

JOURNEY

Too many people who can't find their way. I am often asked, "Pastor, I know my life is a journey, but how do I know I'm on the right path?" When referring to spiritual growth, the apostle Paul talks about "walking" (Philippians 3:17), which implies two things: (1) We must be headed somewhere, and (2), we must choose the right path. Even though he was in prison, Paul didn't lose sight of the fact that he was on a journey. And for him it was a journey of joy - the joy that grows out of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This same **joy** produces our Purpose in Life, our Pattern for Life, and our Passion in Life. Therefore, choosing the right path must remain one of our greatest passions!

"Seeking" is not enough, for you must be headed in the right direction and on the right path. Have you ever taken a journey and realised that you were going in the wrong direction? It's quite unsettling! Likewise, if you're on the wrong path in life, you'll lose your joy and end up lost and confused. Remember, **life is a journey not a destination**, so don't ever think you've arrived! Accept that you will need help and protection on route. In Psalm 121:1-8 the Psalmist considers where he might find protection for his journey. Therefore, as we navigate through the tests and trials of life we too need to be safeguarded. That is why the Lord is:

1. Our Helper: Psalm 121:1-2: ***"I will lift up my eyes to the hills — from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth."*** As you journey through dangerous territory, remind yourself where your help comes from... "My help comes from The Lord."

2. Our Keeper: Psalm 121:3-4: ***"He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."*** Travellers are always in danger. They can slip or fall and hurt themselves. Here the Psalmist reminds us that God is watching over His people. He will not allow them to meet with such tragedy. People may slumber and sleep, but the Lord never takes His eyes off you.

3. Our Guardian: Psalm 121:5-6: ***"The Lord is your guardian; The Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night."*** Travellers are exposed to dangers from robbers and evil men. They often journey through unfamiliar territory. But God promises to watch over them. David often faced danger from his enemies; yet the Lord delivered him out of all his troubles.

4. Our Preserver: Psalm 121:7-8: ***"The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore."*** God the Father knows the correct balance of sunshine and storm, the precise mixture of darkness and light it takes to perfect a child.

While journeying, look for God's signposts along the way and make sure that your path is well lit. Psalm 119:105 says, ***"Your word is a lamp to my feet; and a light to my path."*** Not only do you have God's protection (every step of the way), you also have His word to light the path!

"I pray you have a safe, joyful and peaceful journey."