

BIBLE 909

GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE

CONTENTS

I. HOW TO FIND GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE ..	2
The Desire of the Heart	4
The Word of God	7
The Providence of God	10
II. HOW TO DEVELOP AND KEEP GOALS	17
The Necessity for Goals	18
The Types of Goals	22
The Attainment of Goals	25
III. HOW TO EVALUATE AND USE TALENTS	32
The Giver of Gifts	33
The Evaluation of Gifts	37
The Use of Gifts	43

2015 Printing

The material in this book is the product of the Lord's blessing and many individuals working together on the teams, both at Alpha Omega Publications and Christian Light Publications.

Original material copyright © 1978 by Alpha Omega Publications
All rights reserved. Revised by permission.

CLP Revision copyright © 1980

Christian Light Publications, Inc.

Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802

Tel. 1-540-434-0768

Printed in USA

II. HOW TO DEVELOP AND KEEP GOALS

Without long-range and short-range aims in life, we shall accomplish very little that is worthwhile for the kingdom of God. We shall lead a fulfilling, productive, and God-glorifying life if we take the time to discern those goals which God has specifically outlined for us, develop them as we gain experience, and

discipline ourselves to reach them. The success principle behind setting goals will apply not only in our personal life, but also in our career choice and in our ministry to others. Under this heading we shall consider carefully the necessity for goals, the type of goals for which we should strive, and how to attain our goals.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able:

5. To explain the need for goals and how they can help you to lead a glorifying, fulfilling, and productive life.
6. To specify the kinds of goals you should have in personal, career, and ministry areas of your life.
7. To explain how goals can be attained.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

attainment (u t̄an' munt). The act of arriving at or reaching by effort.

dominate (dom' u nāt). To rule, govern, or predominate over.

edifice (ed' u fis). A building, especially of imposing appearance.

inference (in' fur uns). A deduction or logical conclusion.

operative (op' ur u tiv). Accomplishing what is desired; effective.

reciprocal (ri sip' ru kul). Done, felt, or given in return; mutual.

secular (sek' yu lur). Pertaining to the world or to things not spiritual or sacred; not devoted to sacred use.

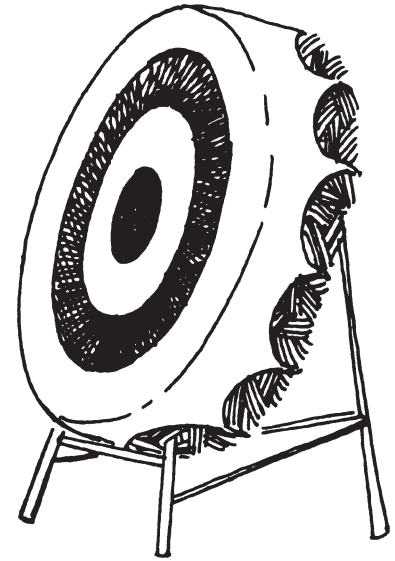
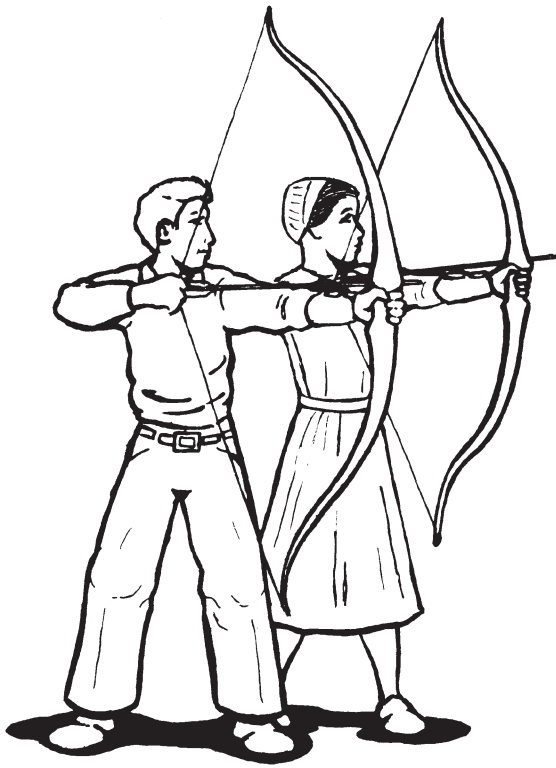
subservient (sub sēr' vē unt). Useful, helpful, or of service in an inferior or subordinate capacity; submissive.

temperate (tem' pur it). Moderate; self-restrained.

temporal (tem' pur ul). Lasting only for a time; temporary, as opposed to eternal.



Read Matthew 5:13 through 16; Isaiah 43:1 through 7; Second Corinthians 3:2 through 11, 17, and 18; Philippians 3:7 through 15; John 15:7 through 16; and Second Peter 1:5 through 11.



The Necessity for Goals

THE NECESSITY FOR GOALS

Everything we do in life should have a purpose behind it. If you are drifting aimlessly through life with no goal in sight, you are accomplishing nothing of any value for yourself, for others, or for the Lord. You are like a ship without a rudder, being tossed about by the waves and headed for no particular port, or destination. Realizing early in life the necessity for achieving God's goals is of the utmost importance for the following reasons: (1) that we might bring glory to God, (2) that we might feel fulfilled in His will, and (3) that we might be productive in bearing fruit by influencing others for the Lord.

