

# Checking your alignment

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## Quotes/encouragements

Spiritual warfare – Most of the battle is between your ears. Who are you listening to – the Almighty Father, or Satan and the wiles of the world?

What you fear, you empower. What you focus on, you make room for. John Paul Jackson.

Matthew 5: 3-12 – Beatitudes – “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Memorize the beatitudes if you haven’t done so)

Proverbs 12:9 - “Better to be a nobody ...”

Psalms 84: 10 - “I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God...”

Proverbs 28:14 – “Blessed is the one who always trembles before God...”

Isaiah 57:15 – “... I live in a high and holy place. But also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

Isaiah 66: 2 – “This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.” Wow!!!

## **The Father wants to increase our God-carrying capacity.**

He is a builder and He uses us ... He uses you, dude! You’re his first choice. Drop the mike...

With all our challenges, we are the substrate of the kingdom. We’re the bricks and mortar.

(Ephesians 2: 8-10, esp. vs 10; Phil. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:15, 20-21)

## **Two stories**

“The Beast” – the Needham’s 2001 Ford Excursion, 6.8L 10-cylinder Titan engine. The Beast has had a mild shimmy at 72-72 mph for years. Driving to the Keys with a larger boat, larger load July 1, 2018. Accelerating to 60-65 mph, noted a fair amount of back and forth sway in the trailer. Slowed down. Attempted to accelerate again over 60 mph ... not good. The sway was significant → started looking for a place to pull over and “land the vehicle.” This was not anticipated ... in the least. I had years of experience driving a truck while pulling a trailer. Why now?

Answer: Front wheels were out of alignment. **Under load, the misalignment was revealed, and the problem was acutely magnified.**

While walking around our hospital campus on Wednesday, I was captured by the care and direction that a construction team used to cradle a large concrete slab into position.

They’re building a parking deck using remotely constructed concrete slabs and walls. The slab arrives on a trailer, a crane lifts the slab, then men on each end guide and walk the slab into position. The crane does the heavy lifting, but the men provide the guidance and positioning. You must have both to move the slab into the appropriate location.

## **Applications**

God is moving the concrete in our lives at Metro. He’s building his church and his kingdom.

We must align ourselves with his purposes. **As He puts load on our lives, it will reveal areas in our lives that need refinement and tuning to his heart.**

Matt. 16:18 - "...on this rock I will build my church." Jesus, The Rock, is speaking either of Peter as the rock, or of Peter's declaration of Jesus' identity as the rock. Peter/Cephas means "rock." Long before Duane Johnson was born, the original Rock called creation into existence, just to be clear!

Architecture verses

Building and construction is much better received when done under his guidance and in a prospective fashion.

Zechariah 4: 6 - "Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord."

This is the famous verse.

Zechariah 4: 10 - "Who despises the day of small beginnings? People will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hands of Zerubbabel."

Who is the cornerstone upon we're built? That would be Jesus.

Isaiah 28:16 - "...See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation: the one who trusts will never be dismayed."

Question #1

If God were to put more spiritual load (responsibility, **possibility**, weight) on your shoulders, what weaknesses in your mechanism might be revealed?

Hitch, trailer, trailer lights, vehicle frame, tires, brakes, suspension, alignment, gears...

(This is a good thing to discuss prospectively, and it may not all be about sin, but simply growth to the next level.)

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Leadership pain book - lead to the point of discomfort.

Examples at work:

1. When your boss/leadership moves in a direction that you do not support, how do you respond? Do you value the voice of the Lord in you, and subsequently share your thoughts/insight/experience/wisdom? Or do you put your head down "cause it don't matter anyway."

2. As a leader, you know you must have that hard conversation with that difficult employee. Do you continue to avoid it, and thus perpetuate the poison? Or do you cut off the branch leaching life from your team and make room for healing and growth?

**Leadership principle: Whatever you permit, you promote.**

3. At church (wait, it just got real), you may disagree with a style of worship, an interpretation to a passage, a practice of the Holy Spirit. What do you do about it? Philippians 3: 12-16 - "...and if, on any point, you disagree, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained."

Stay in the game, give grace to those around you, and speak up! Go Jewish – they love “active conversation.” (not with lightsabers, though)

### Question #2

Where do you bump up against the ceiling of leadership in your life? Do you withdraw from those moments or push into them for growth and opportunity?

