

Visions and Revelations:
Message 11 - The Apostle Peter (2)

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

Ephesians 2:5

Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

All of a healthy Christian life is lived in the principle of vitality. Are you a healthy Christian? It is not how much you know. It is not how much you pursue or receive and understand. It's all about how vital you are. We see how Paul stresses the matter of *being made alive* in the two books with the highest spiritual revelations. All of Peter's visions and revelations are in this principle as well. Firstly, the knowledge of Christ was made alive to him. It's interesting right? Peter must have heard the story. When Jesus was baptized, he was either in the crowd or nearby when heaven opened and God spoke, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." Also, his brother Andrew came and told him, "I met the Messiah." Then, when Peter met Jesus, Jesus changed his name. All these things had happened, and though they might have made the Lord extremely attractive in the beginning, it is clear that Peter still had limitations. There was no impact, meaning the vision was not operating properly in him. Yet, when Jesus asks the disciples "who do you say I am?" all this knowledge of Christ in Peter was made alive! He could boldly declare, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!"

Reflect upon how you consider if your Christian walk is healthy or not. Do you count by how many meetings you've attended? How many Bible chapters you have read? Or is it by how vital you are with the Lord? May we have a prayer that all our knowledge of the Lord can be made alive in us! Lord, You are the one who can make us vital!

DAY 2

John 1:42

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).

Colossians 2:13–14

*And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that were against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.***

Galatians 2:9

*And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be **pillars**, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.*

When we are made alive together in Christ, the way we understand and examine ourselves also needs to be made alive by the Lord. At first we have the realization that we are a sinner. We are ashamed of who we are. Our whole being, by nature, is against who God is. But thank God He has taken away all our trespasses against Him! He has erased all of our iniquities and made us alive together with Him. The Lord told Peter that he shall now be called Cephas, which means “valuable stone.” Similarly, we who were once in sin, can become a person so valuable to the Lord. There is a stark contrast between who we were in the past, and who we are today. After Peter’s understanding of his “self” was made alive, he became so useful to the Lord and was considered an essential pillar in the church. Can we reflect on our own understanding of who we were, and who we are now? I pray that we can all boldly declare that we are a person with Christ!

DAY 3

Matthew 5:3-8

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Another element in Peter that was eventually made alive by the Father were the teachings of the Lord. Peter heard many of Jesus’s teachings as he followed Him throughout His public ministry on the earth. Some of these teachings seemed simple but mysterious: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Some may have been more challenging to his preconceptions of God’s will: “Everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

All these teachings eventually were made alive by the Father through visions and revelations. Peter did not merely comprehend the lesson with his brain, but they became alive and lived out through him. For example, perhaps there was a day when he was poor in spirit, which caused him to call on the Lord. As he told Him of his poor condition, he began to mourn, which then in turn caused him to be meek and without any self-boasting, which then in turn led him to hunger and thirst for righteousness, and so on. Eventually, these virtues that the Lord taught in the Sermon on the Mount were developed within Peter and they led him to say, “I want to be pure and love God alone.” This teaching is no longer a concept in his brain, but alive and operating within Peter’s life.

What about us? What teachings have not yet become alive in us? It is good to memorize Bible verses and to untangle spiritual lessons together. But the goal is Christ, to live Christ, to

seek Him. May the Father have mercy that His words can become alive and vital within each one of us.

DAY 4

John 3:6

“that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”

John 6:35

And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

John 7:37-38

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

John 8:12

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

“Brothers, I tell you I'm so happy I have a spirit. I love the Lord in my spirit with reality. I enjoy the bread of life. I enjoy the flowing of living water. I enjoy the light of life that leads me, directs me, and causes my whole life to be very meaningful. I'm not short of anything. What a declaration the Lord has made” (pg. 6 edited transcript).

The Lord is so rich. Through his vision, all the declarations the Lord had made also became alive. Peter must have realized from all these experiences that our Lord is truly the all-sufficient One. He is our reality and He makes all things real to us by His Spirit. When we have spiritual hunger, when we have a longing that this world cannot satisfy, He is the bread of life, He sustains us. When I'm weak or when I have no strength, the Lord is a river of living water! Gushing up from my spirit and from the brothers and sisters to quench my thirst. In all my following of the Lord, He is the Light of life, He leads me, He shines on me and shows me all my weaknesses and failures. He heals my blindness so that I can see God. Peter must have realized, the Lord is the Messiah, He is the saving one. He will save me from myself, He will save me from the world, and He will save me from this crooked and perverse generation. I think Peter must have realized, “What a glorious Savior! What a wonderful Savior! You Jesus are the Christ, the son of the living God!”

DAY 5

Matthew 8:14-15

And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him.

Matthew 9:20-22

And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, for she said to herself, “If I only touch his

garment, I will be made well.” Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.

Another thing that was made alive in Peter was all the things the Lord has done in his wisdom and power. Outwardly you can say all these are miracles, just to show us that the Lord is the Lord. But when these works were made alive in Peter, he realized, “I’m not just a simple Peter. Who am I? You know who I am? I’m a leper. Second, I’m paralyzed. Third, I have a high fever. Fourth, I have a flow of blood. Fifth, I’m blind. Six, I’m dumb! That’s why my whole Christian life is terrible!” But He sees a vision. “Oh you take care of all this, hallelujah, You do take care of this!”

Can these stories become alive in us? It’s not just Peter’s mother-in-law with a fever who is healed, but we can be healed from our religious zeal, trying to serve the Lord by ourselves. It’s not just a woman with a flow of blood so many years ago, but when we have the experience of being unable to keep spiritual things within us, we can know the Lord as one who heals that as well. It’s not just a leper, or a paralyzed one, or a blind man. When there’s a vision, all these miracles become alive and practical to us. Praise the Lord! He can take care of all this!

DAY 6

Matthew 16:13-17

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 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.

When Jesus asked “Who do they say I am?”, Peter was able to boldly declare, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!” At that point, he was able to see the complete picture of who Christ is. He finally received a complete revelation, which caused him to respond so buoyantly. When we finally see Christ, everything becomes so clear to us. We see the sinful person we are. We see what a savior Christ is. We see the commitment we were given. We see what kind of life we can live out. This revelation is something that can only be from God our Father. Oftentimes we feel like God doesn’t give us many visions and revelations. Or maybe we think we aren’t “good enough” of a Christian to receive revelations from the Lord. This is completely opposite of what God’s desire is! See how happy Jesus’s response was! The Father truly has a desire to show us visions and revelations so we can understand and declare our commitment to Him. In the same way the Father revealed this to Peter, I pray the Lord can make us alive in such a way that we also see this revelation of Christ