

Setting Goals Toward Reaching Your God-Given Vision

Pastor Mike Keller

The New Year is always a good time to sit down and set goals and evaluate our Vision plan. I do not sit down and make resolutions and don't encourage anyone else to do so. However, setting goals is important for everyone. If we do not take time to set goals and evaluate our Vision we can get off course. One of the worst things that can happen is to give up on what we know God has placed in our heart to do. I encourage you to get alone with the Holy Spirit, open up His Word, Pray and Worship Him. In other words, *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need Matthew 6:33 NLT*. Yes, He will supply every need. The need to know God and His plans is more important than getting a few dollars to feed and clothe ourselves. As we walk out His plans and fulfill His desires, we can rest assured that our earthly needs will be supplied.

A necessary point to make here is that we are created for Eternity. Eternity, according to one definition: a state of existing outside of time. We are not limited by the limitations of our physical existence. God is a Spirit and they that worship Him, must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. You are a spirit, with a soul, and you live in a body. Your body may, currently, have some limitations [this is subject to change]. Your soul may, currently, have some limitations [this is subject to change]. BUT, your spirit has no limitations. When we allow the Word of the limitless, timeless God transform our changing soul [mind, will and emotions], we will see and dream bigger than we have ever seen or dreamed. Act 2:17 KJVR And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

We must take the limits off of God, so we can reap His Harvest. He has sown Jesus [His Son] as a seed into the earth, so that He will have many sons and daughters: His Harvest. *Php 2:13 KJVR For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure*. He has Graced us with everything we need to fulfill His desires for us and through us.

Now, in light of God's desire [that none perish, 2 Peter 3:9]. What is your desire? Are all in the five-fold ministry? No. Are all called to stand in a pulpit in a church sanctuary? No. Are all called to believe? Yes. And Believers have been given a mission: *Mark 16:15-20*. What an exciting journey!

What is God's plan for His people?

For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me." (Jer 29:11-13 NLT)

We can know the plans God has for us. Jesus said...

John 10:14-16 NLT "I am the good shepherd; I know My own sheep, and they know Me, (15) just as My Father knows Me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice My life for the sheep. (16) I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to My voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

John 10:27 KJVR My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

- As you are spending time in the Lord's presence... know that He hears you and you can hear Him. Listen for that still small voice in your spirit.

Paul declared:

1 Corinthians 2:12-16 KJVR Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. (13) Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. (14) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (15) But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. (16) For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

As you sit down to evaluate your Goals, Vision, Purpose, Destiny, be aware that as a child of God, you want His desires to be fulfilled in your life. When we fulfill the desires of the Father's heart – we will be fulfilled as well. He will not ask anything of you that is grievous or burdensome. Mat 11:28-30 KJVR Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Even the apostle Paul considered all he had experienced to be “light and momentary afflictions... that work a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”. Paul was a driven man. Driven not only by his Eternity, but by the Eternity of others. *Php 1:21-24 NLT For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. (22) But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. (23) I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. (24) But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.*

Trusting in God's provision removes worry and fear.

Matthew 6:27-34 NLT Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? (28) "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, (29) yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. (30) And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, He will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? (31) "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' (32) These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. (33) Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need. (34) "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

God has promised to supply for every need

This is, obviously, not an exhaustive list of provisions available in our covenant with God.

1. *Eph 3:16 KJVR That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

The promise in this verse is that He will strengthen you. We all need to be strengthened in our inner man.

2. *Php 4:19 KJVR But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

The provision lies in His riches in glory. There obviously is no financial need in Glory, therefore, we can trust Him in time of need.

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What is the result of cares entering the heart?

