

The Magnificent Seven**Part 7 - Important Keys to
Lasting Change**

Wrapping up this series, here are two sets of 7 important keys to help you bring your dreams, goals, and visions to pass!

1. ***7 Indicators that Your Dreams, Goals, and Visions are from God***
2. ***7 Steps on Setting and Accomplishing Your Goals***

Of the 3 types of dreams, goals, and visions we looked at, the most important one is the one that the Bible overwhelmingly focuses on: the kind that God has for you in order for you to impact the Kingdom of God (week 2, Types of Vision). These are the goals you're supposed to be pursuing for the Kingdom of God's advancement!

In week 5 we talked about the importance of hearing God and not overcomplicating the process. So let's dive into some practical indicators that your dreams, goals, and visions are from God.

7 Indicators that Your Dreams, Goals, and Visions are from God**• IT CAPTURES YOUR IMAGINATION**

Through the years, what are your recurring dreams? The things you imagine and see in your mind's eye?

- Is it leading people to the Lord?
- Is it laying hands on people for healing & deliverance?
- Is it comforting people in times of need?
- Is it leading or teaching?
- Is it singing or using a musical gift for God?
- Is it giving big to the church or financially blessing people?
- Is it giving to orphanages?
- Is it inviting people to church?

What keeps coming back to you over and over?

IMPORTANT KEYS TO LASTING CHANGE (cont.)

2 Corinthians 4:18 says, "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

- **IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE**

In Luke 18:27 Jesus said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

If your dream is easy to accomplish within your own ability, you are not dreaming big enough and you are probably not tapping into the fulness of what God wants you to accomplish.

- **IT SEEMS AS THOUGH IT WILL NEVER COME TO PASS**

- Abraham waited over 25 years for the promise of a son.
- David waited approximately 14 years to become King after Samuel anointed him.

Dale Carnegie - "Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

Remember this, *preparation* time is NOT *lost* time!

- **NOT EVERYONE IS AS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT YOUR DREAM AS YOU ARE**

When Joseph had his dream from God, all it did was invoke jealousy from those around him.

The people with no dreams, goals, or visions are the ones who will ridicule yours.

Be careful who you share your dreams with.

Ecclesiastes 3:7 says that there is "a time to be silent and a time to speak."

Read your room!

IMPORTANT KEYS TO LASTING CHANGE (cont.)

- **YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED RESISTANCE, DIFFICULTY, SETBACKS, AND FRUSTRATION**

Psalm 27:14 (MSG) encourages us to "Stay with God! Take heart. Don't quit. I'll say it again: Stay with God."

Jesus said in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Of course the enemy is going to try to thwart what God has called you to do. Why are you shocked by this?

1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

Are you focused on the goal or the trial?

Paul got focused once on the setbacks and frustrations the enemy was using to try to stop him, so God had to refocus Paul.

2 Corinthians 12:9, "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

- **IT SEEMS TO CONSUME YOUR THINKING**

If you can't get something out of your thinking then keep working toward it!

If it's not a dream or goal or vision worth being consumed by then it's not a dream, goal, or vision worth having!

- **IT SEEMS TO DEFINE AND SHAPE YOUR LIFE**

Philippians 2:13 (AMP), "For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure."

IMPORTANT KEYS TO LASTING CHANGE (cont.)

Your passion, your potential, and your purpose are all connected.

When something burns strong enough inside you, you begin to make life decisions based on those goals.

If the passion is fleeting, it is probably not from God!

7 Steps on Setting and Accomplishing Your Goals

These steps are *practical* things that successful people have adopted into their lives.

- **SET 7-10 GOALS FOR THE YEAR**

If you aim at too many targets you'll miss them all!

My recommendation is set 3 goals in each category from week 2:

- a) What do you want to do to advance the Kingdom of God?
- b) What do you want God to do for you?
- c) What do you want to accomplish through discipline?

- **WRITE THEM DOWN IN THE PRESENT TENSE**

As we have stated, and seen in the Word, there is tremendous power in writing things down (week 5, Pen to Paper).

In response to the simple question, "what are your goals for life?"

- 80% had no goals
- 16% had goals, but had never written them down
- 3% had written their goals down
- 1% regularly reviewed the goals they had written down

I want to add this one thing to reviewing your goals:

Change your "I will" or "I will be" to "I AM"

Hebrews 11:1 says, "NOW faith is..." (capitalized for emphasis).

IMPORTANT KEYS TO LASTING CHANGE (cont.)

- **BE VERY SPECIFIC**

For example,

NOT: "I will exercise more."

BUT: "I will exercise for 30 minutes 3 times per week."

NOT: "I will get out of consumer debt."

BUT: "I am paying off my credit cards this way:

- Visa - \$2000.00
- Discover - \$2400.00
- American Express - \$3000.00"

NOT: "I will read more."

BUT: "I am reading 1 book per month, starting with"

- **ESTABLISH SOME DEADLINES**

Listen, deadlines are motivating!

The best way to get your house cleaned up is to invite company over!
Why? Deadline!

For example,

NOT: "I'm going to lose weight."

BUT: "I'm going to lose 5lbs by the end of this month."

- **STRETCH OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE**

Push yourself with your goals!

Don't make it easy!

- **MAKE YOUR GOALS VISIBLE AND DECLARE THEM ALL YEAR LONG**

Habakkuk 2:2, "Write the vision and make it plain..."

Mark 11:23, "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."

IMPORTANT KEYS TO LASTING CHANGE (cont.)

- **SET 2-4 MILESTONES FOR EACH GOAL**

Saving money? Set milestones!

- 1 month's salary
- 2 month's salary
- 3 months' salary

In the book of Nehemiah, in chapter 3, when they started rebuilding the wall, they would accomplish 1 section and *then* move on to the next section.

When you build a house there are milestones. They help you see your progress and keep you encouraged.

Milestones are mini-goals within the big goals!

Be a doer of the Word, not just a hearer of the Word!