

UPHILL HOPES & HABITS DOWNHILL

- Most people have uphill Hopes and downhill habits.

2 ...fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Romans 12:2 (MSG)

We form habits and then our habits form us.

Habit # 4: Align our life with God's purpose.

Lessons on alignment:

- The consequence of misalignment is pain.
- Referred pain is real.

The Habit of alignment is:

- Living in sync with God's purpose.

God's purpose for your life, is first, about who you are,
and second, about what you do.

God's purpose reflects:

- A transforming relationship with God.
29 For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would —should become like his Son.... Romans 8:29 (TLB)
- A love that reflects God.
- A will that is surrendered to God.

Why alignment is so important:

- Money won't satisfy us.
4 Don't weary yourself trying to get rich. Why waste your time? For riches can disappear as though they had the wings of a bird! Proverbs 23:4 (TLB)
- Time is against us.
13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money," 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.
15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." James 4:13-15 (NIV)
- Stuff can consume us.

15 ...Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot." Luke 12:15 (MSG)

- God's purpose fulfills us.

10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

Psalms 139:16 (BBE); Ephesians 1:11-12 (MSG); Colossians 1:16 (MSG)

Ways to experience alignment:

- Decide what is important.

7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ. Philippians 3:7-8 (NIV)

- Give time to the important things.

12 Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should. Psalm 90:12 (TLB)

- Eliminate the non-essentials.

1 Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us... Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

- Take inventory often.

4 "LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is. 5 You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath." Interlude 6 We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it. 7 And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you. Psalm 39:4-7 (NLT)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Have Questions? Text them to: **(559)-464-5754**

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- How are you doing with your fast? Is the fast drawing you closer to God? Explain.
- How important do you find the habits in this series to be for your life?
- Do you feel that your life is daily aligned with God's purpose? Explain.
- Talk about what this means: God's purpose for your life, is first, about who you are, and second, about what you do.
- Do you feel that alignment with God's purpose is important for your life? Why is alignment so important for us (Discuss the four points)? Which of these four points challenges you most?
- Have you decided what is most important? Read Matthew 6:33, How do Jesus' words challenge us in this area? Is this verse even possible to live out?
- Dave Talked about John Maxwell's book - "Today Matters". In this book John mentions "the rule of 5" - List 5 things that are important and give some amount of time to those things every day. Have you made a list yet?
- Do you feel that you have a sense of clarity on some "non-essentials" that could be eliminated from your life?

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