

## Be Thou My Vision

### Verse 1

Be Thou my vision,  
O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me,  
Save that Thou art;  
Thou my best thought,  
By day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping,  
Thy presence my light.

### Verse 2

Be Thou my Wisdom,  
And Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee  
And Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father,  
I, Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling,  
And I with Thee one.

about this hymn:

Words: Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne Music: Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans

Long ago, a woman named Mary Byrne was thinking about this Bible truth, too. She translated from Irish into English a hymn called "Be Thou My Vision." We're going to learn two verses from it.

God's people want God to be their vision—the one they think about most of all, the one who is the best thing they can think of. They keep thinking about Him, both in a special time of praying and reading...and all through the rest of the day and night. They think about Him and know He is with them. His presence guides them, like a light in darkness. He lives inside their heart, giving them wisdom and showing them what He's like.

**Be Thou My Vision, v.1**

**PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 6**



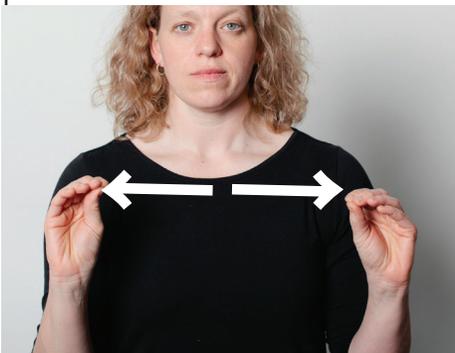
**Thou**  
Right open hand moves up a short ways from shoulder height.



**Vision**  
Index and middle finger of right "V" hand, palm facing in, are placed near eyes then moved forward.



**Heart**  
Middle fingers are used to traced out the shape of a heart on upper left chest.



**Naught (Nothing)**  
"O" hands are held in front of chest, fingers touching and palms facing forward. Simultaneously move both hands apart to each side.



**Thought**  
Make down and outward circles with the index finger of each hand near sides of forehead, palms facing in.



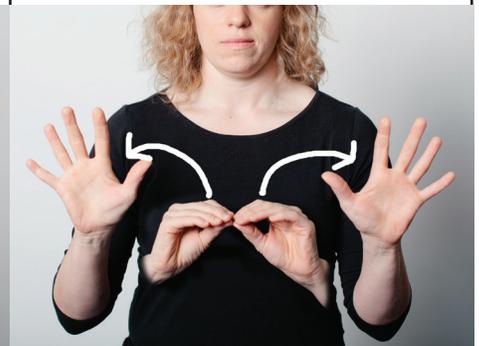
**Night**  
Left flat hand is held horizontally, palms facing down, fingers pointing right. Curved right hand, palm down and fingers pointing forward is brought down to right on back of left hand, ending with fingers pointing downward.



**Sleeping**  
Palm side of right open hand is placed in front of face and moved down to below the chin, changing into an "and" hand.



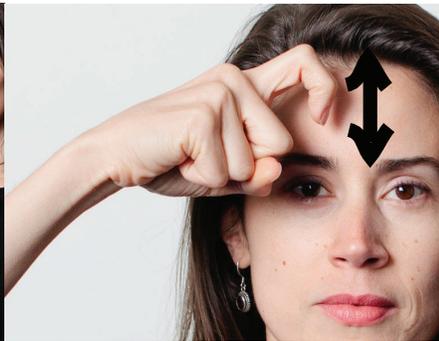
**Presence**  
Both slightly curved hands are raised simultaneously, palms facing each other. The right palm stops just short of the left palm, as if a person coming to stand before another person.



**Light**  
Hold both hands at chest level, fingertips together. Open hands into "5" hands as they move up and out to the side, palms facing out.

**Be Thou My Vision, v.2**

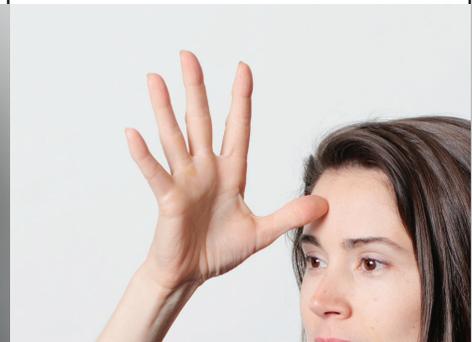
**PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 7**



