

**Dr. Ron Armstrong • April 11, 2021**  
**A Generous Life: We Need a Plan**

Luke 14:28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

<sup>31</sup> "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

**A. You're not crazy, but you may still be wrong.**

1. We base 80% of our "sureness" on our own experience, but our experience is small.
2. We are not free soloists. We use the Bible to give us some anchor points so that we can have small falls, but not catastrophic ones.
3. We need a process and a plan.
  - a. A process helps avoid objectively bad decisions and involves the wisdom of "us."
  - b. A plan helps us choose the best "right" decision. It helps you end up in the place you want to go.

**B. The four pieces you need for a clear money picture:**

Income plan, spending plan, savings/investing plan, debt plan.

**C. It's your income plan, but here are some helpful questions:**

1. How much do I want to make and why?
  - a. Wishing won't make it so, but it will guide your choices.
  - b. A Christ-follower should have reasons God will bless, such as needs, generosity, or preparing for the future.
  - c. Maximize income? No. Balancing it is usually better. Money is important, but there are other important things too.
2. How do I want to make it?

4 ways to get money: win it, inherit it, marry it, or earn it.  
4 ways to earn money: Employee, small business/professional (time for money), business (process), investing.

3. Some strategic guidance:
  - a. There is generally more money on the right.
  - b. Each box has a tradeoff of intensity of labor and risk/stress. Some boxes will fit you better.
  - c. If you have found a passion job, don't trade it to move to a different square. Consider adding a square.
  - d. Biggest predictors for improving income: Finish college, choice of career, management, ownership.
4. A plan requires:

**Goals → Strategies → Tasks**

5. You need a plan for now, not the past. Don't forget the new life phase of "young-old."