

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" — Isaiah 43:19

You are not starting a vision this morning. You are finishing one. Since October you have written your story, named your two values, read your strengths, heard your table name your gifts, noticed what you care about now that you did not care about at forty, and put a mission in the top pocket of the pack. Everything on this page is already inside you. The job now is to see it.

It is an ordinary Tuesday, five years from now. Nothing special is happening. Write it in the present tense, as if you are living it. Let these people and things find their way in on their own: your wife · a friend who actually knows you · someone you are helping · your body · your faith · something you are learning · something you do for no reason but joy.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Which part are you already living?

Read your Tuesday to your triad, all of it, without stopping. They will ask you one question and no other:

"Which part of this are you already living?"

Write the answer here, in one sentence. This is the most important line on the page.

The Flourishing Signs

A vision is not a wish. It is a life you would recognize if you were living it. Read the signs below. Circle **three you can already say yes to** — that is the part of the destination you have reached. Then circle **one you are reaching for** — that is the part your Tuesday is pointing at.

When it is working...	
Faith	I can point to where I met Christ in my actual week, not where I intended to.
Faith	My wife, kids and closest friends notice a difference in how I am present to them.
Marriage	My wife sees more of me, not less.
Marriage	I ask about her life instead of telling her mine.
Family	My kids and grandkids get my full self, not my leftover attention.
Friends	I have three men who actually know me — my story, my struggles, my hopes.
Friends	One of them would come if I called at two in the morning, and I would go for him.
Health	I have more capacity than a year ago; my body is an instrument I care for, not a problem I manage.
Identity	I can finish "I am _____" without a title, a rank, or a number.
Identity	I can say no without feeling I am disappearing.
Service	The people I help are becoming more capable, not more dependent.
Service	I serve because I am called, not because I should.
Learning	I am excited about something I am learning, and it is making me better at loving people.
Joy	I play with no outcome attached, and I am actually there when I do.

If you can say yes to three, you have found flourishing. Not perfect. Found.

The five letters — a quiet check

Martin Seligman spent a career asking what a flourishing life contains and found five things: Positive emotion, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning, Accomplishment. Read your Tuesday once more and mark the margin with the letters you find. Most men in this room will find M, A and R. The letter that goes missing is P. If there is no joy on your page, the page is a job description. Put the joy back in.

What I will gladly not carry

Christian, in The Pilgrim's Progress, cannot shrug his burden off by trying. It falls off at the cross — and he gives three leaps for joy. "Let us throw off everything that hinders... and let us run." (Hebrews 12:1)

In pencil, one line: what I will gladly set down so I can run toward this Tuesday.

One step this week

One thing from your Tuesday page you can do before we meet again — a call, a walk, a table, a first lesson. Say it to your triad. Date it.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." — Jeremiah 29:11

Take this page home. It is the first draft of Charter Part Two, and it is the page your wife should read.