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Ms. Toney

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### From Whining to Winning

Speaking from experience, no one wants to be perceived as a loser or failure. We want to be associated with the individuals in the winner's circle, those that hoist up the first-place trophy, or the ones that have attained personal and social success. The common denominator between these three scenarios is achievement. Achievement is the successful completion of a task or some other measurable endeavor that you have set for yourself or placed upon you by someone else. This is also commonly known as a goal. My personal goals are to grow in my spirituality, to be more confident in my leadership role, to become more knowledgeable of the Bible, and demonstrate love like Jesus instructed. Setting personal goals keep you focused and aids in helping you stay motivated when things seem to be falling apart. Goals should not be set low and easy to attain but should be a little challenging to push you. But not so challenging that discouragement and disappointment frustrate and derail you and cause you to fail in reaching your goal. The personal goals that I have set for myself will hopefully be achieved through the classes and seminars that I'll be taking while attending Huntsville Bible College, from my own personal Bible study, and through participation in local church Bible studies. I will be leaning and depending on the support, encouragement, and comfort of family and friends to help me along on my journey in pursuing my personal goals. I believe the effects will be positive and will grant me a boost of confidence in the performance of my pastoral duties. Also, regarding society, especially in my neighborhood and church congregation I believe that the effect will be a positive and an uplifting one. I will be better equipped to address personal, spiritual, and theological matters when they arise. My

leadership skills and expressed love for God's people will be evident as I walk and lead like a confident and sound-minded leader that will produce spirit-filled saints prepared for service in God's kingdom.

My short terms goals are completing my degree program, making some repairs to my home, and completing the upgrading and remodeling of our church. I believe setting short-term goals will prepare and motivate you to work towards setting and completing long-term goals. Once you experience the exhilarating feeling of accomplishing and reaching your goal the competitive nature of within all of us wants to set out and accomplish more in life. This experience will also provide the wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and confidence needed to step out on faith to set and achieve larger goals. Achieving my short-term goals will be accomplished by assuring that I keep them specific and that they are attainable within the time limit that is committed to them. If not, I'm liable to become frustrated and discouraged and may give up on reaching my goal. Remembering and considering that circumstances and situations beyond my control can occur, staying positive and remaining focused will help me overcome these distractions. My family, friends, my church congregation, and personal determination will be the factors that will help me to achieve my short-term goals. The achievement of my short-term goals could be the catalyst that motivates and encourages me to venture out and set longer and more obtainable goals. The ones that I may have thought or believed at one time were completely out of my reach. I believe that the individuals that witness and are involved in the short-term goals will experience a sense of pride and accomplishment, and in turn may set some goals for themselves. My long-term goals consist of paying off my mortgage, maintaining my health, obtaining my bachelor's degree, and retiring within the next 3-5 years. It's important for us to set long-term goals because they help us to formulate a plan and provides a roadmap that supports the lifestyle, we envision for ourselves many years down the road. The successful accomplishing of these goals will take good financial planning, making regular doctor appointments, participating in a physical fitness program, and being enrolled in some college courses that support my degree of choice. Professional financial agencies, school counsellors, fitness trainers,

my family physician, along with family and friends will be instrumental in aiding me in achieving my goals. Upon achieving my long-term goals I'll be financially stable, my physical well-being will allow me to enjoy my retirement and live a better quality of life, I will be educationally stable and equipped to make sound and reasonable decisions. I believe that my achievements will allow me to more beneficial in my service to my church affiliations, to a be respected voice in my neighborhood, and be a role model for my family and friends.