



October 25,  
2014

## DAY OF THE PASTOR

# Uphold the Hands of Your Pastor

*“Satan’s special temptations are directed against the ministry”  
(Evangelism, p. 678).*

### Purpose

**L**IVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE in a hostile world at the edge of chaos is not easy, much less pleasant. Oftentimes faith falters and the battle seems inevitably lost. Amid this feeling, rises the figure of a pastor, a visible leader whom God has given the task of fighting alongside His people, praying, counseling, and interceding for each one with constant supplication. But often their arms get tired and, like Moses, need faithful men and women to hold up their arms and remain by their side until the final victory.

### Introduction

A pastor from Georgia, father of two daughters, confessed, “I feel that God is not listening to me.” This pastor committed suicide in front of his house while his wife, daughters, and members of the congregation waited for him at the church on Sunday morning. The Pastor Teddy Parker Jr., forty-two, was the pastor of the Bibb Mt. Zion Baptist Church, in Macon, Georgia.

Rowland, a member of that church, described the pastor as a “very caring, upbeat guy that cared for people especially the kids. He was a

good man” who inspired him and show no signs of trouble financially or otherwise. The church was doing well and they are in the process of building a new church.”

But perhaps there were some signs concerning what was happening with Pastor Parker. In a sermon published on YouTube, titled: “Facing Your Storm With Confidence,” Parker bared his struggles with his faith walk, “You know a lot of times, we feel like when we are going through stuff and it’s a lot that there’s nobody there with us. And guess what? God intends for you to feel that way. I know y’all been saved a long time. I know you super spiritual and you know you real holy but there are times in your life, not y’all but me. There are times in my life when I’m going through some stuff where I can’t feel God there,” he confessed. I try to pray but I don’t feel like God is hearing me. I try to serve but I don’t feel like God is using me. And there are times in your life when God purposely withdraws from you, He doesn’t withdraw for the sake of leaving you but He withdraws so you can grow and mature.” Brother Rowland continued, “Can’t nobody know what was on His mind when He did that.”

**OPENING  
HYMN: Adventist  
Hymnal, no. 444**

**SCRIPTURE  
READING:  
Exodus 17:8–13**

**CLOSING HYMN:  
Adventist  
Hymnal, no. 288**

# SERMON

## Development

When we stop to look at the ministry of Moses as pastor of that nation, which was not an easy thing to accomplish, we find that many people caused him difficulties. Some literally attacked him verbally; others stirred up the people and created doubt about his leadership and his calling, and even wanted to stone him.

But amid the nonconformist group God also placed people who were loyal to this man of God. One of those actions of love towards their leader happened when he could no longer hold up the staff while the people fought against Amalek. They went and brought a rock so that the man of God could rest and keep his arms raised.

### A. We should help the pastor keeps his arms lifted because:

1. **His main ministerial job is intercession.** In this spiritual battle, the pastor is the commander in chief that must guide by obligation and example. On a certain occasion, a church member came to greet me at the door, and gave me a small folded piece of paper that she asked me to read when I got home. There I found some written names of people she asked me to pray for. When I asked her if she was praying for them, she said yes, that she did it every day. Then, I asked her, "And why do you place so much emphasis on me placing them on the altar of prayer?" I imagined what her answer would be, but I was left cold when she said, "You pastors are closer to God." For me it was a challenge. This noble woman understood that a pastor has struggles, but that when their hands are raised high it guarantees the spiritual victory in each territory and circumstance. The pastor also becomes discouraged and feels like a lone ranger. Visiting them, accompanying them, and making them feel that we trust them and know their hands are connected to heaven, could make the difference at a crucial moment.
2. **If they are lowered, there could be unforeseeable consequences.** There are souls that Sabbath after

Sabbath come to the church in search of help and strength. Depressed, anguished souls filled with fear and bitterness. Church members themselves feel the consequences of sin in their lives and go to church to hear and feel the words of life that strengthen them and revive the feeling of belonging and faith. And the pastor is there. No one knows if they are traversing profound trails or afflictions. Everyone can show weakness, except the pastor. Everyone can talk to someone about their struggles and worries, except the pastor. Therefore, we should not passively wait until the battle leader lowers his arms. At all times, we must hold them up.

3. **They also get tired.** "Today there is need that God's chosen workmen should listen to the command of Christ to go apart and rest awhile. Many valuable lives have been sacrificed, that need not have been, through ignorance of this command" (*Christian Service*, p. 249).

### B. Some ways we can hold up the arms of the pastor:

- Pray for him, for his wife, his children; and also pray with them. The gaze of the enemy of God is on that family and he will not lose any opportunity to attack. That is his number one objective.
- Whenever possible, visit him at home. It seems natural for the pastor to be the one who visits and watches over the sheep in their family environment. However, the pastor and his family would be greatly blessed if the spiritual warmth and friendship of the church entered his home.
- Thank him for his attention and good advice. How many words of encouragement and comfort leave the lips of the pastor when someone is sick, when a loved one passes away, or when a job is lost. Likewise, the same thing happens when there is a wedding, an anniversary, or a graduation. The pastor cries with those who cry and is happy when we are blessed.
- Support him in his growth initiatives. The pastor's mood falters when he feels that his efforts do not

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provide the expected results. There are initiatives that require the support of each member of the church, like public evangelism, personal witnessing, small groups, service to the community, etc.

- Tell them when a good sermon touched your heart. Without falling into flattery, it is spiritually comforting when the pastor hears about the blessings on the lives of the members once he has proclaimed the Word.
- Thank them for being your pastor. If they are good, the words will affirm their vocation and calling. If they are not so good, it can awaken in them the desire to be better every day. If they are bad, (which is not true in our case) your words will be like a hammer on their conscience so they will seek the Lord and get their life in order.

- Make sure they take time each week to rest with their family. (Note: The church can make a plan for their pastor)

### **Conclusion**

Jesus Christ is our only Intercessor, our true source of peace, and guarantee of victory (1 John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25). However, until we arrive at the Heavenly Canaan, the pastor is the visible leader called by God to guide His people in the accomplishment of His purpose.

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*Hector Sanchez,  
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