

APPENDIX K

THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING GOALS

EIGHT PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” **(Proverbs 21:5)**

People who set goals accomplish much more than people of equal education and ability who don't. With this in mind, it is important to build the following eight principles into our lives.

1) Seek God for His plan for your life

God has a unique plan for our life. **(Ephesians 2:10)** The book of Proverbs says, “There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel – that will stand.” **(Proverbs 19:21)** As we seek God for His plan for our life we must firstly commit our ways to Him. “Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.” **(Proverbs 16:3)**

2) Put His plan down on paper

We must learn to commit our plans to paper. We need to write down our God given goals. Writing down God's plan for our life on paper gives it a sense of permanency and helps to energise us to set goals to see this vision come to pass. The Lord said to the prophet Habakkuk, “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.” **(Habakkuk 2:2)**

“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity...” **(Proverbs 21:5 NLT)** Having wishy-washy objectives will never get us anywhere. Having a clearly defined vision and clear goals for our life helps us not to deviate off track. It is so important that we redeem the time for the days are evil and that we know the will of God for our life. **(Ephesians 5:17)** The book of Proverbs says, “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” **(Proverbs 29:18)**

Having our goals clearly written down helps us to stay focussed in life.

3) Establish a deadline

We must establish deadlines to see our goals come to pass. We need to establish a starting date when we are to begin what God has planned for us to do and a completion date for each goal to be achieved. Without a definite beginning and ending it is easy to procrastinate and get nowhere.

4) Make a list of what you have to do. Keep it before you all the time

To see the completion of our goals, we need to list what must be done in order to see those goals achieved. We must keep that list before us at all times to help us to stay focussed and on track. This list will help us to accomplish all that is required to see our Vision and goals being fulfilled.

5) Convert your list to a plan

It is then important to convert the “to do” list to an action plan. It is important to decide what needs to be done first and what can be done later. An organised plan is always better than trying to carry things around in our head. To help achieve our goals it is good to have a longer term plan, weekly plan and a daily plan to ensure that we stay focussed on our goal and make the most out of each day.

6) Act immediately (Do not procrastinate)

The hardest thing to do is to make a start on a new thing. A key to achieving our goals is that we act immediately. The apostle Paul wrote, “Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity...” **(Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV)** Do something! A mediocre plan that’s implemented beats a brilliant one that’s not. When we step out by faith to start something new, God is then able to guide our steps and even redirect our step as He begins to more fully unfold His plan for our lives. “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.” **(Psalm 37:23)**

7) Do something every day to help move forward to achieving God’s plan for your life.

Every day we should do something to help us move closer to achieving God’s plan for our life. Scheduling in times of rest is also important to help us to stay sharp and focussed. Daily schedules help us to achieve our goals and to fulfil our God given destiny.

8) Know your calling in life. Be willing to devote your life to fulfilling God’s plan for your life.

God has a unique plan for every Christian’s life. It is important that we seek God to find His plan for our life. We need to have a goal which we are willing to devote our life to. We must be prepared to give our life totally to seeing God’s plan and destiny for our life coming to pass. Once we find out what God’s plan for our life is, we need to keep our eyes on that plan at all times. “So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” **(Psalm 90:12)**