

Letter 57

by James Bourne

James Bourne's sermon emphasizes the importance of prayer and reliance on God during trials, encouraging believers to trust in His strength and wisdom.

Scripture: Psalm 91:9

Topics: "Faith And Trust", "Gods Providence"

Description

James Bourne encourages the recipient to seek God's guidance and trust in His providence during a time of trial, believing that God will reveal a way forward that may seem unexpected. He shares personal experiences of God's faithfulness in intricate circumstances, emphasizing the importance of prayer, patience, and reliance on the Lord's strength. Bourne urges the recipient to reject worldly plans and human prudence, instead advocating for a humble reliance on God's power and protection, especially in times of weakness.

Transcript

[To the Rev. B. G.] London, June 7, 1834.

Dear Sir,

Half an hour ago I had little thought of writing to you so soon, but hearing of your present trial excites me to pray that as you partake of the affliction of the children of God, so you may also of the consolation. I believe you have been led in godly simplicity to beg of God to clear your way and to show you how you ought to go; so I believe that he will unfold the mystery in a way that we cannot in anywise foresee. Perhaps this very circumstance which seems big with ruin, will, by the Lord's help, give you power to bear witness to the truth where you were least likely to have an opportunity of so doing. My prayer for you shall be that you may be fortified and emboldened to bear a clear testimony of the hope that is in you, and that you may give a scriptural ground for your proceedings, and may find power to leave the event with the Lord, and be much in prayer to be at his disposal.

I have often, in the course of my life, been in such intricate circumstances as to think there could be no way opened for my escape; but by giving myself to prayer, I have been astonished to find, when the time has arrived and I have almost despaired, the Lord has spoken these words, and others of the like sort - "The battle is not yours, but God's" - "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation, there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling."

And I have found the verity of these precious words; and they have silenced all my fears, and strengthened my hopes, in future difficulties.

Be very particular to attend to this my request: if any plans in the flesh are proposed in your mind, or any schemes of human prudence are held before you, reject them as you would a viper, and for this once try what being a fool for Christ's sake will do. Let patience have its perfect work; rely, if possible, on the Lord; be much in prayer, night and day; and believe me, the weaker you feel, and the more sensible you are of your want of power to manage the matter, so much the more likely you are to meet with God's protection. "He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."

I send this to some friends who, though unknown to you, are anxious for your spiritual welfare, and would desire with me that this trial may end in showing you more and more of the mysteries both of grace and providence.

Yours &c. J. B.

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