ways To Jumpstart Your

**8**

kickass Millionaire Journey

### Set Financial Goals

You can’t get there if you don’t know where you are going! The first and best strategy is to set your financial goals. Once you have the big goals then you can break them down into smaller steps and attack, attack, attack. Do you want to save for a house, early retirement, get your debt paid off (highly recommended!) These should be your goals, ones that make you excited so that you really focus on them and make progress.

### Spreadsheet Budget

This is the best first step after setting goals, live by a BUDGET! Control your money so that it doesn’t control you. I use a spreadsheet for my budget. It lets me manipulate my income and bills so that I can see the impact of making more money or paying off a debt or reducing certain bills. The only way you know if you can afford something is by your budget, the only way you know how much you can invest is by your budget. I have created an [kickass budget spreadsheet](https://pages.convertkit.com/8a19ffa694/c787fcff65) that is similar to the one I use.

### USe Cash

Cash is KING as they say. And they are right. If you stick to cash for your spending money, you know where you are with your budget. When it starts running low, you slow down, when it is gone, you stop. Plus, it makes you think when you have to pull out the cash and hand it over, when you hand over a debit card, it doesn’t really make you think about it quite the same way. You can even use envelopes to divide your cash among the specific budget categories.

### Small Weekly Savings Transfer

This one is pretty easy to get started. I suggest you open an account with an online banking service, such as Emigrant or Ally, there are others. Set-up automatic withdrawals for whatever you want to save each payday. You can base the amount on what you are saving for and what you think you can afford to miss out of your budget. This is a great way to save for your emergency fund. I save $15 a week and use that to fund my girls trip to Las Vegas! See it doesn’t have to be a lot to make a difference in your life.

### Pay Savings and Debt First

This is where the rubber meets the road. Prioritize, prioritize, prioritize. Get out of debt so that you have more options for the rest of your life. Debt is like a rock around your neck. It costs you money (interest) and limits your present and future! Once you have your debt paid off, start to save. The power of compounding interest is what makes for financial freedom. The longer you are saving the richer you will be sooner. If you can make 10% interest (think stocks) you will double your money in just over 7 years. Think about the power of that when you continue to add to that month after month. In just a few years, you will see your saving explode year over year. Get started!

### Improve Your Credit Score

Ignore this one if… you will never buy a car or a house or anything that you will need a loan for. Ok, now that you realize you need good credit, let’s look at how you must treat your credit. First and foremost, do not be late on your payments. If you have to be late keep it less than 30 days and they won’t report it. You may have to really keep up with due dates and minimums until you get some breathing room. If that is not your problem, work on the next big item that impacts your credit score: use less than 30% of your credit limit. First, use less than 30% of your total credit and then use less than 30% for each credit card or loan you have. If you do these two thigs your credit will be on the right track and lead to a high score.

### Stop Cable

Does this scare you or have you already done this? Well, there is a solution is you like your cable. Switch to a streaming service. You can save over 2/3rds of your bill just by switching. There are several services, compare them, explore what channels do you get for what price. Honestly, how many channels do you really watch? Maybe 5 or 6? You can find services that you get to choose those channels and save a bundle.

### Plan meals around sales

This is something I am committed to. I have a store that always run buy-one-get-one-free specials. I shop totally based on those specials. I stock up when they have items I use often. I plan my meals based on what they have on sale. If they have chicken on sale, then there you go. Additionally, everyone has that store that has great meet specials check those out! And don’t forget about the discount grocery stores. You don’t have to check too many each week but get in a groove. Get your recipes on-line and cook away, saving tons of money.

### Bonus Tip: Start an Emergency Fund

The worst feeling is having an emergency and not knowing how you will pay for it or having to use a credit card that charges you big interest. I find that if I have an emergency, it usually is not a cheap one. I recommend building a $2,000 emergency fund. This not only gives you extra breathing room, but when you do have an emergency, you will have more room before you feel like you are starting from 0 again. Don’t worry if you are just starting, start with whatever your budget will allow, $25, $50 or $100 a month. Just focus on getting it built.

# where do you go from here????

Check out my [*The Kickass Millionaire* Podcast](https://anchor.fm/ann-quadagno), my [WizBrain Blog](https://www.wizbrain.com/blog-1) and my [Wizbrain e-learning courses](https://wizbrain.teachable.com/) for more ways to turbo-charge your kick-ass millionaire journey!