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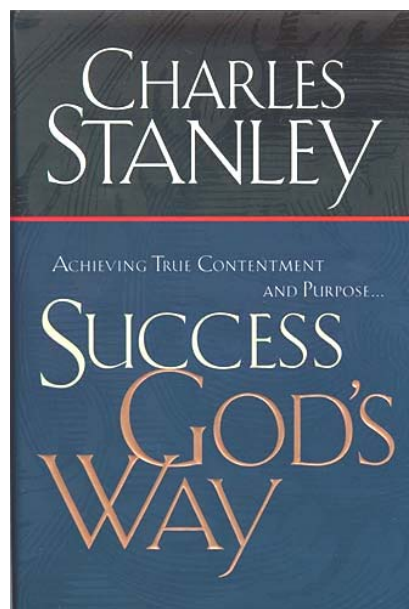
**KICKING WITHOUT CONTACT LENS!**  
*[PURSUING GODLY GOALS]*

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# WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

OCTOBER 15, 2006

FROM THE *MASTER WORKS* SERIES STUDY OF:



## KICKING WITHOUT CONTACT LENS!

[PURSUING GODLY GOALS]

A duck jumped up on the bar and asked the bartender, “Do you have any grapes?” The bartender looked at the duck and said, “No.” The duck came back the next day and jumped up on the same bar and said to the same bartender, “Do you have any grapes?” And the bartender looked at the duck and said, “No. I told you that yesterday” He came back the third day and jumped up on the same bar and asked the same bartender the same question, “Do you have any grapes?” And the bartender said, “No. I told you that yesterday and the day before. If you come back again I’m going to nail your feet to the bar!” But he came back the next day and jumped up on the same bar and he looked at the bartender and said, “Do you have any nails?” The bartender said, “No.” Then he said, “Do you have any grapes?”

That’s got nothing to do with our lesson today from Dr. Stanley’s book, SUCCESS GOD’S WAY, but I heard it from Max Lucado in a his sermon series on something we’re looking at in Week Three of our study—David and Goliath. So how do you define success after spending three weeks in our study? Is it still about money or a better job or maybe even a new house? If someone asked you that question outside of this building, how would you define success? YOU? I love the foundational statement from Week One: “There are two ways to do things. My way and God’s way. My way is not working so well, so I think I’ll try it God’s way!” Are you there yet? It’s all a matter of focus and knowing where the right goal is.

Last week we learned how to turn our dreams into goals by writing down specific objectives in a specific time frame. We used this little chart and I pray that you truly sought God’s face this week and humbled yourself before Him while seeking the goals He laid on your heart. Remember it’s about discipline and focus on the right goal.

*Former Michigan State football coach Duffy Daugherty tells a great story about a winning field goal kicked by a young man name Dave Kaiser against UCLA many years ago. The game was in Los Angeles and the field goal gave Michigan a 17-14 victory.*

*As Dave Kaiser came back to the bench to meet the roaring enthusiasm of his teammates, Coach Daugherty said: "Nice going, Dave, but I noticed you didn't watch the ball after you kicked it. How come?" Kaiser replied, "You're right coach, I didn't watch the ball. I was watching the referee to see how he would call it. You see, I forgot my contact lenses. They are back at the hotel. I couldn't even see the goal posts!"*

*Daugherty was shocked and at first very angry that Kaiser had not told him about his contact lenses. But after he thought it over he changed his mind entirely. Why shouldn't Kaiser kick without his contact lenses? Kaiser was a disciplined kicker and had practiced for long hours. He knew well the angle and the distance to the goal even though he could not see it. The whole process of kicking the ball was programmed into his body and mind by the ongoing discipline of daily practice. In that moment, when the ball went through the goal posts, discipline paid off. His focus was just where it should have been. So what about your focus? What about your goals for success today? Let's not forget the memory verse we ended up on last week from **Philippians 4:13**, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."**

The question then is, WHAT things? Jesus said, *"One's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses. . . . Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing"* (**Luke 12:15, 23**). So we'd better think carefully about the purpose of life and how to be a success. What on earth are we here for? How can we make the most of life? We answered many of those questions several months ago in our church-wide FORTY DAYS OF PURPOSE, so we should know the answers. We should know that we are to do things God's Way.

