

Action Points

WHAT is an Action Point?

An Action Point is a specific way to obey God in this season of discipleship. It's almost always a specific application of a Biblical command or principle. Action points are activities that put you in a position to let God do His thing in your life. Action Points will almost always be directly related to a key relationship in your life OR the stewardship of a key resource God has given to you. So, your action point becomes the answer to this question:

*In this season, as I abide in Christ, what action can I pursue to better align myself with God's desire for this **Key Relationship** or this **Key Resource**?*

If God is truly the heavy-weight (glorious One) in your life, then an action point sourced in Him will carry the weight of *"I would be disobedient to God if I didn't pursue this action."* Action Points are more than "nice ideas" or wishful thinking.

Action Points usually take one of a few forms:

- **establish a new pattern** (i.e. spiritual discipline, helpful practice, etc)
- **stop an existing pattern** (i.e. sin habit, a hindrance (Heb 12:1))
- **a one-time action** (forgive, apologize, write letter, have a conversation, read a book, attend a seminar, etc)

The next page lists what we at Focused Living might call a foundational list of sample action points for each of the five Key Relationships and Key Resources.

Suggested Baseline Action Points

Key Relationships

God → Daily invest enough time alone with God, through Bible reading and prayer, until He has a good grip on my heart for the day.

Wife → Daily pray for and/or with my wife.

Children → Regularly pass on to my family what God is impressing on my heart from His Word.

Disciple → Weekly connect (face to face or via phone) with my discipleship partner for a time of Gospel reminding, mutual accountability, encouragement, and prayer.

Friend → Regularly pray for my unbelieving friend's salvation.

Key Resources

Heart - Acknowledging that God longs to commune with me in my heart, I purpose to daily ponder the Gospel and confess my sin so my heart will stay soft and pure.

Time - Acknowledging that God gave the Sabbath for rest, renewal, and realignment, each Sabbath I purpose to _____ (i.e. unhurriedly think through the priorities of the upcoming week; lead my family in 1 hour of quietness in the house; guard my family from bucket draining activities; etc)

Health - Acknowledging that my physical body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, I purpose to _____ (i.e. Get a good night's rest every night; Exercise vigorously 3X per week; drink more water; eat with my long-term health in mind; quit smoking; faithfully rehab an injury; etc)

Wealth - Acknowledging that I am a manager and not the owner of my wealth, I purpose to _____ (i.e. establish a budget and joyfully live under it; live generously; give away material things; be deliberate about getting out of debt; etc)

Vocation - In light of my God-given abilities and passions, I purpose to help meet the following need in my local church or in my community: _____

If you are new to the idea of action points, this list is a good starting place. Some men will **ADOPT** these action points as is. Others will **ADAPT** them to make them their own. Others may already have these rhythms in their life. Therefore, they will **REPLACE** these base-line action points with other unique action points they sense God is pressing on their heart.

WHY Action Points?

Where does our “doing” fit in to our spiritual life? God deeply desires for us to press on to maturity, looking more and more like Jesus (1Tim 4:15; Rom 8:29; Phil 2:12-13; 3:13,14; Heb 6:1; 12:1). We have a part in this transformation towards Christlikeness. We have some work to do. Dallas Willard has written, “*Grace is not opposed to effort, it’s opposed to earning.*” Our “doing”, our effort, is pleasing to God when it is an outflow of our deep desiring of Him. Action Points are an expression of obedience fueled by a new desire in us.

Passivity has been a plague on men since Adam. It’s part of our fleshly DNA. The act of identifying tangible actions and pursuing them with a desire that God gives, is a path to owning our spiritual life. Action points force us to focus and to depend on God for his strength.

Now, let’s be careful. God is NOT out to overwhelm you with a long todo list. That’s what religion is all about – doing a list of things in the flesh and thinking that God is pleased. He’s not impressed with your long list. And your heart isn’t joyful when your “doing” is sourced in your flesh. You’ll either quickly become frustrated by your lack of progress or you will see some early success and become prideful. Pursuing action points in the flesh never works. **Ultimately, true fruit in our spiritual life comes only from one source: abiding in Jesus** (John 15:1-17, Luke 10:38-42).



Because so many of us are recovering Pharisees, we will highly recommend that you focus on **no more than 3 action points** (“**Key 3**”) over this season and experience the sensation of depending on God for success.

HOW to Write an Action Point?

When formulating action points, try to make them SMART*

SMART Action Points*

Specific – not fuzzy

Measurable – you know when you are done

Attainable – possible to do

Relevant - meaningful

Time Limited – can show progress between meetings

*Adapted from *The Coach Model*, by Keith Webb, 2012, p. 110.

RECORDING Action Points using the GRIP App

Our grip.focusedliving.com WebApp is specifically designed for you to record and share you action points with your GRIP partner. The App allows you to record any number of action points related to your Key Relationships and Key Resources. However, as men, we can only focus on a few action points at a time. So, after recording several action points, tag your “Key 3” action points that you’ll prioritize this season.

The App allows you to view your GRIP partner’s “Key 3” action points. So, when you pray for him or when you meet with him for accountability, open the app 😊