

The Disciple & His Wife

Goals or Desires?	<u>Goals</u>	<u>Desires</u>
To win the League Championship this year.	_____	_____
To become the top salesman in the company.	_____	_____
To lose 15 pounds over the next 60 days.	_____	_____
To make \$30,000 over the next two months.	_____	_____
To shoot 70 over 18 holes of golf (You only have two choices and fantasy is not one of them)	_____	_____
To communicate better with my daughter/son. To finish that book by the end of the week. To see a counselor for my stress.	_____	_____
To work out three times a week.	_____	_____
To not get angry with my wife.	_____	_____

Goals vs. Desires

(If these get flipped, expectations will be unrealistic & prone to failure)

Desires have to do with the 'want' a passion.

- That which is dependent on someone or something else.
- They are out of your control.
- They have to do with success or results.
- You pray for them but they are unschedulable and unpredictable. (Since desires are out of our control, an outside source is needed)

Goals have to do with the 'will'...a discipline.

- That which you alone can accomplish.
- They are dependent on no one or nothing else and are completely within your control.
- They have to do with activities or excellence.
- You work towards them.
- They are schedulable and predictable.

Both require work. The divine partnership of "work as if everything depends on me and pray as if everything depends on God." This frees us of a striving spirit but gives great anticipation, then delight when things start to come to pass.

So in the final analysis, while desires are what we want, goals are what we are willing to do about it. Goals are activities we create to support the possibility of reaching our desires. Passion stirs discipline.

A Discipline: anything that I can now do by direct effort that will enable me to do what I cannot now do by direct effort. Example: Marathon. (practice) putting ourselves in a position to succeed. It does not guarantee success, but it does open the door for it.

Serenity prayer paraphrased:

God help me put my efforts into the things that are in my control. (goals)

Help me turn over to you the things that are not. (desires)

Help me to see and understand the difference.

And trust you with all else, now and forever.

Warning to Pay Attention, so that we do not...

Hebrews 2-6

A wise man learns from the mistakes of another. There is a lesson from this passage showing the stages the children & Israel went through in their rebellious journey –

_____ **the sin of laziness/not caring enough to cultivate relationship. (Hebrews 4:1-4)**

I walked by the field of a lazy person, the vineyard of one lacking in sense. I was that it was overgrown with thorns. It was covered with weeds, and its walls were broken down. Then, as I looked and thought about it, I learned this lesson: A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber. (Proverbs 24:30-34) NLT

_____ leads to _____. **The result of neglect. In doing nothing, something happens.**

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast and every transgression and disobedience received just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him... (Hebrews 2:1-3)

_____ leads to _____ – **drifting to a place of independence – union without unity.**

Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. (Hebrews. 3:12) NLT

_____ leads to _____ - **picture of the Israelites in Numbers 14/ turning away from God. More at home is the world than with God and His plan.**

So God's rest is there for people to enter. But those who formerly heard the Good News failed to enter because they disobeyed God... Let us do our best to enter that place of rest. For anyone who disobeys God, as the people of Israel did will fall. (Hebrews 4:6,11) NLT

_____ leads to _____ – **Serious consequence to the above steps. Truth may be given, but not embraced. Must have broken, softened heart to hear God (and spouse).**

So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion during the time of testing in the desert, (Hebrews 3:7-8; 3:15; 4:7) NIV

_____ leads to _____ – **giving up. Forfeiting God's potential for your life (for the marriage).**

... It is impossible to bring such people to repentance again because they are nailing the Son of God to the cross again by rejecting him, holding him up to public shame. When the ground soaks up the rain that falls on it and bears a good crop for the farmer, it has the blessing of God. (Hebrews 6:6-7) NLT

Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and patience. (Hebrews 6:12) NLT

Luke 6:27-49

(excerpted from *The Message*, by NavPress)

27-30 “To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your *wife*. Let *her* bring out the best in you, not the worst. When *she* gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer for that person. If *she* slaps you in the face, stand there and take it *like a man*. If *she* grabs your shirt, gift-wrap your best coat and make a present of it. If *she* takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.

31-34 “Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself *how* you want *your wife* to treat you then grab the initiative and do it for *her*! If you only love *her* when *she* is lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that. If you only help *her* when *she* helps you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that's charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that.

35-36 “I tell you, love your *wife*. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind.

37-38 “Don't pick on *her*, jump on *her* failures, criticize her faults— unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don't condemn *her* when *she* is down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on *her*, you'll find life a lot easier. Give away your life: you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”

39-40 He quoted a proverb: “‘Can a blind husband guide a blind wife?’ Wouldn't they both end up in the ditch? An apprentice doesn't lecture the master. The point is to be careful who you follow as your teacher.

41-42 “It's easy to see a smudge on your *wife's* face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, ‘Let me wash your face for you, *honey*,’ when your own face is distorted by contempt? It's this I-know-better-than-you mentality again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your own part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your *wife*.

Work the Words into Your Life

43-45 “You don't get wormy apples off a healthy tree, nor good apples off a diseased tree. The health of the apple tells the health of the tree. You must begin with your own life-giving lives. It's who you are, not what you say and do, that counts. Your true being brims over into true words and deeds.

46-47 “Why are you so polite with me, always saying ‘Yes, sir,’ and ‘That's right, sir’ but never doing a thing I tell you? These words I speak to you are not mere additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundation words, words to build a life on.

48-49 “If you work the words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who dug deep and laid the foundation of his house on bedrock. When the river burst its banks and crashed against the house, nothing could shake it; it was built to last. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a dumb carpenter who built a house but skipped the foundation. When the swollen river came crashing in, it collapsed like a house of cards. It was a total loss.”

[Italics are mine]

“These are hard lessons to flesh and blood. But if we are thoroughly grounded in the taint of Christ's love, this will make his commands easy to us. Everyone that come to him for washing in his Word, and knows the greatness of the mercy and the love there is in Him, can say, in truth and sincerity, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Let us then aim to be merciful, even according to the mercy of our heavenly Father to us. (Matthew Henry Concise Commentary)