



Using a dull ax requires great strength, so sharpen the blade. That's the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed.

Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NLT)

The first four steps to working smarter:

1. I check my Bible.

For the Lord grants wisdom! His every word is a treasure of knowledge and understanding. ⁷⁻⁸ He grants good sense to the godly—his saints. He is their shield, protecting them and guarding their pathway. ⁹ He shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time. ¹⁰ For wisdom and truth will enter the very center of your being, filling your life with joy.

Proverbs 2:6-10 (TLB)

Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work.

2 Timothy 3:17 (NCV)

There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.

Proverbs 16:25 (NLT)

Man is a fool to trust himself! But those who use God's wisdom are safe.

Proverbs 28:26 (TLB)

2. I get the facts.

Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts.

Proverbs 24:3-4 (TLB)

What a shame--yes, how stupid!--to decide before knowing the facts!

Proverbs 18:13 (TLB)

Get the facts at any price, and hold on tightly to all the good sense you can get.

Proverbs 23:23 (TLB)

3. I seek good advice.

A fool thinks he needs no advice, but a wise man listens to others.

Proverbs 12:15 (TLB)

If you don't ask for advice, your plans will fail. With many advisors, they will succeed.

Proverbs 15:22 (ERV)

Too much pride causes trouble. Be sensible and take advice.

Proverbs 13:10 (CEV)

4. I set a goal.

An intelligent person aims at wise action, but a fool starts off in many directions.

Proverbs 17:24 (GNT)

Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. ²⁶ Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. ²⁷ Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

Proverbs 4:25-27 (NLT)

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.

Proverbs 16:3 (CEB)