

PK's Perspectives... Goals Worth Pursuing

Here's a great bit of wisdom from Zig Ziglar: "If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time." The most spiritually fruitful seasons in your life are those seasons where you set some spiritual goals into the future, make plans about how to accomplish those goals, and put in the time and self-discipline necessary to experience a positive result. Here are eight biblical goals worthy of your pursuit...

1. BE A PEACEMAKER. (Matthew 5:9) It is so easy to get worked up about things: people who wrong you, family drama, church drama, etc. Resolve to be the one who brings peace. Don't spread the rumors, don't listen to the stories, don't join the clique. Be the one who initiates peace and unity.

2. ONLY DO THINGS THAT ARE PLEASING TO GOD. (John 8:29) Jesus made the statement that He only does those things that please the Father. Jesus is your older brother and your perfect example – so you, too, should only do the things that please your Father.

3. TRIUMPH IN CHRIST. (2 Cor. 2:14) This is only possible by the power of God's Spirit within you. To triumph over depression, bad moods, grumpy attitudes, jealousy, selfishness – this is a bigger miracle than healing from sickness! Ask God to fill you with His Spirit, and walk in obedience and humility, and you will begin to triumph in Christ!

4. DIE TO SELF EVERY DAY. (Luke 9:23) This is the secret to victory over sin. To die to self; all YOUR desires, YOUR will, YOUR plans – and offer yourself as a sacrifice to God, daily. Dying to your need to be right, dying to your need to be respected, dying to your need for comfort – dying to SELF daily. This is what 'taking up your cross' means. It's not some woo-woo theory – it is painful, daily, death to self and all that your flesh desires. Wanting to get back at someone who has hurt you, wanting to profit at someone else's expense, thinking only of your own interests – these selfish desires and habits need to die, so you can be transformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

5. WALK BY FAITH. (2 Cor. 5:5-7) Faith that God's Word is true. Faith that He will fulfill His Word. Faith that God will take care of you, also faith that He will punish sinners – like He said. Faith that He will guide you every day. Faith that if you live a life fully given to God, and walk by the power of the Spirit – everything you do will be rewarded by God. Maybe not in this life – maybe not physically – but rewards of an eternal nature.

6. ALWAYS REJOICE IN THE LORD. (2 Cor. 6:1-10) Life is often hard. Painful. Unexpected trials. But when you have the assurance of God's love, you can rejoice in the midst of your trials, because you know that God uses everything in your life to draw you closer to Him, and form you into the image of Christ.

7. LET CHRIST BE EXALTED IN YOUR BODY. (Phil. 1:18-21) We like to sing about giving it all for Jesus, but when it comes to your body and what you do with it – do you take a step backwards? You want to do things you want to do. You have freedom, right? But here's the thing – when Jesus Christ redeemed you from the curse of death, He paid an immense price – so you should not take that lightly. Our eating habits, manner of dress, how we care for our bodies – these things all need to be surrendered to Jesus and His Lordship.

8. BE HUMBLE. (1 Peter 5:5) Humility is such a tricky thing, isn't it? The thing deserving of remembrance is that other people's opinions are worthless to you. Only what God thinks of you truly matters! Whether others think you are good, or whether they think you are bad – throw it into the trash! Live your life for the pleasure of God. Charles Spurgeon once stated, "Do not desire to be the main person in the church. Be lowly. Be humble. The best person in the church is the one who is willing to be a doormat for all to wipe their shoes on, the person who does not mind what happens to them at all, so long as God is glorified." Happy New Year! Set your sights on growing into an abundant fruit producer in God's Kingdom. Grow in grace & peace, love you. PK