

vanguard:creative
LEADERSHIP COURSES



BATTLE PLANS:

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**Getting Your
Plan On Paper**

MODULE 3:

- ☀ God's Word - Your Responsibility
- ☀ Prophecy In Context
- ☀ Getting Your Plan On Paper
- ☀ Module 3 Assignment

Module 3: Getting Your Plan On Paper

Welcome to Battle Plans Module 3: Getting Your Plan On Paper

Estimated Time:

This document contains all the materials you will need to complete Module 3.

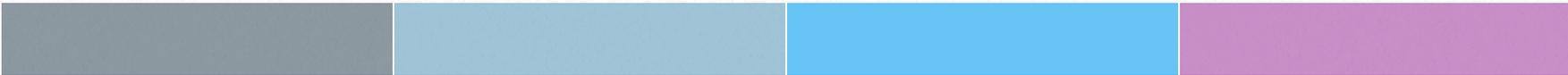
Reading and Reflection: 20 Minutes

Module 1 Assignment: 2-3 Hours

Objectives for Module 3:

By the end of this module you should be able to:

- ❖ Clearly identify the ways that the 2015 Word of the Lord applies to your situation.
- ❖ Create a detailed plan for the year ahead that will align you with the 2015 Word of the Lord.



Welcome Back!

You'll recall that last week, we spent the majority of our time focusing on the details regarding the 2105 Word of the Lord. By now you should have:

- ❖ Studied the prophetic themes presented in this year's Word of the Lord.
- ❖ Looked for correlations between the 2015 Word and your own personal prophecies/dreams.
- ❖ Completed the daily brainstorming exercises.

In this week's Module, we'll spend the bulk of our time working on a detailed plan of action based on our brainstorming activities. It should be a lot of fun! We'll begin by looking at a few thoughts to help put this year's Word in a proper perspective and we'll talk a bit about the necessity of risk as it relates to our plans for the year ahead. Then we'll move into the planning section, where we'll spend the majority of our time crafting a series of goals and activities that will keep us in timing with what God is doing in the year ahead.

So let's get started!

God's Word - Your Responsibility

You'll recall that in last week's module, we focused on four themes: Wind, Turnaround, Grace and No More Delay. By now,



you should have a pretty solid understanding of what God is saying for this year. Now the bigger question is *“What are you going to do with what you have heard?”*

Hearing vs Believing

There are two common mistakes that people make regarding prophetic words:

1. They assume prophetic words are

automatic: Many people receive prophetic words about their future and just assume that they’ll eventually happen. That would be great if it were true, but the reality is that God gives a word to show us His best plans for our lives. While that is His will, He allows us to make the choice to pursue that direction for our lives or to stay where we are. Every word requires an action on our part. If we’re unwilling to make the changes in our lives that activate the word, things will just stay the same.

2. They hear the word, but struggle to

believe it: When this person hears the word they begin to segment it into what their mind tells them is possible. If the word fits the grid they’re working from, they accept it as possible. But if it seems too big, or sits outside the boundaries they live within, it’s quickly dismissed.

As you move forward in your planning, it’s important to remember that you cannot dismiss the parts of this year’s word that you’re uncomfortable with. Just because you

can’t see how a portion fits your situation, doesn’t mean that it doesn’t apply to you.

You have to ask yourself, *“Now that I have heard the word of the Lord, do I actually believe it?”*

“But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.”

James 2:18 New International Version (NIV)

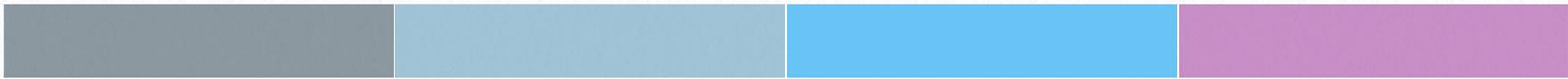
Belief is rooted in action. We show our belief by how we live our lives moving forward. We don’t pull things off the table out of insecurity and we don’t limit God’s hand because of limited self-perception.

We can’t afford false modesty, insecurity or spiritual laziness, especially in the year ahead. We must eliminate distraction, cultivate the word in prayer and look for ways to act on what we’ve heard.

This is a season of action. It’s not about gradual improvement, or going with the flow. If we really believe that the 2015 Word is what He wants to do this year, we need to show we believe it. We need to act upon what He has said and that requires taking a risk.

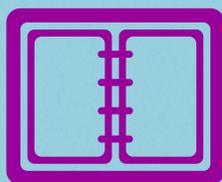
We Need A New Mindset

One way you can tell if you have the right mindset is in how you reacted when you read the Word.



Many times we can identify with the warfare portions of prophetic words. We have a bias towards negativity. *“Economic shaking, swirling warfare... check.”* But what about being a whirlwind force of change that impacts the community around you? How did you respond to that?

“If you’re not moving forward, you’re moving backwards.”



STOP AND REFLECT

Take a moment to consider your reactions to **Module 2:**

- ☀ Could you see yourself in the big-picture ideas that were presented?
- ☀ Did the Word feel relevant to your situation?
- ☀ Did you focus more on the potential negatives or the positives?
- ☀ Did you dismiss anything? Why?
- ☀ Was there anything that you struggled to believe was possible?

