

Reading: I Corinthians 9:24-27

Topic: Total Church Growth # 3
Goal Setting

INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson, we studied about _____, and how it is the will and plan of God for living things to _____ and reproduce, and today we will learn about setting growth goals.

I. KEY PRINCIPLE:

A. Basic Understanding:

1. Nothing is more frustrating than having no clear sense of _____, and to not know where you are going, because when you don't know where you are going, how can you _____ when you get there?
2. In order to reach a destination, you need to _____ where that destination is, and when you do know the destination, then you can make a _____ on how you will reach that place. I Cor. 9:24-26
3. The Apostle Paul pressed towards a _____ which signifies that he had a destination in mind and he was working towards getting there.

B. Vision:

1. The many great things that have been accomplished and _____ over the centuries have come to fruition because someone first had a _____ to get it done. Neh. 2:4,5
2. When there is no vision, there is a lack of motivation to move into _____, and without vision and then a plan of _____ to accomplish something, nothing gets done. Pr. 29:18

II. SETTING GROWTH GOALS:

A. Number Goals:

1. Some people are hesitant to talk about numbers because numbers do not always indicate _____, but God is interested in numbers because each number represents a living _____. Gen. 46:26,27
2. In any ministry, be it the church as a _____, or in the Sunday School ministry, Youth ministry, the Ladies' ministry, the men's ministry, home friendship groups, etc., _____ should be noted.

B. Growth Goals:

1. Growth goals differ from number goals in this manner, that not everyone who _____ will stay and Jesus taught that truth in one of His _____. Mt. 13:3-8
2. Growth goals are based upon _____ and not just upon the numbers who may attend and even obey the Gospel, for Jesus illustrated that in different _____ that He taught. Mt. 25:1-3
3. The ones that are _____ are the ones that will determine the _____ rate for the church and the various ministries within the church. Mt. 13:23

III. DETERMINING MINISTRY GOALS:

A. Prayer:

1. Inspiration and spiritual direction comes through seeking God in _____ on a consistent basis, and reading the Word of God daily, and doing those things brings us into the _____ of Christ. I Cor. 2:16
2. Our need is to find not just our own wishes, but to find the _____ and will of the Lord Jesus Christ for our _____ that we are involved in so that our will, will be in harmony with His. Acts 13:2,3

B. Realistic:

1. The goals that are set must be realistic and in accordance with the _____ of God for where we are at presently, not just some wild dreamy _____ that we think up ourselves. Acts 16:6-10
2. The goals must also be attainable with the work _____ and materials that we have to work with at this present time.

C. Things To Remember:

1. True church and ministry growth needs to be _____ for, not just left to chance and hoping that things will _____ by themselves.
2. The same spiritual laws of sowing and reaping _____ to goal setting and growth, and if the plans we make are only on paper, there will be no _____ attained and no growth. 2 Cor. 9:6
3. There is an old adage that says, "If you aim at _____, then you will hit it."

CONCLUSION: Setting _____ and reaching for them is not just some carnal ambition, it is also part of the plan and purpose of Jesus Christ to reach the _____ with the Gospel. Mk. 16:15