

## It Takes Guts to Get Out of Ruts

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*Psalm 8:1-6 (NIV)*

*1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.*

*2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. 3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? 5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:*

**Big Idea:** We will be discussing the three signs you might be in a spiritual rut.

### 3 SIGNS YOU'RE IN A SPIRITUAL RUT

#### 1. SAMENESS OVER \_\_\_\_\_

*John 14:12 (NLT)*

*12 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.*

"If you can't do great things, do small things in a great way."

—Napoleon Hill

#### THE LAW OF USE

*Matthew 13:12 (ESV)*

*12 For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.*

"Christianity not only saves you from sin, but from cynicism."

—E. Stanley Jones

*Jeremiah 45:5 (NKJV)*

*5 And do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for behold, I will bring adversity on all flesh," says the LORD. "But I will give your life to you as a prize in all places, wherever you go." ' "*

“Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.”  
— William Carey, famous missionary to India (1761-1834)

## **2. THOUGHT \_\_\_\_\_**

*Proverbs 23:7a (KJV)*

*“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”*

### **WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT, YOU BRING ABOUT!**

*Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)*

*“I know the thoughts and think towards you, thoughts of peace and not of evil to give you a future and a hope!”*

*Isaiah 55:8*

*“God’s thoughts are higher than our thoughts.”*

*Romans 12:3 (NCV)*

*“Because God has given me a special gift, I have something to say to everyone among you. Do not think you are better than you are. You must decide what you really are by the amount of faith God has given you.”*

*2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)*

*5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

*“Thinking is the hardest work there is,  
which is the probable reason why so few engage in it.”  
—Henry Ford, Sr.*

*Philippians 4:8 (ESV)*

*8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

*Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)*

*“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”*

## **3. VISION \_\_\_\_\_ (a dream drought)**

*Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)*

*18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

### **A VISION DOES THREE THINGS:**

- (1) A vision will free you from your past.
- (2) A vision will set you on a collision course with your destiny.
- (3) A vision will cause your strengths to increase and your weaknesses to decrease.

**A VISION WILL ALWAYS CONSIST OF THREE THINGS:**

- (1) Aspiration: a strong desire for high achievement.
- (2) Inspiration: a vision must be God-breathed or divinely influenced.
- (3) Perspiration: A vision will always necessitate vigorous effort to accomplish.

**Tunnel vision:** tunnel vision is the loss of peripheral vision with retention of central vision.

**ANSWERS:**

1. GREATNESS
2. THEFT
3. STAGNATION