

# MAKE FUZZY PLANS

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In setting goals, there is an element that is often missing. I call it making fuzzy plans.

There is nothing wrong with planning, and there are steps to planning that are immutable, like establishing a goal, which tells us how to get from where we are to where we want to be. Next, set a timeline with an approximate start and finish time. And then, calculate the cost. Know what the approximate needs are to get the plan started.

But within these steps there exist the word, “approximate.” In other words, while the statement, “failing to plan is planning to fail” may be correct, the problem is that our plans don’t always work out the way we have drawn them out to be.

God wants us to plan, but not to leave Him out of the process. And the reason is that He has a plan for us. Proverbs 16:9 gives this advice. “A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”

Therefore, while we need to make plans, we need to make them kind of fuzzy.

A common assumption is that successful ministries have clear and precise vision and goals, followed by charts with lines and arrows set in indelible ink. But a lot of the best-run organizations and ministries make fuzzy plans. It’s not that they neglect their responsibility to plan; rather they avoid the mistake of making plans that are too rigid.

They don’t give uncompromising rules, but rather rules that are flexible enough to change with the times. Or as I like to say, “Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be broken.”

Within the church, conforming to worldly standards and procedures shouldn’t dictate the changes that need to be made, rather it is changes the Holy Spirit is doing within church. In other words, we need to be careful not to plan the Holy Spirit out of the process.

Therefore, may I humbly submit that we need to opt for a fuzzy plan, one that is clear and detailed, but also flexible enough to allow for changes. In this way we’ll be well positioned to hear and move with the Holy Spirit into the future, rather than being tied to the past.

Therefore, while we need to make plans, let’s keep them a little fuzzy.