

# PRESSING TO THE GOAL

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:12-14

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Introduction:

1. This is the time of the year when many are setting goals for themselves.
2. Christians need to have the tools necessary to complete their desired goals for the New Year.
3. In this lesson we will discuss some of these tools needed to be spiritually successful in the New Year

## **I. HAVE A PREDETERMINED MINDSET**

### **A. CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE**

1. Facing the year without goals is like driving without a destination
2. Everything begins with desire
  - a. Sin begins with desire –Ja 1:13-ff
  - b. Becoming an elder begins with desire -1Ti 3:1
3. Know what spiritual goals you would like to achieve and then focus on those goals  
-e.g. Prayer, Bible reading, involvement, or evangelism

### **B. KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING**

1. The most powerful weapon on earth is a “focused mind”
2. Some examples:
  - a. Ezra –Ez 7:10
  - b. The people had a mind to work –Ne 4:6
  - c. The kings that did well were mentally prepared -2Ch 12:14, 19:3

## **II. DON'T LET THE PAST DICTATE THE FUTURE**

### **A. CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE**

1. The past does not equate the future
2. Some examples:
  - a. The flood –Ge 6-9
  - b. Samson –Ju 16:20
  - c. Uzza -1Ch 13 (David went on to move the ark –Chapter 15)

### **B. WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE –Mt 19:26**

1. Consider Peter –Lk 22:54-62
2. Consider also Paul –Persecutor to preacher
3. Remember that God is wanting us to succeed –Ro 8:31, 37

## **III. KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON THE GOAL**

### **A. CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE**

1. Giving in to distraction
  - a. When one tries to accomplish spiritual goals, the devil will always stand in opposition
  - b. E.g. –The thorny ground –Mt 13
2. Giving in to discouragement
  - a. E.g. –Daily Bible reading; if you miss a day get up and try again. Don't wait for next year!

### **B. PRESS ON**

1. Forgetting the things of the past –Ph 3:12-14
2. Never play the victim, but rise and go again -2Co 4:7-9

Conclusion:

1. I encourage you to set spiritual goals for yourselves if you have not already done so
  2. Remember you can reach them through focus, determination, and the strength from God.
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