

How To Make Plans

*(The 4 questions no one can answer for you
(SERIES: HOW; The Series; 03 of 07))
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“The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. **But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever**, the purposes of his heart through all generations.” (Psalm 33)

5 Perspectives on Planning

Act or be **acted upon**.

“Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.” (Pro 6:6-8 NIV)

God is a **planner**.

“Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.” (Pro 19:21 NIV)

I do not live to plan; I plan **to live**.

“. . . What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.’” (James 4:14-15 NIV)

Working **on** my life precedes working **in** my life.

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’” (Luke 14:28-30 NIV)

God is not **an enabler**.

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Galatians 6:7 NIV)

“‘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.’” (Jer 29:11 NIV)

Have you asked yourself lately...

What matters **most**?

“. . . **work out your** salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” (Phil 2:12-13 NIV)

Where do **I stand**?

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.” (Psa 32 NIV)

Where do I want **to be**?

What am I **willing to do**?

“To win the contest you must **DENY YOURSELVES MANY THINGS THAT WOULD KEEP YOU FROM DOING YOUR BEST**. An athlete goes to all this trouble just to win a blue ribbon or a silver cup, but we do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears. So **I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step**. I fight to win. I'm not just shadow-boxing or playing around. Like an athlete I punish my body, treating it roughly, training it to do what it should, not what it wants to. Otherwise I fear that after enlisting others for the race, I myself might be declared unfit and ordered to stand aside.” (1 Cor 9:25-27)