

THE ABCDs FOR A BETTER YEAR IN 2022

Sermon Outline
December 26, 2021
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- † Proverbs 17:24, "An intelligent person aims at wise actions, but a fool starts off in many directions" (GNT).
Four Keys To Maximizing 2022

1. **A =** _____.

- † Galatians 6:5, "Each person must be responsible for himself" (NCV).

There Are 3 Kinds of People

- (a) There are _____. Genesis 3:11-12, "Who told you that you were naked?" God asked. "Did you eat the fruit that I told you not to eat?" ¹²The man answered, "The woman You put here with me gave me the fruit, and I ate it" (GNT).
- (b) There are _____. Proverbs 22:13a, "A lazy man is full of excuses" (TLB).
- (c) There are _____. 2 Samuel 12:13, "I have sinned against the Lord" (NLT).

2. **B =** _____ I can _____ with _____.

- † Proverbs 4:13, "I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me" (GNT).

- The Bible is full of people who changed because they believed they could change with God's power and help: Moses, Gideon, Jeremiah, Peter, and Paul.

To Be Used By God, Two Things are Required

- (a) You must _____ for your own life.
- (b) You must believe that God can _____.

3. **C =** _____.

- † Genesis 1:26a, "Then God said, 'Let Us make human beings in Our image, to be like Us'" (NLT).
- † Job 34:3-4, "We can choose the sounds we want to listen to. We can choose the taste we want in food. We should choose to follow what is right. But first of all we must define what is good" (TLB).

How Do I Clarify What I Want?

- (a) First, clarify your _____ because these determine your _____. Your _____ determine your _____. Your _____ determine your _____. Jesus said this in Matthew 16:26, "For even if you were to gain all the wealth and power of this world—at the cost of your own life—what good would that be? And what could be more valuable to you than your own soul?" (TPT).
- (b) Ask, What do I want to _____?

- † James 4:2, "The reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it" (TLB).
- † 1 Corinthians 6:12, "Just because something is technically legal doesn't mean that it's spiritually appropriate" (MES).
- † 1 Corinthians 10:23, "We are allowed to do anything, but not everything is good for us to do. We are allowed to do anything, but not all things help us grow strong as Christians" (NLV).
- The question is going to be between good and better and better and best. Some things aren't necessarily wrong; they're just not necessary. You don't have time for everything. Ask yourself, "What is going to _____?"

4. **D =** _____.

- † Ecclesiastes 11:4, "If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done" (TLB).
- † Luke 2:10b-11, "I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (NKJV).

- The primary root of procrastination is _____. Perfectionism produces _____. Only ____% of Americans have goals written down and those 3% are in the top wage earners in our culture.

To Set Goals, Make Sure They are S.M.A.R.T. Goals

- (a) S = _____.
- (b) M = _____.
- (c) A = _____.
- (d) R = _____.
- (e) T = _____.

† Luke 2:52, "Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people" (NLT).

Based On Luke 2:52, Here Are Suggestions

- (a) For _____ goals, ask, "What do I want to _____ next year?" All _____ are _____. Proverbs 19:8, "Do yourself a favor and love wisdom. Learn all you can, then watch your life flourish and prosper!" (TPT).
- (b) For _____ goals, ask, "What will _____ next year?" Proverbs 17:22, "A joyful, cheerful heart brings healing to both body and soul. But the one whose heart is crushed struggles with sickness and depression" (TPT).
 - † Proverbs 17:22, *Being cheerful keeps you healthy. It is slow death to be gloomy all the time*" (GNT).
- (c) For _____ goals, ask, "What will _____ to God?" Or, "What _____ would make the _____ in my relationship to God in 2022? 2 Peter 3:18, "But grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by deepening your relationship to Him" (PAR).
- (d) For _____ goals, ask, "What will be my _____ to others?" 1 Peter 4:10, "God's given you some special abilities and spiritual gifts. Be sure to use them to help and minister to each other" (PAR).
- Anytime you help somebody, that's called a _____ and/or _____.
- † Romans 7:18-20 "The power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions. I obviously need help! ¹⁹I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. ²⁰Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. I don't have the power to change!" (MES).
- † Ephesians 6:10, "Your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power within you" (TLB).
- Readied _____ without real _____ rapidly _____ over time.
- † Romans 6:10-11, "When Christ died, He died to defeat the power of sin. Now see yourselves as being dead to the power of sin and alive to God" (NCV).

When Jesus Died on The Cross, He Paid for Three Things

- (a) Jesus paid for the _____ of your sins in the _____. Galatians 20:20a, "I have been crucified (past) with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (ESV).
- (b) Jesus paid to break the _____ of sin in the _____. 1 Peter 2:24, "He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live (present) for what is right" (NLT).
- (c) Jesus paid so that one day I will be released from the _____ of sin _____. Revelation 22:3, "In heaven, there will be no sin or sickness or sorrow or sadness. These curses were destroyed. The only thing around the throne of God will be (future) God's sinless servants worshipping Him" (PAR).
 - † Proverbs 17:24, "An intelligent person aims at wise actions, but a fool starts off in many directions" (GNT).
 - † Proverbs 27:23-24, "Be sure you know how your sheep are doing, and pay attention to the condition of your cattle. ²⁴Riches will not go on forever, nor do governments go on forever" (NCV).
 - † Ephesians 5:15, "So be very careful how you live because you only have so much time and energy here. Do not be like those with no understanding. Live honorably with true wisdom, for we are living in evil times. Take full advantage of every day as you spend your life fulfilling God's purposes and goals for your life" (PAR).