

Planning, Execution, and Avoiding Distraction: Lessons from Genesis 1

By Ps. Dr. Richard Obeng Mensah, ESQ

Introduction

It's not enough to begin a new year with excitement. By the time the year ends, that excitement often disappears. But this year, I believe we're going to learn things that will help us not only have a good start but also a good ending.

Tonight's message focuses on three key areas: planning, execution, and avoiding distraction. Our primary text is Genesis chapter 1. While we won't read all 31 verses due to time, we'll walk through the key principles step by step.

God Is a Planner

The Bible is clear: God is a planner. Nothing God does happens without a plan. Even our salvation was planned. The moment Adam and Eve sinned, God put a plan in place. He didn't just create the plan and leave it sitting—he executed it from day one until its full fulfillment. God evaluated his plans at every point to ensure things happened at the right time with the right adjustments. Throughout it all, God never got distracted. He kept his eyes on the plan he had set.

The New Testament tells us to look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our salvation (Hebrews 12:2). Salvation was part of his plan. He started it and he finished it. As we begin this year, it's not enough to plan things. We must become the finishers of what we start.

The Template: Genesis 1

In the Beginning: Creating Heaven First

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created heaven and earth."

This tells us what we should do at the beginning of everything. What did God do first? He created heaven and earth. Notice the Bible says God created heaven, but then gives us no details about how heaven was created. The rest of the scripture talks about the earth. Why is the Bible silent about heaven?

I believe heaven is invisible. Heaven represents the things we do in our closet. Heaven represents the right atmosphere we must create before dealing with earthly affairs. Heaven signifies our spiritual life—getting the basics right before we zoom into earth issues to plan, execute, implement, evaluate, and get things done.

So here's the question: As the year has begun, have you created your heaven? Moses said in Exodus 33 that unless God's presence went with him, he would not go. You've already stepped into 2026. Seven days have passed. Is his presence with you?

Facing the Problems: Verse 2 and Beyond

From verse 2 onward, we're suddenly introduced to the earth and the problems associated with it. This tells us something important: no matter what year you find yourself in, as long as you're on this earth, there will be problems to deal with, problems to solve. That's why planning comes into view.

Before you can plan for anything, you must have a purpose in life. Based on that purpose, vision must be gleaned from it. Your mission statement is your purpose, from which you draw your vision. Based on the vision, you draw down goals and objectives that you will operate with.

The issue is not the problem. The issue is: what is our plan for dealing with the problem?

The Six-Day Creation: Key Principles

By Genesis 1:31, we're told about the sixth day when man was created. By the seventh day (Genesis 2), the Bible says God entered into his rest because he finished all the work he had done.

Bible scholars have demonstrated that each day in Genesis 1 means one literal day—not a thousand years, but an actual day as we count it now. Here's the question: how was God able to do all these things within six days? Look at how complicated we are. Psalm 139 talks about how wonderful and complex we are. How did God accomplish this in six days?

So what have you done in your first seven days of 2026?

Principle 1: God Said and God Did

Throughout Genesis 1, we see the pattern: "God said... and God created."

- Verse 3: "God said, let there be light, and there was light."
- Verse 6: "God said, let there be an expanse..."
- Verse 9: "God said..."
- Verse 14: "God said..."

God's saying represents his plan. What did God say? He said, "Let there be light." That was the plan, the objective he set for himself.

By the end of the first day, God had created light and separated it from darkness (Genesis 1:4-5). God didn't just say something. He executed it. He moved from planning to action.

What did you do on January 1, 2026? If God were in modern Ghana, he would have created light on day one. Although we need to set plans and bring things into being, God set plans for things that matter. The light he created still has significance today.

Don't plan in a vacuum. Every plan must be connected to purpose and divine agenda.

Principle 2: One Thing at a Time

Day one was about light—nothing else. Day two was about creating the expanse, the atmosphere (Genesis 1:6-8). God gave attention to one thing at a time. Whatever God started on day one, he completed. Whatever he started on day two, he also completed.

This is one way of avoiding distractions. Most of the time, we're doing too many things at once. How can you read your Bible while checking whether somebody called you? It's possible to read the Bible and have no significant impact because you weren't focused enough. The word can't become flesh in you if you're not paying attention.

To do anything well and finish it in 2026, once we're convinced God is laying it on our hearts, we need to give it total attention when executing it. Yes, you can be a multitasker. I'm able to do many things at the same time. But you don't multitask when it comes to the most important things.

