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## Setting Goals

—a devotional presented by Amanda Key,  
student wife at ETSPM

We all set goals, whether we realize it or not. It could be a goal to get up at a certain time to start the day early, or a goal to get some housework done before dinner. As Christians, we need to set spiritual goals for ourselves.

We need to set goals in the way we act towards others. People pay a lot of attention to what we do and say. If we have problems communicating with others, whether we are too shy or sometimes say something we should not, we should make a goal to help correct those things. If it is shyness, set a goal to get to know one new person each Sunday at church. If you have a problem saying things that could be hurtful to others, set a goal to stop and think before speaking. If we each set a goal to improve our communication with others, this will help us become better Christians overall. Peter said, "...always be ready to give a defense for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15).

We should set goals to further our knowledge in His Word. Does it make you nervous to talk to other people about the Bible? Do you feel like you just "don't know enough?" We can set goals to read a chapter from our Bible every night, or study a certain topic or issue we may face later on while talking to others. For our Biblical Problem Solving class at East Tennessee School of Preaching, our final project is to compile and organize different resources to help when handling difficult situations with others. Doing this will also help further our knowledge. This is one reason I am so excited about the class. I know it will help me grow as a Christian and better prepare me for what I will face later on.

Lastly, as women in the church, we may be expected to teach ladies classes, speak at ladies days and other church functions. How would you feel if someone approached you this Sunday and said that you are on the schedule to speak at the next ladies class? Would you be nervous? Overwhelmed? Unprepared? Let us start making goals for ourselves so we will be prepared for the day when we really are asked to speak. We could set a goal to study and build devotionals, classes, or even write articles that will help other women learn and grow. This way we will be more prepared when asked to speak or teach a class. Personally, I got a lot out of taking a homiletics class with my husband at the Mid Atlantic School of Biblical Studies in Pennsylvania. I actually built lessons and delivered them to other women in the church.

If we start setting spiritual goals for ourselves, it will help prepare us not only for the work we can do as Christians – but also prepare us to face the judgment day as well.

**Today's Verses:** "*Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus*" (Col. 1:28), and "*Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You*" (Psa. 52:13).

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