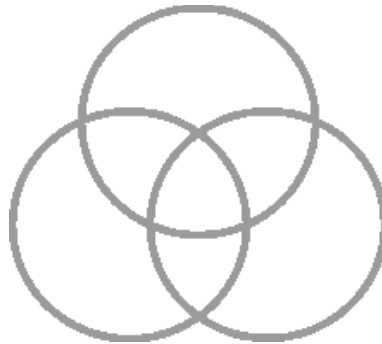


## Finding Your Vocare Intersection

Great work lives at the intersection of three "circles" in your life. Some of my clients think of this intersection as their calling in life--their place of maximum contribution, satisfaction and happiness. The English word "vocation" has grown a little coolly practical, but through the centuries, the Latin verb that inspired it, "vocare," carried the essential meaning of being called to a purpose, a craft or to a master. It is the most profound of concepts. It is what you are doing in life that makes a difference. It is unique to you and will define your legacy.

What I call the "Vocare Intersection" is a dynamic pursuit. As you keep learning, growing and re-centering, your sense of purpose and mastery grow, as does your freedom. Your work becomes the thing for which people gladly and gratefully thank you and compensate you.

Here's a little exercise to help you explore your Vocare Intersection: First, draw three overlapping circles in the rough shape of a triangle:



That's the visual. Now spend some time reflecting on your three circles. And as you do that, pay attention to the people, events and stories that come to your mind.

- **Circle #1 Mastery.** The top circle represents the work that you know you are especially gifted, equipped and trained to do. Most of my clients are resplendently gifted. Think through the abilities, assets, education, experience, and personal traits and gifts that belong to you. Some will inspire you more than others. Take lots of notes.
- **Circle #2 Purpose.** The lower-left circle represents what you feel strongly, even passionately about. Maybe your attention turns to where you've always had a sense of special meaning, passion or contribution in your work—vocationally and avocationally. Notice what goes on in your chest as you reflect.
- **Circle #3 Freedom.** The final circle speaks to your pay-offs. A number probably comes to mind. Write it down. But also ask yourself, "Other than money, how do I like to be compensated?" It's probably about being able to choose: Maybe you like a strong team with an affirming leader, or being your own boss, or traveling a lot, or not, or being acknowledged publicly for your craftsmanship, or a flexible work schedule. Write about those things too.

The idea, of course, is for your focus to land on the dynamic sweet spot. You may find yourself thinking you're doing well with one or two of the circles. But if you're restless—or thinking about how quickly the years are flying by--pay attention. Maybe it's because you're starting to think about the possibility of going for all three.

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