

## Focused Priority: What is Your Main Goal in Life?

Many if not most truly successful people in academia, business/professionally, or athletics, possess a common denominator: **focused priority**. They know *what* they want or want to accomplish, and don't allow anyone or anything to distract them from it. They eliminate or sidestep obstacles and keep moving forward to whatever specific goal they have set. This singular priority often requires tremendous sacrifices of time, energy, other pursuits, and even relationships. Indeed, there is tremendous value and benefit to simply making up one's mind and having it singularly focused, cf. Luke 21:14; Col.3:2; Matt.6:22; cp.Jas.1:22; 4:8. But if we ask "Average Joe/Josephine" to identify his/her **main goal** in life, what answers do you think we'd get? We'd most likely receive *general* and *vague* responses such as:

- **"To be healthy and happy."** While there is nothing necessarily wrong with either of these, "healthy" is not always up to us. And if we base "happy" on external circumstances that are personally pleasing, neither is it completely under our control. Maybe we should say "holy" instead of "happy" because perhaps all too often, what makes us "happy" doesn't make us "holy"!
- **"To be surrounded by a loving family and friends."** Everyone, we're told, "wants to be loved." But one cannot force others' affections. Not all families are "loving," and true friends can be hard to find and keep.
- **"To be financially secure."** Security is important to most people, especially where finances are concerned. We want to be able to provide the basic necessities (and perhaps a few luxuries) of life for our families and ourselves. Unfortunately, many who have such as a goal make decisions and develop habits that are sometimes counter-productive to it; *i.e.* worthless degrees, high-interest debt, poor budgeting, etc.
- **"To prosper and be able to enjoy the nicer things in life."** This ambition is sometimes secondary to, or at least developed after, the achievement of those previous to it in our list, but not always. The sad reality is that some desire the conveniences and pleasures of "luxury" so much that they live beyond their means in an effort to at least appear to be living "the good life" (may have the latest/greatest phone or tattoos, but can't "afford" utilities or food). Perhaps the "want" has exceeded the "will," cf.1Tim.6:9.
- **"To see the world and have a life of adventure and excitement."** For them, "life must be lived to the fullest" to be worthwhile. So, their constant quest in life is for the "new" and "exciting." Adrenaline is their driving force, or drug of choice, and anything that becomes "routine" is sacrificed to maintain a constant high. But at least in my view, it takes a real man to go work everyday to a something substantially less than his "dream job" to *"provide for his own,"* 1Tim.5:8.
- **"To live to a ripe old age."** Admittedly, this is not as prevalent as a "goal in life" as it once was. Advances in nutrition, medicine, and overall quality of life have produced an increased life expectancy over past generations. But though few may actually state "long life" as a goal, even fewer still actually want to "die young"!

- **“To be famous (or even infamous).”** Almost nothing is off-limits or out-of-bounds is “fame” is the goal- either if its just “viral fame.” So strong is the desire to be “somebody” or “stand out from the crowd” that some are willing to become *infamous* just to be noticed. Yes, technology/social media can be great, or not.

Now think for a moment about the **standards** that would be used to measure “success” in meeting the above goals. Aren’t they all based upon *relative comparisons* to other people? Such would make life a “competition” of sorts, would it not? And if the goal or goals weren’t measured by *relative comparison* standards, wouldn’t they at least be completely *subjective* ones? The trouble with all such appraisals of human life’s “success” is that they are created and administered **by man**. But Paul makes it clear that there is a *higher standard* given by a **Higher Being** than man, 1Cor.4:4 and 2Cor.3:5!

But what if **you** were asked what **your** main goal in life is? What would be **your** answer? Perhaps to:

- **Live a godly and spiritually-disciplined life?** 1Tim.4:7-8, “...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” As in, to spiritually “happy and healthy”?
- **Make a difference in the spiritual lives of family/friends/others?** 1Pet.2:9 indicates that we should “proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out darkness into His marvelous light.” Jesus says we are to be “the light of the world” and that we should “Let your light shine in such a way” that others may “see your good works” and thus be caused through them to “glorify your Father who is in heaven,” Matt.5:14,16. To “help others” spiritually less fortunate?
- **Live in such a way, through God’s grace and mercy, as to attain heaven?** Note Paul’s singularity of spiritual purpose in Phil.3:8-21. Anything and everything else (family, finances, health, even *personal-achievement* goals) was **made** and **kept secondary** to this one goal. If we “miss the bus,” there’s always another one eventually. But if we “miss heaven,” we’ve missed all there is.
- **In all ways, live to glorify, praise, and please God?** Note the repeated emphasis of this goal in Eph.1:6,12,14; 5:10. In vv.5-6, our *predestined adoption as sons through Jesus Christ was to the praise of His glory*. In v.12, those who were the first to hope in Christ were to be to the praise of His glory. And in v.13-14, those who had listened to and obeyed the gospel were sealed by the Holy Spirit, who was given as a pledge of inheritance with a view to redemption, not as “the” goal itself, but “to the praise of His glory.”

### Conclusion:

Obviously, unlike common life goals of the world, there is a “standard” for these **spiritual goals’** measurement and assessment that is not *relative, subjective, or partial*, Acts 10:34-35. What is the **focused priority**, or **main goal** of your life? Is it eternally or temporally focused?