

VISION SERVICE 2024

A Higher Level

- I. **To step up is to go to another level, advance, improve, make progress, move from where you are to a higher level-1Th4:1-NCV-We taught you how to live in a way that will please God and you are living that way...we ask and encourage you...to live that way even more-KJ-Abound (increase) more and more (greater degree)-NMB-Progress more and more-2Pt3:18-Grow (increase) in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord-EEB-Grow as believers...know him better and better...He...will help you more and more-WE-Have more and more of God's blessing-AC-Grow in grace (favor/strength)-Js4:8-Gives more grace-AC-More and more**
- A. We're supposed to advance, make progress, increase-Ps92:12-The righteous shall flourish (grow, busting out of a bud) like the palm tree: he shall grow (enlarge, upward, increase) like a cedar in Lebanon (tall stately tree, strong excellent, magnificent, slow growing, long lived, beautiful). ¹⁴They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be **fat** (rich) and **flourishing** (rich in growth)
- B. Believers increased-Holding to the head you're supplied with something that causes you to increase, then what you've been supplied with flows through you causing the body to increase-Co2:19-Head from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment (cause growth) ministered and knit together increases with the increase of God-CEB-The Head nourishes and supports the whole body through the joints and ligaments so the body grows with a growth that is from God
1. EX-Over the years Amber & I have increased and that increase is flowing to the body causing the body to increase
- C. Opposite of stepping up is staying where you are-Ps115:14,Pr4:18,2Co3:18
- D. When you step up 1.You step out of something 2.You step into something 3.You have a different view-Northsmoke was a step up for us and we stepped out of things, stepped into things and got a different view
- II. **You have a part to play in stepping up and it requires effort on your part and it's easier on the flesh to just be comfortable and not step up**
- A. Many try to make God responsible for everything-Gn12:1,Nm13-14
- B. Nothing is obtained by being passive-He's stepping up and pursuing, pressing, stretching was involved-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.¹³I 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. ¹⁵All of us who have grown to be spiritually mature should think this way too-KJ-I follow after (pursue, press toward)...Reaching forth (stretch towards) unto those things which are before...I press toward (pursue) the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus-Mt7:7,Jr29:13,Js4:8
- C. You have a part to play in stepping up-Gn15:8-Unto your seed I have given this land-Dt2:3-You have compassed this mountain long enough turn northward-Dt1:8-Go in and possess the land-Nm33:52-You shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land-Js18:2-How long are ye slack to go to possess the land which the Lord God...hath given you-Nm16:14-You have not brought us into a land that flows with milk and honey
- D. We can't increase ourselves but God fills hungry hearts-Mt5:6,Ps75:6,1Co3:6
- E. Nothing happens until you move-Ex14:15,Jos3,Dt28:12-Bless the work of thine hand
- III. **The enemy wants you passive, desireless, pursuing nothing because living this way you won't advance, make progress, increase**

A. Have a sense of urgency-Clock is ticking-**2Tm4:2-AC** *Keep your sense of urgency*