

## Goals for Souls

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”  
(Acts 1:8).

The Book of Acts begins with Jesus’ vision and final words for His disciples. The disciples went about accomplishing His vision one soul at a time (by taking the gospel to others, one step at a time). The Book of Acts is a record of their progress in completing Jesus’ giant vision.

**“I may walk over the highest mountain one step at a time.”  
(John Wanamaker)**

In a popular book *Alice in Wonderland*, Alice came to a crossroads leading in two directions. She asked, “Which way should I go from here?”

The response was, “That depends on where you want to go.”

Alice said, “I don’t care where!”

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go,” came the answer. “If you do not know where you are going, any road will take you there.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, “The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, but in the direction we are moving.”

It has been said, “If you aim at nothing, you’ll hit it every time.” Evangelism is no exception. Without a goal, we will not advance the cause of Christ.

The points found in this lesson are applicable to individuals in any walk of life. For the Christian and the church, everything we do should have its basis and end in world evangelism.

**“Before taking steps, the wise man knows the object and end of his journey.”  
(W. E. B. Du Bois)**

### What Is a Goal?

Jack Canfield in *The Power of Focus* defines a goal as the “ongoing pursuit of a worthy objective until accomplished.”

Ongoing	Continuing; it takes time.
Pursuit	A chase may be involved.
Objective	Intention (al).
Worthy	Something valuable or admirable.

Rick Pitino in *Success is a Choice* explained, “Dreams are where we want to end up. Goals are how we get there. Dreams are our vision of where we are after the struggle, the prize at the end of the journey. Goals are the individual steps we take to ultimately deserve the prize.”

Charles Givens in *Superself* said, “Goals are the stepping-stones toward the realization of your dreams.” He believes “running your life without goals is about as effective as attempting to drive your car from the passenger’s seat.”

Givens also said, “Success is the progressive, timely achievement of your stated goals.”

Goals get you where you want to go. The two main types of goals are:

 Work

 Personal

Elbert Hubbard said, “Many people fail in life not for lack of ability but simply because they have never organized their energies around a goal.” He also said, “People who never do any more than they get paid for, never get paid for any more than they do.”

Goal setting is seriously lacking in the church. “There is at best a vague understanding of the church’s goals and at worst an uncaring attitude about whether the church has goals or not.” (*Real Evangelism*)

Bruce Howell, a former missionary to El Salvador said, “The only year the El Salvador church did not grow was the year they did not set goals.”

Studies show that the most powerful predictor of success is the passion to pursue well-defined goals.

Goals give us purpose and direction and assist us in defining where we will place our energies.

Other words for goals include: aims, objectives, targets, milestones, tasks, assignments, desires, plans.

Napoleon Hill in *Think and Grow Rich* claimed that all successful people have one thing in common. They “set a specific goal and devised a plan for achieving that goal.”

Without goals it is difficult for a person to ever rise above the mud of mediocrity.

**“Only when you aspire to excellence in your life can you be free from mediocrity.” (Peter L. Hirsch)**

Long-term success is a direct result of what is achieved each day. Goals help with the daily routine, keep us organized, and create discipline in our lives. Rick Pitino claims that setting goals is one of the major building blocks to personal success. He encourages “start out with short-term goals that are easily attainable to get into the habit of improvement; then you make the goals more demanding as you begin to have success.”

Peter L. Hirsch in *Living With Passion* relates a conversation with Napoleon Hill. “If you want success in any endeavor, there is one and only one quality you will require—definiteness of purpose; you must have the knowledge of what you want and a burning desire to possess it . . . Our world has a habit of making way for anyone whose words and actions show that he knows exactly where he is going.”

Accomplishing goals is the outcome of hard work. It has been said, “Working hard is not always fun. That is why it is called work.”

Jim Rohn claims there are two major pains in life:

1. Pain of discipline.
2. Pain of regret.

Doing the work and being involved in the pain of discipline is much preferable to the pain of regret.

James Berry said, “The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story but instead he writes another. And his

saddest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with the one he vowed to write."

It does not have to be like that. Let us do our best. Like Paul, we can finish the race. We can hear Jesus say, "Well done!"

### Goal Setting in the Work Place


When involved in setting goals with employees or people under your leadership three options prevail:


1. Set the goals for the person.
2. Set the goals with the person.
3. Let the person set the goals.


It is important that the team, leader, and employees agree on work goals. Hold regular meetings to check on the progress of the goals.

### Jesus and Goal-setting

Jesus had a plan and purpose for His life. At the age of twelve, He said, "I must be about my Father's business" (Luke 2:49). Throughout His earthly ministry, He continued to explain His purpose, vision, and goals.

 "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

 "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

Because Jesus knew His purpose, vision, mission, and goals, He was able to say on the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

Paul understood his vision and goals, and he was able to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

### Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

Florence Chadwick tried to swim the English Channel. She asked to be taken out of the water a few hundred meters from land. When asked, "Why couldn't you make it?" she said, "I would have made it but fog moved in and kept me from seeing the shoreline. If I could have seen the shore, I could have made it." If we keep our eyes on our goals and vision, we can make it to the finish line.

"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing. Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven" (Philippians 3:12-14, *New Living Translation*).

### Study Questions

1. What happens when we aim at nothing?

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2. According to Jack Canfield, what is a goal?

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3. What is the difference between goals and dreams (according to Rick Pitino and Charles Givens)?

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4. According to Charles Givens, what is success?

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5. What advice does Rick Pitino give concerning setting goals as the building blocks to personal success?

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6. According to Peter L. Hirsch, what does our world have a habit of doing?

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7. What are the two major pains in life (according to Jim Rohn)?

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8. What did James Berry say concerning the life of every man?

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9. What are the three options when setting goals with employees or those under your supervision?

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10. When Jesus was twelve years old, what did He say about the plan and purpose for His life?

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