

## DEFINITE GOALS

## PRECEPT

## MATTHEW 16:24-25

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

## PROMISE

Did you know that the average human attention span is only 8 seconds? This means the average person's mind wanders 47% of the time. This shows that having goals is important. If you don't have any goals, then you are not living with a purpose; you are just existing. Goals will keep you going when you feel like giving up. In the process of achieving your goals, your character develops. God molds you to be the person He wants you to be. Your goals are manifestations of your faith: big goals = big faith, small goals = small faith, and no goals mean no faith. If you follow Jesus and your identity is clear, you must have a goal. Yes, goals are important, but what kinds of goals should we set? "What breaks your heart?" Answering this correctly and truthfully will change your life. And if nothing breaks your heart, then that says something about you. That can be an indicator that you have some work to do. As a follower of Jesus, we must not only claim His promises but also be the fulfillment of His promises. We must not be takers this year, but we must be givers, doers, and channels of His blessings. Don't let your goals be all about you; if your goals are only to fill you up, you will end up empty. Once your goals consume you, you will lose them. And this is why Jesus came to save us, to help us become better than before. To be better means following, obeying, and living for Jesus. He said in Matthew 16:26, "...But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it." Be mindful when setting your goals; don't make it all about yourself. If you want to fill your life, you must first empty it for Jesus. It is not about doing something for Jesus but about being more like Jesus, being Christlike. Embracing His will and ways for our life shows His character. In Proverbs 11:27 it says, "If your goals are good, you will find favor and be respected." Serve Jesus through your family, serve Him with the gifts He gave you, and serve the people around you. God's favor be upon you when your goals are focused on Jesus and others.

## PRACTICE

**1. Goals.** What breaks your heart? What do you want to do or be this year?

**2. Action Goals.** What is stopping you from taking the steps you need to take? How can we encourage and pray for you regarding this?

## PRAYER

**I. Life Worship**

- May they continue to wholeheartedly serve God and His people.

**II. Life Link**

- Pray that our ushers will serve our brethren filled with the Holy Spirit.

**III. Life Kids**

- Pray for more dedicated volunteers and for our children to encounter God.

**IV. Life Sports**

- Thank God for a healthy body, abilities, and the gift of sports.

**V. Life Groups**

- Pray for the formation of more life groups in our church for God's glory.

**VI. Ministries**

- Pray that God will empower all of our ministries with His strength and guidance.

**VII. Growth**

- Pray for growth in all aspects of our lives.