

Pastor Calvin Williams

1/15/25

Prepare- make (something) ready for use or consideration:

1. What are you doing to get ready for the new Season?

2. What does the Bible say about setting goals?

Answer: The Bible offers a balanced approach to setting goals that includes making plans but doing so with wisdom and humility. Jesus' illustration of building a tower implies that it is a good thing to have set goals.

(Luke 14:28) "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?

- To live with no motivation or planning is not God's desire or will for us. How do I know that?

14:28 calculate the cost: Jesus encourages His followers—as well as those in the crowd of pilgrims who had not yet become His disciples—to consider the great sacrifices involved in their decision.

(Proverbs 6:6–11)6 Go to the ant, you sluggard. consider its ways and be wise! 7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, 8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. 9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest 11 and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

6:6 Go to the ant, lazy: The ant appears only twice in the Bible—here and in (Prov 30:25). In both places, it appears as an example of wisdom and prudence, since ants work hard to store up food.

6:7 It has no chief: The ant has enough initiative and discipline to work hard without any supervision. The idea is that if ants can do this, then a human must be able to do more.

6:9 lazy: A recurring character in Proverbs, this is sharp contrast here to the ant.

6:10 a little folding of the hands: Indicates a refusal to work.

6:11 like a robber: For the sluggard, poverty comes suddenly and ruthlessly like a thief or armed man.

- The result of poverty should be obvious for lazy people since they do not work.

- Laziness causes a person to neglect work and miss the window of opportunity.

- Summer is the preparation time for winter, and we must not waste it away. Failure to plan ahead will result in “poverty” and “want.

3. What is a goal? *Purpose*, *Target*, or *intent*

4. What are some different goals you set in your life? Spiritual, financial, mental

5. Who set the goals in your life?

- Start setting goals for yourself.
- Where do you want to see yourself a year from now?

6. What is the purpose of goals?

- To grow.
- Goals gives you a target to aim at and a compass to measure your direction.

7. Are all the goals you set attainable?

- Because we set Goals too high.

8. What percentage of people set goals? **3%**

9. What percentage of people do not set goals? **97%**

10. By failing to prepare, what are we doing? **Preparing to fail**

11. Goal setters earn ten times more than other people.

- Wisely setting goals leads to better results: "The plans of the diligent lead to profit" **(Proverbs 21:5)**.

(Habakkuk 2:2-3) Write the Vision and make it plain.

2 Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. 3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it lingers, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

12. What happens in our life without goals? Nothing

13. What is the goal of a sports team? To win

14. How do they win?

- They plan the whole game out in detail.

15. What does the Bible say about Goal setting?

- The Bible offers a balanced approach to setting goals, but with wisdom.

(Luke 14:28) Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?

(Proverbs 21:5) Good planning and hard work leads to prosperity.

16. Should we pursue our personal Goals in life or God's will?

- We cannot expect God to bless our goals if they are not in alignment to his will.

17. Should our goals be set based on God's will?

18. What role does your eye play in your goals? **(Phil 3:12-20)**

- keep your eyes on those who live as we do.
- For Paul, the ultimate goal is knowing Christ's resurrection power and dwelling with Him in the age to come.

19. What is one thing we need to make sure about our goals?

(James 4:13-16) Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money. 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then

vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money. Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes” **(James 4:13-14)**.

The Bible teaches against two extremes: never setting goals and setting goals with no thought of God. The balance is found in (James 4:15): Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’” It is good to make plans, as long as we leave room for God to change our plans. His goals take precedence over ours.

What will happen tomorrow: James condemns rich business owners for their arrogant self-confidence; he accuses them of acting as though they alone determine the course of their lives, apart from God.

Conclusion:

(Proverb 16:9) says, in his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps. In other words, we have our ideas and make our plans, but God will ultimately accomplish His sovereign desires. Do our goals make room for the unexpected? Do we love God’s will more than our own?

We can take comfort in the words of Jesus: Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself **(Matthew 6:33-34)**. If our plans/goals focus on Christ and honoring Him, He will see to it that the best result are ours.

Don’t wait to begin your preparation, start now!!!!