

# Pt. 2 Reaching For The Goal

Sermon Title: **Pt. 2 Reaching For The Goal**

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Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because, brother, you need the Word. We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us at [www.brothersoftheword.com](http://www.brothersoftheword.com). Stay tuned we're doing Part 2 of something we began sharing on last time entitled, "Reaching For The Goal".

And I would like to share a little humor that Ms. Yvette McDonnell emailed me this week. So if it's not funny, you all see her immediately after this sermon. A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race appear?" The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so was all mankind made". Two days later the girl asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved." The confused girl returned to her mother and said, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God and Dad said they developed from monkeys?" – Well, I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his. Thank you Ms. Yvette.

Well, open your Bible if you will. We're looking at the scripture in the book of Philippians. We're looking at a text there in Philippians chapter 3 and we will just read verses 10 through 14, Philippians 3:10-14. When you get there say, 'Amen'. Let's read together in unison beginning with verse 10 of Philippians chapter 3. That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark (goal) for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus..

So we're using as a subject, "Reaching For The Goal Part 2". I love the Apostle Paul because, the Apostle Paul was of all the writers in the Bible, I would have to say he was probably the preeminent one as far as setting goals as far as having a target, as far as having clear sight, clear aim, clear focus, clear direction. He was more keyed in on intentional living more than anyone else that I can think of, right of hand in the scriptures. He really liked to live on purpose. He even told in Ephesians, he said, "Listen, don't live witlessly and carelessly but live with a definite aim, with purpose in every step". He was always going towards something. He didn't like wasting life or wasting time. He liked to have a goal in mind. He liked to target. He liked something in front of him, something to go after, something to achieve, something to reach for, something to strive for.

In 1 Corinthians 9, he talks about athletics. He uses the field of athletics because once again they're going for a goal. He said, many runners running the race but only

one wins the price. He said, you run that you may obtain. In other words, reach for the goal, so I just really love him. I love him because he also tells us here in Philippians 3 that we'll get over our past hurts and we'll get over our past failures in life much better when we have set something in front of us that is better than what we lost or what we had in our past.

And so he's very definite about that. You know, you'll get over somebody who broke your heart and mistreated you and walked out on you when you get someone else who is good looking. When you get somebody in front of you, you begin – That pain begins to ease up from your past. When you get this tall, good looking, muscular guy, like myself in front of you – I couldn't resist that one. Now see, that begins to ease the pain, the heartache that you had in the past. So he teaches us a wonderful principle there that you can get over anything that you've suffered in your past, if you get something that's exciting, something that's good. You get something out in front of you that you're reaching for, that you're going toward. There is something there that, that we should always be reaching for something and striving for something, always improving, never stagnated in life because there is no such thing as stagnated, you either increasing or you're decreasing. You can't really stay the same, you are either going forward or you're going backwards.

And so, you have to make up your mind, so that's what he knows. The Apostle Paul said, 'I'm always reaching for a goal, target', something I'm going after, something I'm striving for. So we're talking about, "Reaching For the Goal part 2. I believe that you should set goals; I would say broad general areas. And when I say that our main – Number one, you should set goals for yourself.

There are to be some goals you set for nobody else but you. These are your goals. And I don't think it's selfish to do that because you have to look out for yourself. You have to improve yourself and so, there should be some goals for yourself. To give you an example, you should have some goals of some places that you want to visit before you die, before you leave this earth. You ought to have some goals for some places that you want to – you have to have goals to visit some of the Seven Wonders of the World. You ought to have a goal to go visit some places and do some things. You should have some goals. There ought to be some things that you've always wanted to do. There should be a goal. There should be some places you've always wanted to go and set it as a goal.

Pastor Nathaniel, he has places he wanted to go and he has some other places that he still wants to go. But I can remember, he always talked about, he always wanted to go to Alaska and see the icebergs and so forth in Alaska. Well, he and his son went not too long ago. Just a couple of years ago, he and his son – he made that goal a reality and lately he's talked about he always wanted to go to Australia. He wanted to go down under and so I'm sure, he's going to go down and under. You ought to have some exciting places. Folks, God made the whole earth and you have

those wonders. I was reading the scripture the other day and it says the earth is full of the riches of God. The earth is full of his riches. When you get out and see some of the wonders that God made, you're able to see him in creation and when you're standing over the Grand Canyon or the Swiss Alps or if you're in Niagara Falls and you're in some of these places – Pastor Nathaniel has been to Matsu Picchu. He's been to places. We just got back from the jungles of Africa swinging with the monkeys and having a wonderful time, deep into the recess.