Mar 4:19 KJVR And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

- Cares, deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts for things makes God's Word ineffective in our lives. Satan loves to get believers distracted by things that have no eternal significance.
- The goal of cares/ distractions is to "take away" the Word Mark 4:15. What is the result of taking away the Word? The Word "becomes unfruitful" Mark 4:19. Why is it important that the Word remain "Fruitful"? Romans 10:17 says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God". Why is it important that a Believer has and exercises his Faith? The answer, of course, lies in the question. Heb 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him".
- Let's boil this down:allowing "cares/distractions" to run their course makes it impossible for a person to "please Him". This may sound extreme, but, take a look around you. God's Word has been removed from the classroom and the courtroom. The result is: no fear of God and no faith in God. Can God be pleased with this?
- We must Believe [exercise our faith] that "He is a Rewarder", otherwise, Eph 3:16, Phil 4:19, 3 John 2, John 3:16, etc, etc would be just meaningless words on a page.

What are we to do with “Cares” or distractions when they come?

1Pe 5:7 KJVR Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

- The definition of the word “care” in the Greek is distraction. Distractions? Yes, from the plans God has prepared for us.
- We must cast, RELEASE, the cares and distractions, which are sent by Satan, over onto the Lord. The act of casting [releasing] them enables God's Grace to work in us and through us. Keep in mind, YOU have been given authority over the Adversary [Satan]. Jesus has Graced [enabled and empowered] you to stand against the wiles of the enemy.
- When we set goals in alignment with the Vision God has given us we know Satan will do everything he can to distract us from realizing the fulfillment of the Vision. But, "Thanks be unto God who always gives us the Victory in Christ Jesus"! We "walk by Faith and not by sight". Therefore, we can press forward in confidence knowing Holy Spirit will show us the obstacles [Satans' strategies and devices] that lie ahead.

Love God - Not money

Heb 13:5 AMP Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!] [Josh. 1:5.]

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Purpose of Wealth

Deu 8:18 KJVR But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

What does God think about His people prospering?

Psa 35:27 KJVR Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

- And I like to say, “If God delights in the prosperity of His servants, how much more does it please Him when his Children prosper.

What is the result of foolish people prospering?

Pro 1:32 KJVR For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

- Don’t be foolish – give God what belongs to Him. Mal 3:8 says, “You have robbed me, how? In withholding the tithes and offerings.

Why is the discussion of money important when talking about defining our Vision and making plans?

1. It takes money to do things in this life.
2. Money should not be allowed to be a limiting factor when setting goals. When we have spent time with God and have heard His plans, we present those plans, goals to God and allow him to order our steps.
3. God promised He would meet all our needs according to His riches in glory.
4. Don’t be foolish with what belongs to God. The tithes and offerings are his.

Consider the following areas of your life. What can you do in each area to improve your life, knowing that your life effects the life of others.

Spiritual/ Personal growth and development

Mar 8:36 KJVR For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

- Though we are to provide for our families, the main thing in this life is a relationship with Jesus.

Social growth and development

John 13:34-35 KJVR A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (35) By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

- The gauge to determine if we are in obedience to the Love command is 1 Cor 13:4-8a. The definition of Charity in this verse is Love.
- *1 Corinthians 13:4-8 KJVR Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, (5) Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; (6) Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; (7) Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (8) Charity never faileth...*

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Professional/ Educational growth and development.

1Thess 4:11-12 KJVR And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; (12) That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

After you have spent time in the presence of the Lord and consider the Word that has been presented, write your goals – make them plain [easy to understand]

Long range goals (5 to 10 years)

If you could do anything and not fail... what would you do?

Medium range goals (2 to 5 years)

Short range goals (immediately to 2 years)

What about physical goals? Become healthy? Exercise? How?

Hab 2:2-3 KJVR And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. (3) For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Hab 2:1-4 NLT I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guardpost. There I will wait to see what the LORD says and how He will answer my complaint. (2) Then the LORD said to me, "Write My answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. (3) This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed. (4) "Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.

Pro 29:18 KJVR Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Pro 29:18 AMP Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]--blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he. [I Sam. 3:1; Amos 8:11, 12.]

Pro 29:18 NLT When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

“Touching Heaven in 2011”
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