

Strategic Thinking

1. What is it?

The word “strategy” is originally from the Greek word *strategia* which refers to an act, device, or plan employed by a leader. Aristotle, the famous 4th century B.C. Greek philosopher stated it well when he said, “...as there are many actions, arts and sciences, there ends are also many; the end of the medical art is health, that of shipbuilding a vessel, that of strategy *victory*, that of economics wealth.” Thus, strategy is an act, device, or plan used to achieve victory, **while strategic thinking is a way of thinking toward the end of “victory,” “success,” “winning,” or, in modern parlance, “competitive advantage.”**

2. What is the Biblical Model?

- a. First three words of the Bible
- b. Luke 14:28
 - i. Sit Down *kathisas*
 - ii. First *proton*

3. Working for a “preferred” future.

4. Characteristics of a strategic thinker

- a. **Curiosity:** You're genuinely interested in what's going on.
- b. **Flexibility:** You're able to adapt approaches and shift ideas when new information suggests the need to do so.
- c. **Future focus:** You constantly consider how the conditions in which you operate may change in the coming months and years. And you keep an eye out for opportunities that may prove valuable in the future—as well as threats that may be looming.
- d. **Positive outlook:** You view challenges as opportunities, and you believe that success is possible.
- e. **Openness:** You welcome new ideas. You also take criticism well by not reacting in a defensive manner.
- f. **Breadth:** You continually work to broaden your knowledge and experience, so you can see connections and patterns across seemingly unrelated fields of knowledge.

5. Strategic thinking is a **process** not an **event**

6. How to become creative in your thinking

- a. Challenge your assumptions
 - i. Always ask “Why and What if?”
 - ii. Don't take the first answer as the only answer
- b. Welcome provocation (Don't refuse the preposterous)
- c. Envision the ideal
- d. Surround yourself with creative people

7. The best strategic thinkers can break down the big picture into small pictures that they can then see the pieces as a big picture
 - a. The destination has steps
 - b. Each step is a big picture
 - c. The pictures get connected
 - d. It is “Systems Thinking” (a way of helping a person to view systems from a broad perspective that includes seeing overall structures, patterns and cycles in systems, rather than seeing only specific events in the system.)
8. Strategic Thinking is a tool you must value and work to improve
9. Let’s try it
 - a. Something easy
Case scenario: You want to hold church services in a place you are renting. What would be the steps to follow to achieve success?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

- b. Something harder
Case scenario: You have been commanded to go into all the world and make disciples, what is your strategic plan?