



Setting Worthy Goals for Your Christian Walk

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.**” Philippians 3:13

The Bible has the answers for all of life’s problems. It is the best place to prayerfully go when you need solutions. It has been said by many ministers that the Bible is the greatest source book of all times, because it instructs and contains all the answers to life’s questions. Some have called it the great medical book, because it is filled with principles and examples of healthy living. Others call it the great book of mysteries, because hidden mysteries of the Bible have been revealed to God’s people. Others call it the great business book, because it gives examples of how to be successful with secular enterprises. The Bible, however, is the greatest **success manual** that has ever been written, because it teaches us how to be truly successful in every aspect of life, and **it was not written by God with failure in mind**. We serve a God that is eternal and He has filled His word with eternal principles. These divine principles have been given to us to safely and **successfully** guide us to heaven, and Heaven is God’s long-term goal for us.

But God also has short-term goals for us which factor into His long-term eternal goals for us. Even in this life, the principles of God’s word are to guide us to have an abundant life here before we meet Him in the clouds of glory.

What does the Bible say in John 10:10 about His goals for us in this life?

Note: It is His divine plan that we have an abundant life here and now which can reach into eternity if we are faithful. Our success in this life and the afterlife is dependent upon believing what God has spoken to us through His word, and applying the principles to our lives.

How do we define success? According to the dictionary, it is the attainment of something; like wealth, position, honors, etc. Earl Nightingale has a very interesting definition. **Success is a progressive realization of a worthy goal**. His idea is this: Set yourself a goal of excellence, and reach for it. As long as you are progressing toward it, you are already successful. If you ever stop, you become stagnant. If you start slipping back, you are a failure.

When God decided to make man in His image (Gen. 1:26), He had a worthy goal in mind. But in order to fulfill that goal He had to progress toward it by setting certain things in place first. He had to prepare the proper environment for man to have existence and subsist, so prior to creating man in His image He took six days to prepare the earth. Each day He progressed toward His goal until it was reached and man was created. I once heard a minister preach a sermon entitled “How to be Successful without being a Genius”. And the conclusion was, “a little bit every day”. And this is the Bible outline of how to be successful in your Christian walk, a little every day until you have reached your goal. It has been stated that ninety-five out of one hundred Americans have no goal. Those with no goals are going through life with their minds in neutral, going wherever they are pushed. Following the path of least resistance makes men and rivers crooked.

What is the Biblical principle of setting worthy goals for yourself, and your spiritual walk?
Phil. 3:13, 14

Note: There is power in a purpose. Paul had a specific goal in mind and set out to reach it. His daily life was not haphazard nor without direction. He was not all over the place yet at the end of the day finding he had gotten nowhere. His all consuming desire was to serve the Lord His God, with everything he had in him, and it was reflected in his daily life.

What does the Bible reveal as God’s goal to help you succeed and reach His **eternal** goals for you? Jude 24

Note: His goal is to keep you from falling, and present you faultless before His presence.

What is one principle He has given us to apply to our experience to be successful? 2 Peter 1:3-10

What will be the result of applying His promises and principles to our lives? 2 Peter 1:11

When setting goals for yourself you have to have the right mindset and attitude. William James, one of the great professors of Harvard University said, “The greatest discovery of this generation is that we can alter our circumstances in life by altering our attitudes.” But this is what the Bible has taught all along.

What does the Bible reveal about this principle in Prov. 23:7?

Note: If you think in your heart that you are inferior, defeated, a failure, then you certainly will be inferior, defeated and a failure, and it will be reflected in everything you say and attempt to do in life.

Remember that the devil is a liar! What does the Bible say you can do in Phil. 4:13?

When setting goals, what does Paul encourage you to do in Col. 3:2?

Note: Above all other goals of secular interest make heaven the greatest goal of your life.