

Visions and Revelations:
Message 10 - The Apostle Peter (1)

After hearing and considering the word that was spoken, a group of brothers and sisters were inspired by some of the verses that were shared. We felt that it was helpful to reconsider these verses again to dig deeper into the burden of the message and to discover how rich it could be to us. We compiled these verses into six sections, one for each day of the week until the next message, in hopes that many other saints could spend a bit of time every day to reconsider the burden of our brother in a new light. If anyone considers some of these verses or questions and feels enriched by them, we ask you to please leave a comment on the Church in Cleveland site under the message to share your thoughts! Thanks! Grace and peace be to all the saints!

Note: These six sections are not comprehensive of the content of the message! This is just designed to be a help to get into a portion throughout the days.

DAY 1

Hebrews 1:8

But to the Son He says:

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

Hebrews 2:17-18

Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Philippians 3:10

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Every vision leads to seeing Christ. A Christian must have had visions and revelations at some point. To be saved, they must have seen that Christ is a Savior. That they are a sinner. That outside of Jesus Christ's salvation and saving power, we have no hope - we will go to Hell. And as you have revelations and visions, you see more and more of who this Christ is. You see that Christ is God, who bears full responsibility for you. You see Christ as a man, who, in his humanity, fully understands your needs, weaknesses, sensations, all your emotions, even your disposition. This humanity of Jesus becomes everything to you in your daily walk. Furthermore, you see the all-inclusive death of Christ, how it terminated all the fallen elements in the old creation. And not only the death of Christ, but His resurrection in power! How can we who are weak follow the Lord? His resurrection causes us to be empowered and to pursue diligently.

Saints do you see how visions can lead you to a Christ that is more full, more rich, more real in your subjective experience? Don't take any of these just as doctrine, something to know. But pray that you can have visions and revelations to see Christ in these ways, making Him become so very practical in our daily lives.

DAY 2

John 3:5

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 2:6

and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

Philippians 3:20

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

"We are born in Christ. We are born in a realm. When we were born, we were born in the Spirit, in the Spiritual realm." Our christian life, walk, living, is all in a spiritual realm. Our salvation, our receiving of God's eternal life was a static event, but one that resulted in our access to this new realm. When I was born as a citizen into the US, there is a birth date attached to that event, but my whole life and living has been an exploring of the richness of this land, the culture of the people, the education, the way of life, the values, and so much more. In the same way, when we received our salvation we are born again! Born of the Spirit, and we entered into the kingdom of God. We now have a citizenship in the heavens! We are seated with Christ in the heavenly places! Our whole life can be full of exploring this spiritual realm, who Christ is, what he has accomplished, what he will accomplish, experiencing a deeper, fuller, daily salvation. In this realm, Christ is our food / supply (bread of life - John 6:35), we see that there's a spiritual warfare (Eph 6:12), and Christ & His Church becomes our vision. We can experience the new creation (2 Cor 5:17), we can have a walk in newness of life (Rom 6:4), and we can experience the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph 3:8) our whole life. Saints, this is amazing! Our Lord is so rich, this spiritual realm is so rich, may we treasure him more and more each day and may the Lord have the first place in our heart.

DAY 3

John 1:40-42

*One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "**We have found the Messiah**" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).*

Luke 5:3-11

*...And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. 4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "**Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!**" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus*

said to Simon, **“Do not be afraid. From now on you will be a fisher of men.”** So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

When we first become Christians, the initial revelation of Jesus shows us that He is the Messiah, the Savior. Fortunately it doesn't end here—He continues to expand our vision even after we are saved. We may eventually experience another revelation of how sinful we actually are and realize the contrast between His divine character and our sinful character. This is similar to Simon Peter's experience with the Lord. After Peter's first few encounters with Jesus, they cross paths again when Jesus teaches from Peter's boat. He performs this miracle of helping them catch fish and that's when Peter proclaimed, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man!” Once he saw what Jesus could do, he realized the true nature of who Christ is, as well as his own nature as a sinful man. When Peter told Jesus to depart, praise the Lord that He didn't actually depart! But instead He told Peter that he will become a fisher of men. Hallelujah that the Lord continues to expand our vision of who He is! I pray that our response when we see more of Christ is to follow Him and become fishers of men.