I'm a lawyer. Once I'm in the courtroom, my business at that time is courtroom matters. I don't think about lecturing. I don't think about students. I'm thinking about the judge, my client, and his case. My ability to give attention to that situation at that particular point in time helps me prepare adequately and deliver when the time comes.

Principle 3: Don't Postpone

God never postponed what he was supposed to do on day one. Imagine if God had postponed day one's work. On day two, he'd still be talking about light.

You've been talking about that relationship for the past three years—something that should take one day. How can you make up your mind? You should be able to make good use of the day. God didn't waste any day. He didn't waste any time.

Every year is the same because you have the same number of days, the same 24 hours. How are you making good use of the day? God told you something, but what he told you to do, he gave you days to do it. If you're wasting the days, how can what God told you come to pass? If it doesn't come to pass, it's not God—it's you. You didn't apply yourself. You abused the days he gave you.

The best way to measure life is time. When you waste time, you waste life.

Principle 4: Write It Down

Whatever God said he was going to do was written. Most of the time, our plans are in our heads. Imagine if God's plan was only in his head. How would you read it today?

Research shows it's more possible to execute things you've written down than those in your head.

What plan have you written down for 2026?

Usually, the best people do is write resolutions. Resolutions are not enough. You need to not just tell us what you want to do. You need to tell us how you're going to do it. What's the timeline? If you don't give a timeline, there won't be a deadline, and it will be left to chance.

If you plan to marry in May, what are you doing in January that shows you'll marry in May? We don't take time to plan well and write things down with detailed attention. We rush with the plan, and it can never be executed well because we didn't think through it.

Anything you write down means you've thought through it. It's easier to talk. But when you take time to write things and pen them down, a lot of thinking goes through. Jesus said, "Which of you wants to build a house and will not sit down and consider whether you have enough resources?" (Luke 14:28).

You're not writing the vision down. You're not making it clear enough. You're not making it measurable enough. You're not making it realistic enough. You're not giving it a timeline. But God gave timelines to everything he created.

Principle 5: Evaluate

God didn't just plan. God didn't just execute. God took time to evaluate.

Have you evaluated these seven days? How did you go about them?

Because you haven't evaluated, you haven't acknowledged that you've wasted seven days. You're likely to repeat the same mistakes. You're more likely to repeat things if you don't evaluate and assess.

Look at the pattern in Genesis 1:

- Verse 10: "God saw that it was good."
- Verse 12: "God saw that it was good."
- Verse 18: "God saw that it was good."
- Verse 21: "God saw that it was good."
- Verse 25: "God saw that it was good."
- Verse 31: "God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good."

God was able to say it was good because he took time to assess and evaluate what he did. That's why when the first day was good, he continued. He evaluated and realized what he'd done was good, so he continued. By verse 31, God saw that everything he created was very good.

You need to sit down and evaluate the things you do. Evaluation must be done daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly.

Have you evaluated your first week of 2026? Have you come to a conclusion that something you've done in the last seven days is good, very good, or very bad?

In Genesis 2:18, we learn that God said it was "not good" for man to be alone. Although God already had a plan in Genesis 1:26 to make male and female, he created man first. Based on evaluation, God saw that his original plan needed adjustment. He was able to assess himself

and say something he'd originally put in place was not good. Because he saw it wasn't good, he adjusted his plan and brought something new into place.

One thing I learned from the British when I was doing my master's in the UK: they sit and think. At the close of the workday, they sit down and think. No wonder when you use your phone, you constantly see "update application." You've never updated your life. You don't even update your plans because there's no evaluation.

You cannot be creative if you're not evaluating. The context of Genesis 1 is about creativity. This earth runs on those who are creating every day. Without creation, you cannot solve any problem. Problem solvers take the lead.

It's important to refresh. I thank God we have a good father. When the year was ending, Daddy was telling us to evaluate the year. If you didn't listen, you're doing the same things in 2026 that you did in 2025. But if we'd taken time to ponder and reflect on 2025, and drawn plans from it while seeking God's face, I'm sure you would have entered 2026 with a different attitude, a different strategy, a different approach.

But there's good news: this is a year of sure mercies. Once we genuinely repent and tell God, "Father, I've blown the first seven days. Have mercy on me. I'm going to do better in the days ahead," I think God will help us. I think God will give us the needed grace because he is a God of many chances.

Holistic Planning

God has a holistic plan. Don't plan in a partial way. Somebody is sitting there with a plan, but your plan is just about your financial life. Is this life only about finances?

Most of the time, those of us who even plan have plans that aren't holistic. Even though that plan may work, other things in life will suffocate us because we didn't plan well.

