

Visions and Revelations:
Message 16 — The Apostle Peter (6, Part 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

Matthew 16:18

*And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Ephesians 2:19-22

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are **being built together into a dwelling place for God** by the Spirit.*

Ephesians 2:14-16

*For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, **having abolished in His flesh the enmity**, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*

God desires a builded up church where He can dwell. We need to be built up individually and corporately. So how is this accomplished? How can we build up the church? One thing we can do is each have an individual walk with God. We need to start with our own relationship with the Lord and learn to abide in Him and grow in Him. Naturally when we spend more time with Him, we come to love Him more as well. Only then can the church be builded up. When people who love the Lord come together, life is there. This life is what knits the saints together. Regardless of how different the people are, none of it matters because Christ has broken down the wall of enmity! We are all for the same goal and purpose, so when we meet together, the church is builded up. Praise the Lord for the continual building up of His church!

DAY 2

Matthew 16:18

*And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the **gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Eph 5:16

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Hades (hell) is a place where Satan rules, and there are many gates. God is sovereign, above all things, over all things, and He rules and reigns within His kingdom. But do we consider that Satan also has a kingdom and is ruling and reigning, doing his best to keep people from entering into God's kingdom? What a sober word saints. There are many obvious things that we may identify with the world, with sin, things that are satanic but the Devil is very sneaky, just as he tricked Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, so he is today, tricking hundreds, thousands, millions, and dare I say, even billions of people into eternal perdition.

He can use very decent and even noble things to turn people away. A PhD is not something evil but if pursued for the sake of getting a PhD, with a view of being successful, or ambition to be great, then Satan has effectively trapped someone with a gates of hades. In other words, he has distracted or blocked someone from entering into God's kingdom, from being a part of the builded church. May we be before the Lord and realize that so many people are lost today, so many people are occupied with things unrelated to the Lord, and oftentimes we ourselves are often caught up in many things unrelated to the Lord. Paul mentioned to the Ephesians 2,000 years ago, and I believe he would say to us today, *redeem the time because the days are evil.*

DAY 3

Matthew 16:18

*And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the **gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

Heb 10:24-25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Now we see how clever and sneaky the Devil can be, but remember the Lord is sovereign and is the King of kings. The Lord Jesus declared that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it [The Church]. What an encouraging statement! In other words, the church cannot be trapped by the schemes of Satan. Satan may easily be able to defeat us as individuals with so many weaknesses but in God's wisdom, we were placed into His church, His body.

In this body we have the brothers and sisters as our protection, in this body Christ is able to be the reigning One. Brothers and sisters, have you ever experienced not wanting to go to a meeting but still going? Then somehow, by the end of the gathering you feel refreshed, you feel Christ is so near, you feel Heaven is so close to you. This is what the Lord Jesus was telling Peter and all the disciples, the gates of Hades cannot prevail against it. Many times, brothers and sisters think they are ok without the saints, as long as they make Sunday morning meetings they are ok, they are content, their conscience won't bother them. However, this very thought can easily lead to spiritual death and the ensnarement of the gates of Hades. Brothers and sisters, please take time this week to pray for those you know who are trapped through one of these gates. We should not be mad, upset, or angry at our fellow brothers and sisters who may no longer meet with us, but in a spirit of meekness, can we call them, tell them we miss them and pray that the Lord would restore their first love, and restore their fellowship with the brothers and sisters in the church.

DAY 4

Matthew 16:19

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

Ephesians 1:20-21

...which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Matthew 6:10

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The kingdom is the "king's domain." Who is our King? Our king is Jesus Christ, the Son of God the resurrected Savior. Then what is the kingdom? It is wherever the King "domains," where He dominates, reigns, and has full control. So then, when the resurrected Christ has dominion—when God has dominion—then we can say, "This is the kingdom."

The kingdom of heavens means this: God has full domain in heaven, and He would like to bring the heavenly kingdom down to the earth. This kingdom is in the vitality of His life. As the Word, He is operating, moving, vital; He is always active and desiring to accomplish His eternal desire. Spend some time in the verses above. When you touch the Lord, you touch the King who is the most vital and who is always operating to bring the heavenly kingdom here on earth. May He have the domain over our hearts and our lives.

DAY 5

Exodus 3:13-14

Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" And

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."

John 8:58

Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The King determines the kingdom. To understand the kingdom of the heavens, you need to understand its king. So then, who is this King? Who is our God? When Moses, one of the greatest servants in the Old Testament, asked this question, God answered, "I Am Who I Am." God answered not with His name, but with His existence. We could never say something like this. As soon as we—as temporal and changeable humans—say "I am," the next day, it becomes "I was." There is only One entity who never changes. He is the self-existing and ever-existing Triune God. No one created Him; He simply was, and is, and ever will be.

Do we realize there is such a God who is ruling in the universe? He says, "I am who I am. I am always here. I know everything here. And I always have power over everything here." Praise Him as the King who is omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, and glorious!

DAY 6

Psalms 104:24-25

*O Lord, how many are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all;
The earth is full of Your possessions.
There is the sea, great and broad,
In which are swarms without number,
Animals both small and great.*

Exodus 35:30-31

Then Moses said to the sons of Israel, "See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsmanship;

The Kingdom of heaven is where God has His domain. What moves this domain is the vitality of His life. So what is this King like? He is full of creativity. To Him, nothing is routine, but everything is fresh, everything carries new hope. Actually, all creativity comes from God Himself. He is the first creative One. Look at the universe, at all the beauties in the universe, and at man and all the varied creatures. How full of creativity our God is!

Brothers and sisters, when we've heard so many messages about the Lord, do we realize this should give us a lot of capital to be full of creativity? How can we use what we have? Could you write? Could you share with others? Could you make an exhibit? Our God is so creative, and we have been made one with Him! Don't be content to be bored in the church life, but may the Spirit within you cause you to be full of creativity, that we can all express this part of who our God is.