

MAKING A GAME PLAN

“I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead” (Philippians 3:12-13 NLT).

Steps in Establishing a Game Plan

Step 1: Submission

“As the Scriptures say, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ So humble yourselves before God” (James 4:6-7a NIV).

- **Proud**

“Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18 NLT).

- **Humble**

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up in honor” (James 4:10 NIV).

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time” (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Step 2: Opposition

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you” (James 4:7-8a NIV).

“So let God work His will in you. Yell a loud NO to the devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet YES to God and He’ll be there in no time” (James 4:7-8 MSG).

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8 NLT).

Step 3: Training

“Wash your hands, you sinners, and let your hearts be filled with God alone to make them pure and true to Him. Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. Let there be sorrow and sincere grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy” (James 4:8b-9 LB).

Step 4: Cooperation

“Don’t speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God’s law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether or not it applies to you. God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?” (James 4:11-12 NLT).

- A critical spirit flies in the face of Love
- A critical spirit is an affront to God
- A critical spirit infringes on the lives of others

Traditional Adage: It’s not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game.

Biblical Adage: It’s how you play the game that determines whether you win or lose.