



## Philippians 3:12-15

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you."

A lot of times, after we become Christians, people want to know what to do with the goals they had for their life. Are goals good to have? Should I make any plans for my life or just sit and wait?

It's our spiritual responsibility to not waste this life that God has gifted to us. We can either live this life by design or by default. In other words, we can either live or we can just exist. And God wants us to do more than just exist. God has given us each abilities and He wants us to use those for His glory.

Faith isn't something that is just passive. Faith is active. God has given us steps to take in faith and not stand still just waiting for Him to bless our wishes and desires. Faith usually requires us to take steps of obedience before we ever receive the blessing. Majority of God's promises found in His scripture require a step of faith first. But, often times, we get so focused on waiting for God to move but He's actually waiting for us to move. We can get so confused on what to do or how to move, that we stay stuck and paralyzed to move in any direction. Goals can help us to move forward.

So how do you make goals for your life?

There are 3 questions that we can ask ourselves when making goals:

- 1. Will this honor God?
- 2. Is it motivated by love?
- 3. Will it require depending on God?

When you have a goal or idea for your life, it's helpful to first ask the question: "Will this honor God?". Any goal that causes you to trust Him more, to depend on Him more, to love Him more, to love other people more, to serve God, to serve others, to be more unselfish, those are going to be good God honoring goals.

Everything can be done to honor God. You can take out the garbage to honor God. You can wash dishes to honor God. You can clean out your car or house to honor God. You can study for a test to honor God. Honoring God has to do with our heart posture more than the actual activity. Think about setting a money goal. If your goal is to get money, save money, spend money just so you have more and more things, it's possible that God may not bless that goal. Especially if you aren't even taking care of the things you already own. If you can't be trusted with small things, He won't give you big things. However, if your goal is to get out of debt because the bible says to not be a slave to the lender. All while you are being obedient in acting on those steps by having a budget and any extra money goes toward your debt goal, then God is most likely going to bless that because it honors Him. Make sense?

"The next question to ask yourself when you have a goal for your life is: "Is it motivated by love?". God is not going to bless your greed or envy or grudges or guilt or your desire to 1 up someone or driven to finally be seen as successful by others or to get praise from others. God isn't going to feed into your materialism or ego or pride or worry or fear or anxiety. But when you set a goal out of love – "God, I want to do this because I love You and I want to love other people" then God's going to honor that because it's all about love. 1 Corinthians 16:14, "Everything you do must be done with love."

If you don't know how to love, then it's going to be hard for you to set a goal based on love. When you don't love, you often see people as projects and run all over them to get to a goal, you will ruin your relationship and marriage and friendships and family in order to reach your goals. Most often, God will not bless these goals. Can you still be successful this route? Yes. But not successful in God's eyes. Goals need to be motivated by love.

The last question you can ask is: "Will it require depending on God?". If you can reach the goal based on you and your abilities, then you get all the praise. But God wants the praise. He wants you to step out and trust Him for the increase (whatever that increase may be for you). God can open doors that you cannot even imagine being opened in your own power. God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly more than we can even think. Trust Him to dream big with all your God honoring and loving goals.

## **READ:**

Hebrews 11:6 Corinthians 14:1 1 Corinthians 6:20 1 Corinthians 10:31 Ephesians 3:20

## **REFLECT:**

- What goals do you have for your life?
- Are you working toward those goals or are you waiting for God to create a miracle?
- How can you honor God now with your life? Think about the daily tasks you do...how can you honor God by doing the laundry? Picking up the toys or socks around the house? Doing homework?

## PRAYER:

Father God, thank You for loving me enough to have a plan for my life. Speak to me the direction that You want me to take my life. Show me how to rely on You more in all areas of my life. Give me the mind to see that I can set goals and begin acting on those goals now. Allow all of my life to honor You and help me to lead with love in all that I do. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.