

On the Verge



By Nicole B. Simpson, CFP®

commitment to self and a willingness to push beyond merely what you desire. It will cost you something to turn concept into reality.

The clock strikes twelve and we are not simply entering the turn of a new year, it's also a new decade. This is an opportunity to go beyond year to year, to ensure tangible success in one's life while providing an individual the space and time to not only establish tangible goals, but to achieve them as well. However, to envision oneself in a set aside time that may be deemed the distant future, requires the person to be conscious of each minute, hour, day, week, month and year. The mindfulness or state of being aware of how you envision your life requires discipline, a

So, to begin the journey encouraged, I want to share a bit of my ten-year journey from 2010 to 2019. After suffering greatly on September 11, 2001, as a World Trade Center survivor who lost almost everything during the first decade of 2000, I needed a major shift in methodology to accomplish goals, fulfill dreams and see visions manifest. I entered 2010 with a bold declaration: ***Dare to Dream***. It was a declaration that one must push past their pain to pursue purpose. In addition, with such an objective, I was not properly educated to achieve the level of success that I knew I deserved. My primary mandate is to have a profound impact on formerly incarcerated women who are looking to successfully reintegrate back into society. I want them to be self-sufficient economically, emotionally and spiritually. Some of the mandate to achieve such a lofty goal can be fulfilled simply through ministry connections and preaching the

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gospel. However, when one is seeking a legislative impact to offer financial support to women who have been disconnected from society at large, ministry alone is significantly insufficient. One must have social science understanding that can only be respected in the business area through education. It required me to go back to school to be taken seriously. Through an act of faith, hard work, scholarships and yes, some student loans, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science, a Master of Divinity and a Doctorate in Ministry (Dec. 2019). Could any of those goals be accomplished in a singular year? Absolutely not! However, mindfulness of the end helps to place measuring posts to keep you on the path toward your destiny.

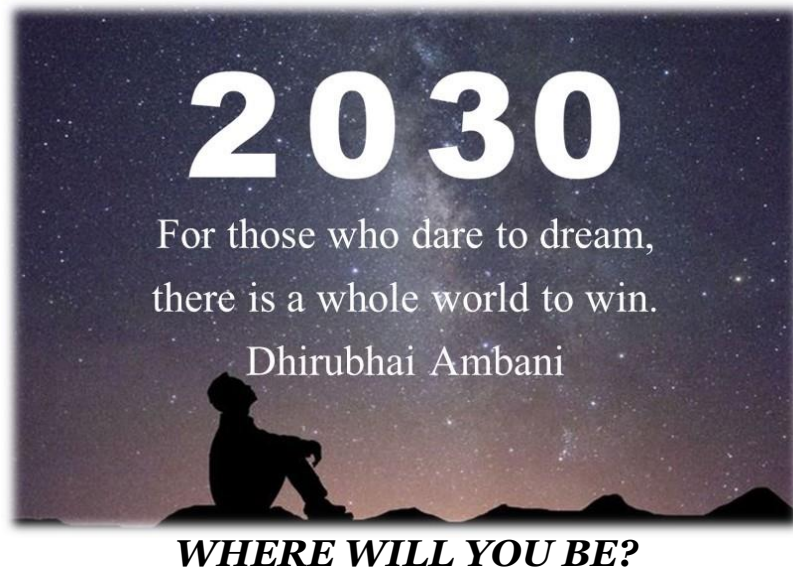
The question you must ask yourself is “Where do I desire to be when the clock strikes twelve on January 1, 2030?” Notice the date is not 2020, but if given a chance to write your position in life on that date, where would you be? Once you can define where you desire to be, you must ascertain “how do I get there?” What is the projected timeline, the anticipated cost factor and most importantly, the level of commitment it will take from you to accomplish what has been dreamed? The truth is that no one can interrupt the plans you establish for yourself. It will require you to forfeit your dreams for them not to come to fruition. While life will throw many curveballs and oftentimes disrupt the best laid plans, tenacity and pure drive will override any obstacles that may unfold. I believe in your ability to achieve the seemingly impossible because there is nothing in this world that cannot be achieved if you envision it. The strategy and/or methodology may require tweaking periodically but words such as impossible, *can't* and *won't* are obsolete.

Over time, we are going to connect for the sole purpose of living life beyond our wildest expectations. My primary objective is to ensure that you have all of the necessary tools and resources to achieve your heart's desires. If you are mindful of who you are and

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what you intend to accomplish in a projected timeline, I have the discipline, the commitment and the faith to believe all things are possible with a plan and a strategy. The journey will not be easy. We will hit roadblocks and stumble over unanticipated obstacles. However, they will not destroy the ultimate objective. So, begin with this simple directive. Write down the answer to my question presented earlier. Once you define it, we will journey through the steps to ensure you have the capability of achieving it. Consider me your accountability partner in this walk of life. We are on the verge of concept and reality!

Nicole B. Simpson
nicole@nicolebsimpson.com
www.nicolebsimpson.com



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