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**Essential**

**Practices**

**Let God Touch Your Heart**

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**The Essential Practice of Reaching Higher**

*Hebrews 4:16*

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Coast Hills Community Church

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**Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)**

16 “So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.”

**Thesis:**

God wants us to keep on reaching higher. God wants us to have a growth mentality. He wants us to keep on reaching for more faith, he was us to have deeper relationship with him. We know that our relationship with God affects every area of life.

**Reasons why we should reach higher:**

1. **We reach higher because none of us have attained perfection.**

Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)

12 I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it,[a] but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

2 Peter 1:5-11 (NLT)

5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. 10 So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. 11 Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

John 10:10 (NLT)

10 The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

John 15:11 (NLT)

11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

1. **We reach higher because people around us need our positive example & influence.**

Hebrews 10:24

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

1. **We reach higher because we make progress in proportion to our commitment to do so.**

Philippians 3:13

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead”

1. **We reach higher in faith because it sweetens our life.**

Romans 12:2

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

‘…let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.’

Philippians 4:13

‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’

Revelation 12:9

‘…the accuser...the one who accused our brothers and sisters day and night.’

God looks for us to be transformed into the image of Christ.

**Action Step:**

Let’s covenant to reach higher: to be grateful, to bow before God in worship, repentance and gratitude!