

WORD given at New Life Christian Center

“Spiritual Sight/Defender” -June 14th, 2026

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For it is not how you see that becomes important. For the things that you see today will not be what I settle on, says the Lord. Be cautious of your sight, for in it is your desire. You desire to see what is a part of your ideas. But know this, says the Lord. I will show you things that you know not.

I will show you things to come. That are not in your opinions. So do not trust what you see simply because you say it's what you want. For in that you are the standard. For in that you are the way. For in that you are the truth. But know this, says the Lord, inside of my way is the truth.

My way is different than your way. So know this. Do not trust what you see. For in that is the filter of your own desire, says the Lord.

Amen. Hallelujah. Father! Help us. Help us to trust our spiritual sight. Help us to stand still and see.

Help us to live by the expression of who you are. Help us to look through the filter of what you've done. Help us, Lord God, to see according to your ways. In Jesus name. Amen.

BREAK

You may not entirely recognize it. When heaven chooses to sing to you.

When those of you who have been broken and hurt you feel alone and confused. You struggle with the reality of your faith. And then God says. But I'm your defender. I'm picking up your pieces. And when we began to sing that and I saw, I saw heaven join in. And I know some of you will think I'm crazier than I actually am.

But I saw this, this activity that was happening in plain sight. And these these angels is what I'm going to call them. Came down.

One of them stood behind some of you, and they took this large, shiny sword, and they put it right down in line with your nose, your heart, and stabbed it into the ground in front of you with their arms around you. And then a second angel came and picked up this, lifted up this other colored sword.

And he made a cross member in front of you. And he said, I'm your defender.

You need not worry, for nothing can get through this protection.

But sometimes, simply because we're human.

We're not able to shut off the site. That is our experience. What we've been through, what we believe people think about us, what's happened in our life, and we say, well, that's just how life went for me. But we neglect to close our eyes and see the salvation of our Lord. Hebrews tells us that he sent angels to minister to the inheritance of salvation.

You can think whatever you want about that, but I'm telling you, there are angels in the room, standing behind and beside many of you today.

If you. I just wish you could see it.

The first. The first peculiar thing about my vision was the first people he came to were all blond. I went, wait, what? And I'm seeing this. And then when it looked like that, the angel was going to stab one of you in the head, I went. Now, this can't be right. This can't be God. And so I took my eyes away from I moved away from that in my in my sight, in my spiritual sight.

And when I did, I saw another one. And so, there are, there are six of you. All of you are women. There are six blond women.

You say, well, just look around and do the count. And I've not done it. I'm not going to, but I can see it when my eyes are closed. And he wants you to know.

That he's your protector, that he's your defender, that you're done having to stand up for yourself and make a way for yourself. That he's making a way for you. When I turned away from that picture and I realized that those are all women, I said, Lord, aren't you protecting the man?

And that's when I saw. That he was doing it all over for men who are not even in our church. I saw people I knew. I saw circumstances that I knew about, and I saw the angels rush in and do the same thing.

And then I said to the Lord, like every good fleshly human being would do, but what about me?

And he says, close your eyes tighter. And I did. And he said, I did you first, because I knew you wouldn't recognize it unless you recognized it for others.

Can you see it? And you say, well, you're just crazy, pastor. You're just you're just getting old and senile. You just making stuff up. You're just seeing things that aren't there. And I don't know how humans see things with their eyes closed, but I can tell you matter of factly that we can see better in the spirit with our eyes closed, and we can with our eyes open.

And many of you are standing in the protection of the Lord today simply because he loves you and knows what you're going through. You can say, well, but what about what I'm going through? That's why he's here. That's why he's here. You say? Well, I don't know if he knows that much. He knows us intimately and by prophecy, by Old Testament knowledge.

He said, I saw you in your mother's womb, I formed you. I don't know what we do with that, other than to say God has an intimate awareness of who we are and what he's designed us to be, and he protects us.

BREAK

There is a passage in Mark chapter ten. Just let me preach it to you for a second. I already warned Mike that I was going to take a few minutes of what might be his time. He smiled at me. I think that means it's okay. We doing brother? Are you feeling well? All right. Jeremy had surgery on Tuesday, so praise the Lord.

In Mark chapter ten. It says now they came to Jericho, and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples, a great multitude. Blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, set by the road. I find it interesting that the only people of the story that we really know are the people hanging out with Jesus, who are nameless and faceless at this point, and this guy named Bartimaeus, who will continually be known throughout all of history as blind.

And yet the story is about him gaining his sight. And so I want you to become blind Bartimaeus. Today, I want you to recognize that your humanness, the blindness of your humanness, is what's at issue this morning in our time together spiritually. I want you to recognize that you don't see how you should see. And it says this man named Bartimaeus, which I don't know why he didn't get the grace that we would give anybody else and at least become the guy who was healed, the Bartimaeus, rather than the guy who will continually be known as blind even though he can see.

He set by the road begging. You have to see yourself in need of sight. You have to find your way to that place of destitution that says, I know it's possible to see, but I don't see. I don't recognize what God's doing in my life. All I can recognize is what's happening to me. And so he sit there begging.

Probably since he was seated, he had a throw over cloak that was given to him and recognized by the community that he was in that gave him the right to beg. Jesus said in John chapter one or it said of Jesus in John chapter one verse 14, to everyone who believed in him gave him the authority or the right to become sons of God.

