

Missed goals pave the way for future triumphs

On Jan. 4, 2010, I wrote a vision statement. The written resolution's biblical basis gives it more weight than a traditional resolution.

Without any life-changing moment of truth or other motivation preceding it, and often while still hung over, we speak resolutions. We vow that this is the year we start or stop doing (fill in the good or bad habit of choice here).

The vision statement, on the other hand, is a revelation. The motivation for doing it is that God said so, however he sent the message. Based on Habakkuk 2:2-3 in the Old Testament, it's the written recording of what God has disclosed to a person, that which he or she will receive or accomplish.

It's a statement of God-inspired goals and desires that inform a person's actions, decisions and general

outlook on life.

In a bulleted list, I wrote down how I saw my life going professionally, physically, personally, financially and spiritually in 2010.

While it was possible to accomplish all of my goals — or, if I want to be spiritually PC about it, I should say, while it was possible for God to fulfill all of the desires within the vision he revealed to me — it's December, and I can check off only two items from my list.



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To go over the list of I-did-nots would be depressing and futile, but analyzing why I didn't could be worth my time. There were certain goals, like getting published in national publications, for which I followed all of the recommend steps. But in the end, I work in a subjective medium, and while some respected institutions unexpectedly rewarded me in 2010, others rejected me.

I dropped the goals that centered on securing my financial future when I realized how much money it would take to secure my financial present.

I had no plan for how to pursue my relationship goals, and even if I had, the time spent securing my financial present by pursuing my professional goals didn't leave much time for pursuing my relationship goals. And failure in the professional goals didn't leave much money for the activities that are ideal for the pursuit of relationship goals.

There are certain physical goals I

discovered I won't meet because my body can't do them without the risk of serious injury.

My spiritual goals wouldn't have taken a miracle. I simply needed to prioritize, wake up at least half an hour earlier and focus. Of course, that would have put the time spent designated for some of the spiritual goals in direct conflict with some of the professional writing goals, which may be why I accomplished only one goal from either section.

Although 2010 was a disappointing year, I guess I shouldn't feel bad. I was ambitious at the beginning of the year, and I may have gone after more than I should have.

In college, I always admired the students who functioned on three hours of sleep per night, maintained a 4.0 GPA, served in student government, played sports, hung out with friends, held steady romantic relationships and spent long hours in the hallway having philosophical dis-

cussions. But I've never been one of those people.

Even in the cases in which I fault my own laziness or unwillingness to focus, I take comfort in one particular attribute of the vision statement: It has no time limits. I wrote out how I hoped my life would go in 2010, but the vision statement's biblical context is different.

Habakkuk 2:3 says, "This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed."

So I'll keep my efforts strong in some areas, improve them in others and hope that the end for most of the vision started in January 2010 is December 2011. ♣

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