Holistic planning takes care of every aspect of your life. Life is four-dimensional. We have the four corners of the earth. The seat you're sitting on has four legs. Anything with four represents stability. Any plan that's not holistic enough will be shaky. Imagine one of the chair's legs is broken. You will fall down because your planning isn't holistic.

The Four Dimensions of Holistic Planning

1. Spiritual Life

Plan for your spiritual life. I thank God that I got to know the importance of reading the Bible. Every year, I read the Bible cover to cover. This is going to be my eighth time. I've finished Genesis. It tells you that by year's end, I'll have read the Bible cover to cover.

I'm not reading because I'm a pastor. I only became a pastor two or three years ago. But it's part of my yearly spiritual plan because Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). If the only thing that won't pass away on this earth is this word, why am I wasting time? What am I looking for?

God said, "My word have I exalted above myself." God is sovereign, but his word is above him. He's not above his word. He's subject to his word. That's why he's not a gossip. God doesn't just talk because he knows the moment he talks, he has to go by it. "I have said it and it will come to pass."

What does your spiritual plan entail? For me, I'm a very busy person. If it gets to 5 or 6 a.m., I can't read my Bible. I read my Bible at 1 or 3 a.m. every day. It doesn't matter how tired I am. By the time I'm sharing the morning devotion, I've spent about two hours in God's presence.

People ask me why I'm able to do these things. One of the secrets I've caught is spending quality time in God's presence. Isaiah 40:31 says, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." I've discovered that the more time you spend in his presence, the more you get certain energy to do things that can't be explained.

Do you want energy to accomplish things within a day, month, or week? You need supernatural energy. In the beginning, God created the heaven. Every day, create your heaven. Create your spiritual atmosphere. Draw energy from the heavens. That comes from spending time in his presence.

Your spiritual goals aren't just about coming to church or ushering. Do you read the Bible? Jesus said to his disciples, "You could not even pray with me for one hour" (Matthew 26:40). When Jesus was in Gethsemane, he prayed for three hours. The Bible says he did that on the third time. It means even one hour isn't the minimum.

When was the last time you prayed on your own for one hour? When the disciples didn't pray for one hour, all of them failed. They couldn't execute what they said. Peter was a blackout: "I will not forsake you." It's not enough to plan. You need to pray. You need to create a spiritual atmosphere. Your plan must give space to spiritual goals.

2. Physical Life

Physical goals include your financial life, your diet, and body exercise. The Bible says Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature (Luke 2:52). You must grow in your physical life—not in age. Don't celebrate birthdays. Celebrate growth. If you're not planning, you only celebrate birthdays and not growth.

3. Mental Life

Daddy was talking about this yesterday. Unless you're being renewed in your mind, no transformation will take place (Romans 12:2). You can plan, but if your mind isn't renewed, you won't be transformed.

You must make a plan for reading. I've read a lot of books in the first seven days. I've read a lot of pages, and today I'll continue—even if it's 15 minutes, I'll do that on a daily basis.

You need to grow in your mind. The Bible says Jesus grew in wisdom. God can never bless you beyond the level of your mind. You cannot lead beyond what you know. God cannot use you if you don't know a lot because the Bible says, "Because they have rejected my word, I have rejected them as my priests" (Hosea 4:6).

God cannot use you at a certain level if you're not growing in your mind. Jesus had to grow in his mind even at age 12. You're 30 and not growing your mind. It means you haven't set mental goals. Because you haven't set mental goals, you've left reading to chance.

4. Social Life

The last aspect of four-dimensional holistic planning is your social life. The Bible says Jesus grew in favor with men (Luke 2:52). Your social life includes your marriage and family life.

You're a man. All your plans are about money. You're not planning for your marriage or family life. You'll get the money, but there will be fire in your house, and that fire will burn all the money because you didn't take time to plan.

What is your plan for your family life? One of the things my wife resolved to do this year is ensure discipline speaks in our house. Things have dramatically changed in my home. The children are understanding that now. But if there's no plan for it, and if we don't take action when we plan, the situation stays the same.

Conclusion

Don't just plan. Let your plan be holistic. Planning is time-bound. This is a year of sure mercies. If we genuinely repent and tell God we'll do better, he will help us. He will give us the needed grace.

Remember:

- Create your heaven first
- Focus on one thing at a time
- Don't postpone
- Write it down
- Evaluate constantly
- Plan holistically across all four dimensions

God bless you.

By Ps. Dr. Richard Obeng Mensah, ESQ

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