

Visions and Revelations:
Message 12 - The Apostle Peter (3)

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

1 John 2:16-17

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Matthew 16:17

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.

“‘Flesh and blood can bring forth seeming revelations that are attractive and right, but are of no value...’ It has no value. You look at it, it seems right, but no, there’s no value.” Oh how true and unfortunate that many times we may find ourselves drawn away by “revelations” from the flesh. It may be of the sinful world. Or we may be attracted by a good social life, a nice house, a luxury car, or even a very successful career. Even our noble sentiments can draw us into a religious world that seems right. Many times our hearts seem so sticky, easily drawn away by all that is in the world. We enjoy our flesh so much, but the problem is that nothing spiritual is produced, nothing eternal is produced.

Thankfully, Peter saw that Jesus was the Christ. This was revealed to him by the Father. When the Father reveals something to us, He shows us something of Christ. We see something more clearly, we appreciate Him not only as our Savior but also as our Comforter; we see Him as our Life-supply, we see Him as our Friend, we see Him as the Good Shepherd who lays His life down for the sheep. Please take some time this week and tell the Lord, “Lord I want to see You more. Lord, I want to know You more.”

DAY 2

Hebrews 7:3

without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

Colossians 1:16

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him

Matthew 16:16-17

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 Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," Jesus proclaimed that it was His Father in heaven who revealed this to him. The Father's revelation is Christ and Christ alone. It is not for us to accomplish anything nor is it even for us to do anything for Him. We may tell the Father, "I love You!" or "I worship You!" but the Father says, "If you love Me, then love My Son. If you want to worship Me, then worship My Son." The Father's focus is solely on Christ.

Who is this Christ? Christ is the One in whom He will accomplish His eternal purpose. He is the One who created all things and the One who testifies of who God is. As the Son of the living God, He produces a certain vitality. When we enter into this revelation, we partake of His vitality and we are made alive! Praise the Lord that we have Christ who can lead us, uphold us, and carry out God's economy!

DAY 3

Matthew 16:17-18

*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.*

When Peter says, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God," we see that he really had a marvelous revelation from the Father. This revelation is so good and so high, and it is such a good picture that we may think that it should just stop there. However, Jesus goes on to say, "I also say to you..." What does "also" mean? "Also" means that there is an extension, an expansion, an elevation of the revelation the Father gave. The Father's revelation is Christ. Christ's revelation is the church. It's not "perfect" or "complete" to only have the revelation of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God." We also need revelation from Christ!

Isn't it precious to hear the Lord say, "I also say to you"? This "also" makes the Father's revelation richer, fuller, more alive to us. No matter if you've known the Lord for one year or for fifty, no matter if you've known the doctrine of the church for many years or not—we all need an "also" from the Lord! Can we have this prayer? "Lord, may every vision and revelation from You have an 'also'! Not only to show me who You are, but to show me how valuable, precious, and needed I am for the building up of Your church!"

DAY 4

Matthew 16:18

*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.*

1 Peter 2:4-5

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Peter's revelation continues from the Father's revelation of Christ to Christ's revelation of who Peter was. Peter saw that Jesus was the Christ, and now Jesus tells Simon, "Your name is Peter" (*Petros*). This rock (Peter, *petros*) matches the foundational rock (Christ, *petra*) on which the church is built. In the same manner, the Lord would also like to change us from a common stone (*lithos*) to a specific stone that has value (*Petros*).

The Lord desires to work on us, mold us, be Lord over us, and give us a heavenly commitment, but this requires our cooperation as well. May the Lord grant us such a heart that we pray and tell him, "Lord, I may not be a petros, but I would like to be useful in Your eyes." Then, in totality, all of these "petros" are built up into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, a treasured possession (Deut. 7:6). Praise the Lord this was not just a spoken word for Peter, but the Lord is also speaking this to each one of us today!

DAY 5

Matthew 16:18

*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.*

Colossians 2:19

...holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

In His reply to Peter, the Lord spoke a strong word. “And on this rock, I will build My church.” *I will*. There is no conditional phrasing here, nothing implying “if you do x, then I will do y.” No, this “I will” is unconditional and it is based on only one thing: the Lord’s desire. This “I will” speaks of God’s eternal will, His heart’s desire. There is nothing conditional regarding our actions in order for the Lord to enact His “I will.” 6,000 years ago, He was building His church and He is still doing it today. Whatever happens, He will.

Saints, do we have this realization of the Lord’s unconditional “I will”? Sometimes we may be easily caught up in what we should or should not be doing. We may even sometimes feel like the burden and responsibility of building the church falls upon us! (There is the component of the Body building itself up in love, but who is the Head? From Whom does the Body grow?) In reality, we do have a burden to build up the church, but that is because the Lord firstly has that desire. May we realize who initiates and who firstly and unconditionally has declared, “I will.” When Christ says, “I will,” may we also say, “Lord, I will too.” Praise Him, for He has touched our wills to match His own. May the surety and certainty of His will become alive in us.

DAY 6

Matthew 16:18

*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.*

Eph 1:22-23

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

We may think that the Lord is doing a lot of things such as creation, incarnation, ascension, redemption, salvation, and so on. All of these things are indeed marvelous, but we must realize that actually, the Lord is doing only one thing: He is building His church. Why does He save you? He is building His church. Why does He attract you to love Him? He is building His church. Why does He bless you? He is building His church. Why is He bringing you into trials that seem so difficult that you cry out to Him? He is building His church. The Lord takes each of His children through so many things for one purpose: so that we will be builded up in the church life. This is what is in His heart.

Spend some time in the verses and/or in the message for this week. We pray that the Lord opens our eyes to see His will and that we would respond to such a vision. “Lord, if You will, then let us also declare that we will. You want to build the church; we want to build the church.” May we be ones who “will” together with the Lord. May His “I will” decide our lives. May we become living stones who care only for Him, for His heart, and His desire. May the Lord have mercy.