

they lack energy and tend to be unproductive. Goals will inspire you and motivate you to get going.

4. Goals cause you to focus your efforts. Without goals, you tend to “shot-gun” your efforts and accomplish very little. When you have goals, you are more apt to focus your energies. Goals act like a magnifying glass that captures the sun’s rays and focuses the energy. Your goals will help you focus your energies in the right direction and make the most of your time.

5. Goals give you an excitement about life. Make this a principle to live by – “*It’s not where you are that matters, but where you’re going!*” People who have goals have an excitement and joy that others can’t understand. Why? It’s because they are focused on where they are going instead of all the problems in the “now.” The Holy Spirit wants to impart prophetic insight and vision for your future and give you joy about life.

6. Goals help you develop confidence and a sense of empowerment. How so? Goals help you see your potential, or better stated, God’s potential in you. Ephesians 3:20 says, “*exceedingly, abundantly above all that we could ask or think according to the power that works IN US.*” *His power works IN US.* That’s “Supernatural” – God’s SUPER + your NATURAL!

7. Goals help you recognize opportunities. Some opportunities that come along will “fit” with your goals while others won’t. Your goals will become your measuring stick for determining if you should get involved in something or not. You will be able to recognize which opportunities you should put your hand to.

8. Goals help you make decisions quickly. Similar to #7 above, your goals will “define” your course. When a situation arises, you will be able to make a decision based on what is best for the goals that God has already assigned you. There’s no need to even consider it if it doesn’t “fit.” This is part of walking in “wisdom” and being led by the Holy Spirit.

9. Goals give you the inner fortitude to persevere against roadblocks and obstacles. Goals tend to have what I call “a pulling effect.” They help you

have faith and “pull you” through adversity. Since it’s not where you are that matters but where you’re going, you will be able to see problems as temporary things that can change. When faced with delays or setbacks, you will have the “will” to overcome.

10. Goals will always lead you to greater goals. Once you stand on the mountain top of a fulfilled goal, you will be able to see further and dream bigger. God will lead you to new horizons and exploits for Him.

Developing a Plan of Action

As we conclude our study, I want to give you some suggestions for developing a Plan of Action. **A Plan of Action is when you take a goal and break it down into smaller achievable steps and establish target dates for completion.** This is a HUGE part of what “wisdom” is all about. It’s not enough to only pray (though that is vital) – nor is it good enough to just speak faith (though that is also important). There comes a point in time where you need to ask God “how” to get started. “*Faith without works is dead*” James 1:17.

1. First, pray for wisdom. James 1:1-8 makes it clear that we can come to God over any and every thing and ask for His wisdom. And what is wisdom? It’s God’s approach to the situation. *So begin by praying and asking for inspired ideas and steps that will help you fulfill your goal.*

2. Second, use this simple chart to help guide you. I’ve use this chart for everything from my daily “To-Do” list to big things like relationship issues, mission trips, finances, buying airplanes, property, etc. *This chart will help you get better organized so that you can turn your dreams into reality . . .*

Write Your Goal -	List Practical Steps -	Target Date for Each -
xxx xxxxx xxxx	1. xx xxxxxxxx xx	March 5
xxx xxxxx xxxx	2. xxxx xxxx xxxx	March 10
xxx xxxx xxxxx	3. xxx xxxx xxxxx	April 1

Dear friend, I pray that you will be led by the Holy Spirit in your goal setting and walk in God’s success. ■ -- **Jason Peebles**

Key Memory Verse:

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then thou shalt have GOOD SUCCESS.”

Joshua 1:8

Prayer for God’s Success

“Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. Help me accomplish your plans and walk in your success. Show me the goals that you want me to pursue. Empower me to deal wisely and apply the principles of your Word. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus Name – Amen.”