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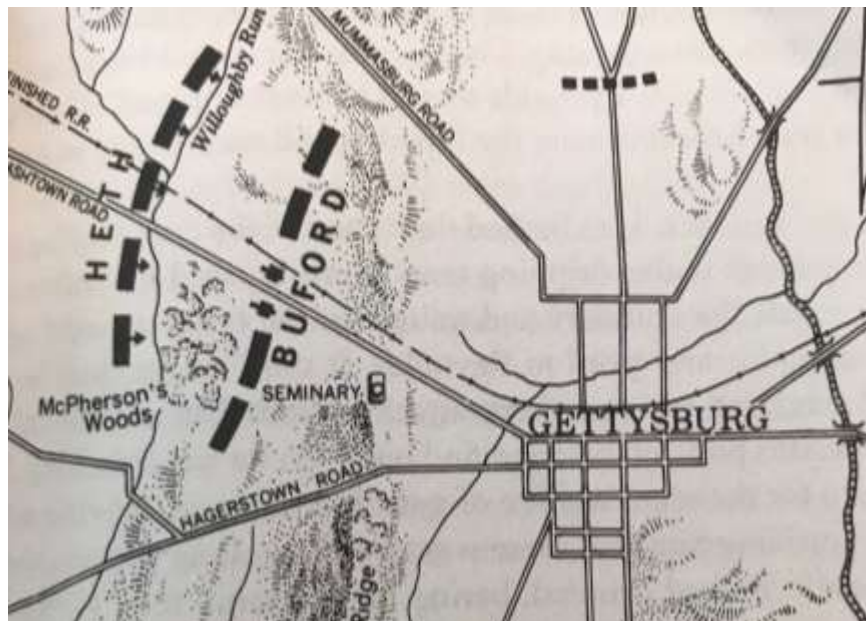
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As we are proven to be able to bear more load for his kingdom, we step into kingdom leadership.

Leading from the front, the middle, or the rear.

John Buford – General, Union Army at Gettysburg



- A. Lead from the rear initially – positioned troops, gave orders to subordinates  
Recognized Lee’s Army coming into Gettysburg as the real deal, not just a skirmish brigade.
- B. Lead from the front – Buford then urgently moved to the front to lead his troops to establish a line of battle to counter Lee’s army and defend the high ground in Gettysburg.
- C. Leading from the middle – suggesting wisdom and innovation to your leadership at work/church/community while not being in a place to make final decisions. Initiating an effort that may create tension, but remaining true to your vision, mission, and values. My experience at Emory in Atlanta and subsequent move/job at Florida Hospital.

**Leadership principle: Recognize the different positions of leadership and where to place yourself on the battlefield of life**

Question #3

What is your usual leadership position? Front, back, middle (Jedi Knight, Jedi Master, non-Force wielders respectively)

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God wants us to be courageous and cross the Jordan in our lives. He wants us to grow up into him, representing him well as his children and ambassadors. (1John 3:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:20)  
**(The Father wants to increase our God-carrying capacity – today’s theme.)**

Examples of changes in leadership styles

Moses – theophany of a burning bush → the shepherd had to lead the people

Joshua – theophany of The Captain of the hosts of heaven. Joshua 5: 13-15.

Joshua 1: 5-9 - God exhorts Joshua to “Be courageous” three times in this passage

Peter – “If it’s you Lord, tell me to come out of the boat and walk on the water to you.”

Jesus – “Come”

**Early manhood**

Finish schooling

→

Get a job

→

Pay your bills

→

Meet a girl

→

**Mature manhood**

Established job

Have resources to start helping others

Married, kids, home, savings

Buy insurance

**Load bearing manhood**

Contributing member to the local church: time, talent, treasure

Community group/ministry team leader or strong support – you’re reliable

Prayer

You see the kingdom before you and bring His Presence and authority to bear

Question #4

Where are you in this process? (These are not rigid job descriptions.)

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**Closing encouragement**

To younger men, strengthen your joints and the limbs of your influence.

To mature men, recognize your value and speak life into the environment around you.

To our Jedi Masters, guys, keep speaking and leading from the rear. Nudge, kick, and prod us into our kingdom positions.

Same team, same Captain. Kingdom family.

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me” – Jesus, Matt. 11:29