

Priorities, Like Promises, Need to Be Kept

How to Order Your Priorities

by Patrick Morley

The dictionary defines a priority as something to which we give precedence because of its urgency or importance. To prioritize means to arrange in order of importance. Priorities, then, are pre-decisions that we make to determine in advance what we will give ourselves to. When we set priorities, we are literally writing history in advance.

Opportunity vs. Distraction

Priorities become a grid to help us distinguish opportunity from distraction.

They are filters through which we can sift daily decisions to make sure we keep on track. When we set priorities in advance, it reduces the pressure we feel when we must make decisions under fire. Be diligent in distinguishing opportunity from distraction. Many times distractions come disguised as opportunities.

The Example of Jesus

Jesus made decisions based on His priorities. His purpose determined His priorities. Jesus did not let the emotions of the moment cloud His thinking; He did what He was called to do. There is one great rule for priority living that we glean from the example of Jesus: make decisions based on your priorities, not your pressures.

How to Prioritize

No one can do everything. Choices must be made. How can priorities help us to make choices about how we invest our limited time and money? It seems we often give most of our time to those who care about us the least, and the least of our time to those who care about us the most. That's why we should decide in advance what our priorities ought to be, prioritizing everything based on who will cry at our funerals.

Never Do Anything Someone Else Can Do

Simply because you do something well doesn't mean it's the best use of your time. As for me, I don't do anything if

someone else can do it. This principle frees up unusually large amounts of time. Keep this in mind: *the better job you do, the more people will ask you to do.* Without intending to, people will ask you to do things that meet their needs, but don't necessarily match your priorities.

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A Good Idea vs. a God Idea

We are naturally programmed to act on the impulse of a good idea. However, sometimes good ideas get in the way of God ideas. Prayer removes the impulse of the good idea born of human ingenuity rather than of God. Pray, and then plan. It is the habit of a man who would distinguish between good and God.

Areas to Prioritize

Everyone must take personal responsibility for his or her private life and set priorities in these key areas:

- Relationship with God
- Relationship with spouse
- Relationship with children
- Finances
- Health (including leisure and rest)
- Work
- Personal Ministry

No one else will, or can, take responsibility for these areas of your life. In effect, we are all responsible for our own choices about making and keeping priorities.

Unless we have thought through who we are, what our lives are all about, and what's important to us, we will not have the focus to choose the best. A great secret of priority-living is to have so thought through your life that deciding what to include and exclude becomes second nature.

To learn more about priorities, goals, money management, and MUCH more, all from highly successful leaders, businessmen, and entrepreneurs, get your copy of *Profiles of Success* today, available at www.pauljmeyer.com.