To move into what God has for you this season, you cannot afford to dismiss the big stuff. If you are unable or unwilling to entertain the possibility that God might use you in that way...guess what? You’ll sacrifice what is possible on the altar of what is certain, and you’ll limit the hand of God in your life.

We have a road map for the year ahead. There are certain things you don’t have to bother asking about. Instead, look for ways to leverage your understanding of what He’s said into opportunities for impact.



Prophecy In Context

One of the biggest challenges with big-picture prophetic words is figuring out how to make sense of them within the context of our daily lives.

“How does this fit with my job...my family?”

“I’m not the boss, how can I affect my company culture?”

“I’m just one member of my community, how can I make a difference?”

It can seem like an impossible task!

The good news is that we’ve already been laying a foundation through the exercises we’ve been working on. For a few more ideas to help bring things into proper context, take a look below:

LOOKING FOR CONTEXT:

1. **Pray:** Prayer is always a good place to start! Ask God to show you specifically how the Word applies to your situation.
2. **Look For Connections:** What’s going on in your life that might connect to the Word? Have you had dreams or been given prophetic words that relate?
3. **Don’t Eliminate The Big Stuff:** Just because you can’t see how to get there, doesn’t mean God can’t see it. Acknowledge that you’re probably thinking too small and ask Him to align your faith with what He has said. ***Are your current goals big enough?***
4. **Shift Your Focus To How:** Once you’ve agreed that nothing’s off the table, shift your prayer focus to **HOW?** *“How might this happen?” “What would it take to see this become a reality?”*
5. **Bring It Down To Your Level:** Think about your gifts, your job, the dreams you’ve put on hold, your burdens, your frustrations. Look at the Word from this lens.



Module 3 Assignment

GETTING YOUR PLAN ON PAPER

1. REVIEW YOUR BRAINSTORMING NOTES FROM LAST WEEK

Before we begin with this week's exercise, take a few minutes to read through your notes/thought maps from last week.

- ❖ Jot down 5 or 6 thoughts from your brainstorming that excited you. Use sticky notes, draw pictures, or simply write on a sheet of paper a word or phrase that captures your ideas.
- ❖ If you have a dream/prophetic word that connects, write a word or phrase that describes the connection.
- ❖ As you complete the remaining exercises, keep your notes in front of you for inspiration.

2. DIGGING DEEPER

After all the preparation we've done so far, now we come to the fun part! In this next exercise, we'll move through several questions designed to help you create a set of concrete actions to make the most of this year's Word. We'll begin with a few general questions and then move into questions related to the life categories we've been exploring. Take time to think through each of these questions, and remember: don't take anything off of the table! Lets get started!

- ❖ How might God use your gifts to create a whirlwind of change this year? Do you feel a stirring toward something new?
- ❖ Do you have past prophetic words that have yet to be fulfilled? What needs to happen to activate them?
- ❖ Are there areas of your life where one courageous act could shift everything? Get specific: what do you need to do?

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- ❖ How does God want you to expand your kingdom influence this year? Amplify what you just wrote by 50%. What does it look like now?
 - ❖ Can you identify things that have been held captive in your life? (Creativity, solutions, opportunities, relationships, finances, connections, confidence, etc.)

Note: If you come across a question that does not fit your current situation, ask yourself if you could rephrase it in a way that does fit where you're at today. You would be surprised at how many novel ideas come from looking at things from a slightly different perspective!

CAREER:

- ❖ How might whirlwinds affect your industry? new players? new discoveries?
- ❖ How will your business/job handle sudden shifts politically? Economically? What do you need to do to prepare?
- ❖ What would happen if disaster hit? Are there new markets/opportunities you could pursue? Are there ideas you could leverage should that happen?
- ❖ How could you help your company prepare/shift gears should there be economic turmoil this year?
- ❖ If you are involved in your own business/organization, how much money do you need to accomplish your vision?
- ❖ If your business had a sudden opportunity for expansion, do you have a plan in place? What would you need to do to handle the demand?
- ❖ If you received a sudden promotion or public recognition, are you prepared to handle the shift? Is your family ready?
- ❖ Think about the projects you're working on: what would happen if you took a different approach?
- ❖ If you run a business, what would happen if you made a mid-course correction in your business model?
- ❖ Is it time for a career change? What would you need to do to be able to make the shift?



RELATIONSHIPS:

- ❖ What relationships do you need to cultivate in order to build greater influence? If you could connect with anyone to advance your career/service goals this year, who would it be?
Suspend reality and think big.
- ❖ How can you make that connection? Is there anything stopping you from trying?
- ❖ What casual opportunities might catapult you this year?
- ❖ Who are you aligned with? Who do you need to align with to go to the next level?
- ❖ Where do you need to improve your relationships? (communication, availability, presence, etc.)
- ❖ What are you doing to protect your relationships? What systems do you have in place? What guards?
- ❖ Are there any broken relationships that need mending?

