

Keeping The Main Thing The Main Thing - Part 2

Alignment or Achievement?

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Part of Keeping the Main Thing The Main Thing

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Apostle Paul: ...we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

—*Philippians 3:20 (NLT)*

Jesus: ‘...Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.’

—*John 16:33 (NLT)*

According to the survey, the percentage of Americans who rated their mental health ___ in 2020 is not only ___ than in 2019, but the ___ it’s been since the survey began.

The only exception was for folks who attended religious services ___.

Attending church ___ week makes a difference in our mental/emotional health.

We need the constant reminder of ___ we are and ___ we are!

‘... [God] made David their king. He testified concerning him: I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own

heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’ (from 1 Samuel 13:14)

—Acts 13:22 (NIV)

We’re often inclined to start with ____ action and ____ achievement, which aren’t inherently bad things, but they’re not the same things as focusing our hearts first on ____ heart and ____ achievement in and through us.

Our relationship with God in Christ is like any relationship - it ____ and ____.

The Two Extremes Of “Achievement”

- **Trying ____**
- **Giving ____**

God wants us to approach spiritual practices with anticipation and delight, but in order to do that, we need ____ to change our hearts, because only heart-level change leads to lasting change.

*‘... I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’
(emphasis added)*

—Acts 13:22 (NIV)

David’s heart was aligned with God’s, regardless of what that ____ of him.

‘...He’s a man whose heart beats to my heart...’

—Acts 13:22 (Message)

Spiritual formation, becoming more like Jesus, means ____ our hearts with God’s heart, first and foremost, versus just trying to achieve things for God.

We have to change from thinking about what I can achieve on my own for God to what God can do ____ me as I align myself with Him.

Alignment is the ____ goal of spiritual formation and

practices, not achievement.

**Spiritual disciplines are how I unite ____ God, not how I ____
____ God.**

*... continue to work out your salvation with fear and
trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to
act according to his good purpose.*

—Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)

**As we align with Him, He works in and through us to do ____
will and good purposes.**

**Heart and actions both matter, but ____ matters the most
and our actions not only reflect our hearts but also shape
our hearts.**

**Spiritual disciplines are sometimes called “means of ____,”
because God uses them to pour out his grace through
specific practices.**

**God can work any way He wants, but down through the
centuries He has ____ transformed and aligned hearts
through the “means of grace.”**

**When we look at David’s life, we see a consistent pattern -
God uses various experiences to align David ____ God before
He uses David to accomplish achievements ____ God.**

*And David inquired of the LORD, ‘Shall I go up against
the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?’ And the
LORD said to David, ‘Go up, for I will certainly give the
Philistines into your hand.’*

—2 Samuel 5:19 (ESV)

*And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated
[the Philistines] there.*

—2 Samuel 5:20 (ESV)

*And the Philistines came up yet again and spread out in
the Valley of Rephaim. And when David inquired of the
LORD, he said, ‘You shall not go up; go around to their*

rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees. And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the LORD has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines.’ And David did as the LORD commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer.

—2 Samuel 5:22-25 (ESV)

David understood that prayer is about ____ with God so much more than about seeking God’s help in something or using Him to get something.

When we approach God as David did, to listen and ____ with Him first, instead of thinking first about what we want from God, we begin to hear His heart and are empowered to become more like Jesus.

The LORD: ‘if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.’

—2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)

In this passage, God promises that aligning with Him means ____ forgives our sin and heals our land - not us!

Jesus: ‘I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.’

—John 17:22-23 (NLT)

God tells us how to approach this new year - to start now, today, ____ our lives with Him, seeking Him first, His Kingdom and His righteousness, and He will take care of the ____.

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