



GOAL PLANNING

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

*“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.”
Proverbs 16:9*

Goal setting can be challenging. First, start with prayer. Spend time alone with God to find out what He wants you to do or accomplish in the future. Then, record your goals by writing them down in clearly defined and measurable terms.

Goals are based on faith and following God’s leading, not on past accomplishments or current resources. So ignore the current provisions that you have for this element of the planning and follow your hearts desire and acknowledge that He may want to do a “new thing” in your life (Isaiah 43: 19) and that He can “do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”. (Ephesians 3: 20)

SETTING GOALS

Why Set Goals?

- Goals provide direction and purpose
- Goals crystallise our thoughts
- Goals provide personal motivation
- Goals clarify God's will for us
- Goals allow us to achieve our hearts desire

Overcoming Barriers to Setting Goals

There may be a number of goal-setting barriers standing in your way, including;

- Lack of time
- Lack of resources
- Fear of failure
- Tendency to be overwhelmed with details
- Lack of self-discipline
- No clear sense of God's leading
- Lack of self worth

Getting Started – Suggested Approach

- Pick a specific date and place where you can spend uninterrupted time alone with God
- Allow God to speak to you during this time, perhaps through Scripture or prayer
- Identify your perceived strengths, gifts and abilities
- Listen to your heart
- Give your fears and doubts to Him

Key Questions to Ask;

1. General Questions

Short Term

- What would I personally like to achieve in the Short Term – this could be anything?
e.g. do a course, start a hobby, a more regular time with God
- What would I like to achieve in the Short Term with my spouse?
e.g. more time together, joint ministry
- What would I like to achieve in the Short Term with my family?
e.g. a short term mission, fun days out

Long Term

- What would I personally like to achieve in the Long Term?
e.g. learn a new language, get fit!, fulfil my calling
- What would I like to achieve in the Long Term with my spouse?
e.g. regular family holiday's, joint ministry
- What would I like to achieve in the Long Term with my family?
e.g. see my children follow the Lord, good education

2. Financial Questions

Short Term

- What Financial Goals would I like to achieve in the Short Term?
- Do I have peace of mind in my financial decision making?
- What am I most concerned about in the next six to twelve months?
- What am I most concerned about in the next one to five years?
- Am I comfortable with my level of charitable giving?
- Are my living expenses too high or too low?
- Am I paying too much tax?

Long Term

- What Financial Goals would I like to achieve in the Long Term?
- What am I most concerned about in the long-term?
- Are there some potential financial events that cause me fear?
- Am I comfortable with my debt level?
- Am I making progress towards my Financial Goals?
- Should I reposition my investment portfolio?
- When do I want to retire from my main career

Trinity's Role

Trinity's role in helping you define and record your goals will be:

- To listen to God with you
- To ask the right questions to help bring clarity to your thoughts and plans
- To help you see God's plan and purpose for your life
- To record your goals in a clear and understandable way
- To regularly review your goals with you and to record any changes

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Scriptural Insights on Goal Setting

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” **John 8:32**

“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.” **Proverbs 16:9**

“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.” **Psalms 37:4**

“If the Lord delights in a man’s way, he makes his steps firm.” **Psalms 37:23**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” **Psalms 119:105**

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.” **Proverbs 14:12**

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.” **Proverbs 16:3**

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” **Isaiah 43:18, 19**

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” **Matthew 6:33**

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.” **Ephesians 3:20**

“I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 3:14**

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” **Hebrews 11:1**

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” **Hebrews 11:6**