

# The Encourager

A Stewardship Ministry Quarterly Publication

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## SPECIAL EDITION



### Psalm 121:1-8

- 1. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
- 2. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.
- 3. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
- 4. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
- 6. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
- 7. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; he shall preserve thy soul.
- 8. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

### ime

What are some ways I can spend my time that will honor God and help me grow spiritually?

# Preparing for "Spiritual Transformation"



The Lord has given Pastor Charlie E. York a vision to move Highpoint forward spiritually. That vision is called "Spiritual **Transformation."** Can you imagine what could happen if we truly believed in spiritual transformation? Can you imagine what could happen if we truly loved and embraced the vision of spiritual transformation so much that we would all be on one accord in our thoughts, actions, and words toward that vision? There would be **no limit** to what God could do at Highpoint! Eyes have not seen and ears have not heard what God has prepared for us when we are on one accord.

When we <u>believe</u> in something and we <u>love</u> and <u>embrace</u> it so much, we will <u>protect</u> <u>it</u> at all cost! To understand protection, let's use children and loved ones as examples. We love them so much! If we felt our child or our children were in harm's way, we would do everything possible to protect them. If we felt our parents, siblings, loved ones, etc. were in harm's way, we would do everything possible to protect them.

So what about the vision the Lord has given Pastor York?

### **Protect the Vision**



What can we do as church leaders and members to prepare for the "spiritual transformation" vision that the Lord has given Pastor York? The answer is - Protect the vision! How do we do that?

Read Psalm 121 (at left) which moves from the need for help (verses 1-2) to the promise of God's protection (verses 3-8). After reading these 8 verses, pray and meditate daily on the following:

- 1. Ask God to protect the vision. We must be <u>intentional</u>, <u>specific</u>, and <u>consistent</u> in our prayers for protection as we unify to see the vision come into fruition. Satan will set many traps to get us off course. He will even try to use individual members to stop the vision if we allow him to. Pray for protection of the vision and protection against Satan's snares.
- 2. **Trust God as we overcome obstacles.** Understand that every journey has obstacles. Psalm 121 addresses a key ingredient for change and growth that of a vision and goals. Not only do we need to have a sense of where we are and that things need to change; we have to know where we are going. We must trust God to be with us on the way; to be our help to overcome the obstables we will face on this spiritual transformation journey.

The encouragement from Psalm 121 is that God will protect us on our spiritual transformation journey. The vision and goals, and the destination we have may seem far off in the distance. The mountains may seem steep and high and the steps unsure at times. Just remember that God is with us on this spiritual journey.



Christ has gone before us and he leaves his spirit with us to lead and to guide. Hear the assurance the psalmist gives us of God's ability to see us through.

### alents

How can I utilize my talents/spiritual gifts to honor God and bless the membership?

### Transformation...be READY...be RESOURCEFUL...be RESPONSIVE

### Step 1 - Prepare Yourself for the Journey

Make sure YOU are ready and committed to personal transformation. Pray - spend much time in personal prayer. Yield to true introspection, spiritual cleansing. and humility and allow God to bring needed changes to your life. Submit to His personal transformation of you - your conversation, your attitude, and your behavior; get ready for change, progress, growth, and let it begin with you. Before you can invite others to journey with you in transformation, you must be willing to walk the path first. Once transformation becomes a deeply entrenched passion

within your heart, it then becomes transferable to others.

SIGN ME UP!

I'm Ready for a Transformation

Step 2 - Prepare Other Church Members for the Journey. Use the passion for transformation that now burns within your heart to help light the way for others to follow. Communicate your personal passion regarding transformation to fellow church members. Allow members to share their honest opinion regarding the current state of our church and the need for transformation; then, encourage them to participate in the process. Call upon all members to pray for renewal, revival, and transformation for our Church. Every church has fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ waiting for "marching orders." Some are active; some are inactive; and some have never acted at all. Regardless, all Christians can do more in the urgent need of reaching souls for Christ. Time is running out. We must do more, and we must do it now!

#### Step 3 - Prepare the Way and Clear the Path for Transformation

You must be real about where we are as a church and be ready to face challenges and obstacles brought on by people's fears and resistance to change:

- \* Be honest in your assessment of present ministries, programs, activities, structures, etc. Will they help us move forward, backwards, or off the path?
- \* Be willing to remove any obstacles that undermine the transformational process, which includes personal preferences, egos, unresolved conflict, traditions, etc.
- \* Be persistent and specific in both private and public prayer for transformation; keeping in mind that the Holy Spirit is the power behind transformation.

The opportunity for transformation is knocking! Be ready, be resourceful, and be responsive. Prayerfully, these initial steps will take us closer to God's will for our lives and His church.



What are some ways I can utilize my God-given treasures to honor God and bless the Highpoint Ministries?

### Stewardship Ministry Team

Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. Charlie E. York Ministry Leader - Phaedra Fox Assistant Ministry Leader - Clotelia White Church Treasurer Alisha Banks

Deacon John Patterson Deacon Shelton Perry Trustee Alvin Presnell **Deacon** Herman Towner



#### Sacrificial Promises

What are Sacrificial Promises? A prayed upon sacrificial amount above tithes and regular offerings resulting in consistent funds for capital improvement projects throughout the Highpoint property.