



WOW: Word Of the Week

Goals

December 30, 2020

What Are Your Spiritual Growth Goals for 2021?

Make all the resolutions you want to as you share in the ritual of identifying hopes and dreams for a New Year! Enjoy the opportunity to begin again; resolve that 2021 will be different than 2020. Develop a new determination; begin again!

BUT, when it comes to your spiritual life, forget the resolutions. Spiritual planning requires setting goals, making plans, and establishing priorities.

A set of three factors provide the beginning point for spiritual goal-setting. Where are you, where will you be, what is the deadline? Spiritual planning considers how will I get from here (where I am) to there (where I want to be) by when (for example, by the end of 2021)?

Let me tell you, from personal experience, that using goals as the primary tool in your spiritual planning is wonderful!

Focusing on a goal is biblical. A well-known text to illustrate the principles involved is Phil. 3:11-14. "This one thing I do." Other biblical examples can be cited. Israel had eyes set on the Promised Land. Jesus, throughout his ministry, had his eyes set on the cross. Peter writes that our faith has a goal. Paul had certain goals for his ministry (Phil. 3:7-10; Col. 1:28-2:3).

Establishing a future goal avoids immediate failure. When you have a list of things to be accomplished by a certain date, the focus is on the future, not on the struggles of today. When one wants to eliminate something from one's life or habits, it may seem reasonable to say, "I will not ever do that again." But what happens when you fall? Many give up! A better approach is to set a goal and use a process to eliminate a habit.

Third, your spiritual life will become more vibrant as you maintain a focus on the goal. Simple activities like Bible reading and prayer become exciting accomplishments to look forward to. Well-worded, biblical goals can be used to eliminate drudgery and boredom.

Fourth, you are much more likely to reach your spiritual growth goals!

May God bless you with spiritual vigor and vibrancy in 2021. My prayer is that you will be able to set effective goals, establish the corresponding plans and priorities, and reach your spiritual growth goals in the year ahead!