

January 8, 2014

EXTREME FAITH

Dreams & Goals

"Dreams become Goals and goals have plans that make them become reality..."



GO FOR IT

What are you going for...

Living large, or living small you decide but either way you will have dreams. We all have them the things that we want to see happen in our lives. If these dreams are going to come true we need to set goals and develop plans to make them happen. If we don't then they will just remain dreams and never become reality. What is the difference between a goal and a dream? A goal has an action plan behind it. A Dream is only a fantasy waiting for action.

It is a new year! 2014 has started and you have to determine what this new year will look like. You can make choices that will help you achieve your goals and you can make choices that will cause your goals to just remain dreams.

We are the children of the most high King, and we are called to run after the kingdom. We are encouraged to go after goals and we are encouraged to run after dreams with purpose. The Bible puts it this way. Proverbs 21:5 says this "The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty." So we are to be a diligent people who follow after their plans making their dreams become reality. Psalm 34:7 says this "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." Learning how to delight in God is a challenge that is worth going after.

When we are with God and love what He loves then we will see that our goals and our dreams line up with the things that he has for us. When we are following God first all the things that we want also follow God. Following God must be our first love and we need everything else that we love to follow God as well. We need to strive to make this happen. As we move into a new year ask yourself what are your goals and what are you setting your mind to achieve. Right now you are in middle school, who will you be in high school, who will you be in college, who will you be when you are out of college? This is key many people think in these terms, but I am calling you to something else, I am calling you to think of who are you going to be through your whole life. Big dreams have big goals. What if your life was lived for the big dreams and not the small dreams what if your life was lived for others.

So here is the challenge that we will be looking at over the next three weeks.

Live your life with this goal in mind.

God first

Others second

You third

It's a challenge worth going after.



Goals and dreams...

Goals and dreams have to be rooted to something they have to have something that gives them purpose. When I think about how to root a dream or a goal, I am reminded that God is my anchor. God is the foundation for my life so I need to make sure that the dreams and goals that I set for myself need to be rooted in Him. I need to remember that God calls me to be more part of Him than anything else. You and I have been chosen by God to not be part of this world, we are to follow God in all that we do. God first: Everything comes from God we check in with Him about everything. Others second: We need to think of other people before we think of ourselves. I am third: we receive all that we need from God and we follow Him.

Real Life Heroes

Kilon G.
Bangladesh

1996

"A story of Sacrifice"

"We Will Cut Off Your Feet!"

The angry crowd yelled after the lone bicyclist, "If we see you again, we will

cut off your feet. Then see if you can ride your bike!" This was not the first time Milon G. had been threatened by angry crowds of Muslims. But such threats have not quenched his zeal to take the truth of God's Word to his countrymen.

"I ride to the villages on my bicycle and carry Christian literature. In the rains, I hold an umbrella in one hand and steer with the other. I often fall down and get muddy and scratched. At night, I hold a flashlight. I sing from the Psalms when I ride. The Christians I meet do not have an extra blanket for me, so I try to make it back home to sleep."...

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CHARACTER

EXTREME APPLICATION

How often do you think of others first? I mean really think of others first. It is hard, it is really hard, but when we can think of others first we will start making a difference. Being third and thinking of others first is extreme character. We have to have extreme character traits to be extreme people. Nothing is more extreme than thinking of others first. Take the challenge and live with God first, others second, and you hang out in third place.

That's extreme character!

Think About it (Being Third)

Taking care of yourself, well we are just wired that way. I mean if your hungry and there is food on the table everything in yourself says eat and eat till your full. If there is only one cookie left and you want a cookie, the last thing that you are probably thinking about is who else might want this cookie. That is tension, take care of yourself and well everyone else will do the same and in the end everyone will be just fine. That is the way the world teaches us to think and to process life around us.

When we think about how God is calling us to live well it is completely opposite than the rest of the world. We are called to place God in the No. One Spot! That means we are always checking in with God and seeing what He would have us do. Which means we answer to God! Crazy the world would have us believe that we are in charge of ourselves and that we answer to no one.

