DREAM ON

PART 3

SETTING GOALS THAT PLEASE GOD

James 4:13–17 Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil. Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

1. PRAYERFULLY SET MY GOALS.

Philippians 3:12–15 I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us.

2. CONTINUALLY CHECK MY GOALS.

3 KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK:

• WILL THIS GOAL HONOR GOD?

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

• IS THIS GOAL MOTIVATED BY LOVE?

1 Corinthians 14:1 Let love be your highest goal!

DOES THIS GOAL REQUIRE ME TO DEPEND ON GOD?

Hebrews 11:5–6 And it is impossible to please God without faith.

Proverbs 16:9 We plan the way we want to live, but only GoD makes us able to live it.

3. FAITHFULLY FUEL MY GOALS.

3 KEY INGREDIENTS:

GOD'S WORD TO GUIDE ME.

Joshua 1:8–9 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

• GOD'S PEOPLE TO SUPPORT ME.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

GOD'S SPIRIT TO EMPOWER ME.

Zechariah 4:6 You won't succeed by might or by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD.