

The Four-Priorities-Planner

LIFE ON LIFE

with Punky Tolson 

God is so gracious to give us new beginnings!

Lamentations 3:22-23 tells us that God's compassion and mercy is "new" every single day. And *today* is a new beginning— whether you are doing this on the first month of a new year, or on a regular Tuesday. *This is your chance to begin again!*

Reflect and Remember:

- *Think over the past year to go back and find the gold from 2019.*
- *What did you learn last year? What did God do in your life?*
- *In what ways did you grow? What did you waste?*
- *What did you lose? What did you gain?*
- *What lessons from last year will help propel you into the New Year with greater focus and clarity?*

Pro Tip:

Focus on one month at time. Look back at your calendar, photos on your phone, journals, what you're reading or watching, etc. for help in remembering your year.

Beginning today, schedule 1-2 hours at the end of every month to continue this practice throughout the year.

Recalibrate and Eliminate:

- *Where do you want to be one year from today?*
- *How do you want to grow and develop in your faith and love for God?*
- *How do you want to grow and develop as a person so that you can become the who God created you to be?*
- *How do you want to develop in your relationships?*
- *What kind of an impact do you want to make on the world you live in – starting in your own home, neighborhood, workplace...?*

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What's Your Goal?

The Apostle Paul writes, “I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back” (Philippians 3:14, MSG).

What goals do you have for this year to live intentionally by God’s grace and in His strength, following Jesus every step of the way? What’s your plan to get to the end of this year and look back on a profoundly effective and fruitful year lived to the glory of God? Do you want to have a year that truly makes a difference?

If so, consider using the blueprint of The Four Priorities taken from Matthew 22:37-40:

“Jesus replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’

This is the first and greatest commandment.

A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

The entire law and all of the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

John and I have prayerfully written our goals each year using this blueprint and we’ve found it to be a helpful and beneficial spiritual discipline that has enabled us to grow deeper in our faith and relationship with the Lord.

Let's Get Started!

1. Begin by thoughtfully and prayerfully reading Matthew 22:37-40. Try reading it in multiple different translations or paraphrased versions of the Bible. You can easily access all of these translations online at www.biblegateway.com. I recommend looking at:
 - The New Living Translation (NLT)
 - New International Version (NIV)
 - The Message (MSG)
 - Amplified Bible (AMP)
 - English Standard Version (ESV)
 - The Passion Translation (TPT)
2. Pray for the Lord’s assistance and direction in developing goals for the new year. See the next section for goals to consider from The Four Priorities. What would He have you focus on this year? *You can easily overwhelm yourself with too many goals. We aren’t striving for perfection, so ask the Lord to help you with where to focus first. Once you reach that goal, consider adding another!*
3. Be very specific in regard to what you will do, how you will do it, when you will do it, and with whom. You’ll experience greater success with your goals if they are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Specific.)
4. Write them down! Writing your goals and keeping them visible (reading/reviewing them often) makes all the difference.
5. Share your goals with a friend and ask them to “keep your feet to the fire” when it comes to working toward the goals you set.

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Goals to Consider:

1. Priority #1: A Personal Progressive Commitment to Jesus Christ

- a. **Your relationship with the Lord:** What is your specific plan to grow and develop in your relationship with the Lord this year?
- b. **The Bible:** What is your specific plan to read, study and obey the Word of God?
- c. **Prayer:** What is your plan to cultivate a praying life?
- d. **Public Worship:** What is your plan to become more intentional in public/corporate worship (church)?

2. Priority #2: A Personal Progressive Commitment to Loving Yourself

What are your goals in each of the following areas:

- a. **Physically:** Fitness, health and nutrition, regular doctor visits
- b. **Mentally:** How are you developing your mind? What books are you reading?
- c. **Socially:** Are you tending to your relationships? (Also see Priority #3 below).
- d. **Emotionally:** What are you challenged by? Where are you stuck in your life – with hurts, regrets, insecurities, etc.? What is your plan to move forward with the help of the Holy Spirit?

What habits do you need to start and what habits do you need to stop in order to become who you want to be this year and to do what God has called you to do?

3. Priority #3: A Personal Progressive Commitment to Other Followers of Jesus

- a. How will you build up the relationships and people in your life? Are there any relationships in need of focused time and attention? Or healing and forgiveness?
- b. These relationships include your spouse (if applicable), mother and father, children and grandchildren
- c. Your close friends who are followers of Jesus
- d. Who will you invest in? Is there a person in your life you should consider discipling?

4. Priority #4: A Personal Progressive Commitment to the Work of Christ in Daily Life

- a. How can you influence those around you who do not know or follow Jesus?
- b. How can you care for those around you who are hurting?
- c. What are your professional / work goals? Is God at the center of them?

This is the year that God wants to do exceedingly, abundantly more than you could ever ask or think. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Let Him!
Happy New Year!



2020 Foresight

"Wisdom takes a good look back at life, embraces it, thanks God for all of it, and moves forward with understanding knowing that the One who was with us in the past has gone ahead of us into the future and is also with us in the present."

-Punky Tolson