

A Powerful Daily Goal: Pleasing God

Introduction

- A. It is important to have clearly defined goals. The old saying is correct, “If we aim at nothing we are sure to achieve it.”
- B. The Christian understands about goals. The Bible calls us to exalt the Lord Jesus (Psalm 2). The way to fulfill that call is to have a daily goal: pleasing God.

I. The Importance of Having a Daily Goal — to Please God

- A. Pleasing God is directly related to the Kingdom of God.

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. Rom 14:17,18

Comment: When we seek the Kingdom of God (Matt 6:33) and pray for its development in our daily life (Matt 6:9,10) we can be assured that the above verses will characterize its presence. Consider how important that should and could be.

- B. Pleasing God was the goal of the Apostle Paul.

So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 2 Cor 5:9

Comment: Paul had learned by walking with God to adopt such a goal. When he said, “imitate me” (1 Cor 4:16) this, in part, is what he had in mind.

- C. Paul exhorted all believers to find out what pleased the Lord.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Eph 5:9-10

Comment: Paul knew from life and Scripture that pleasing God would open the door to the Holy Spirit so He could produce His fruit in their life.

- D. Paul prayed that believers would learn to please God.

We have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will. That you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God... Col 1:9,10

Comment: Note the truths related to pleasing God: God’s will, wisdom, understanding, living worthy of the Lord, being fruitful and growing in the knowledge of God.

E. Paul taught his converts to please God.

Brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 1 Thess 4:1

Comment: Paul knew his daily goal would help his converts to grow and prosper.

F. Paul learned from hard experience the necessity of pleasing God.

On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. 1 Thess 2:4

Comment: Note the results of pleasing God: approval, being entrusted with the gospel, and standing God's test. These truths show the importance of pleasing Him.

G. Enoch is commended for having the goal of pleasing God.

By faith Enoch ... was commended as one who pleased God. Heb 11:5

Comment: How did Enoch live as a godly man in an ungodly age? He pleased God.

H. We are promised a successful prayer life if we will seek to please God.

Dear friends, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 1 John 3:21,22

Comment: Consider the practical importance of having the right daily goal.

II. God Seeks to Work in Us so We Will Please Him.

Wherefore, my beloved ... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Phil 2:12,13 KJV

May the God of peace ... work in us what is pleasing to him. Heb 13:20,21

Comment: Pleasing God is not only to be our Goal, it is our Father's great desire. If we choose that goal it will bring His grace, power, presence, blessing and fruitfulness.

III. The Warning Regarding Pleasing God

The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Gal 6:8

Comment: Every believer must make a choice as to daily goal. It is frightening to realize that we can live out of and for our sinful nature or for God by the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion: Recommendation: make a choice each morning upon arising to please God in every way in the new day — no matter what happens. God will make it possible. Such a choice of faith will open the door to the Holy Spirit and enable us to live in God's will.

Victor Matthews

