



Remember: *The duller the ax the harder the work; Use your head: The more brains, the less muscle.* **Ecclesiastes 10:10 (MSG)**

8 steps to working smarter:

1. **I check my Bible.**
2. **I get the facts.**
3. **I seek good advice.**
4. **I set a goal.**
5. **I count the cost.**

Don't rush into something, or you might do it wrong. **Proverbs 19:2b (ERV)**

She evaluates a field and buys it; she plants a vineyard with her earnings. **Proverbs 31:16 (HCSB)**

But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ²⁹ Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!' **Luke 14:28-30 (NLT)**

6. I plan for problems

In this world you will have troubles. **John 16:33b (ERV)**

A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and prepares for them; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

Proverbs 22:3 (TLB)

Those who trust their own insight are foolish, but anyone who walks in wisdom is safe. **Proverbs 28:26 (NLT)**

7. I face my fears.

Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety. **Proverbs 29:25 (NLT)**

I went to the Lord for help, and he listened. He saved me from all that I fear. **Psalms 34:4 (ERV)**

8. I step out on faith.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. **Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)**

The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you keep calling out to me for help? Tell the Israelites to move forward." **Exodus 14:15 (CEV)**

I have thoroughly tested your promises, and that is why I love them so much. **Psalms 119:140 (TLB)**
