

VISION SERVICE 2024

Step Up

I. God is about things increasing, advancing, progressing

- A. His kingdom and the peace it procures is ever-increasing/stepping up-**Is9:7**-Of the increase of his government (empire/rule) and peace (prosperity) there shall be no end
- B. Body of Christ-Something flows from The Head causing increase; The nature of the head is increase-**Co2:19**-The Head from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered and knit together increases with the increase of God
1. God is a God of increase-Universe is still increasing-**1Cor3:5-7**
- C. His blessing increases-God blesses a measure at a time NOT all at once-**Ps115:14**-The Lord shall increase you (**JUB**-His blessing upon you) more and more-**Gn26:12**-The Lord blessed him and the man waxed great and went forward, and grew until he became very great-**Gn30:43**-Increased exceedingly-**Is51:2**-Blessed him and increased him-**Gn24:1**-Blessed Abraham in all things
- D. The plan of God for your life gets better the further you go-These paths are paths of peace/shalom and it gets better the further you go-**Pr4:18**-The path of the just is as the shining light (happiness), that shineth (glorious) more and more-**Ep2:10-AC**-Taking paths which He prepared ahead of time, that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]-**Jr29:11**-I know the thoughts that I think toward you...thoughts of peace-**Pr3:17**-Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace
- E. Increase is progressive-**2Co3:18-AM**-We all are progressively being transformed into His image from one degree of glory to even more glory, **which comes from the Lord**
- F. Shout about progress-The hand-sized cloud-**Jb8:7**
- G. God has more planned for you than what you're enjoying right now-His things don't peak or plateau and with God there's always more

II. We are supposed to be increasing more and more, from one degree of glory to the next, our paths shining more and more, this is the will of God-**Ph1:25**-I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance (progress, advancement) and joy of faith-**CJB**-Progress in the faith-**1Tm4:15**-Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting (progress, advancement) may appear to all-**BBE**-See how you go forward-**CEV**-How well you are doing-**CJB**-Your progress-**LSV**-Your advancement

- A. To think like God you have to have a mentality of advancement, progress, increase-It's not greed it's growth-**Mt25:25**-I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. ²⁶Thou wicked and slothful servant-**Lk9:62**-No man having put his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the kingdom
- B. Faith is on the advance-God's get better for us than home-**Hb11:15**-If they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned-**Gn26:6-8-Hb10:38**
- C. By not having a mentality of advancement, progress, increase they limited God-They were satisfied with Egypt-**Ac7:39**-Their hearts turned back again into Egypt-**Ps78:21**-They turned back and tempted God and limited the Holy One of Israel-**Hb3:17**-With whom was he grieved 40 years? was it not with...whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?-**Ps35:27**

III. Always content and always looking to increase, progress, advance-Be thankful for what God has done, be content now, but desire more because God has more

- A. Warnings about seeking peace in possessions-**Hb13:5**-Let your conversation be without covetousness (loving money); and be content (mind at peace in present condition) with such things

as you have—**1Tm6:8**—Having food and raiment let us be therewith content.⁹But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows

- B. Content means I don't need any more to be at peace NOT I don't desire more—He desired to get out of prison but He didn't have to, to have peace—**Ph4:11**—I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content—**1Sam1**—Hannah

IV. Step Up—God calls us higher—Gn12:1-4—Nm13,14—2Pt3:18—Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord—**1Th4:1**—As ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more...⁹As touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.¹⁰And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more—**2Co8:7**—As ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also—**Josh1:1**

- A. God is this way—Don't sit down, go further, advance, move forward—Is54:2—Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; ³For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left—**Ex14:15**—Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward

V. Lethargy is one of the greatest enemies of advancement—If you don't desire more and pursue more you never advance

- A. He's stepping up, going after it, looking to increase, progress, advance—Ph3:12—ER—I don't mean that I am exactly what God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal. But I continue trying to reach it and make it mine. That's what Christ Jesus wants me to do. It is the reason he made me his.¹³Brothers and sisters, I know that I still have a long way to go. But there is one thing I do: I forget what is in the past and try as hard as I can to reach the goal before me.¹⁴I keep running hard toward the finish line to get the prize that is mine because God has called me through Christ Jesus to life up there in heaven.¹⁵All of us who have grown to be spiritually mature should think this way too—**KJ**—I press toward the mark (goal) for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus

- B. Nothing is obtained without desire and pursuit—Many try to make God responsible for everything—Mt7:7—Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you:⁸For every one that asks receives and he that seeks finds and to him that knocks it shall be opened—**Jr29:13**—You shall seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart

- C. It's easier to just do nothing than it is to step up—Stepping up requires effort, energy, time and labor; The flesh wants to just be comfortable and it's easier to just be "content" than to stretch, reach, believe

VI. 3 things that happen when you step up

- A. You step out of something—Out of bad things, out of a lower level
- B. You step into something—Into good things, better things, a higher level
- C. You have a different view—There are things you can't see until you step up—**Rv4:1**—Come up hither and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter

1. Ex: Called me to pray the prayer of salvation when I was 16 I did; Called me to develop a relationship with Him when I was 18 I did; Called me to go to church on Sunday's I did; Then on Wednesday's and I did; Called me to get filled with the spirit and speak in tongues; Called me to ministry at 21 and I stepped up (Rivers of Life); Then to start MAM and have my own services at 23 and I did; Called me to A&O when I was 25; Called me to pastor at 38 and I did; Now I'm seeing some other things

- D. If you don't step up, you'll stay where you are for a period of mercy and then you'll start to decrease