Be Thou My Vision: Part 3

Zanesville, OH | April 1, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Jer. 9:23-24

* The bottom-line from **verse 1** is this: God needs to be my vision. That is, He must be my defined direction for growth. No one wants to stay in one spot for the rest of their lives, they want to grow as a person. The only way to do that the right way, is with God!
* **Verse 2:** I must form a relationship with God to start this path of growing by surrendering to the waters of baptism and living a faithful life. When everyone else will let me down, God won’t. He will always be there for me no matter what. He loves me more than everyone else and is willing to forgive all.
* **Verse 3:** Remember those winding courses? Those choppy waters? The problems and burdens we carry every day? We fight a spiritual battle that can only be won in God.
1. **Verse 3- Line 1– *Be Thou my buckler, my sword for the fight:***
* **We fight a spiritual battle:** There is a war going on. Not a physical one but a spiritual one. (Ephesians 6:10-18) (1 Peter 1:13)
* Our strength comes from God- Eph. 6:10
* The devil is the enemy and he wants you and me- Eph. 6:11; 1 Pet. 5:8
* We wage war against sin and darkness- Eph. 6:12
* **Put on the full armor of God:**
	+ God’s armor will make us stand and He will cause us to win- Eph. 6:13
	+ Gird loins= Truth- Eph. 6:14
	+ Breastplate= Righteousness- Eph. 6:14
	+ Feet protection= Gospel of peace- Eph. 6:15
	+ Shield= Faith- Eph. 6:16
	+ Helmet= Salvation- Eph. 6:17
	+ Sword= Word of God- Eph. 6:17
* With God we will win in the end. We must pray and pray and put on the full armor of God! (Rom. 13:12-14; 2 Cor. 10:3-4)
1. **Verse 3- Line 2– *Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight*:**
	* **God is my dignity:** In this battle we fight against the devil and sin we must be careful to be proper, practice truth and justice and be a man and a woman of true honor; that is, a true disciple of Christ. Are you willing to stoop low to gain the upper hand or will you allow God to be your dignity? (Luke 6:35-36)
	* **God is my Delight**– Knowing that God is there for you gives you great joy and that in turn gives you strength to say no to sin! (Neh. 8:10; John 15:10-11)
2. **Verse 3- Line 3– *Thou my soul’s Shelter, Thou my high Tow’r*:**
* **Refuge and Safety:** In the heat of the battle sometimes we need to retreat. We need to be refreshed and refilled in our spirits and where else do we go but to God? He is a place of refuge and safety for our souls.
	+ Psa. 46:1-3; Psa. 18:1-3; Psa. 9:9-10
	+ **Peace:** There is nothing but peace, perfect peace inside of God. (Phil. 4:6-7; John 14:27)
1. **Verse 3- Line 4– *Raise Thou me heav’nward, O Pow’r of my pow’r*:**
* **Focused:** We must be focused in order to fight the good fight (1Tim. 6:12). Paul calls it the good fight because it’s a cause worth fighting and dying for (Rev. 12:11).
	+ That focus is achieved by putting our minds on the goal and the prize. It starts by thinking more spiritually and thinking less physically (Col. 3:1-17; Phil. 3:12-21; 2 Cor. 10:5)
	+ **God is our Power:** The author once more reminds us that God is always the source of our strength and He is our power.
	+ Psa. 28:7; Psa. 73:26; Psa. 3:3; John 16:33