Glorifying life. The supreme purpose in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ was that He might do the Father's will. The only reason that Jesus left the glorious presence of the Father to come to a sin-cursed earth and clothe Himself in human flesh was because He desired to do **God's will. The psalmist wrote prophetically about Jesus (Psalm 40:7, 8), "Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy**

law is within my heart." As Jesus was nearing the end of His earthly existence, He was able to pray (John 17:4), "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." So should it be with us. Since we have been created for God's glory, we should realize that the one way that we can bring the most glory to God is by doing the work which He has for us to do. First Corinthians 6:20 declares, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." When we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, His Holy Spirit comes to dwell in and renew our spirit, and our body becomes His temple. His purpose for indwelling us is explained in Ephesians 2:10: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 1:11 and 12 expresses the same idea in these words: "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his

glory, who first trusted in Christ.” The prime purpose for which we have been redeemed is that we might bring great honor and glory to our Creator, Redeemer, and Saviour.

Recognizing that a goal demands action toward reaching the goal, Paul explained in Philippians 3:12 the purpose of his life: “. . . But I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.” In the next verses he described his plan for meeting his goal: “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Four important points are outlined in this Scripture that will give us help in reaching our goal of glorifying God. First, Paul indicated that he did not believe that he had yet arrived at his goal. He did not depict a smug self-satisfaction that would prompt him to lead a leisurely life. Second, he narrowed his vision to keep it fixed on his one great aim in life. Everything else became **subservient** to Paul’s chief goal. Third, he did not allow past mistakes and problems to defeat him. Fourth, he pursued the very highest and best that God had for his life that he might bring glory to God. If we will follow this four-step procedure in our lives, we shall find ourselves fitting into the plan and purpose that God has for us.

Fulfilled life. The great difficulty in the life of unbelievers is that, because they are unrelated to Jesus Christ, their lives are largely unfulfilled. As a result, unbelievers lack a deep and settled peace in their hearts. Born-again Christians, however, have a vital relationship to Jesus as Lord and experience the satisfaction and fulfillment of His vibrant life flowing through theirs. Psalm 16:11 declares, “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.” As we allow God to guide our lives in the path He has chosen for us, we shall experience the wonderful joys of walking in His presence. Jesus Himself revealed, in John 10:10, one of the reasons for His coming, “. . . I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” The exciting element in this experience is our **reciprocal** relationship with God. As we seek to fulfill God’s desires, He gives us great satisfaction in doing His will. Christ proclaimed (Matthew

6:33), “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” As God is glorified in His saints, we are also glorified in Him. Second **Thessalonians 1:11, 12 expresses this** excellently: “Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Thus, the Lord is willing to share His glory with those who will put Him and the desires of His heart first in their lives.

Productive life. Goals are necessary to leading a productive life. If we expect to influence others for God, we need to know where we are going. Setting goals gives us confidence and effectiveness in carrying out His plans. Psalm 1:3 declares that the man who delights in the law of the Lord “. . . shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” **Note from this psalm that the person who receives his counsel from the Lord, rather than the ungodly, will show great stability, fruitfulness, endurance, and prosperity.** In John 15:5 Jesus outlined the source of productivity in a person’s life: “I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**” In Colossians 1:9 and 10 Paul expressed his ardent desire for Christians: “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; **that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.**” Pleasing the Lord and being fruitful are both accomplished by being filled with the knowledge of His will. After outlining all the aspects designed to be added to the believer’s life—faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (or charity)—the Apostle Peter declared (II Peter 1:8): “For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Peter continued by saying that those who lack these things are blind and

cannot see afar off. The **inference** is that if we abound in these graces, we will be able to see the long-range goals that God has for us and will not be blind to His purposes. Paul proclaims, in Philippians 1:9-11, that if our love abounds more and more in knowledge and all judgment, we will be able to approve things that are excellent, we will be sincere and without offense until Christ returns, and we will be filled

with the fruits of righteousness. Our lives will be lived to the glory and praise of God. Again the message comes home clearly that God gains great glory and praise when His people know His will and follow after those things that are most important in God's eyes. With God's goals before him, the believer can lead a life on earth that is glorifying, fulfilling, and productive.



Answer true or false.

- 2.1 _____ Everything we do should have a purpose behind it.
- 2.2 _____ Jesus came to earth to do His own will.
- 2.3 _____ Jesus finished the work that His Father gave Him to do.
- 2.4 _____ We should concentrate on getting food and clothing in this life.
- 2.5 _____ God will share His glory with those who put His desires first.
- 2.6 _____ The source of a believer's productivity is Jesus Christ.
- 2.7 _____ Believers who do not add godly graces to their faith will be blind and unable to see afar off in the spiritual realm.



Complete these activities.

- 2.8 Name two aspects of our life, mentioned in I Corinthians 6:20, in which we are to glorify God.
- a. _____
- b. _____
- 2.9 State four ways in which Paul aimed at apprehending the will of God for his life, as outlined in Philippians 3:13, 14.
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- 2.10 Name two things that Christ taught us to seek first in our lives.
- a. _____
- b. _____
- 2.11 List four things that will be evident if the life of a Christian whose delight is in God's commandments, rather than ungodly counsel.
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- 2.12 According to Colossians 1:10 give three aspects of a believer's life that will arise from being filled with the knowledge of God's will.
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____