

SOME GOALS FOR THE CHRISTIAN

Philippians 3:14-15

Introduction: No doubt Jesus lived here as a perfect man. Nobody could find a single thing that they might accuse him of. He was a perfection of all good the good that has ever been found in man. Jesus possessed more love than John, more patience than Job, more faith than Abraham, more wisdom than Solomon, more holiness than Paul, more faith than Elijah and more power than Peter.

The highest goal for Christians is to live as much like Jesus as he/she possibly can. Although a Christian is going to get to heaven without possessing all of Jesus' qualities and living as good as He did, it is still best for the Christian to try to have some goals to strive and some of these goals can be found in the lives of these men.

I. LET US STRIVE TO HAVE LOVE LIKE THAT OF JOHN (*John 19:26-27*)

1. John often referred to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved.
 - Jesus had a special love for John because he was easy to love and Jesus entrusted His mother to John and asked John to take her as his mother.
2. Love was the theme of his letter known as First John.
 - *"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light...my little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth...beloved, let us love one another, for God is of love, and every one that loveth is born of God...God is of love.. if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another...we love Him because He first loved us..."*
 - John lived to be almost 100 years old in the city of Ephesus and tradition tells us that when he was too feeble to stand and talk, they would carry him to the church and he would sit in a chair and say, *"Little children, love one another.."* Remember, it was John also wrote *"John 3:16."*

II. LET US PRAY THAT WE MIGHT HAVE THE PATIENCE OF JOB

1. Job has been an example of patience for centuries as men and women have faced trials and tried to copy his patience and silence.
2. *Job 1:21-22*
3. Job was patient when his property was destroyed, patient when his children were killed, patient when under severe bodily afflictions and patient when his wife and friends criticized him.

III. HAVING FAITH LIKE THAT OF ABRAHAM IS SOMETHING TO WORK TOWARD *Galatians 3:9*

1. Abraham was faithful to tithe, giving a tenth of all. (*Hebrews 7:2*)

2. Everyone could be as faithful as Abraham in tithing, for the person who makes only a hundred dollars a week and gives ten dollars is as faithful as a person who makes a thousand and gives a hundred dollars.
3. Abraham was faithful when called upon to leave his own country and kinfolk, he was faithful when God told him to sacrifice his son. He was just as faithful in the things that he did not want to do as in the things he wanted to do.

IV. LIVING AS HOLY AS PAUL DID AND TAUGHT IS A WORTHY GOAL

1. Paul didn't follow after the things of the flesh, but of the spirit. He declared himself free from the law of sin and death. *1 Corinthians 9:27*
2. He wrestled with temptation and struggled to keep his body under control. Christians cannot live as Jesus wants and allow their wants to dictate their manner of life. The flesh has to be controlled as well as the will and self desires and the Holy Spirit obeyed.

V. OH, TO BE AS WISE AS SOLOMON IS A DESIRABLE GOAL

1. Solomon prayed for wisdom and God answered his unselfish prayer. Solomon's wisdom was a gift from God. *"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom.." 1 Cor. 12:8*
2. The gift of wisdom is received on condition of one's qualification.

VI. WORK TO DEVELOP THE FAITH OF ELIJAH

1. *1 Kings 18:44*
2. Elijah had prayed six times without any sign of rain, then after the seventh time, a small sign was given. That was all it took for Elijah then took the rest by faith and sent word for everybody to get ready for some rain for it was coming.
- It takes great signs to satisfy little faith, but only a little evidence is enough for great faith.

VII. WAIT FOR POWER LIKE THAT OF PETER

1. *Acts 5:12-15*
2. Peter became so powerful that people brought their sick and laid them beside the street that the shadow of Peter might pass over them.
3. Others also had power, but it seems that Peter demonstrated greater power than any of the others.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every Christian would do well to strive to be like these seven men of God.
2. None will ever possess all of these great characteristics but after one has striven and done his/her best and sincerely striven to have one or more of these best gifts, still one will be lacking in being exactly as Jesus.
3. Let us as Christians, do our very best to have love like John had, the patience Job had, the faithfulness of Abraham, to live a holy life as did Paul, to have God-given wisdom as did Solomon, faith as that of Elijah and power as did Peter and above all to be Christ-like in all we say and do.