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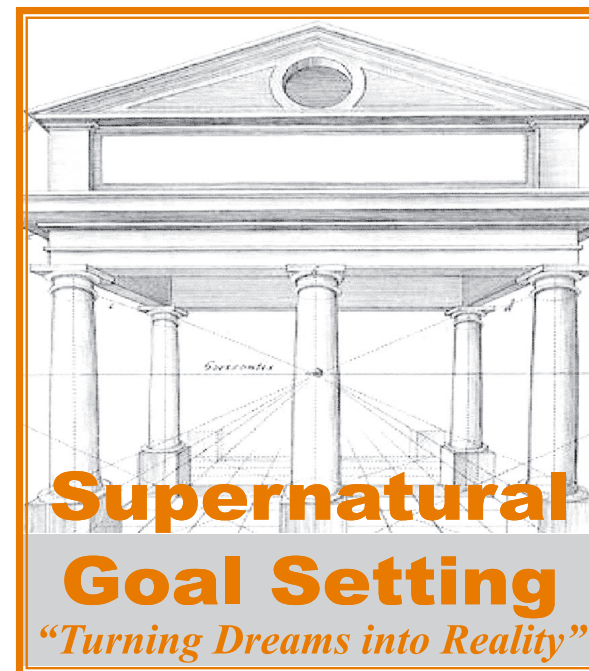
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by Jason Peebles

The Bible teaches that God wants you blessed and successful in every way – spiritually, mentally, financially, and in your relationships. He wants to inspire you with goals, dreams, visions, and “assignments.” This Study Guide will help you walk in God’s success as you learn how to turn your goals and dreams into reality. **I call it Supernatural goal setting because it takes God’s SUPER + your NATURAL! It’s not all God and it’s not all you.** The wonderful truth of the gospel is that Christ works in us and through us. He wants to use your mind, your hands, and your feet. Colossians 1:27 says, “*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*”

God’s Kind of Success

Joshua 1:8 gives us the foundation for God’s kind of success. God told Joshua to meditate in the Word day and night and observe to do it. If he would do this, then God promised amazing results: “*For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have GOOD SUCCESS.*” I like the Amplified version: “*For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall DEAL WISELY and have GOOD SUCCESS.*”

God's kind of success requires you to walk in His wisdom and deal wisely according to His principles and precepts.

Some Christians are uncomfortable talking about SUCCESS. But the truth is that success is a solid Bible concept -- as long as you understand the difference between God's success and the world's version. Jesus said in Matthew 16:26, "*For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*" In this short verse, Jesus puts worldly success in proper perspective. If it were possible for you to become the wealthiest person in the world (beyond any business tycoon, musician, sports star, or world leader) but you never knew God or His plan for your life – how tragic it would be! You would have "had it all" for a few short years but in the end lose your soul. That's failure, not success! **God's kind of success is superior in every way. Not only does He promise food, clothing and shelter now – He also promises lasting purpose and eternal life (Mt 6:33).** God's success is holistic, including both this life and the one to come. 3 John 2 is a very balanced verse that covers all areas – "*Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.*" **Even as / Even as / EVEN AS your soul prospers!** Psalm 1:3 says that you can be like – "*A tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper.*" If you are going to fulfill God's will, then it's vital that you become convinced that God wants you to be successful.

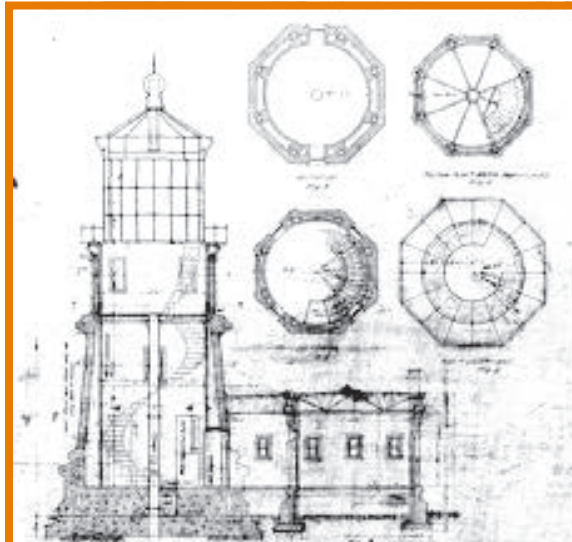
Spirit-led Goal Setting

Success means: 1) a favorable outcome, 2) the attainment of goals, and 3) to accomplish something as planned. Thus, success requires you to understand how to set and accomplish goals.

