

Sunday Service Sermons

01 August 2021

Renew My Vision

This is a very appropriate topic for me for August since I am going to have cataract surgery this month.

I understand I will have much better vision.

Can I say I will have renewed vision?

I will have better vision with my earthly eyes.

Today we are thinking about better vision with our Spiritual eyes.

Overall passage is being transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Specific passage for today is *1 John 1-4* where it is speaking of the Word of life as heard and seen and touched.

The Word created, sustained, then came in the flesh and now lives with The Father in Glory interceding on our behalf.

It ends with the declaration of complete joy as being found in the testimony of and fellowship with the father and the Son.

If you want your joy to be complete, allow the Spirit to put you in fellowship with the Father and the Son.

We will have peace and rest to the degree we trust God to take care of us.

Why not live in the moment, it is the only time in which you can do anything.

Live in the moment for God and by the Holy Spirit.

Once you know that you are living in this manner you will have peace and you will relax for God has you in the palm of His hand and is taking care of you.

The first and last words of Jesus were the same words of instruction.

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” and “You will be witnesses unto me.” as you go out into the world and spread the Good News.

Come with me and see, then, as he left, now go and tell what you have seen and who I am and how one should live for God.

This is about witnessing.

First the life and ministry of Christ then spreading the good news of his resurrection.

Since we are called to a life of witnessing, may our prayer be, “Lord, renew my witness.”

Jesus used many figures of speech to describe the nature of his mission.

He called his followers “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.”

He gave them “the keys of the kingdom.”

He looked on himself and his work as “bread” and “water.”

His kingdom was like “leaven,” and he came to cast “fire” on the earth.

What common idea do all of these represent?

Each represents some kind of penetration.

Salt penetrates meat to provide an opening.

Bread penetrates the body for nourishment and life.

Water penetrates the earth for moisture.

Leaven penetrates the dough to make it rise.

Fire has penetrating power and continues only as it is given new fuel.

Fire is extinguished when it is contained.

This is what we are to be, Christ's penetrating power in the world!

The church exists for this purpose.

Apart from it we have no reason to exist.

"Renew my witness" is a prayer we can pray that God will surely answer.

If we are to renew our witness, we must do two things.

First, we must refine our definition of witnessing.

Witnessing is not just ringing doorbells in the community or handing out pieces of literature.

Neither is it just asking an individual if they are born again or quoting the customary soul-winning passages.

Witnessing is what *1 John 1:3* talks about: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you."

Witnessing is telling something that comes from our own experience, something we know.

Witnessing is sharing what Christ has done in our lives.

It is pointing to the one who has performed the miracle of new life in us.

Witnessing is knowing Jesus Christ personally and telling others about him and his power and love for all people.

Witnessing has two basic elements.

One it is a way of life.

We demonstrate that there is a change within us, that we have a new way of life.

One man testified, "I used to go every Sunday to the priest's house and learn how to be a good Christian.

When we did well, we got sweets and tea to take home.

Once I got a prize for learning the four gospels by heart and reciting them nonstop in the church".

Would you believe that those words were spoken by Nikita Khrushchev?

Life with Christ provides both inner and outer evidence of his life in us.

This illustrates that it is not enough just to do good works; the primary thing is that we become a new person in Christ.

Second is what comes out of our mouth.

Witnessing must go beyond one's life to a verbal explanation if we are to truly witness.

The Word must become flesh!

We are to verbalize our witness, supported by the Word of God.

After refining our definition of witnessing we must recover the New Testament way.

Someone has suggested that there has been a shift in methods from the first century to the twenty-first.

It is a shift from personal to impersonal evangelism.

Most of our evangelism today is the mass type that is to a large extent impersonal.

We are certainly not to discard mass evangelism; rather, we are to make sure that we do not substitute it for the basic New Testament way of personal evangelism.

It is also a shift from people-centered to church centered evangelism.

The church has been charged by its own leaders of changing the Great Commission from "going to tell" to "coming to hear".

Jesus told us to make disciples as we go; to go into all the world and preach the Good News; to search until we find lost sheep.

When we fail to do this, we miss the masses of people because the masses will not come to church.

Someone has said, "The problem is not that the churches are filled with empty pews but that the pews are filled with empty people."

Be ye filled with the Holy Spirit!

And this will change.

A well-known host of a television cooking show told about receiving Christ.
First his wife believed in Christ; soon after, he began to read the “red words” in the Bible.
He was eventually saved and used thirty minutes of his air time asking people to forgive him for all
the filth he had spoken on his program in the past.
This is a living witness!
“Lord, renew my witness!”
That I might share the Good News with others.
Bringing your kingdom to earth as it is in heaven!