But in other words, we are saying you ought to have some personal goals, some places you want to visit. I'm telling you, God created the earth, the earth is full of his riches and is more than just the yellow street that you live on, yellow drive to work – there is more to see than that. So you have to have some goals so get out and see the world. See the world that God made, it will astonish you. It will broaden your horizon. It will change your perspective but set it as a goal. Some folks haven't been anywhere but the grandma's house. There are more places to go than grandma's house. I'm serious, some people haven't been anywhere but you want to set on a goal that I am going somewhere. Go to England, go to France, go to Germany, get out there. Turn to your neighbor and say, 'Get out there and live'. But you ought to make that a goal so you should have some... I don't think it's selfish at all to have some personal goals, having your own personal goals and things you always wanted to do, places you always wanted to go.

Set yourself some personal goals. I think you should also have some goals to help others. I think you should have some goals to help others. Pastor Nathaniel talks about it all the time how one of his commandments is he has to help someone everyday. So that's a goal of his, to help somebody everyday. And it doesn't necessarily have to be financial but it can be a compliment, it could be an encouragement, it could just be a kind gesture. I had a friend who called me the other day and he was asking me where he could find this particular book and he was trying to find out where he could find it and I decided to surprise him. So after I hang out with him I went and got the book for him and took it to him and told him – No charge.

I just wanted to do something nice and it blew him away. He almost got choked up. You know he almost got choked up just from the kind gesture. You know it's just a book but it was just the kind gesture. When you have a mentality that I want to help others, I want to set a goal to help others. And there are different ways you can do it, whether you're serving the homeless or if you're not that deep in the trenches but you know, like I said, just a courteous gesture, just helping somebody opening the door or letting somebody in traffic, just small things but you have a goal.

I want to be a blessing to them. I was in one of my favorite hang outs, if I'm not at home, or if I'm not at work, if I'm not at church, you can always find me here. I'm always at the Smoothie Place. I always go get fresh smoothies. And so, you know,

some people hang out at bars, I hang out at Smoothie's. You know some people go to the bar – I always go to a juice bar to unwind. And I sit at the bar – I was in there the other day, that's my favorite smoothie place and there was only one employee there, he was working and all of a sudden about 20 people came in. There is this one guy and everybody gave him his order and that guy just went to work. I mean he went to work like a machine. And so after they cleared out I was still in there because remember this is my hangout. I'm still turning up my little juices and shooters and so forth but I told the guy, I said, Son – you handle that crowd like a machine.

I said, the way you took those orders and serviced everybody. I said, an average person, an average worker could not have been able to handle that type of pressure in the efficiency that you handled it. We'll it was great and he began to just thank me and just poured my smoothie up and he filled me. Where it's just little things, just little things. When you have a goal to help others so unconsciously you're just being a blessing no matter where you are. But set a goal, and that should be one of your goals to help others. One of your goals should be to help others. Everybody say – To help others.

And then number three. I think you should have a goal for the kingdom of God. You should have a goal for the Kingdom of God. How many people will you win to the Lord this year? How many people will you invite to church this year? How many people, I remember hearing Evangelist EJ Hicks. He said, he treated kingdom business like a real business. He said, I have a weekly quota of souls that I've got to reach each week. And he said – If I get into bed at the end of the week and I haven't met my quota for witnessing to the Lord, he says, I'll get out of bed at 2 o'clock in the morning and hit the streets to finish meeting my quota for winning souls to the Lord. He made kingdom business a goal and he had a weekly quota of the number of people that he will witness to, that he will reach for the Lord. And you should have goals for the Kingdom of God.

