

GODLY GOAL SETTING

Michelle Myers

All quotes are from Michelle Myers unless otherwise noted.

We don't need to live our lives aimlessly.

Hebrews 12:15-16

Bitterness is not usually the initial result.

Bitterness is what happens when the wrong things are cultivated over time

The most innocent place bitterness begins: disappointment

When we cultivate our disappointment, that disappointment grabs on to things like entitlement "I deserve that" or jealousy "She doesn't deserve that" – and over time, it results in bitterness.

When we are disappointed, cultivate your faith instead of disappointment.

Esau chose what he wanted in the moment instead of what he really needed long-term

And that's what we do when we chase goals that leave us running in the same direction as the world: we trade what matters for eternity for what we want now.

Faith is not a line item. Faith should be the foundation that all of our other goals filter through.

Faith was not meant to be an addition.

Matthew 6:33 – "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Why would we set goals that have us seeking after earthly things and accomplishments?

We can't separate the spiritual from the human. We are called to a higher purpose.

Live for eternity even while here on Earth.

Faith serves culture. Culture is not our enemy.

We are here to serve the culture that we're going to clash with.

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Get a promotion.
 Increase salary.
 Change careers.

Summary: Increase + Self-Importance

These are not bad things. But what are you pursuing?

FAITH FOUNDATION: LIGHT + SERVICE**Light:**

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” – Matthew 5:14-16

If you never get asked about your light, it needs to be brighter. - Somer Phoebus

He calls us to be different. When you're different, people pay attention.

How can your light be brighter at work?

Service:

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.”
 – 1 Peter 4:10

Grace is undeserved, illogical.

How can you serve through your work in a way that makes no logical sense?

Remove yourself from the equation and ask how you can serve in a way that doesn't make sense.

FINANCES (common goals)

Feel financially secure
 Be able to afford _____ (home/car/new business/new investment)
 Pay off debt/build savings.

Summary: Wants + Wealth

Usually accompanied with a warning in scripture.

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FAITH FOUNDATION: NEEDS + GENEROSITY

Needs:

“You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” – Acts 20:34-35

Scripture is clear that we are supposed to provide for our needs + the needs of those closest to you.

What are the needs that are yours and for those that have been entrusted to your care?

Generosity:

“give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” – Luke 6:38

What real needs do you and those close to you have?

What additional needs has God allowed you to see?

We are not responsible for every need in the world. God allows us to see certain needs.

Increase your generosity to the point that it's uncomfortable and requires faith.

FAMILY (common goals)

To provide financially for each person's needs + desires

To encourage education + activities that will ensure life success

For everyone in the home to be happy

Summary: Success + Happiness

FAITH FOUNDATION: LOVE, AIM + HONOR

Love:

Ephesians 5:22-33

We don't need to be reminded as much to love our kids. But we need to be reminded to love our husbands.

Save some energy for home after work.

Save some energy and ambition for your home after work.

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Aim:

Psalm 127

Children are a blessing

“Quiver” -- We are to straighten, sharpen + aim our children like a warrior would have done with an arrow

We cannot control everything that our children do - we cannot take the credit or the blame.

Honor:

Exodus 20:12: “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Aging parents + in-laws

How can help your husband see your love for him? How can you prioritize him better?

How can you aim your kids at Jesus?

How can you honor your parents and in-laws?

HEALTH (common goals)

To lose weight

To exercise

To be able to feel comfortable in the clothes I want to wear

Summary: Appearance + Approval

FAITH FOUNDATION: Care for your tent.

1 Timothy 4:8

Tent vs. Temple – 1 Corinthians 6:19 – 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Because God dwells inside of you, your body should be taken care of.

Temporary vs. eternal

You can not take a temporary substance the main thing.

How do I prioritize what's eternal vs. what's temporary?

How do I take care for the temporary home God gave me to do ministry here?

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It can't be the ultimate thing, but we also can't neglect it.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT (common goals)

To acquire a new skill/develop an old one

To figure out my purpose in life

To be a better person

Summary: Knowledge + Self-Importance

FAITH FOUNDATION: WISDOM + CHARACTER

Wisdom:

Wise vs. Fool: Proverbs

"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy." – James 3:17

Everything else will disappoint and confuse.

The only thing that can't fail is God and His Word.

Knowledge just going into our ears is not going to produce the wisdom that God instructs us to have.

Spend more time in God's Word than anything else.

Character:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." – Galatians 5:22-23

"More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." – Romans 5:3-5

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." – Romans 12:2

In suffering, in producing endurance, character - it's not that hard times get easier. Hard times get put into perspective. It's during those hard times that God can use us the greatest.

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What are the things that you're pursuing that are allowing you to conform a little bit to the world?

What are the things that are confusing you?

How am I pursuing wisdom?

What behaviors don't match what I believe?

CONTRIBUTION/VOLUNTEERING (common goals)

To do something meaningful that impacts people for good

To feel like I'm doing something that matters to feel like I matter

To make other people view me positively

Summary: Reputation + Self-Importance

"as you go, make disciples" – Matthew 28:19-20

Acts 1:8 – "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses (martyrs) both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

The ends of the earth - include the internet.

Your circle of influence is prioritized by what is smallest + then gets bigger.

If the internet going away excludes all of our avenues for spreading the Word goes away, then we aren't doing it in the right order.

How can you be intentional for the gospel here and now?

Who are you praying will come to know Jesus and how can you be intentional to love them?

God does the saving, we can do the listening and when He opens doors, we can do the speaking.

Who are you helping to grow closer to Jesus? And who is helping you grow closer to Jesus?

We don't reach a point this side of heaven when we don't need to be disciplined.

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To learn more about God

To attend church more often

To read the Bible/pray more

Summary: Rules + Rituals

FAITH FOUNDATION: LOVE GOD + LOVE OTHERS

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. - Matthew 22:37

How am I knowing God more so I can love God more?

Difference between knowing God and knowing about God

What does this teach me about You? Show me something new.

Your relationship can keep growing.

Don't settle for knowing about Him?

How am I loving others well?

Neighbor is not just the people that are close to you.

How am I loving the unlovable?

How am I loving my enemy?