Here again, though, let's make sure that we're focused on the right kind of goals. There is self-centered goal setting and there is "Spirit-led" goal setting. James 4:13-17 warns against self-centered goal setting. It says (paraphrasing), "*Some of you boast that you are going into a certain city to buy and sell and be successful. All such boasting is evil. You should be saying, 'If the Lord wills, we*

will do this or that." Thus, the central issue is **LORDSHIP. Who is the Master of your goal setting?** Is it "you" or Christ? If you are seeking God's will and putting Him first, then He will lead you and guide you. Perhaps He wants you to do business in the next city – but perhaps not. That's why you must seek Him. Romans 8:14 says, "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*"

Jesus received His goals from the Father. John 5:19, 20 says, "*The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*" You may say, "Well, that was Jesus. How can we live like that?" Yet Jesus is our example in all things, especially in this area. **Just as Christ communed with the Father, walked with Him, and "saw" His plan – so we are to walk in the same manner. That's what abiding in Christ is all about.** John 15:4-7 instructs us to abide in Him. If we do, we are promised "fruit" (success). In other words, you will accomplish the plans and "assignments" that God has for you. John 14:21 tells us that through our love walk with Christ, He will "*manifest*" Himself to us. John 16:13 promises that the Holy Spirit will, "*show you things to come.*" As a believer, it is vital that your goal-setting be based on the revealed will of God through His Word and the Holy Spirit.



Nehemiah's Example

The Word of God is filled with examples of men and women who fulfilled God-given goals. We could look at Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Ruth, Esther, and on and on. All of them had goals that they had to "walk out" in order to accomplish God's plan. Let's look briefly at one example, the story of Nehemiah.

First of all, Nehemiah faced impossible odds. It's hard to feel sorry for yourself when you see his circumstances! He was a slave in the Persian Empire. He could not freely come and go as you and I can. Yet God gave Nehemiah great favor and opened miracle doors. Here's how his assignment unfolded: 1) **CONCEIVING** the goal, 2) **PLANNING** the goal (establishing "steps"), and 3) **WORKING** the goal (walking it out step by step).

CONCEIVING the goal (Neh 1:1-4) - God spoke to Nehemiah through a casual encounter with a friend. A man named Hanani simply shared with Nehemiah the tragic plight of the Jews who were left in Jerusalem after the captivity. Boom! God birthed a dream and vision in Nehemiah's heart to return to Jerusalem and rebuild it. God has a multitude of ways to speak to YOU TOO! It may be through a friend, a sermon you hear, a book, the Holy Spirit in your heart, or any number of ways. But it always starts as an "idea" or seed that comes into your heart and mind.

PLANNING the goal (Neh 1:5-2:8) – Once the seed is planted, it starts germinating. Nehemiah began to pray about it, fast, and cry out to God. The vision was starting to develop in his heart. He realized that he needed HUGE miracles if it was ever going to happen. After all, he was a slave to King Artaxerxes. During his time of seeking the Lord, a plan began to formulate in his mind. He made a list of the things he would need: permission from the king, a timetable, supplies, letters for building materials, an armed escort for protection, and more. GOALS always require STEPS if they are going to become reality.

WORKING the goal (Neh 2:9f) – I'm using the word "*working*" for a very specific reason. It takes effort and work! The rest of the book of Nehemiah is the account of him "*walking it out.*" And it wasn't easy. He faced obstacles every step of the way. I'm amazed that most Christians think

that when God gives someone a goal that it will be easy. Wrong! We all like the times where things just "flow" – but, dear friend, there's also a place for perseverance, endurance, patience, and hard work! Nehemiah's faith was translated into action. He faced opposition from within and without (4:7-9). Not everyone agreed with his plan. Yet, Nehemiah pressed on and overcame. Hebrews 6:11,12 says, "*And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end; that you be not lazy, but imitate those who through FAITH and PATIENCE inherit the promises.*"

Throughout the Bible, this same pattern is repeated: CONCEIVING, PLANNING, and WORKING the goal. Whether it's your daily "To-Do" list or your lifelong dream, you must pass through these three phases if you want to succeed.

10 Benefits of Goal-Setting

Still, if you are not convinced that goals are important, here are ten benefits of goal setting. If you don't have goals, then your life is like a ship without a compass or rudder . . .

1. Goals allow you to define your course. People who do not have goals are people who do not know where they're going! As an instrument-rated pilot, I was required to file a flight plan before departure. I had to list where I was departing from, waypoints along the way, and what my destination was. In a very real sense, goals become your "flight plan" and your compass.

2. Goals allow you to determine your progress or lack of it. How can you possibly measure progress if you don't know where you're going? "Are we there yet?" Your goals will allow you to answer that question as you move through life. Proverbs 24:3 says, "*Through wise planning a house is built; and by understanding it is established.*"

3. Goals give you motivation and energy. We've all had the experience of having a day off from work, only to wake up with zero energy. Why? Usually it's because we don't have any pressing goals. When a person lacks goals in life,