In our weekly newsletter this week, I told the story Dr. Stanley related in Chapter 6 of his book on this concept. Dr. Stanley said that in the early 1970s, a young man came to him in the church he was pasturing and said, *"I'm going to be a success in life, and here's what I'm going to do."* One principle on which he intended to base his success was that of **OPM**—Other People's Money! He even showed Dr. Stanley the principle written out in a book he was reading. Dr. Stanley said this to him, *"You're reading the wrong thing. In the first place, you're defining success totally in terms of financial gain. And in the second place, you are seeking to use people rather than to earn an honest dollar for honest work. God won't honor either the intent of your heart or the methods you are seeking to employ."*

As Dr. Stanley tells us, in our pursuit of success, each one of us must be committed to setting God's goals and then following through to fulfill God's goals in God's way. God deals in terms of *WHAT* and *WHO* and *HOW*. The principles for *HOW* to reach your God-given goals can be found in the story of David and Goliath (**1 Samuel 17**) and we're going to look at that story in depth this morning. But remember unless you write down specific objective goals to be accomplished within a set time frame, you're going to hit exactly what you're aiming at—NOTHING! And that's NOT God's way for your life.

The story of David and Goliath is one of the most popular in all the Bible. It is undoubtedly one of the greatest incidents in the life of this Godly man, David. It was a contrast of incredible proportions. Anybody with any sense would have said that the winner of this battle would be the champ not the challenger. That seems to be the way the majority always thinks. No way. Get real. But that had to be the thinking that day in the valley of Elah. Frightened Israel vs the brutal Philistines. Ha! What a joke.

Before we look at the fearsome duel between young David and the giant of the Philistines, I want to remind you of something that occurred **PRIOR** to the battle when the Lord spoke to Samuel. Turn to **1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)**. (JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH, **1 SAMUEL**, 2

SAMUEL) <sup>7</sup> *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

Literally, God said, *"for man looks at the face, but the Lord looks at the heart."* We, being very human, are subject to that very problem. We are impressed with, or not impressed with, individuals because we judge based on the basis of surface appearance. We look at the externals and we form opinions that are usually erroneous. If God's statement ever applied, it applied in the story of the battle we're looking at today. Goliath had all the things that would normally impress and intimidate. But that day, David saw as God see, and he was neither impressed nor intimidate.

Although you read **1 Samuel 17** on Day One as part of your Bible study this week, let's refresh our memories about what was happening at the time of the confrontation between David and Goliath. Let's first picture the battle scene. According to **1 Sam. 17:1-2**, we find out that the fight happened in a valley called Elah enclosed by hill country on both sides. The armies of the Philistines were camped on one side of the valley of Elah and the armies of Israel were camped on the other side. This valley is fairly narrow. In fact, most commentators say it is narrow enough for a person to shout across and be heard.

For forty consecutive days, Goliath had come out and stood in front of his army and shouted to the Israelites (**v. 10**), *"I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."* Goliath and the Philistines had set the terms for the battle. They wanted Saul to send out one soldier against Goliath. If the Israelite soldier prevailed in the battle, then the Philistines would become the servants of Saul; but if Goliath prevailed, the Israelites would become the servants of the Philistines. A great deal was at stake. The Israelites took one look at Goliath and they were gripped by fear. Day after day, they failed to respond to Goliath's taunting and challenge.

