

# Unleashing Spiritual Success:

## *God-Given Goals Transform Your Faith Journey*

You know what's coming up? The Super Bowl! The Eagles are playing, and even though I'm a Steelers fan, I tell you what - I'm behind them 1,000%. My father-in-law and mother-in-law are coming next week, and I'll be rooting for the Eagles with them. I might even have to go out and buy something with a bird on it!

Last year, 96.5 million people watched the game. Can you imagine? Have you ever watched a football game on television? It's phenomenal. People will sit by the thousands in the snow and act like they don't even know it's snowing. You know, some people come to church, and if the temperature is one degree off where they think it should be, oh, you'll hear about it!

The volume of noise at a football game, it's nuts. The way people act and the clothes they wear - you talk about humbling themselves and acting crazy - and then they dare to look at the church and call us fanatical! I never really understood that.

Just millions of people will pack in, and they'll pay... Talk about investment! Putting something in the offering? Some people think that's a big deal. But do you know what they're paying for a Super Bowl ticket? For a motel? For transportation? And sports betting - it's just insane how much people will put out for just a football game.

## The Power of Goals

Today, I want to talk to you about goals. You've got to have some goals in your life. Can you say Amen? Goals are good! Two monstrous keys to unlocking your spiritual success are exercising God-given gifts and establishing God-given goals.

God's invested in you. He has. So don't get bent out of shape when God asks you to give a little something back because He's put a lot in you. Dreams are marvelous to have - they show us where we want to end up. Goals are how we get there. Dreams are our vision of where we are after the battle is over - the dance we'll do in the end zone.

## The Little Things Matter

We can have big dreams as a church, but we have to understand that our long-term successes directly result from what we can achieve every day. I'm increasingly convinced that it's the little details, the little things we do every day, that really lead us into the big miracles of life. It's when we're faithful in the little things that God can prosper us. He says, "I'll make you ruler over much if you're faithful over the little."

## Five Essential Questions for Goal Setting

### 1. Why Is This Important to God?

There's a big difference between a good goal and a God goal. A godly goal is one that God plants in your heart. Your heart is the potting soil of the Holy Spirit. He'll plant a tiny seed. He gives us the desires of our hearts. Some people think that means whatever I want, I can have. No. God places desires in your heart.

### 2. Does This Fit into God's Plan for My Life?

Every position on God's team is important, but He doesn't ask you to fill every one. God doesn't want you to do anything that thins you out or causes you not to be effective. The Bible says Mary was doing the best thing while her sister Martha was doing the good thing. We have to decide: Do I want to do good things for God, or do I want to do the best things for God?

### 3. Is This Goal Totally in Line with God's Word?

God will never lead you to pursue a goal contrary to His Word. Neither will He lead you to seek after a goal that will in any way detract from your conformity to the character of Christ. Ask yourself: When I've reached the goal when I've achieved it when I've hit the target - am I going to be closer to God and more like Jesus as a result?

### 4. How Might This Goal Bring Blessing to Christ?

Jesse said to David, "Take now for your brothers. Run to your brothers." It was all about the brothers. Self-centered goals won't take you where you want to be.

God wants to place a goal in your life that focuses on something much bigger than you - it focuses on other people.

## 5. How Will This Achievement Glorify God's Name?

The result of all our praying has to be "God, be glorified. Jesus, be magnified. Holy Spirit of living God, be exalted." A godly goal holds eternal values. You may lead somebody to God who'll lead somebody else to God, and that will continue. You'll start a whole series of fortunate events in somebody's life.

## Closing Thoughts

It's great to belong to God in an age of so many tragedies and disasters. What do people do that don't believe in God? Where do they turn? How do they survive? How do they keep their sanity? I'm so glad knowing that we belong to Him. We play for Him as a team. We make our boast in Him.

Start talking to people. Start getting to know people. We don't have a lot of people, so this is a good time to start this. But I'm telling you, as we start caring about one another in the house and loving one another and being there for each other, I have a funny feeling our seats are going to start filling up because it's going to get out there that there is a little pocket of people over there that really care about people.

## Closing Prayer

Father, we thank you right now that we belong to you. Not only that, but we also belong to each other. I pray that every wall ever built regarding another person in this fellowship will come down. That, Lord, you will melt us down as a fellowship, blend our hearts, and make us one. Lord, may we care for one another. May we not be artificial and fake. Give us the goals you want us to accomplish, and we know you'll equip us to do that. Thank you for every person in the House today. Strengthen us. Go with us. Get us home safely in Jesus's name. Everybody says Amen.