

[Are you living out your passion or its shadow?](#)

By Terri Ferrara in [Ask the Career Coach](#)



At a Leadership conference I went to recently, the question was asked, "Do you have a chronic sense of soul dissatisfaction?" Bill Hybels, a very popular speaker, shared his story and challenge to live out our lives, including our career, from our highest passions or highest mission statement. He described living from a 'Shadow Mission' as living about 10% off from what is our life's true mission.

Why do we live in our Shadow Mission? Fear. What fears do we have?

Fear of failure.
Fear of criticism.
Fear of disappointing people.
Fear of the unknown.
Fear of not having enough.
Fears.

Fears are an inhibitor of what 'could be.' What is the truth? When it comes to...

- **Failure** – the truth is we can learn from and live a fuller, richer life.
- **Criticism** – the truth is that we can listen for what we can change and become wiser.
- **Disappointing of others** – the truth is that we can make the best choices, not depending on others approval.
- **Unknown** – the truth is that the unknown can be exciting, depending on the outlook we choose
- **Not enough** – the truth is that this situation can be an opportunity to be creative

Where are you?... Living out your true passion or living out a Shadow Mission? Where do you want to be? What would it look like to live from your passion?

The Shadow Mission is usually so appealing because we do enjoy it and we're most likely using our core strengths, but it is about 10% off from what our true mission could be. We'll continue to feel that dissatisfaction till we move from our Shadow Mission to our true passion(s) in life.

After Bill's talk, I just sat in my seat and took some time for reflection. I knew I was living out of my Shadow Mission and some changes needed to be made in my career. The interesting part is that the Shadow Mission comprises so much of one's deeper passion. So, this week I made some major changes. I've dropped two commitments so that I can replace these with my true passions. This week I've moved from a Shadow Mission to my true passions! I'm celebrating inside and out!

Where are you? Are you living out your true passions or your 'Shadow Mission'? If you'd like to schedule a confidential and complimentary 20-minute session, email me at terri@summitviewcareercoaching.com.

I'm passionate about you enjoying your Monday as much as Friday afternoon. Packages are offered on career exploration, job search strategy, strengths identification, career branding, networking, résumé & cover letter expertise, interview preparation and jump-starting a new position. For more information, go to my website at www.summitviewcareercoaching.com or email me at terri@summitviewcareercoaching.com.

Enjoy Monday morning as much as Friday afternoon!