

Pastor's Ponderings

January 2007

“C.A.M.P.”

(A Formula for Setting Goals)

by

Davey L. Lefler

6Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing. 7They said to the community of Israel, "The land we explored is a wonderful land! 8And if the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey, and he will give it to us! 9Do not rebel against the LORD, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the LORD is with us! Don't be afraid of them!"

Numbers 14:6-9 (NLT)

This is the time of year when people set goals for their lives, companies set goals for their businesses, governments set goals for fiscal programs, and churches set goals for ministry. Regardless of what type of entity is setting a goal, all successful goal setting has some characteristics in common. The formula I am suggesting here is one I have developed over years of setting goals in the military, in business, and in serving God at various churches.

A worthwhile goal is a goal that is **C**hallenging, **A**chievable, **M**easurable, and **P**urposeful. In the text above, from Numbers 14, we can discover all of these characteristics of a goal.

God gave the Israelite people, who had been in captivity for 400 years in Egypt, a vision of freedom and a promise of a new home in a place God had reserved for them (Canaan). When they left Egypt under the leadership of Moses they were headed back home to the “promised land.” Once they got there, all they had to do was go into and take the land.

The goal was certainly a **challenging** goal. They should have been inspired and full of hope, knowing all that God had done for them. They had witnessed many miracles of God’s mighty power and provision up to this point in their journey. They had been **challenged** and had arrived at the threshold of accomplishing the goal. Arriving at the goal had been a **challenge** but the goal was within their grasp.

They could **measure** the goal. They saw the abundance of the vines and crops and territory of the land. They had “explored” the land and knew it was “wonderful, rich, and flowing with milk and honey,” just as God had promised. They knew the **measurements** of the goal were true and worthwhile. This was a land worth possessing. This was a **measurable** goal worthy of achievement.

They knew the **purpose** was to live a life in God’s grace, as God provided for all their needs. They knew God’s **purpose** was to be “pleased with them and to bring them safely into and give them the land.” The **purpose** of the goal was stated and known.

But the people didn’t think it was an **achievable** goal. They did not think they could possess the land because of the reports from ten men who were afraid of the enemy and didn’t trust God. Two men, Joshua and Caleb said, “Let’s go, the Lord is with us.” Two men knew the goal was **achievable**.

Ten men thought the goal was not achievable and the nation Israel listened to the ten instead of the two. Consequently, they did not achieve the goal. They wandered in the wilderness for the next forty years because of their lack of faith in God’s ability to achieve a goal God had promised to help them achieve.

Remember, Jesus reminds us, **“Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God” (Mark 10:27 NLT)**. This year, as you set goals, make sure they are **C**hallenging, **A**chievable, **M**easurable, and **P**urposeful. Then you can C.A.M.P. in the knowledge that as you journey through this year, God will help you.