

April 12, 2026

Series: Godly Ambition

Title: Is Ambition Good or Bad?

Scripture: Philippians 2:3-4, Romans 15:20-21

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



## Ambition: Aspiring For a Goal

### Frustrated Ambition

Is Ambition \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Lie 1: All Ambition is \_\_\_\_\_ - Ruslan KD**

#### Philippians 2:3-4 ESV

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Lie 2: Apathy is \_\_\_\_\_**

*We plaster over our apathy with platitudes about staying humble. In reality, though, we're playing it safe. Or settling for less than our God-given potential. — Ruslan KD - Godly Ambition, p. 6*

**The Bible assumes self care, but stresses focus on care for others.**

#### Romans 12:11 ESV

11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

#### Proverbs 6:1-5 ESV

My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, have given your pledge for a stranger, 2 if you are snared in the words of your mouth, caught in the words of your mouth, 3 then do this, my son, and save yourself, for you have come into the hand of your neighbor: go, hasten, and plead urgently with your neighbor. 4 Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber; 5 save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

*Sometimes Godly Ambition will push you to the limit, not because you're irresponsible or self-centered, but because you're faithful. — Ruslan KD - Godly Ambition, p. 8*

## **Lie 3: Ambition is \_\_\_\_\_ - Ruslan KD**

### **Romans 15:20-21 ESV**

20 and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, 21 but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

**When Ambition is \_\_\_\_\_ we sacrifice \_\_\_\_\_**

### **Samuel 15:22 ESV**

22 And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

### **Ephesians 6:4 ESV**

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

**Life is full of tensions. Don't live balanced. Instead seek to be radically obedient to God with what's in front of you.**

### **2 Corinthians 5:9 ESV**

9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

### **Romans 15:20-21 ESV**

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### **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 ESV**

11 and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, 12 so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

**\_\_\_\_\_ ambition is good. It cultivates a heart and passion to  
\_\_\_\_\_ and grow what God gives us.**

**God is Calling you to a Godly Ambition - Will you make it your aim to step up and do great things for His name?**

**4/12/26**

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**Getting to know you Questions:**

What's one of the more ambitious things you've ever attempted?

What's your go-to "coping mechanism" when your ambition crashes and burns — binge-watching shows, doom-scrolling, pretending you're "strategically resting," etc....?

**Into the Bible Questions:**

**Read Philippians 2:3-4**

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word "ambition"? Has your view of it been mostly positive, negative, or mixed—and why?

2. The sermon mentions "frustrated ambition" leading to coping mechanisms like victim mentality, passivity, or retreating to video games/virtual worlds. Which of these (or others) have you seen in yourself or others, especially among younger men?

3. Why do you think some Christians view any ambition (in business, family, spiritual growth, or even goals for God) as potentially selfish or wrong? - Where does that idea come from?

**Read Romans 12:11**

4. The sermon calls Lie #2: "Apathy is Godly." How do we sometimes use "humility" or "staying humble" as an excuse for apathy, playing it safe, or settling for less than our God-given potential? What does the passage call us to?

5. Share a time when godly ambition pushed you (or someone you know) to the limit. Was it worth it? Why or why not?

6. Read 1 Samuel 15:22 - The sermon warns that making ambition everything can lead to sacrificing obedience. How have you seen (or experienced) ambition causing someone to neglect family, obedience, or other commands from God?

7. Reflect on Jesus' ambition for the cross. How does trusting His finished work give you security and purpose to pursue godly ambition without fear of ultimate failure?

8. The sermon notes that older generations can cheerlead younger ones in godly ambition, and God isn't done with anyone until death. How can this series encourage people across age groups?

## Application Questions:

1. What dreams or goals is God stirring in your heart right now? If none feel clear, where is one small way you can obey Him today?
2. Identify one area of “frustrated ambition” in your life (dormant gifts, fear of failure, virtual escapes). What small step could you take this week to move toward godly ambition instead?
3. Examine your motivations: Is there any ambition (work, family, ministry, personal growth) that might lean toward “selfish ambition” without moral constraints? How can you realign it?
4. Where have you used “humility” or “playing it safe” as a cover for apathy? What would fervent service to the Lord (Romans 12:11) look like in that area?
5. Think of a season where godly ambition might require running “like a gazelle” (intense effort for debt, family, ministry, etc.). Are you in such a season now—or avoiding one?
6. How can you better prioritize others’ interests (Philippians 2:3-4) without killing healthy ambition for your own responsibilities?
7. In what ways might your ambitions (even good ones) risk superseding obedience to God? Ask someone close (spouse, friend) for honest feedback.
8. This week, make it your ambition to please God in one specific, practical way (2 Corinthians 5:9). What will that look like?
9. How can you be ambitious to live quietly, work with your hands, and provide for your needs/family (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12) while still pursuing bigger gospel goals?
10. Who in your life (younger generation, friend, family member) needs cheerleading in godly ambition? How will you encourage them this week?
11. Set one measurable goal for growing in godly ambition this week (e.g., a new habit, conversation, or act of service). Share it with the group for accountability next time.