
Sunday, January 1, 2017
Did You Know?

New Year's Goal's

This post is an edited version of the one I wrote at this time last year regarding setting goals. Use it as a guide to begin this year.

1. **It is Biblical to set goals.** Jesus lived his life with a singular goal, to go to the cross for the salvation of his elect. The Apostle Paul's goal was to go where no man had gone before, in regards to his missionary work. As well, his goal was to put the past behind and strive toward the goal, which was to know Christ!
2. **It is difficult to measure growth without goals.** Not everything in the spiritual world can be measured quantifiably, but many things can, like time in prayer, Bible reading, spiritual books read, people evangelized, spiritual conversations had, and so on. Set some spiritual goals this year. Make it your aim to read the entire bible this year.
3. **Some growth is really hard to measure.** For example, how do I know if I am more self-controlled now than I was a year ago, or more loving, and so on. For some of these we can only tell after long periods of time. We sometimes don't know we've made progress until a friend we haven't seen in years tells us that we've changed. So, we mustn't lose hope and stay the course.
4. **It is easier to reach goals when you reach them with others.** We were meant to live and grow in community. I know of one Life Group whose goal was to pair up and send each other daily Bible verses. From what I heard, this has been a tremendous help in building up each other in Christ. Find one or two like-minded friends and set some spiritual goals together.
5. **It helps to set attainable goals and one or two goals that will really stretch you.** The attainable goals will encourage us and the stretching goals will really challenge and grow our faith. Determine to pray 15 minutes every day. Challenge yourself to give 1% more offering than what you are currently giving. Share the Gospel with 5 people this year.
6. **We set goals in nearly every aspect of our lives. Doesn't it make sense to set goals in the most important area of our lives—our spiritual lives?** Use Luke 2:52 as a template for your goal setting:

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

God is more than able to accomplish his purposes in our lives as we submit ourselves to him. Let's pursue God and his kingdom together.

Pastor Peter