

“GOALS”

2018 Adventure Camp – Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness, Colorado

Date: Friday, August 3, 2018

Location: Backcountry

Theme of Study: Setting & Achieving Goals

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Introduction:

“Goals give you the specific direction to take to make your dreams come true.”

- *Bob Conklin*

“Straight Ahead and Steady”

When I was a teenager, a local farmer hired me to help him complete fall plowing. My first day on the tractor was disastrous. As I watched the plow turn the soil behind me little did I realize that by the time I reached the end of the field, the row was noticeably crooked. Toward the end of the day the farmer arrived to survey my work. The crooked rows prompted him to give this advice: “You can’t plow a straight row if you continuously look back. You must keep your eyes focused straight ahead.”

So it is with life. Plowing our way into the future is powered by meaningful and specific goals. Focusing on the past, what lies behind, will prevent us from effectively pursuing our future. Goals provide the direction for us to focus our energies on what lies ahead.

The Speaker’s Sourcebook II, by Glenn van Ekeren, p. 177.

What goals have you set for yourself on this Adventure Trip? Have you set any goals? One goal should be that you finish the hike that you start. Another goal might be to be positive throughout the hike even when the going gets tough, and you might be tired and physically exhausted. A goal might be to do something helpful at every campsite (washing dishes, filtering water, setting up and taking down tents). Don’t let a single opportunity to help pass you by.

On a bigger note: What are your lifelong goals? What are the physical goals that you have set for yourself? Do you plan to get an education? Do you plan to get married and own a house? To have a family? To have a productive career? What are your hobbies? What fun things would you like to do in life? Do you have places you’d like to travel to, or things you would like to see? What about things like: scuba diving, sky diving, running a half marathon, or a marathon, or becoming a lifeguard, etc.? Have you thought about these things? Or do you even have any goals?

I would encourage you to write down your goals – and then refer to them often. Check them off the list as you accomplish them. Feel free to add to your list throughout your life.

On an even bigger note: What are your spiritual goals? The main goal should be to become a member of God's Family and be a part of His Soon Coming Kingdom.

Matthew 6:33 "But seek you first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..."

It is important that we never lose sight of this goal. THE MAIN THING IS TO REMEMBER TO KEEP THE MAIN THING, THE MAIN THING.

"Never Lose Sight of Your Goals"

The California coast was blanketed in fog the Fourth of July morning in 1952. Twenty-one miles to the west, on Catalina Island, Florence Chadwick, a thirty-four-year-old long-distance swimmer, waded into the water and began swimming toward California. She had already conquered the English Channel, swimming both directions. Now she was determined to be the first woman to swim the Catalina Channel.

Millions of people were watching on national television. As the hours ticked off, Chadwick fought bone-chilling cold, dense fog, and sharks. Several times, sharks had to be driven away with rifles. Fatigue never set in, but the icy waters numbed Chadwick to the point of desperation. Straining to make out the shore through her swimmer's goggles, she could see only dense fog. She knew she could not go on. Although not a quitter, Chadwick shouted to her trainer and her mother in the boat and asked to be taken out of the water. They urged her not to give up, but when she looked toward the California coast, all she could see was thick fog. So, after fifteen hours and fifty-five minutes of fighting the elements, she was hauled out of the water into the boat. Frozen to the bone and her spirit defeated. Chadwick was devastated when she discovered she was only a half mile from the California coast! She felt the shock of failure. The fog had done it. "Look, I'm not excusing myself," she told a reporter, "but if I could have seen land, I know I could have made it." He had been licked, not by fatigue or even by the cold. The fog alone had defeated her because it had obscured her goal. It had blinded her reason, her eyes, and most of all, her heart.

Two months, later, Chadwick swam the same channel, and again fog clouded her view, but this time she swam with her faith intact – somewhere behind the fog was land. This time she succeeded. Not only was she the first woman to swim the Catalina Channel, but she beat the men's record by two hours.

The Speaker's Sourcebook, by Glenn Van Ekeren, p. 188.

"In order for a goal to be effective, it must effect change."

- *Anonymous*

Goals must be backed by ACTIONS! Notice what Jesus Christ said regarding this:

The Apostle James wrote: **James 2:14-17: V14** "What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?"

V15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

V16 And one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit?

V17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.’”

Martin Luther – the founder of the Lutheran Church (the founding sect of the Protestant Church), and the champion of the doctrine of salvation through faith alone never felt good about the epistle of James. He called it an “epistle of straw.” In his 1522 edition of the New Testament, he put the book of James in the appendix. He did not realize that “faith and works” go hand in hand. That what James was inspired to write was on point! Faith without works is dead.

You may have heard the saying: “Pray to God, but continue to row to shore.” This phrase also aptly demonstrates the need for works. A real, living, and active faith is always coupled with works. As Christians, we must get in the habit of doing our part. We must do what we can do. Then trust God to take care of what is lacking.

Jesus Christ Himself also taught the need for us to put into practice the things we learn.

Matthew 7:21-23: V21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does** the will of My Father in heaven.

V22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

V23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; **depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!**’”

Those who know the laws of God – must put them into practice and apply them in their daily lives. Obeying God is a way of life that produces life! We cannot speak the truth and practice lawlessness if we hope to be given eternal life.

Jesus Christ continues...

Matthew 7:24-27: V24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, **and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

V25 And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

V26 Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, **and does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

V27 And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

The key difference in the two houses is the foundations. The house *on the rock* pictures a life founded on a proper relationship to God. A life grounded in the truth, and built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, will withstand the worst of life’s storms! A wise man follows the

example of Jesus Christ and lives according to His laws. A wise man puts God's way of life into practice on a daily basis.

There are basically two ways of life. The GIVE way verses the GET way. The path that leads to blessings and eternal life and the path that leads to curses and the second death. God wants us to choose life!

Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."

God desires obedience to his royal Law. He created us, and he made laws to govern our conduct. If followed these laws would produce peace and happiness. In his great love God has not withheld a single good thing from us! When God commands us NOT to do something He does so with our best interests in mind. He knows that there are things that will hurt us, and hurt those around us. These are the things He commands us to avoid. Like a loving parent who cares for their son or daughter, he gives us instructions to follow that produce life!

Ezekiel 33:11 "Say to them: '*As I live,*' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'"

I Samuel 15:22-23: V22 "...Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD?' Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *and* to heed than the fat of rams.

V23 For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft."

Saul's stubborn disobedience was essentially an act of idolatry because it elevated his will above God's will. His independent, rebellious actions were a denial of God's authority. Saul lost sight of the BIG PICTURE. He no longer put God first in His life. His priorities were all messed up. He began to elevate Himself. He was more concerned about what the people thought, than what God commanded him to do. He lost sight of the goal.

The Apostle Paul kept the goal of the Kingdom ever-present in his mind. He never lost sight of the number one goal. Very near the end of his life he was inspired to write the following words:

II Timothy 4:6-9: V6 "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Paul is aware that the time of his death is near. A *drink offering* was an offering performed by pouring wine out on the ground or altar (**Numbers 28:11-31**). Paul's life was already being poured out in service to Jesus Christ and His people.

V7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

V8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Set a variety of goals – both physical and spiritual ones. Write them down and check them off the list as you achieve them. Add to the list as the years go by. Work hard to make your hopes and dreams a reality. And most importantly – don’t forget to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness!”