



# Holy Ambition

Phil 3:13-14 "I press on toward the goal to win the prize..."

## Introduction:

Where are you going? What do you want? What would you give your life for?

Tony Campolo quoting his pastor: *When you were born, you cried—and everyone was happy. When you die, everyone will cry. Will you be happy? That depends on what you have lived your life for.*

**ambition** – a. an ardent desire for rank, fame, or power b. desire to achieve a particular end  
Etymology (word origin): from Latin - *ambitio*, literally, act of soliciting for votes, from *ambire* ("to go around," from *amb-*, "about, around" + *ire*, "to go.")

Is ambition good or bad? Some think Christians are to be passive milk toasty.

God didn't make you to erase you.

It's more than **vision** (what you can see by faith). It's more than **passion** (something you feel deeply).

It is energetically pursuing a vision with a passion. Col. 1:29 "To this end I labor..."

What are you pursuing with a passion? Have you ever identified your ambitions? And what if it's the wrong thing? You may score a touchdown, but it may be at the wrong end of the field. Whoops.

What are some symptoms of **inadequate** ambitions?  
1. Boredom  
2. Worry  
3. Low spiritual motivation  
4. Envy, comparing  
5. Conflicts  
6. Depression

### I. Inadequate Ambitions (not bad in themselves, but not sufficient)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ grades
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_ portfolio, car, house, vacations
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_ sports, fitness, ultimate Frisbee, trips, hanging out
4. \_\_\_\_\_ get married, have a family
5. \_\_\_\_\_ having lots of friends, recognition, having the right clothes
6. \_\_\_\_\_ teaching, being an elder/pastor, being a missionary

None of these are bad in and of themselves. And every one of them has their part to play in your life for good. But they are not good ambitions in and of themselves. They are just not enough.

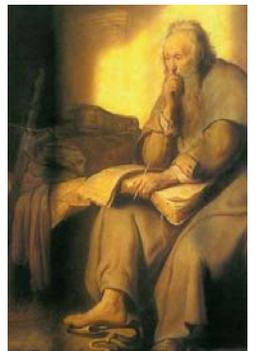
All these things involve aspects that are somewhat **beyond our control**.

Look at Job. He lost all these things in one single day. I believe we should develop a "holy indifference" toward these things in and of themselves, and look beyond them to better ambitions. A really big touchstone of a great and worthy ambition is that it "works" no matter your life circumstances (e.g. life threatening illness, loss of a loved one, loss of job, old age, persecution, failed marriage, etc.)

What are the characteristics of good ambitions?  
1. Attainable  
2. Worthy  
3. Makes you a better person, not worse  
4. Blesses those you care about  
5. Honors God  
6. Lasts into eternity  
7. It "works" no matter your life circumstances

### II. Godly Ambitions (worthy goals)

1. **To** \_\_\_\_\_ Phil.3:8,10
2. **To grow in** \_\_\_\_\_ humility, servanthood Phil.2:5-7
3. **To** \_\_\_\_\_ Faith, purity, prayer, faithfulness Eph.5:10 2 Cor.5:9
4. **To be a man/woman of the** \_\_\_\_\_ **of** \_\_\_\_\_ Ps 1:2-3
5. **To show love for the** \_\_\_\_\_ The least, little, last, lost. Matt. 25:40
6. **To have** \_\_\_\_\_ John 17:6 2 Tim. 2:2
7. **To live** \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Thess.4:11
8. **To be mighty in** \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 46:7
9. **To die** \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Tim.4:6-7



Don't these ambitions work in just about every situation of life? Praise the Lord!

Rich/poor, young/old, single/married/divorced/widowed, healthy/sick

Look at Paul's situation in which he wrote the words of our text

"I press toward the mark!" "For me to live is Christ." Now that's godly ambition, and it's unstoppable.