

Developing a Faith Plan

I. *Establishing Faith Goals*

A. **Meet with your pastor and/or elder(s)**

B. **Identify faith areas:**

1. Needs

2. Concerns

3. Desires

C. **What authority do you have to act in each of these areas?**

II. *Develop a vision from God.*

A. **Ask God to take away any improper desires you may have in the area and replace them with His heart for the matter (John 7:17-18).**

B. **What does God's Word say about this area?**

C. **What would the faith area look like if God's desires for it were being lived out by the people?**

1. In my mind's eye I see the following activities taking place:

2. Do I really believe God desires to see this accomplished and that it would truly bring honor and glory to Him?

II. *Present Situation*

- A. What resources currently exist?

- B. What barriers currently exist?

III. *Faith Goals*

- A. If resources were no problem, what specific goal would I want to see accomplished and by when? Make it measurable rather than fuzzy.

- B. Responsibility:
 - 1. **God's part:** Area of trust. What can only God do?

 - 2. **My part:** Area of action. What is my next step?

IV. *Developing a Strategy*

- A. Why a strategy? God is a God of order.

- B. **Luke 11:9**
 - 1. Ask: pray

 - 2. Seek: research

 - 3. Knock: act

- C. **The problem: Top-Down Planning**

- D. **Determine the critical events of your plan**
 - 1. What must one person do at the lowest level of commitment?

 - 2. Why would they want to do it? What are their felt needs that would motivate them to do it? (Very important question. Spend some time here.)

V. *Ministry description*

What would the ministry look like that would meet the felt needs **and** accomplish the goal? Do not think in terms of activities you have always used. Be creative. Brainstorm here!

VI. *Scheduling activities***A. *Activities or Intermediate Goals:***

Steps you take to reach your goal. What activities will move you closer to reaching your goal?

B. *Schedule:*

A timetable of when you will do the various activities. What preparations will have to be done by us to make these activities accomplish their goals?

C. *Authority:*

Before you begin carrying out plans, do you need the approval of those in authority? How best should you proceed to gain the approval needed to proceed? Remember that those in authority over you are there to protect you. Do not proceed until you have a plan that they are fully behind.

D. *How can we keep our focus on God during this time so we do not move ahead of where He has preceded us?*