## Keeping The Main Thing The Main Thing - Part 2

Alignment or Achievement?

Randy Hageman

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## **Alignment or Achievement?**

January 10, 2021 Randy Hageman

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, no	t achievement.		
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the Philis LORD sa	id inquired of the Lostines? Will you give aid to David, 'Go up, es into your hand.'	them into my hand	d?' And the give the
	id came to Baal-perd istines] there.	azim, and David de —2 Samuel .	

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.'

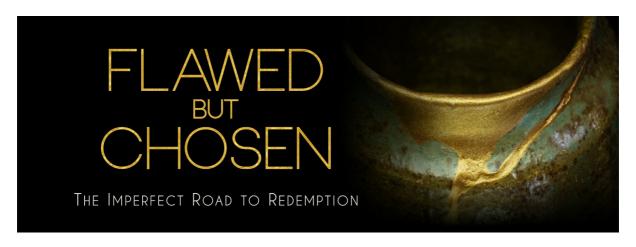
*−2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)* 

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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