

A GUIDE FOR BELIEVERS

The Seven Mountains of Influence

*What each mountain is, why it matters,
and what to do about it this week.*

From Divine Disruption: Restoring America to God's Providence
by Fritz Steiger · divinedisruption.us

Why this matters

Culture does not organize itself. It is shaped by whoever actually shows up in the rooms where decisions get made — the classroom, the courtroom, the newsroom, the boardroom, the family dinner table. For a long stretch, many believers have treated Sunday morning as the whole of their faith and left the other six days of the week to run on someone else's terms. That is not a neutral choice. Somebody is always standing on that ground. This guide lays out the Seven Mountains Mandate in plain terms — what each mountain is, why it matters, and what one believer can actually do about it, starting this week.

Religion

The Religion mountain is the church and the broader community of faith — not a building on a corner, but the base camp every other mountain depends on. Its job is to equip believers for the other six, not to keep them occupied until Sunday comes around again. A congregation that only teaches people how to behave in a pew has not finished the job. It has to send people out ready to carry their faith into a classroom on Monday, a courtroom on Tuesday, or a boardroom on Wednesday — not as a private hobby kept separate from work, but as the reason the work gets done at all.

Family

Family is the foundational unit of civilization, and it is the mountain almost everything else is built on top of. A nation rarely fails because its government collapses first. It fails because the families inside it have already come apart, and government, schools, and media inherit the wreckage years later. Most of the downstream cultural arguments people have in Washington started upstream, at a kitchen table nobody was paying attention to. Strengthening a marriage, raising children who actually know Scripture, and showing up for extended family in hard seasons is not a retreat from cultural engagement. It is the engagement, and it is the hardest one to fake.

Education

Education is where the next generation's view of the world gets formed, one classroom and one textbook at a time, whether or not the adults around them notice it happening. Schools and universities are not neutral pipelines of facts. They teach students what is worth valuing and what is safe to dismiss, and a generation raised without a biblical framework for truth does not stumble onto one later by accident. Believers who take this mountain seriously show up — on school boards, in PTA meetings, as substitute teachers, as homeschool co-op leaders, as the parent willing to ask exactly what is being taught and why.

Government

Government sets the law, the public policy, and the civic authority everyone else has to live inside, and it is the mountain believers are most tempted to avoid because it looks like the dirtiest one to touch. But stepping back from government does not make it neutral — it hands the mountain to whoever is willing to show up, and someone always is. Voting is the floor here, not the ceiling. Running for a school board seat or a city council race, showing up to a town hall, or simply calling a state representative's office is closer to the actual mountain than an opinion posted online.

Media

Media decides what the country pays attention to and how it interprets what it sees — the news outlets, the platforms, and the algorithms that decide which stories rise and which disappear without anyone noticing. Most believers only meet this mountain as consumers, scrolling through whatever a feed decides to show them, and rarely ask who built the feed or why it shows them what it does. Engaging this mountain can be as modest as choosing to support outlets that report honestly instead of outrage that performs well, or as direct as writing, filming, or publishing the truth yourself instead of waiting for someone else to get around to it.

Arts and entertainment

Film, music, and literature are where a culture tells itself what is true, what is admirable, and what is worth wanting — usually more effectively than any sermon or policy paper ever will. A generation that cannot name a single hymn can often sing every word of a song it heard once on the radio, because culture is shaped by the stories it tells, not the arguments it wins. Believers with real talent in these fields have too often been told that art is a lesser calling than ministry. It is not. A well-told story reaches people a tract never will, and it stays with them longer.

Business

Business is commerce and enterprise — the marketplace — and it reaches more people in a single ordinary day than every church service in the country combined. A business owner who pays a fair wage, tells customers the truth, and handles a bad quarter with the same integrity as a good one is doing kingdom work, whether or not it ever gets called that from a pulpit. The businesses that shape a culture the most are rarely the ones that talk about faith the loudest. They are the ones that practice it in how they operate, every day, including the days no one else is watching.

The biblical case

This kind of engagement is not a modern invention grafted onto Scripture after the fact. It starts in Genesis, where God tells Adam and Eve to have dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:28) — a command to steward and shape it, not withdraw from it. It continues in the Great Commission, where Jesus tells His disciples to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe everything He commanded (Matthew 28:18-20) — a mandate for whole nations, not private devotion alone. Jesus calls believers salt and light and tells them plainly not to hide that light under a basket, but to let it shine before others (Matthew 5:13-16). Salt left in the shaker preserves nothing. Isaiah pictures a day when the mountain of the Lord's house is established above every other mountain, and all nations stream to it (Isaiah 2:2) — the image this whole framework takes its name from.

Scripture also gives real examples, not just commands. Daniel rose to serve inside the government of a pagan empire without compromising what he believed. Joseph administered the entire economy of Egypt through a famine, saving the very nation that had once enslaved him. Nehemiah left a secure position to petition a king and then rebuild a broken wall, because Israel could not survive as a nation without it standing. None of these men treated public influence as a distraction from faith. They treated it as exactly where their faith was supposed to go. “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD” (Psalm 33:12, NKJV) is not a promise that arrives on its own. It arrives when believers occupy the ground they have been given.

What this looks like this week

- **Family and Religion:** Read one passage of Scripture aloud at the table this week, and ask everyone at it what the passage says about how to treat the neighbor down the street.
- **Education:** Attend your local school board meeting this month, in person or by recording, and write down one item on the agenda you did not already know was being decided.
- **Government:** Look up who represents you in your state legislature and call or email about one specific bill — not a general opinion, a specific bill, by name.
- **Media and Arts:** Cancel one subscription to a source that consistently misrepresents what you believe, replace it with one that reports honestly, or start writing, filming, or recording the true thing yourself.
- **Business:** Have the one direct, honest conversation at work you have been avoiding, and ask whether your own daily practices actually match what you say you believe.

Divine Disruption: Restoring America to God's Providence lays out the full case for this kind of engagement, mountain by mountain.

Read more and get your copy at divinedisruption.us/book