

How to put first things first-pt.2

The Method of Developing Biblical Discipline Can Be Summed Up in
3 Words: **ADVANCE DECISION - MAKING.**

- The Biblical Example - the Apostle Paul

24Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but {only} one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then {do it} to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

- How Does It Work?

1. Advanced Decision Making begins with

CLEAR - CUT OBJECTIVES.

2. Advanced Decision Making is reinforced by **REWARDING ALONG** the **WAY.**

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NASB)

3. Advanced Decision Making becomes a personal conviction when you **PONDER** the **CONSEQUENCES.**

The key to discipline - delayed gratification. The key to delayed gratification - advance decision making. How do you make advance decisions? One, clear-cut objectives. Two, reward yourself along the way. Three - and this is very important - advance decision making becomes personal and a conviction when you ponder the consequences. Ponder the consequences. The apostle Paul says - he ponders: *Without a clear-cut goal, if I don't buffet my body* - I don't think he liked that.

Discussion Questions

Biblical Priorities "Pop Quiz"

To what degree have you taken specific steps in the following areas?

(1 = none; 2 = little; 3 = started and doing okay; 4 = making good progress; 5 = vigorously pursuing)

__Objectives: Moving from vague ideas to specific decisions about the kind of person I want to become and what I want to accomplish.

__Priorities: Ordering my life in such a way that the important and eternal are not forfeited by the "pressing" and the "urgent."

__Schedule: Determining specifically how and when I will place the important and eternal in my daily life.

__Discipline: Doing what needs to be done when it needs to be done (i.e. choosing to habitually delay gratification of short-term pleasures in order to more fully enjoy long-term success).

__Accountability: Enlisting the support of those who love me to help me keep my commitments to God.

Each person in the group go around and share their highest and lowest number.

If you could focus on one area this week to develop in your biblical priorities which would it be and why?

What do you see are hindrances/obstacles to these being areas of priority?

Share some specific examples of how "advanced decision-making" has helped you become disciplined. How does it make you feel when you're disciplined?

Share one specific area (time, money, or relationships) that you believe God wants you to prioritize according to His design. Discuss what delayed gratification looks like and what advanced decision you will need to make.