Jesus comes along and throws a cloak over us and gives us the right to be something that none of us could dream up in our own ways. When he had heard in verse 47, it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me. He interrupted what was happening like a crazy Pentecostal service with tongues and interpretation.

And interrupted your world.

And said, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me. Many warned him to be quiet. I grew up in a church where quietness was seen as godliness, where if you made too much noise with the bulletin that your dad would frown at you, and if you made too much noise, your dad might reach down the back of the pew and thump you in the back of the head.

Be quiet. This is God's house. When in reality, what we need to recognize is be noisy. This is God's house. Cry out for his mercy. This is God's house. You say, are you talking about our building? Nope. I'm talking about you. You are the temple. You say, well, how do I be noisy when I'm in a crowd and people think I'm crazy?

Well, you can do what I do. And just say it out loud and let people wonder.

Or you can entertain those thoughts inside of yourself. That you're actually a blind Bartimaeus needing mercy. People are warning you to be quiet because they can't expect for you what you need. They can't see you receiving from God what you need. They think you ought to temper what you ask from God. You ought to pull back on your requests and ask for easy things.

Many warned him to be quiet, but he cried out all the more. At some point you're going to have to be willing to say, Son of David, have mercy on me. The Bible says, Jesus stood still and commanded. I love that.

This idea that he stood above the crowd with a word of authority is where he stands in our life.

They called him. I love, I love the fickleness of good hearted Christians. But what it says then they called the blind man, saying to him, be of good cheer. They were just telling him to shut up. They were just telling him to be quiet. They were telling him to keep his expectations at a lower threshold, because Jesus has business to do, and it doesn't include you.

But the verse I want you to see is verse 50. And throwing aside his garment. He rose and came to Jesus. Ask yourself this question. How did he find him? He's blind.

How do you find him? By the sheer spiritual command that says, call him to me. He moved because he heard God's voice through Jesus Christ. Yes, he was still blind. And yes, he threw away the one thing that guaranteed his survival in the world that he lives in. His legal representation to beg money, their legal representation that the world gives you to be who they say you are.

You're just this person who's been in this situation. See, the world will give you the right to be hurt and broken and thrown out as yesterday's trash, because in some ways, it makes them feel better about themselves when there are people who are worse off. The world will allow you to be fearful about all the junk that you can find out there.

But what Jesus does is stand and command over you. Come to me and you have to throw aside what marks you as the person that you are. If God doesn't heal Bartimaeus sight, he may have trouble finding the thing that represented his support. That coat. You kind of got to be willing to throw a side. The cloak of labeling that you have that says, I'm not spiritual enough.

I don't understand the crazy stuff that goes on at New Life. The Bible says by faith we understand. It doesn't say we understand and it creates. Faith says by faith we understand. Faith says God can do these things. Understanding says God can only do what I say he can do. By the way, if you think that to its end result, you become the standard for your own life.

And I can't imagine that's where you want to be. Throwing his garment, he rose and came to Jesus and Jesus. Jesus answered and said to him. What do you want me to do for you? Now be real careful here, because when Jesus asked you a question, it's because he's prepared to answer the question.

What do you want me to do? You say, well, I'd like to find a sack of money alongside the road. That was one of my favorite things.

I want to be out of this difficulty. That's been one of my favorite things in the last couple of weeks. I did something so innocent last week or the week before. I just got out of the car, twisted my leg, and even though I'm up for surgery, pray for me tomorrow. You say, oh, can't God fix that? Sure.

I don't know what to say to you about that, but I believe that what God has called us to do is within his will of healing. You can say, well, I don't have time to talk about that. What do you want me to do for you?

When I recognize my own blindness, my prayer was, let all of them see. I was already seeing with my eyes closed. I wanted some of you who want to hide in church.

To be seen. I want you to see what God does. I want you to throw aside the labels that everybody gives you and be seen. And see what God is doing in your life. I want some of you young people to recognize what God is doing in your life, and he will indeed protect you. He is your defender.

He will protect you. Not until you become like us, until you become like Him.

The blind man said to him and I that I may receive my sight. Isn't it odd that he wanted his natural sight to align with his spiritual sight? Because that's likely how he got to Jesus. He likely had something that we struggle with, having the ability to see spiritually and be led by a voice. And he prayed that his human sight would align.

This is my story, okay? I don't have to preach today. This is my story. I don't have to prove this to you. I'm just reading to you out of the Bible. This is what God wants for you. He wants your spiritual sight to become as focused as your natural sight.

The blind man said to him, I want to receive my sight. Notice what he said. Verse 52 Then Jesus said to him, go your way. Your faith has made you well. Now people think that his faith is what did it. His faith is what brought him to Jesus. Jesus is. What did it?

Come to Jesus? You say, well, I don't know how to do that. Yes you do. Close your eyes and see that he's beckoning you to come. And as you wait and wonder, he sends his angels to protect you. That's as clear as I can get it for you. I saw it happen.

Father. Let us see. We want to receive our sight. We want to be able to close our eyes and see your word as a living person moving in us. Want to close our eyes and hear better? Want to close our eyes and feel or sense your presence? Want to close our eyes and understand by faith and not be thrown off by what we can see or what we've already experienced?

Let us be those people who will throw aside the garment. To throw aside what people label us, the very identity that we have in the world.

To say we're your child and we know it because we see it. Thank you, father, for restoring our sight, our spiritual sight, in Jesus name. Amen. Amen. Children's church.