**Teach you how to make Cookies**

**Tools for Baking Cookies**

**Cookie Sheet**

**WD 40 – No stick spray**

**Hammer – crack eggs and chop nuts**

**Utility Knife - knife**

**End Wrenches and Duct tape for measuring cups**

**Level – rolling pin**

**Putty Knife – spatula**

**5 gallon bucket – mixing bowl**

**Dry wall tools –**

**Long punch – wisk**

**Ingredients**

**Butter, brown sugar, white sugar, eggs, vanilla (ice cream), flour, soda (pop), salt, oatmeal, chopped walnuts, cinnamon**

**All I really have at this point is a big mess.**

**How did I get in this situation?**

* **My Cookies are terrible!**
* **My tools are a mess!**
* **I wasted your time!**

**This is a prime example of poor Asset Management**

* **These tools are my assets.**
* **I am far better equipped to remodel your house than make you cookies.**
* **Did I bother to take inventory and figure out what I was equipped to do?**
* **Or did I just pursue my dream and expect God to bless it?**

**Is this the way you are utilizing the assets you have been entrusted with?**

**I will ask again, how did I get in this situation?**

* **I tried to do it all myself. EXECUTION**
  + **WHY**
  + **No one was there to help me.**
  + **Micromanagers kill creativity and enthusiasm.**
  + **Why do you need to control everything?**
  + **Am I so talented that I can do everything?**
  + **Sometimes I think so.**
* **I refused to ask anyone else for help. PLANNING COUNSEL**
  + **WHY**
* **I was adamant in completing MY VISION.**
  + **After all, it is my time, my money, and my reputation that is on the line here.**
* **I refused to consider the Assets that God placed around me.**
  + **Maybe he placed all those people around me with all those talents to complete His Vision and not mine. Did I bother to ask Him why he screwed up by sending me carpenters when I wanted to bake cookies?**
* **I spent my time in prayer asking God for the success of My Vision instead of the revelation of HIS.**
  + **I really wasn’t interested in His recipe.**
  + **My ingredients were easier to get than His**
* **I refused to accept God’s time table for the project.**
  + **Maybe I really was supposed to teach you how to bake cookies, two years from now after I had evaluated my assets, sought the wisdom of those around me, sought out the help of the best bakers I could find, had discovered God’s chosen recipe and obtained ingredients that were selected with the utmost care.**

**3 Ations of Vision**

* **Revelation**
* **Incubation**
* **Implementation**

**Has it ever occurred to you, especially those of you who move churches on a periodic basis that the new revelation in your heart may not take place for years, and the vision you are incubating may be for a different group of people than the vision you are currently implementing. Even if you never move churches, God may be stirring up in you visions to utilize many different types of assets or groups of people. Are you willing to take the time to sort out what may be for now and what may be for tomorrow? You may even be given projects to share with others as ideas. You don’t have to execute every idea you receive. You may give away more inspiration than you ever actually walk out. But you have to be willing to let go so that God can use you as a river of flowing water, not a mud puddle that dries up and gets crusty.**

**Your Assets are God’s Assets**

**Your Talents are God’s Talents**

**Are you managing them wisely?**

**Are you willing to invest them in the projects He chooses?**

**Thoughts for the Road on Asset Management**

**We limit God by only remembering what he has done in the past. We forget he is almighty and that he has many new things for us. We are impoverished, not God. He is vast and unlimited while we in our own strength can only be small.**

**Don’t confuse perseverance with hanging on. Hanging on is driven many times by the fear of letting go. What you hang on to, is yours, what you are willing to let go of, will become God’s.**

**What kind of asset manager buries their assets (talents); one that is afraid of the owner. Don’t bury you talents in fear of failure and mistakes, invest them in others, in your congregations, in your family and in your friends. If you make a mistake, rise up and be going, don’t wallow in despair of opportunities missed. Trust in God to make something of your faithful obedience to act.**

**Encourage those around you to unfurl their sail, spread their wings. Then God can breathe His life into them. It is hard to go out into the sea of God’s will if you are unwilling to untie the boat. You must set out and be willing to lose everything in order to fulfill the things God has called you to do.**

**Don’t fall prey to DEEP SEA ADVENTURE SYNDROME. This happens when you spend so much time in the belly of the whale that you never see the light of God’s will in your life. Quit running and start listening. If He told you to go, he will provide a way.**

**Don’t be surprised if God allows you to fail in one area so that He can use you to minister to people in another area. He is not nearly as concerned about your short term success as He is about their long term salvation.**

**The well of hurt in your own heart does not run so deep that the spring of God’s love cannot refresh you and give you new hope and a future, start afresh today with a willing heart.**

**Psalm 87:7 New International Version (NIV)**

**7As they make music they will sing,  
    “All my fountains are in you.”**

**Proverbs 3:5-6 New International Version (NIV)**

**5Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
    and lean not on your own understanding;  
6in all your ways submit to him,  
    and he will make your paths straight.**

**2 Corinthians 3:4-5 New International Version (NIV)**

**4Such confidence we have through Christ before God. 5Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-26 New International Version (NIV)**

**Unity and Diversity in the Body**

**12Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13For we were all baptized by[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+corinthians+12%3A+12-26&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28648a)**] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.**

**15Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20As it is, there are many parts, but one body.**

**21The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it**

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27 New International Version (NIV)**

**The Need for Self-Discipline**

**24Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.**

**Luke 14:25-35 New International Version (NIV)**

**The Cost of Being a Disciple**

**25Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.**

**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? 29For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’**

**31“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? 32If 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. 33In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.**