1. The Objective:

To help pastors “begin with the end in mind” and learn to think plan, and develop ministries with clear goals and strategies to fulfill the vision.

Growing churches are highly intentional about what they do, when they do it, and how they do it - the preaching calendar, the strategy for assimilating new believers, the process of discipleship, the educational programs, the leadership development, and even the logistics - such as service times, frequency, and days of the week for events and meetings, are developed, evaluated and/ or changed, to fulfill the mission of the church.

2. The Major Teaching Points:

28 We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. 29 To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Colossians 1:28-29 (NIV)

a. Paul had a very specific objective in mind with regard to the focus and the fruit of his ministry – the spiritual maturity of every believer.

b. Paul also had a specific strategy and game-plan to fulfill his mission of bringing people to spiritual maturity: proclamation, admonition, and teaching.

c. It takes effort but effort that is dependent on God.

The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps. Proverbs 16:9
d. God expects us to use our minds and to make specific plans to fulfill the dreams that He puts on our hearts and the commands given us as church leaders with regard to the Great Commission.

### The Danger of Two Extremes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned – Extreme</th>
<th>Balanced Intentionality</th>
<th>Spirit-led – Extreme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everything has been so carefully planned that there is no room for the Spirit to lead.</td>
<td>Being intentional with planning, consideration, and prayer.</td>
<td>Nothing is organized so as to “let the Spirit lead.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **The Research:**

Churches that are highly intentional about achieving their vision are characterized by having specific goals, strategies, and tactics to accomplish that vision.

4. **Practical Implementation:**

1. What would an infinite God want to do through the group of people gathered together, called your ministry team, in your church?

2. Develop a strategic plan to be intentional about the growth.

   a. Get highly intentional about the preaching calendar.
      
      • Preach in a way that aligns with the biggest needs in the church.
      
      • Preach to give direction.
### Key Ingredients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| **Target**      | that lines up with the overall vision of the church, e.g.  
To see lost people come to Christ.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| **Goal or Objective** | specific outcome, e.g.  
To see 15 people come to Christ in the next four months.                                                                                                                                                  |
| **Plan or Strategy**     | To achieve the goal, e.g.  
Build relationships with non-Christians and model a heart for lost people, preach a six-part series about how to be equipped to share your faith, recruit 10 families who will open their homes |
| **Tactics**     | The specific action steps taken to implement the plan, e.g.  
On Tuesday night, I will train the leaders. Model a dinner party with unbelieving neighbors.                                                    |

b. Be sensitive to different seasons of ministry in the calendar year.

c. Be sensitive to different seasons of ministry in the church’s history.

d. Create a strategy for assimilation of new people.

e. Create a specific means for discipleship through classes, on-going training, and small groups.

f. Evaluate current practices to determine if they are helping to achieve the mission.

*For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.*

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV)
Key Questions:
For the next four months…

1. What should the goal of your church be?

2. What is your plan or strategy to achieve that goal?

3. What specific action steps will you take to implement your plan?

Suggestions for your consideration:

- Plan a staff retreat with specific goals laid out with leadership.

- Biannual evaluation of the church’s health, according to the eight vital ingredients outlined in the book, *Natural Church Development* by Christian A. Schwarz

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

*Unstoppable* by Chip Ingram, Audio series, LivingontheEdge.org

*The High Impact Church*, chapter 9