

The following letter was written by Charlie Williams, Ministry to Men Director. After many requests for him to write a book about *Ministry to Men* and after several attempts to do just that, someone suggested he simply write letters sharing some of the truths God has been teaching him during the years.

We will be posting his letters on the Ministry to Men Web site. **This letter was posted on August 8, 2011**

Letter 47 II Corinthians 5:7

One of the great joys in my life has been the opportunity to follow up on men whose eyes have been opened, at least to some degree. They have been prayed for, invited to a place where they hear from a peer how someone else has experienced life change and they want to know more. The bulk of this follow up was done after we had an event where we asked for a response from those in attendance and two by two we would go meet with them on their turf.

It was through follow up that God began to teach me the difference between 'goals and desires'. For a long time I thought they were the same but I began to learn that both were important in my life but very different. A goal in my life is something that depends solely on me; what I do; how I do it, when I do it, etc. (Always knowing that apart from God I can do nothing). Desires require the same things from me but also require something from others.

An example would be my marriage. If my goal is to have the best marriage in the world that would require Tammy to do her part for it to happen (based on my expectations or my goal). This would be a great desire but a terrible goal because when someone blocks my goal I tend to get angry.

Now back to the follow up as an example of 'goal vs. desire'. In the early days of office follow up my goal was for the man I was calling on (cold call by the way) would be in when we called and that he would agree to meet with us; he would be open and receptive to the message and come to Christ. Now this is a great desire but God showed me that all those things depended on Him not me. So slowly but surely these things became my desire. My goals were that my heart would be open to God and to the man I was meeting with; that I would be willing to set up time to go and that I would trust God for all the results knowing that I was not God's only resource in this man's life.

What freedom this brings.