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## Joshua Nations

# Planning and Strategy

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# Planning and Strategy

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## **A. Planning and Goal-Setting are Godly actions.**

Planning and Goal Setting is the action of discerning and implementing processes to align you, your vision towards God's plan and purpose. Proverbs 29:18 explains that without vision, the people perish.

1. The word vision means, revelation from God about His plan.
2. The word perishes means, become unbridled, lack direction or focus.
  - God had a plan for all of creation. (Isaiah 37:26)
  - God makes plans for every single person. (Jeremiah 29:11)
  - Strategic Planning was demonstrated throughout Scripture.
    - Moses was instructed by Jethro to strategically delegate. (Exodus 18:1-27)
    - Joshua was instructed by God in how to defeat Jericho. (Joshua 6)
    - Nehemiah crafted and implemented a plan for rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. (Nehemiah)
    - Jesus crafted a plan to recruit, train and send out disciples for the Gospel. (Acts 1:8)
    - Paul had a plan to preach where no man had preached. (Romans 15:20)

## **B. Many people have a vision but few people create a plan and strategy that they can implement. The church planter must seek God's will and take the time and effort to create the corresponding plan. (James 4:14,15)**

1. Consider the life of Joseph and how God positioned him even through suffering and trials to learn administration, organization and planning.
2. Joseph learned how to tend to administrative matters that would allow him to take care of his family and an entire nation during a great famine in later years.
3. The planning process allowed the Lord to work miracles of provision and blessing.

## **C. Strategy must be clear, written and measurable.**

1. A plan must have clearly stated action items or tasks.

2. Each action item or task should have a desired outcome.
3. Each outcome will likely be measurable in either number or time.
4. These items need to be plotted into a calendar so that progress can be tracked.
5. Completed items and milestones should be celebrated as each step of the strategy is being accomplished.
6. Outcomes are not the same as Output.
  - Outcome: something that happens as a result of an activity or process.
  - Output: the amount of something that is produced by a person or thing.
  - Outcomes are transformational, effect change, and can be visible in variety of capacities. Output is generally numerical and can only be judged by quantity and not quality.
  - Outcome based initiatives will lead to health, transformation and subsequent growth in numbers.
  - Outcome based evaluation will provide information to strengthen weaknesses and address areas of lack.

#### **D. Planning and strategy help maximize your potential. (Proverbs 29:18)**

1. Good leaders make and implement plans. (Proverbs 16:3, Psalm 90:12)
2. The Holy Spirit will guide you in the planning process. (Psalm 20:4, Psalm 16:9, Isaiah 28:29)
3. Potential is maximized as personal passion connects with a God inspired plan.
4. Accomplishing tasks and seeing your progress will add fuel and inspiration to the process of fulfilling the plan and strategy.
5. Potential is increased exponentially as you work in cooperation with a team for the purpose of fulfilling the vision!

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*This article was provided by Joshua Nations ([JoshuaNations.org](http://JoshuaNations.org)).*