What will you do this year to help spread the gospel all over the world? How will you get involved? What will you do? What difference will you make in God's Kingdom? And so, you should have goals for yourself, everybody say yourself, to help others and for the Kingdom of God. Now those are three broad... I gave you three broad strokes, goals or goal oriented areas there, just three broad areas but then I think, you can drill down and you can begin to key in some other areas, little bit more specifically. I think you should have spiritual goals for yourself and these are goals concerning your prayer life. How long am I going to pray each day or with what regularity will I employ in my prayer life? And so, you have a goal for your prayer life and you can have a goal for your Bible reading and learning of God's Word. You should set a goal for that, for your spiritual life. Have a goal for your spiritual life.

I'm endeavoring this year to read through the Bible in different translations. I've always read through the Bible in the King James Version but, now I'm reading a little bit in the Amplified Bible and reading a little bit in the NIV – in different translations, so just expanding my knowledge base, looking at it from different perspectives. So you should set a goal for your spiritual lives.

Set a goal for your spiritual life in terms of your walk with the Lord. You should determine in your heart to be closer to the Lord this year than you were last year. So you should set some goals personally for your spiritual life. Then you should set some goals for your relationships. You know, set some goals that – Hey, I want to appreciate people in my life more and you begin to set specific goals on how am I going to spend time and to communicate and the things I'm going to do and the places we're going to go together and activities we're going to do together. So you should set some goals. I gave my wife a couple of places – I said, Honey, I want to take you to this place. A beautiful place in Florida that I found, I said I want to make it a goal to take you to this, this year. And I found another place, I said, I want to take you to this, and it was a beautiful nice events and places but I just, begin to set some goals – even in my relationship, places where I want to take my wife and spend time and enjoy.

So set some goals in the area of your relationships. And then you should set some goals, some financial goals. Set some goals in your financial life. How much do I want to save? How much do I want to earn? How much generosity do I want to have? And if you need help with that, we do have classes right here – Call or Render my money that you can find out about on [www.brothersoftheword.com](http://www.brothersoftheword.com). So find out about those classes and take advantage of setting your financial goals.

In the end, we have fitness. You should set some fitness goals. You should make a goal to have your body fit. People are looking for a fix but you should have your body fit. So have some fitness goals. I'm working out longer than I ever have in my life right now. Now, when I go to the gym, I walk out it has been two hours of going by and I come out looking like Superman. Have some fitness goals. I'm just going at it harder, making myself stronger, making myself more powerful, making myself quicker, making myself more limber. Have some fitness goals.

Pastor Nathaniel, he has a goal to pass the Navy Seals fitness test. So have some fitness. You should have some goals in the area of your fitness. You can change your body, if you don't like your body, you can change your body. I was looking at a picture of a man in the gym the other day and he looked like a completely different person. I couldn't believe the makeover but he changed his body over a few months period and looked like a completely different person. He had a picture. I looked, he had a huge beer belly hanging out and in his new picture, he was just ripped, six-pack. I couldn't believe it was the man but it was the same man and I can tell. I said, "This man set some fitness goals to change his body". So you don't have to be

out of shape, you don't have to be tired and out of energy. Set some fitness goals and I don't mean turning the channels on your remote control. That doesn't count, reaching and grabbing your remote, that's not an exercise.

Now, it you touch your toes as you reach for the remote that may count. We might give you credit for that, we might give you credit but set some fitness goals and once again, we have classes right here, three times a week now. So if you are in need of a personal trainer. We have that available and some light minded people to join. We have those classes available. Once again you can go the [www.brothersoftheword.com](http://www.brothersoftheword.com) and find out about the fitness classes that we have available.

And then, last but not the least, you should set some dietary goals for yourself. You can go to [www.do42.com](http://www.do42.com) a comprehensive program there that will give you a serious goal for your diet. And so, well these are just some areas I just wanted to begin to examine and explore some of the main areas that we should reach for the goal in life.

Now as we continue in Part 3, we will get a little bit more specific in to the goal setting process and share some things. I got some interesting stories to share with you, some things that really just blew me away and when I heard them and solved them, so I'm going to share that in Part 3 but I just pray that you're beginning to stretch a little bit and not be stagnated but reach forward to the wonderful things that God has in front of you and begin to reach for the goal. I want you to go to [www.brothersoftheword.com](http://www.brothersoftheword.com). You can listen to this message in its entirety absolutely free of charge. You can also email it to a friend absolutely free of charge. Thank you so much for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word.