfast? What would you do in the morning? And so forth. For purposes of this exercise, don't limit yourself to the constraints imposed by actual circumstances in your life now. Let your imagination have a free rein. Let it create images of how you would make use of your key talents on such an ideal day.

Exercise 3. How do you want to be remembered after your death? What accomplishments, types of service, creativity, and character traits do you hope you'll be known for? This may sound like a frivolous question, particularly if you're young and still have many years of life ahead, but it can be a useful way of intuitively catching some clues about your purposes in life.

In CD Lesson 8 of Viewing Assignment III-1, you will be asked to write your own obituary as you hope it might read years from now. When you do this, assume that you will live to a ripe old age. Don't worry about the typical parts of an obituary such as survivors and funeral arrangements. Instead, focus on a description of what you had to offer in life: how people saw you and what you did.

Exercise 4. How can your talents best work together? Up until now all of the methods you've practiced in this study guide have dealt with your talents in a piecemeal fashion. Each ability, strength, skill, or aptitude has been treated as independent from any other. However that's not the way you experience your talents. Each one lives in the context and environment of other abilities that color and shape it.

Think about the four or five key talents and abilities, the ones selected in CD Lesson 7 when you completed Worksheet 9. Imagine they are a team. Each member of the team works for the good of the whole, just like a sports team or an interdisciplinary healing team. The talents support and enhance each other. They combine in such a way that the whole is more than the sum of the parts.

Synergy is that inexplicable magic that happens when many parts interact in a cooperative way to create something bigger than themselves. Your four key talents indicated on Worksheet 9 can work in harmony synergistically to fulfill your mission in life.

Take some time to think about your abilities in this way. See them as a team. What is that team equipped to do in life? For what is that team especially well suited? This line of reasoning may give you some pieces of the puzzle about your mission. In CD Lesson 9 of Viewing Assignment III-1, you will complete Worksheet 13 and write down insights and clues as to which of your talents form a team.

Exercise 5. One of the best ways for many people to get clues about their missions is through guidance dreams. Sometimes a dream about your soul's purpose may come spontaneously. However you don't have to wait for one. You can take steps to prepare yourself for this kind of help. You can incubate a dream.

Dream incubation has a long history. The practice goes back at least to the dream temples of ancient Greece. Here people were readied to receive a dream related to the healing of some physical ailment. The dreamer hoped to be met by the god Aesculapius and to be given both diagnostic and prescriptive information. Temple priests played a role in the preliminary rituals and in the interpretation of the dreams.

In recent times, dream researchers have reclaimed and adapted this basic procedure. The scope has been broadened to include most any kind of question. Of course it still requires some skills in dream interpretation, but success has been achieved by many dreamers for a wide variety of problems. Guidance concerning your mission in life is one area you can easily explore.

The technique is simple and direct. What makes the method work is the sincerity of your desire to receive guidance. Choose a night when there is a good chance of your sleeping well. It's particularly helpful if you won't be aroused by an alarm but can instead waken gradually, maybe on a weekend morning. That one difference can make it much easier to remember your dreams.

Before you go to bed on the night of your dream incubation, spend a few minutes on some preparatory written exercises. Write down the question so that it asks exactly what you want to know. The following three examples show how

you can pose the question in an open-ended way or how you can ask for feedback on your current understanding:

- What's the next step for me for discovering my soul's purpose?
- What is my mission in life?
- Is my mission to be a bridge between the religious and scientific worlds?

You can go to Module II of the IS 525 Study Guide and print out Worksheet #7, Talents and Strengths From Your Dreams. First, write down your question so you ask exactly what you want to know. For example:

- What's the next step for me for discovering my soul's purpose?
- What is my mission in life?,
- Is my mission to be a bridge between the religious and scientific worlds?

Use Worksheet #7 to record your own work on the various steps related to incubating a dream. First, write out the exact wording for your issue or question.

Next, spend some time writing down your conscious knowledge related to the question. On Worksheet #7, make a list of the facts or data already available to you concerning this issue. Include in that list a statement of your key talents and abilities. In addition, make a notation about any clues you have previously picked up in regard to your mission.

Finally, if your question is open-ended (that is, it can't be answered with a simple yes or no), write on Worksheet #7, your best guess about the correct answer.

Before you go to sleep, spend a few minutes praying about your question. Use whatever form or method of prayer feels best to you. The purpose of this step is to stimulate your sincere feelings about your question. Dream incubation usually works best when your heart is fully invested in what you're doing.

Finally, as you are drifting off to sleep, hold in mind your question. It doesn't have to be the very last thing you think of before falling asleep, but try to keep some attention on the issue as you enter that halfway state called the hypnagogic level.

When you awaken – in the middle of the night or in the morning -- write down any dreams you recall, whether or not they seem at first to be relevant. If you don't get any dreams the first night, try again a second or third time.

What is the meaning of the dreams you receive? Perhaps the best way to approach dream guidance is to see it as one of several inputs for your decision making. It's a supplement to other sources as you formulate a final answer.

Rarely will a dream give you a reliable solution all by itself. Instead you are likely to find that dreams about your soul's purpose do one of three things:

- fill in the gaps of your knowledge with missing information,
- demonstrate possibilities you may want to explore in waking life, or
- give you feedback on your current waking perspective.

What gaps in your knowledge might a dream fill? It could be a specific talent that you've ignored or left unrecognized. It might be a promising way to make use of some ability. Another kind of missing information relates to your personality wheel. Frequently a dream will symbolically show you an obstacle that thwarts your mission – some personality pattern that blocks your progress.

