

BREAKTHROUGH
AND BALANCE
MICAH 6:8



CONNECT

Have you ever tried to balance a chair on two legs and had it go horribly and/or embarrassingly wrong?

WORD

Micah 6:8 (ESV) -⁸He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

Many of us have often thought that we just don't know what God wants from us. Maybe we have been exasperated by events in our lives and have cried out to heaven to provide direction and guidance. Maybe we have sought God's will for our lives and agonized over what God wants us to do.

Here in this passage, God makes it clear what his will is for every one of his children. He wants us to live our lives fully for him. He wants us to be three dimensional. We are to do justice (out), love kindness (in), and walk humbly with him (up).

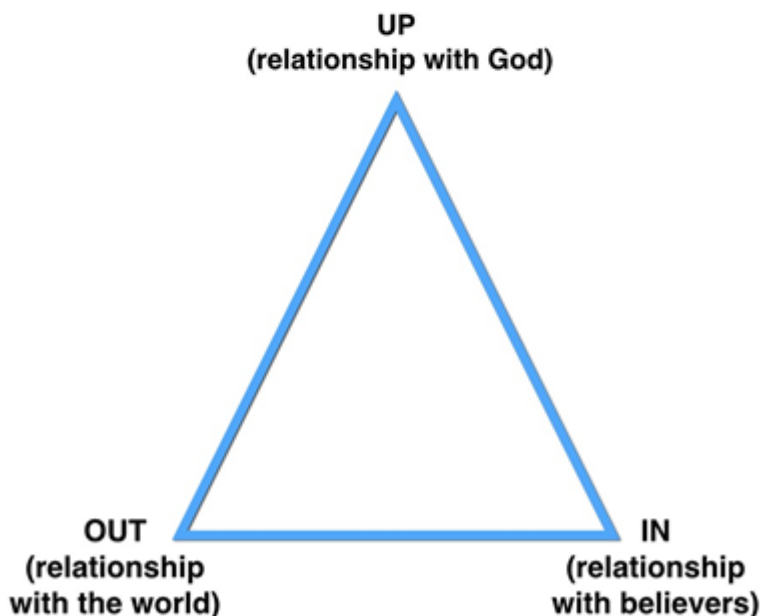
Jesus lived his life in these three dimensions: Up – with his Father, In – with his chosen followers, and Out – with hurting people all around him. Throughout scripture we see these three dimensions illustrated, but no one in scripture exemplifies this better than Jesus.

Prayer was as fundamental an element in Jesus' life as breathing. He inhaled his Father's presence so he could exhale his Father's will. Jesus was in constant contact with his Father. His relationship with God was personal, intimate and familiar.

Jesus invited others into his presence. He selected the twelve specifically so that he could be with them, spend time with them, and build strong relationships with each of them over the years of his ministry.

Jesus also walked among crowds – teaching, feeding, healing, and comforting. He did not wait for broken people to come to him. He went to them and ministered to them in their place of need.

This kind of balanced, three dimensional lifestyle can be illustrated with a simple shape – the triangle:



If we do not have all three elements of the triangle – the Up, the In, and the Out – we are out of balance and we wobble through life.

If we focus only on the up and the in, we fail to reach people outside of our church. If all we work on is the up and the out, then we fail to connect with our church as a fellowship family. When we focus only on the in and the out, then our ministry becomes flat and empty.

When we seek to live our lives in balance, we are stable in our faith. Operating in all three dimensions may not come naturally to everyone, but is how God made us to function. If it does not come naturally, it must be done intentionally.

SO WHAT

What is the relevance to my life?

- What really stood out to you in today's message and lesson? What would you like to discuss further with the group?
- UP: What is your relationship with God like? What are you doing to cultivate it deliberately and intentionally? How can someone improve their intimacy with God?
- IN: Do you feel comfortable fellowshiping with other believers? Read John 13:35. How important is the in relationship with other believers to Jesus?
- OUT: When was the last time that you reached out to a non-believer? Who do you know right now at work, school or in your neighborhood that is unreached, unchurched or unsaved? How can you reach out to them effectively?

- How can we tell when we are out of balance? What are some of the signs that we are neglecting one of the three dimensions?

NOW WHAT How do I apply the word to my life?



How does this lesson change the way you think about balanced relationships? Why did God choose this moment to bring this lesson to you?



What has God laid on your heart with this lesson? How does understanding the importance of balance change your relationship with God and with the people around you?



What does God want you to do differently this week as a result of this lesson? How will you change the things you do to improve your balance?

How can we help you and hold you accountable? How can we pray for you? What can we do to show our love for you this week? Who do you know that needs to hear this lesson? Who can you share it with?