SPIRITUALITY:

One of the key warnings for this year was that we must not give into spiritual laziness and that our most important work is to stay centered in Him while things swirl around us.

- ❖ How much do you involve God in various aspects of your daily life? Do you struggle to stay connected in the busyness of life?
- ❖ How are you going to stay centered? Where are you most vulnerable concerning your connection to God?
- ❖ What systems do you need to put in place to guard your relationship with Him?
- ❖ Do you struggle with trusting God? In what areas? How might this affect you should things get chaotic in the year ahead? Should you run into a challenging opportunity?



FINANCES:

- ❖ Does your perspective on money line up with God's? What mindsets need to change?
- ❖ Are you operating out of God's financial system or the world's? Do you give freely or do you struggle to trust God with your finances?
- ❖ If the economic system takes a hit, are you prepared? What do you need to do to protect yourself? How could you increase in a season where the world is experiencing economic turmoil?
- ❖ If you have investments, how should you handle your portfolio during economic uncertainty? How could you take advantage of economic shifting to increase your investment return?
- ❖ If you shifted careers, are you in a financial position to cover the shift?
- ❖ Can God trust you with increase? Will you use it for His purposes or your own?

HEALTH:

- ❖ Should your schedule suddenly accelerate, how would it affect you physically? Can you run with sudden opportunity? **Sometimes God can't use us because He knows we're not prepared.**
- ❖ Are there any physical limitations that you have accepted? What mindset shift needs to happen for God to begin to move in healing? **Some things seem like minor annoyances. Beware, those are the things we just accept as a part of life. Our agreement can be the very thing that hinders healing.**
- ❖ Do you have any bad health habits (food, exercise, smoking, etc.) that you need to eliminate? How might those habits hinder your ability to move on sudden opportunity?

FUN:

- ❖ Where do you need to loosen up so you can better enjoy life?
- ❖ Have you incorporated a Sabbath into your weekly schedule? If not, what would need to change in your family dynamic to make that happen?



SERVICE:

- ❖ If you could influence any part of society, what would you do?
- ❖ If time or money wasn't an issue, how would you increase your level of service?
- ❖ Have you ever experienced service burnout? What needs to be healed so you don't miss your opportunity?
- ❖ How could you approach your area of service in a new way in order to make a higher level of impact?
- ❖ What do you think is God's ideal for the area in which you serve? How could you be a voice in that change?

LEARNING:

- ❖ What skills would you need if your plan was suddenly accelerated?
- ❖ Do you have the skills you need should a promotion come?
- ❖ What do you need to start learning now?

EMOTIONAL HEALTH:

To move forward when the winds of change come, you must change your mindset. If your mindset stays the same, you will miss your opportunity this year.

- ❖ Are there areas where you have agreed with the enemy about your current situation?
- ❖ Do you struggle with fear, apathy or fatalistic thinking?
- ❖ What's your plan for working on your faulty thinking?
- ❖ Have you experienced any type of blockage in your life? Are you ready to act should that blockage be removed? In other words, could you move quickly to stay in timing with God?
- ❖ How does insecurity affect your willingness to go through doors of opportunity?



3. WRITING YOUR PLAN

In our final exercise for this week, we'll take what we've learned from the questions above and create a set of goals for each area.

Step 1: For each area, write down one dominant theme that highlights what you plan to do this year. Write a date of completion next to each goal.

Examples:

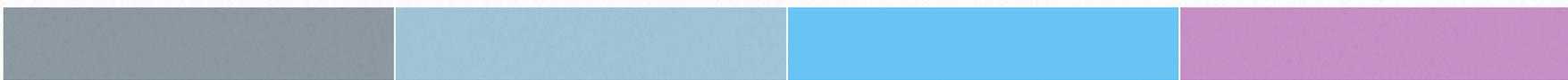
Finances: *Cut my debt by 50%.*

Relationships: *Work on building the necessary relationships to move my career/service to the next level.*

If you prefer a spreadsheet to organize your thinking, you can download one here: [2015 Goals](#). If you're not the spreadsheet type, just use a notebook to set up a simple list of goals. You can copy the template below:

Start off with a chart like this:

Category	Major Goal/Theme	Date Of Completion
Career		
Relationships		
Spirituality		
Finances		
Health		
Fun		
Service		
Learning		
Emotional Health		



Step 2: Under each major theme/goal, make a list of 2-3 smaller goals that will move you toward completing your big-picture goal. These could be things it would take a few minutes or a few weeks to complete.

EX: Finances - *Cut my debt by 50%*

Goal 1: *Pay off Visa balance - 4/1*

Goal 2: *Start tithing - immediately*

Goal 3: *Apply for promotion at work- 3/1*

Don't worry about all the details right now. Just start charting out a course for what you want to accomplish. **Follow the example below. Repeat for each category.**

CAREER:

Supporting Goals		Date Of Completion
Goal #1		
Goal #2		
Goal #3		

Looking Ahead:

Now that you have your goals on paper, we'll take a look at some essential strategies to help you to actually accomplish them! We'll also finish out the final details of our plans, filling in the details with actionable activities that you can begin to implement immediately. We're almost there! See you next week!