Now, taking a look at the surface level of the situation, the Israelites had good cause to be afraid. Goliath was a champion of the Philistines. He was like an Olympic gold-medal winner. He had succeeded in defeating all of the other Philistines in hand-to-hand combat. He was the best of their best! And he was also among the biggest of their big. Verse 4 says he was over 9 feet tall, probably around 9'9". He would stand almost two feet taller than the 7'1" Shaq! Not only was he gigantic, but he appeared to have no vulnerabilities. Verses 5-7 describe all 9+ ft of him as being armored and weaponed to the hilt. His armor included a bronze coat of mail that weighed 125 lbs. He had a solid iron spear, a big bronze helmet, a club, bronze leggings, some boots and apparently an ugly snarling face. Man, would he have made a defensive end the Gamecocks or Tigers would die for.

But Goliath, the pride of the Philistines, was not only frightening in looks, his words were mercilessly threatening. In fact, Goliath may have, right here, invented intimidating trash talk! This is what he says in verses 8-10. *"Do you need a whole army to settle this? Choose someone to fight for you, and I will represent the Philistines. We will settle this dispute in single combat! If your man is able to kill me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel! Send me a man who will fight with me!"* And he not only issued this challenge once but verse 16 says that he called out to the Israelites in this manner **twice a day, for 40 days!**

And where was this mighty nation of God? Paralyzed in their tents. Verse 11, *"When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken."* The moral of the Israelite army was at an all time low. They were down and discouraged. Meanwhile, Jesse had sent his three sons to fight with Saul. When they didn't return in a timely manner, Jesse sent David, the youngest of his eight sons, to take food to the army and to see what was happening in the battle. David was a teenager and was probably too young to be fighting in the army. When he arrived on the scene, he gave the food to the supply keeper, ran to the soldiers, and found his brothers. As he was talking to them, Goliath came

out to issue his DAILY CHALLENGE. David heard him speak, and he quickly noted that all of the men of Israel were dreadfully afraid at the sight of this giant.

Picture the moment. David is standing there talking to his three brothers, when all of a sudden he hears this loud cry from across the ravine. And suddenly everyone around him is rushing to the rear and climbing in their tents. Look at verse **24**, *"When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear."*

Remember, David has never seen this giant from Gath or heard his challenge. Suddenly he's standing there alone as everyone around him runs for cover. At least that's the way I read it. He looks across the battlefield, and sees this giant of a guy, encased in armor, shouting out threats and defiance and cursing the God of Israel. And that made David *livid!* Look at **verse 26**, *<sup>26</sup>David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*

Dr. Stanley outlined TEN ASPECTS of goal-setting evident within this story and each one applies to your life and is vital to achieving your God-given goals.

The first aspect is **A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE GOAL**. Any goal that you establish must be clear enough to state it in a concise and meaningful manner. David had such a goal. In our story at the point of verse 26 that we just read, remember this is the 41<sup>st</sup> day the Israelites have encountered Goliath...but this is the first time it's happened to David. David immediately established what he believed with his whole heart was a goal that God desired to be accomplished. What was David's goal that can be implied from his question? (GOLIATH CAN AND MUST BE DEFEATED.) When you can, go back and read 1 Samuel 16 and look at David's long-range goal of being a good king after his anointing by Samuel and how this

immediate goal in dealing with Goliath was part of the BIG PLAN God had for David.

**Second**, you need to have a **CONSUMING DESIRE TO REACH YOUR GOAL**. Look at verse 28-32 and follow along as I read:

*<sup>28</sup>When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle." <sup>29</sup>"Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" <sup>30</sup>He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. <sup>31</sup>What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him. <sup>32</sup>David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."*

What about in your life? Where's your passion and motivation and enthusiasm to reach your God-given goals? What will it take for Christ's love to be a consuming desire and compelling force in your life?

**Thirdly**, you have to have **CONFIDENCE THAT YOU WILL REACH YOUR GOAL**. How important is confidence in attaining goals? Look at **verses 45-47** and see what David says. *<sup>45</sup>David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup>This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup>All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."* Now, is this *trash-talk* or is this *confidence*? Why?