God is also calling us to love others before ourselves. We are to put others before us. That means who eats the last cookie well it matters. Who thinks of others first? Sadly not many people do. But we are called to go against the world and do exactly the opposite of what the world says. This means that we think of others first and then we think of ourselves trusting in God the whole time.

When you are third, it may seem like well you just don't matter, and that everyone else is well more important than you. That is not the case at all, it means that you trust God to meet all of your needs while you help meet the needs of others. That's big!

Trusting in God when the world and culture around us is telling us there is no God is tension! We have to Trust God and believe that He will do everything that He says that He will do when we follow Him.

When you attempt to live life the way God calls us to live you can bet there will be tension and struggle. But that is what makes this challenge so cool, we are different and we are called to lead the world to God and show them that His love for them is real.

Tension is a force worth living in. It means you are



DIG IN

1. Name one person who you think is successful because they follow God?

2. Rate the people described below from most successful (1) to least successful (7).

- ____ Someone who gets all A's
- ____ Someone who is popular in school
- ____ Someone who always tells the truth her parents
- ____ Someone who volunteers to help in the church nursery
- ____ Someone who is outstanding in sports
- ____ Someone who has lots of friends
- ____ Someone who goes to church every week

3. Think of two Goals for the new year write them down.

4. If you had to give up three things from those listed below to achieve your goals which would they be?

computer best friend(s) TV parents health freedom faith allowance

5. What is the toughest thing that you ever achieved?

6. Living with Big Dreams means you need Big Goals.

We want to live with the Big Goal of following God first! Others Second! Ourselves Third!
Read the following passages and see what the Bible has to say about this.

Read each of the Bible verses and finish the sentences accordingly.

Matthew 22:37-38

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.

We are to put _____ first in all things of our life.

Matthew 22:39

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

You are to put _____ second in your life.

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves

We are to think of others _____ we think of ourselves.

Real Life Heroes

Continued from page 2

Milon was a teenager when a friend gave him some gospel booklets. "I hid them in a steel trunk in my bedroom. At night I would get my key, open the trunk, and read with a kerosene lamp. Having studied in a Muslim fundamental school for twelve years, I had known about Jesus as mentioned in the Koran, but I didn't know Him as Savior, I accepted Jesus in 1992 and was baptized secretly 400 kilometers from my home." Ever since then, Milon has been persecuted by Muslims. "I sold clothing in the local market and began placing some Christian books in my shop for other Christians. When Muslim men learned of this, they would walk into my shop and just take shirts, pants, and socks from the shelf without paying. If I asked for money they threatened to beat me. Anytime someone is interested in the booklets, I give them one." Milon says, "We are going through many problems, but still we have Jesus Christ. We have peace through Him, and we have the hope that when we die we will go to heaven."

We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success come from God. He is the one who has enabled us to represent his new covenant.

Paul the Apostle
Martyred in Rome, 65 AD
(2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-6 NLT)

Featured Story from
the book
Jesus Freaks dc Talk
and the voice of the
Martyrs



WHILE THE GUYS WERE HANGING
ON THE MOUNTAIN THE GIRLS WERE HAVING COOKIE
BAKE. THOSE COOKIES LOOK YUMMY!

BREAK TIME FUN! GUYS SKI DAY!



OVER THE BREAK WE HAD A
GUYS SKI DAY AND

IT WAS AWESOME FUN! WE MISSED EVERY ONE
WHO DID NOT MAKE IT OUT. COMING SOON WE WILL
HAVE SUNDAY SKI DAYS! SO STAY TUNED AND INFORMED!

GIRLS COOKIE BAKE



Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

This image shows a single page from a notebook or ledger. The page is white with horizontal blue ruling lines spaced evenly apart. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The top-left corner of the page is rounded. The page appears to be part of a bound volume, as some binding material is visible at the very edges.

Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

EXTREME FAITH MAGAZINE

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