Dreams can also be a rehearsal stage. At night you sometimes try out possibilities. For example, a guidance dream might depict you (or another dream character who actually represents an aspect of yourself) doing something that is a part of your soul's purpose. Remember the illustration of this principle given earlier. A stockbroker dreamed repeatedly that he was lecturing before large audiences on the subject of spiritual truth. This was both a reminder of a talent and a rehearsal of one expression of his mission. The dreams were a demonstration of an important possibility for him.

Finally, guidance dreams can give you feedback on the accuracy of your waking life understanding. They can confirm that you're on track or warn you that you're headed down a dead-end road. However, this function of your dream life can operate only if you first try to arrive at a conscious decision. The unconscious mind can then act through dream imagery to support or discourage your conscious mind's assessment.

For example, suppose you have worked with the previous four exercises to get some clues about your soul's purpose. You think that the pieces of the puzzle are beginning to fit together and that the wording for your mission theme is something like "helping the disadvantaged and forgotten to gain self-respect." That sounds admirable and it may nicely fit your talents; but is it correct? Is it actually what you were born to do? One way to get some feedback is to ask your dreams. Everyone's dream imagery is highly personal and varied, but action and symbols that denote success or harmony probably are encouragement that you are on the right track. The possibilities are almost endless, but watch for confirming signs like these: arriving successfully at your destination, a musical instrument that is well tuned, or getting a good grade in school. At the same time look for dream images that suggest you are mistaken. It might come as a play on words such as being caught off base in a baseball game or seeing a train that has slipped off its tracks. Or the negative feedback could show you getting lost in the dream or being misunderstood by those around you.

Obviously there are no infallible rules for working with dream guidance. However, when dreams are used in conjunction with other approaches, they can be a valuable addition. Dreams provide new insights from the unconscious side of yourself and frequently allow your individuality self to give you important clues for finding your mission in life.

FORMULATING YOUR MISSION STATEMENT

Using the clues and pieces of the puzzle obtained by the previous exercises, you're ready to create a succinct wording for your central mission in life. What you write down at this point is a best guess, a tentative statement based on the most promising insights you have gained so far. Later, you may find that somewhat different wording is more appropriate, but for now you'll select words that capture your best understanding.

You'll probably find it beneficial to look at some more examples. They can help to "prime the pump" of your own creativity. Sample mission statements show how other people have discovered a way of expressing their own soul's purpose. The wordings chosen by these individuals probably don't match exactly your own mission statement, but you may get some additional hints for how to go about conceiving your own.

Where do these prototypes come from? Some are taken directly from the Cayce readings. They are expressions offered in life readings for individuals who sought to find their purposes in life. Other examples are from contemporary people who have applied the steps outlined in this book and have found for themselves a statement of their missions.

Try this approach for getting the most out of the examples. First get yourself into a meditative frame of mind. Spend a couple of minutes sitting comfortably and letting your attention focus on the word or phrase descriptive of your individuality self, your spiritual ideal, chosen earlier. Then spend a minute or two thinking about your four key talents and abilities. In your imagination feel yourself reaffirming and reclaiming them.

At this point you'll be ready to get the most from the two dozen examples of mission statements listed below. Spend approximately 30 to 60 seconds thinking about each one. As you focus on a specific sample statement, pretend that this really is your purpose in life, "try it on," so to speak. Visualize yourself living with this mission. Follow the same imaginative steps you might use if you were in the market to buy a house. When you visit a house that's for sale, you're likely to walk through it trying to visualize what it would be like to live in that house. In a similar way, pretend for just a minute that the example mission statement is your own. How does it feel to you? Does it fit you? Would that mission in life draw upon your talents and abilities? Would you be fulfilled with this as your central purpose?

Take time to consider all of the sample statements with this method, and then you'll be ready to write your own. As you work with these examples, watch for little clues that will be useful: phrases with which you resonate or particular words that stand out for you. You may even find that one or two of the sample statements feel as if they are very close to the way you'll want to word your own.

Sample Mission Statements

- To appreciate and reflect beauty
- To be a unifier, one who synthesizes and blends the fragments of life
- To be an agent of inner and outer peace
- To innovate, to be one who gets new things started
- To be the discerning and wise analyst of life
- To attract and channel material supply
- To manifest God's love through the family
- To transmit and clarify new ideas
- To compassionately work for justice in the world
- To be a spokesperson for the truth
- To persuade and convince people to accept the best
- To be a catalyst for change in the world
- To be a planter of positive seeds in people's lives
- To promote freedom and its responsible use
- To conserve and be a good steward of resources
- To be a crusader for equality in the world
- To nurture new beginnings in individuals and groups
- To make mechanical things work better to serve people
- To adapt, complete, or decorate things to make them more useful and
- To be a creative, cooperative team member
- To direct and manage people to bring out their best
- To build new structures and organizations that help humanity
- To support and coach people overcoming handicaps
- To start and run responsibly new business enterprises to meet people's needs

These sample mission statements are also on Part I of Worksheet #14 which you will complete in the next CD viewing assignment. In order to write a first-draft wording of your own mission statement, you may want to initially jot down on Worksheet #14, some phrases or words that you'll want to include. If you find it difficult to craft your thematic statement all at once, such a preliminary step will probably be a good idea. This method was used by the woman who finally wrote, "to compassionately work for justice in the world." At first she wrote down two fragments that she suspected would be parts of her final statement. She knew she wanted to incorporate the phrase "justice in the world" and she felt that her capacity for compassion was her most prominent talent. Once she had these two elements on her paper, she was able to arrive at a final wording.

Spend some time on this task. You might even want to sleep on it for a night and then see what comes to mind in the morning. After you've come up with a wording that feels promising, you'll be ready for the next step: to test the validity of the mission statement.