DAY 4

Matthew 16:13-15

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

This is the question of all questions the Lord asks us: Who do *you* say that I am? In the verses above, Jesus asked this to the group of apostles who had been with Him—walking with Him, hearing His teachings, seeing all of His miracles—and should have had many answers given what they had witnessed. They should have been able to say, “You are the Messiah!” or “You are the Lamb of God!” or “You are the Son of God, in Whom the Father is well pleased!” But when He asked them, all except Peter were silent. For some reason, they could not answer.

What about us? If the Lord asked us today, would we be able to answer, or would we remain silent? Sometimes, we might slip unconsciously into a noble, religious life-pattern and forget about Him. We might go to meetings to gain the Lord, but for some reason, we forget the Lord. We might read the Bible or preach the gospel to gain Christ, but then we forget Christ. We might even be serving the Lord and forget the very Lord we serve, instead becoming filled with the “thing gained” instead of Him. Then the Lord has to remind us who He is. It is a similar feeling to how a parent would remind their child: “Love the food I cook, but love me more. Enjoy the provision, but enjoy me more. Whatever I bless you with, take it, but remember the blessing.” The Lord desires this very thing. Can we put Him in the right place?

DAY 5

Matthew 16:16-17

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

In his following of Jesus up to this point, Peter saw all the same things as the other apostles. How is it that only he had the boldness to declare that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God? It was by revelation. This revelation made all that he had seen alive to him. All of what he had seen of divinity lived out, all the sweet teachings, all the miracles, all became alive in him. It was not merely a teaching, but “the Christ” in God’s plan. It was not merely a miracle, but “the Christ” in operation. It was not merely a kind of living, but the manifestation of “the Christ” as God Himself. All that he had seen, heard, and followed were now a picture made alive in him. You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!

Imagine seeing a big garden, filled with all kinds of natural riches. The riches are always there, but in a particular moment, they are made alive. Oh, look at that tree, that flower, that fruit! Oh, look at the things growing in the garden! All of a sudden, you realize the garden is saturated with life. Hear the birds singing, see the bees and the butterflies. How beautiful! It’s not just a garden, it’s a *lively* garden.

So, brothers, a picture, a living picture, a picture that’s alive, can bring you into all the riches you know. All the conferences, all the trainings, all the things I heard, all the Bible which I had read, all the spiritual books which I had read, all of a sudden, one day, by the Lord’s mercy they are made alive. Then you can say, “I see Christ.” May we pray that the Lord would give us a picture of Christ, and make this picture *alive* to us.

DAY 6

John 1:41

He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ

Matthew 16:15-19

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Peter’s first interaction with Jesus was as the Messiah. The anointed one, the saving one. Jesus was the one to bring peace between God and Man, He is the one mediator (1 Tim 2:5) who intercedes on our behalf (Rom 8:34). Peter, James, John, Andrew, they should have known this, they were with Jesus from the very beginning. Yet, when Jesus asked His twelve disciples in Matthew 16, Peter answered and said “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Peter saw something different now. He did not call Him the Messiah but The Christ. He saw that not only was the Lord coming to save His people (all the people of the world), but that He was doing something new! God was going to build His church, Peter was given the keys to the kingdom, God was going to do something new! The Messiah was not bringing just a passive salvation to free the kingdom of Israel, but as the Christ he was bringing in God’s heart desire for all of mankind!

May we see our dear Savior did not come just to be our Savior but to be the firstborn among many brethren (Rom 8:29), He came to bring God to Man and Man to God. May we desire to have a life like Peter, we may experience much failure but can we say Lord, I would still like to love you, Lord I would still like to follow you, Lord I would still like to pay any price so that you would be satisfied.