**Thou**  
Right open hand moves up a short ways from shoulder height.

**Wisdom**  
Bent finger of right "X" hand is moved up and down several times. Make movement from the wrist.

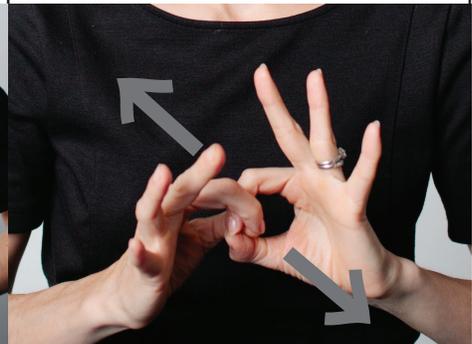
**Word**  
Left middle finger touches right palm, then right middle finger touches left palm. Bring flat hands are held together, palms touching and fingertips pointing forward, then opened with the little fingers still touching as if opening a book. (Signs for Jesus + book)



**With**  
"A" hands, knuckles move forward together, away from the chest.

**Lord**  
Thumb of right "L" hand, palm facing left. touches left shoulder, then is brought down to touch right hip.

**Father**  
Tap thumb of right "5" hand on forehead a few times.



**True**  
Place the right index finger, palm facing left, on lower lip. Move the finger up and then out, making an arc.

**Dwelling**  
Upturned thumbs of "A" hands move upward in front of chest in unison.

**One**  
Link index fingers and thumbs of both hands, with rest of fingers extended. Move both hands back and forth a few times.

## As the Deer

As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, O God.

As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God.

My soul thirsts for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?

Psalm Forty-two, one and two.

about this Bible verse:

Words: Psalm 42:1-2, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

A thirsty deer searches for a stream of water to satisfy his thirst. He must have it if he is to live. That's how God made his body. In the same way, our heart (or soul) longs for God because He made us to need Him. We may try to satisfy ourselves with other things, but until we know God, we will still long for something more. That's how He made us. He is the living God and there's nothing in the whole world that we need or want more than Him.



**Deer**

"5" hands, palms up, are placed on each side of head, with thumbs touching head. Simulates antlers.



**Pants**

Both upturned "5" hands are held side by side in front of chest. Bring both hands in, drawing in the fingers slightly to a grasping position.



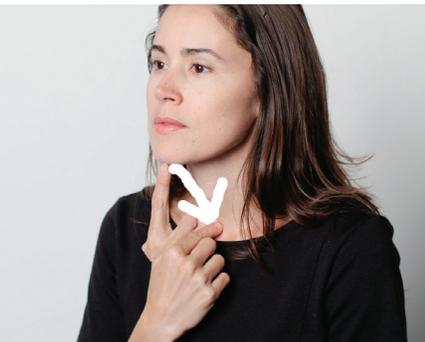
**Water**

Touch mouth with index finger of right W hand a couple times.



**Soul**

Touch the thumbs and index fingers of both "T" hands to each other, right hand above left, palms facing each other. Draw hands apart in an upward motion.



**Thirsts**

Right index finger starts at chin and strokes down throat, ending near base of neck.



**God**

Right open hand, palm facing left, is held up above head level then brought down and back in a slight arc, ending with a "B" hand at the upper chest level.



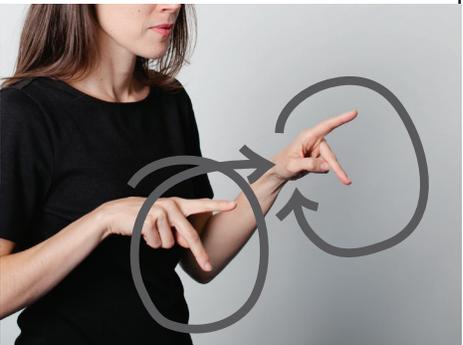
**Living**

Upturned thumbs of "A" hands move upward in front of chest in unison.



**Go**

Right "D" hand is held in front of body, index finger pointing up and palm facing forward. Move it forward and down in a slight arc until the index finger points forward.



**Meet**

"P" hands, held side by side, make alternating forward circles.



**As the Deer**

B $\flat$  Eb B $\flat$  Eb B $\flat$  F B $\flat$   
 As the deer pants for streams of wa - ter, So my soul pants for you, O God. As the deer pants for  
 6 Eb B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  B $\flat$ sus<sup>4</sup> Eb F B $\flat$  B $\flat$ sus<sup>4</sup>  
 streams of wa - ter, So my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God. My soul thirsts for the  
 12 Eb F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$   
 li - ving God. When can I go and meet with God? Psalm For-ty Two: ver-ses one and two.

Words: adapted from Psalm 42:1-2 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012