

CHAPTER 35

SUCCEED IN LIFE WITH GOALS!

How can you succeed not only in college, but in life? What will you have achieved five or ten years from now? Will you be able to look back over a life of growth and accomplishment? Or, will your life be empty and frustrated? The choice is YOURS! This short lecture unlocks a vital key to success: GOAL SETTING. Here are seven practical ways that will guarantee greater success.

1. UNDERSTAND WHY GOALS ARE VITAL!

You cannot grow or succeed without goals. You will inevitably begin to waste time. What is important and unimportant will be blurred. Eventually the lack of goals will cause you to shrivel mentally, and wreck you emotionally and spiritually — not unlike a rat in a maze. Without goals, you will be like a ship without a rudder, tossed to and fro at sea.

Goals, on the other hand, will immediately help you shape a successful destiny. They provide direction and motivation in life. Through goals you will live with dynamic purpose.

Remember that one of the seven laws of success involves fixing the right goals in life.

2. KNOW HOW TO DETERMINE GOALS

No two people will have exactly the same list of personal goals. God has gifted each of us with different abilities and talents. Therefore, each person's goals will also be different. You must decide what your personal goals will be.

Begin to examine your life. Ask yourself questions such as: With what talents has God endowed me? What are my greatest needs? What handicaps or inadequacies do I need to overcome? What are my strongest, burning desires? What do I really want to get out of life?

As you engage in this exercise, ask God to guide you and grant you the wisdom to crystallize your goals — to truly seek His will in doing what's best for you.

Cease wasting time in trying to determine where to start. Force yourself to settle down and face life realistically. Decide NOW — time is too precious to fritter away with indecision.

3. REALIZE THERE ARE THREE BASIC TYPES OF GOALS

The greatest goal that we are privileged to understand is attaining eternal life — to literally become a member of the God Family! To become as God is!

However, our secondary goals in life fall into three distinct categories. These are as follows:

- (1) LONG-TERM GOALS: The plans and desires you hope to have fulfilled in 5 years or more.

Here are some examples:

- (a) To be a top flight Christian woman.
- (b) To become a successful homemaker.
- (c) To get a degree in interior decorating.
- (d) To learn to play the piano.
- (e) To become an expert in some skill or subject.

- (2) INTERMEDIATE GOALS: In this category are your goals for between the next 6 months to 5 years.

Examples would include:

- (a) To adequately prepare for marriage.
- (b) To work in an international office of the Work.
- (c) To improve in writing ability and vocabulary.
- (d) To learn to sew, to do needlepoint, to cook, etc.

(3) **SHORT-TERM GOALS:** These are your plans from the present to the next six months.

Examples could be:

- (a) To maintain a B average in each class.
- (b) To overcome unnecessary fears of others.
- (c) To improve in speaking
- (d) To get organized and start living by daily schedule.

ALWAYS MAKE YOUR GOALS REALISTIC AND ATTAINABLE!

4. WRITE DOWN YOUR GOALS AND SET PRIORITIES

As you work out your goals, write them down. This will reinforce them in your mind.

Write down everything that comes to mind which you would like to accomplish — no matter how small or menial. Don't worry about organization at first. Capture your thoughts while they're hot. You can always go back later and prioritize and rearrange your list according to the three types of goals mentioned in point three.

One word of caution — avoid setting big goals that conflict. For example, you can't become a concert pianist and a professional tennis star at the same time. Your time, interests and loyalties would be divided. Hopefully, your goals will tie together and interrelate.

5. CREATE THE DESIRE TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

Many people still fail in life because they never go beyond a one-time effort of writing down their goals! They do not know how to motivate or drive themselves. Yet, the basic ingredient of success is DESIRE or motivation. But how does desire come about? The basis of desire is THOUGHT!

Learn to think about each of your goals. This will stir your imagination. See the reality of fulfilling your goals. Picture yourself having already achieved what you desire.

Some people make a list of all the benefits derived from reaching their goals — both to themselves and others. As they see the value of their goals, the desire to achieve them increases.

6. COMMIT YOURSELF TO YOUR GOALS

Set an iron-willed determination to begin achieving your goals in each area. Such commitment will evoke drive, perseverance and resourcefulness.

An essential part of commitment is to PLAN how to accomplish your goals. Without plans, your goals will remain daydreams! Take time for planning. Why not make an outline with intermediate steps for each goal! Checking off steps will act as a blueprint along the way.

7. REVIEW YOUR GOALS DAILY

Build the habit of reviewing your goals every single day. To achieve the goals you have set, they must be etched indelibly upon your mind.

As you do this, you will find yourself acquiring the ability and the knowledge you need to reach your goals. Like a magnet, you will attract to yourself information, facts, data, concepts and ideas from your daily experiences and encounters with others. You'll start absorbing answers, tips and helps from lectures, conversations, and general reading that would otherwise go unnoticed.

Begin to apply these seven points even today! You will find that life will take on an exciting new meaning and purpose. Remember that how far we succeed in life is determined essentially by the goals we set!

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