**Most Important Financial Planning Tools**

**Sacrifice, Discipline, and Organization**

As we know that most of us have a problem sacrificing things that we enjoy today for a better tomorrow. The thought of delaying gratification is very difficult. Let’s take Bob and John. They are brothers that grew up in the same environment. Both of them have always been hard workers and currently have about the same income but Bob has learned to prudently manage his money. He enjoys life but has sacrificed some things saving for retirement, paying cash for cars, saving for his children’s college education, and giving generously to his church and charities as he felt led. John on the other hand has lived an extravagant life. He buys brand new luxury cars, lives in a big, nice house, but does not save for his retirement, children’s education, or emergencies. He also has a lot of debt. If he were to lose his job he would have tremendous financial trouble. Many people in the community think that he is doing extremely well financially and actually look up to him for that reason. However, that is not the case. He is financially and emotionally struggling and is on the verge of financial collapse. Many folks do not realize that a financial collapse often leads to relationship and marriage problems. As you can see there are many reasons why we should keep our financial lives in order.

**Sacrifice**

There are no money decisions are independent of each another. For every dollar that is spent today that is a dollar that cannot save for retirement, the purchase of the next car, children’s education or pay down debt. Many go through life living for today. If we do that we probably will never get ahead or reach our goals. This is a controversy that many of us struggle with. There must be a balance in life between living for today and saving for tomorrow. The question is where is the equilibrium? How do we balance frugality and thriftiness with overindulgence?

**Discipline**

Once realized that a change must be made you have to put a plan in place and *STICK TO IT!* This sounds very easy but is not. The reason we fail at many task that we attempt is because we don’t have the discipline to follow through until they are complete.

**Organization**

In order to maintain the discipline you must be organized. There are many different levels of organization. As we have discussed our strengths and personalities play a role into the level of organization that we need to have.

The tools in Overcomers Resource will assist in the Discipline and Organization process.