

WORD OF INSPIRATION

Very early in life we learn that “goals” become a necessary part of daily living. Whether it’s getting our homework completed on time, getting the house readied for company, planning a family vacation, building an aspiring business or achieving a certain level of financial independence, we’ve all been conditioned to include “goals” in our definition of responsible living. And I certainly do not want to underscore the importance of goals.

However, if one is not careful, and is unrealistic in their goal setting they will set themselves up for discouragement, defeat and depression, not to mention the stress that comes from striving to accomplish the impossible.

And goals can be projected on us and expected of us from two directions. One is from your job – the goals imposed on you by those you are accountable to. These goals, with their expected results, are a source of daily stress that we must learn to accept and cope with and strive to balance with sanity that comes from the part of our life outside of our job. Whether we like these goals imposed on us or not, we find them a part of life, and frequently, a necessary evil. These goals are earthly, temporal and designed for the greater good of the one imposing them on you. And by the way, if you cannot achieve the expected goal, then step aside because your company will probably get someone who can. That’s life! But that’s not living!!

The other direction from which goals are projected into our lives comes from within. These are the self-imposed goals, the expectations one has of and for himself. But these goals can also be earthly and temporary leading to physical and emotional stress, or they can be spiritual and eternal leading to daily peace, joy, contentment and rest. The Apostle Paul’s life reveals a great contrast of goals between the worldly (unsaved) and the believer.

He had confidence in the flesh and was zealous in his religious practices achieving the level of the Law of a Pharisee (*Philippians 3:4-6*). Paul had high goals for himself and accomplished them at a relatively young age. He was successful by the world’s standards.

But something happened to Paul. He met Jesus (*Acts 9*) and his life was never the same again. His whole focus on life changed and his purpose for living changed, and with that his goals changed. Now, his consuming goal in life is summed up in *Philippians 1:21a* “*For to me, to live is Christ*”. And make no mistake, the rest of Paul’s life gave tangible evidence that he was now focused on the heavenly and not the earthly (*Philippians 3:13-14; Colossians 3:1-2*). It’s been well said, “You cannot control the wind but you can adjust your sails”. And that’s what the Apostle Paul did. And that’s what believers can do in their own life to reach spiritual goals.

Allow me to share with you 4 goals that I trust will reduce stress and bring God’s blessings into your life.

These goals, simply stated are: 1) have a heart for God, 2) have a mind for truth, 3) have a service (a ministry) for eternity, and 4) have friends for life.

These goals will neither pay your bills directly nor keep your boss from burdening you down with a ten hour job to be done in an eight hour day, but they will keep you right with your heavenly Father who can help you accomplish the impossible and keep your sanity too.

Make it your goal to make your life count for Jesus.

Respectfully,
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