

SETTING PERSONAL GOALS BY FAITH

TRANSFORMED: Pre-Message

April 10, 2016

WHY ARE GOALS IMPORTANT TO CHANGING MY LIFE?

1. GOALS FORGE MY CHARACTER.

"I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine. Christ wants me to do that, which is the reason he made me his. Brothers and sisters, I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above. All of us who are spiritually mature should think this way, too. And if there are things you do not agree with, God will make them clear to you." (Philippians 3:12–15, NCV)

2. GOALS FEED MY FAITH.

"And it is impossible to please God without faith..." (Hebrews 11:6A, NLT)

"...everything that does not come from faith is sin." (Romans 14:23, NIV)

"...According to your faith let it be done to you" (Matthew 9:29, NIV)

3. GOALS FOCUS MY ENERGY.

"So I do not run without a goal. I fight like a boxer who is hitting something—not just the air." (1 Corinthians 9:26, NCV)

4. GOALS FIRE ME UP.

"What strength do I have [left] that I can go on hoping? What goal do I have that I would want to prolong my life?" (Job 6:11, GW)

"We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith. He saw the joy ahead of him, so he endured death on the cross and ignored the disgrace it brought him. Then he received the highest position in heaven, the one next to the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2, GW)

WHAT KIND OF GOAL DOES GOD BLESS?

3 QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. DOES IT HONOR GOD?

"When you eat or drink or do anything else, always do it to honor God." (1 Corinthians 10:31, CEV)

"So we make it our goal to please him..." (2 Corinthians 5:9, NIV)

2. IS IT MOTIVATED BY LOVE?

"And do everything with love." (1 Corinthians 16:14, NLT)

"Let love be your highest goal!" (1 Corinthians 14:1a, NLT)

3. WILL IT REQUIRE GOD'S HELP?

"We plan the way we want to live, but only GOD makes us able to live it." (Proverbs 16:9, The Message)

- I NEED GOD'S SPIRIT TO EMPOWER ME.

"You will not succeed by your own strength or by your own power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD All-Powerful." (Zechariah 4:6, NCV)

- I NEED GOD'S WORD TO GUIDE ME.

"Keep this book of the law on your lips. Recite it by day and by night, that you may observe carefully all that is written in it; then you will successfully attain your goal." (Joshua 1:8, NAB)

- I NEED GOD'S PEOPLE TO SUPPORT ME.

"By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped." (Ecclesiastes 4:12, The Message)

ACTIONS:

Watch each week's message

GET IN A GROUP

Memorize Romans 12:2