



4 Steps to PUT YOUR DREAM TO THE TEST

Anything worth having has a price attached. As an athlete I learned early on—no pain, no gain! To improve our game, skills, and opportunity we had to practice, practice, practice! In the daily pursuit of our dream we didn't always feel like carrying on, but the sheer will of fortitude, the desire to win, and the constant challenge to press beyond our current capabilities kept us charging forward toward our destination. Here are 4 steps to begin refining and determining the cost of your dream:

Step #1: DISCOVER THE FACTS.

Ask yourself, what price is too high to pay? You can count the cost of your dream by asking specific questions like: What will my dream cost me personally—financially and emotionally? What will my dream cost my family, my marriage? What will my dream require from my current free time? Are you willing to give up your free time to pursue the dream that's in your heart, or to learn a new skill, take a class, build a prototype, set a goal? Consider the price before you embark!

Step #2: REGARD THE EXPERTS.

John Maxwell, leadership expert and noted author of over 60 books says, "In 40 years I've realized that the payments required for reaching a dream never stop. The higher you want to go, the more you must give, and the greater price you pay. The greater joy, however, you feel when you finally reach your dream!"

Step #3: KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE WHATEVER IT TAKES.

Ask these questions: "How long before I succeed? What if I fail on my first attempt?" Look for incremental progress, because it always takes longer than you expect! Don't live in the desire for completion, live in the reality of incremental change. As long as you are moving forward you are making progress!

Step #4: FACE THE REALITY.

The COST of your dream? You may need to raise the funds to acquire your dream, you may need a new education, you may need to find legal assistance to initiate your idea! You might say, "I don't have enough money to fulfill my vision." Believe it or not, that's not a new thought...most dreams begin with very little! We have always taught young leaders that MONEY FOLLOWS VISION! Remember, it's not the money in your pocket that counts, but the value of the idea in your mouth that will open the door to opportunity!

It's not what you have or what you know, but often it's the "Who" that you will meet that will make a dream a reality. So ask yourself: Who do you know? Who can you get to know?



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