There are many verses in God's Word that we can turn to to give us confidence in God and in ourselves when we are running a little low and our cups need refilling. Turn to **Psalm 18:29-32** and remember this one for those tough days. *<sup>29</sup>With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. <sup>30</sup>As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him. <sup>31</sup>For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? <sup>32</sup>It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.*

Next, **fourthly**, we are to **LAYOUT A COURSE OF ACTION**. What did David do to accomplish his goal? (NEEDED THE OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF SAUL AND THEN HE HAD TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER OF ARMOR) Look at verses 37 and then at 39. *<sup>37</sup>...Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you." ... <sup>39</sup>David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.* What are you doing today to turn your goals into reality? Do you have a plan, a strategy, a sequence of steps that must be taken?

**Fifth**, you must **HAVE A TIMETABLE**, i.e. you must put the steps of your course of action on a timetable. It's not enough to say, "One of these days I'm going to buy a car," or "Someday **WHEN I GET AROUND TO IT**, I'll start my diet and lose all this weight." Anyone who has these goals knows that "one of those days" is often "none of these days" and "someday when I get around to it" is often illusive. **(ROUND TUIT HANDOUT) (Wills)**

**Sixthly**, you need the **COOPERATION OF OTHERS**. On the surface the story of David may seem like a one-man show. That's hardly the case, however. David's ultimate intent was not merely to kill Goliath but to destroy the entire Philistine army that had come against the Israelites. Destruction of the whole army was his secondary goal, one he stated to Goliath in **verse 46** when he said, *<sup>46</sup>... Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.*

The men of Israel and Judah arose after the show and pursued the Philistines to slaughter them. David had already spread word through the Israelite camps to be ready to fight. He knew he couldn't do it alone. So, with your goals, why should you enlist others to help? (GOD DOES NOT DEAL WITH GIVING GOALS IN ISOLATION. HE DEALS WITH HIS PEOPLE. IN THE END, GOD DESIRES THAT MANY PEOPLE BE INVOLVED IN THE GOALS THAT HE GIVES TO US.)

Next, **SEVENTH**, once you have set your eyes on a goal, do not allow yourself to be pulled off course. If you believe God has helped you set a goal, do not allow anyone to deter you, stall you, or hinder you as you pursue it. You must have **CONSISTENCY IN THE PURSUIT OF GOALS**. (Gospel to world; Weight; Children)

**EIGHTHLY**, you have to **CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS**. As you pursue your goals, believe me you will have many opportunities to become frustrated and perhaps even angry. Don't give in to those emotions. Keep your emotions under control as you press toward your goal. David could have allowed the negative feelings and rejection from his brother or initially from King Saul to stir his anger and lost the focus of his goal.

**NINTHLY**, you must have the **COURAGE TO ACT**. This was a strong trait of David. He obviously possessed extraordinary courage. It was not courage that he suddenly acquired on the day he faced Goliath, however. David had developed courage over a number of years and through a variety of circumstances. Remember the story of the LION and the BEAR in his protection of his father's flocks? It had taken courage to stand up to his older brothers and also to face and meet King Saul. We this courage from daily discipline by spending time in His Word and praying and seeking His face. Remember our earlier memory verse from **Philippians 4:13**, *"I can do ALL THINGS through Christ who strengthens me."*

The final aspect is a **CONSCIOUS DEPENDENCE ON GOD**. Do you think David was afraid as he set out toward Goliath? Notice throughout 1 Samuel 17 that David repeatedly referred to the

Lord. Remember what he told King Saul in verse 37, *"The Lord is the one who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear."* He told Goliath in verse 45-47, *"...I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup>This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup>All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."*

David had a conscious, open dependence on God. God desires that YOU TOO depend on Him and Him alone. Not only are you to have an attitude of dependence on the Lord, but your conversation and your statements to others should reflect this dependence. You cannot accomplish anything of eternal benefit on your own strength. **Proverbs 3: 5-6** says, *<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

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