

Visions and Revelations:
Message 17 — The Apostle Peter (6, Part 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

Gen 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Video timestamp: 0:23 - 1:50

What is man's place in God's kingdom? Is it just to come under God's rule? Absolutely not! Man was not created to only be an entity in the kingdom, but God made man in His image, according to His likeness, so that man could have dominion. He could rule. He was made to match the kingdom of heavens. Inwardly and outwardly, to match God. This is what made God say, "This is very good." So how would God have His heavenly kingdom? He would have co-rulers in man. God desires to rule through man. Man would be under God's ruling, but would also rule over all the creation. Without man to rule, there can be no reality of the kingdom of heaven on earth. But also, without God ruling man, there is a kingdom, but not of heaven! Oh saints, do we see how we need to come under God's ruling for the kingdom of heaven to be in proper order? May we lay aside our ways and submit to God's rule in us today!

DAY 2

Eph 3:17-19

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Heb 2:10

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Video timestamp: 1:52 - 6:21

From the beginning God desired so much to be with man. In the garden of Eden, God put before man the tree of life, God's very own life but unfortunately, Adam and Eve partook of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and were thus separated from God. Throughout the entire Old Testament God used so many people, yet there was something lacking. Abraham was the father of faith and was even considered the friend of God, but God could only appear to him and speak to him. Among the Kings of Israel, we see that King David was a man who was very much after God's own heart. However, with all of these individuals God can only interact with them in an outward sense—they were confined by their human nature and God was seemingly confined into the heavens. He could not quite reveal himself.

However, today, the Lord Jesus lives inside each and every believer. The Lord can be one with us and we can be one with him not only in action but in life and nature. Today, every believer is equipped with the divine life, God's very own life! Today, Christ desires to dwell within every believer, to make His home in our heart. How can this be true? Because of the man named Jesus. Our Lord Jesus changed everything. He was the prototype, He was God and man. Finally God found one person who could be so one with God. His living, actions, words just expressed God Himself. Jesus could say not my will but your will be done. He was so close to the Father and today, He is beginning us, as God's many sons, into glory, more and more into this divine life.

DAY 3

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

John 10:30

I and My Father are one.

John 1:51

And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Video timestamps: 6:22 - 9:07

Jesus Christ was the first God-man, the first in whom God and man were totally one. He was a man totally submissive to God's reigning. Finally, many years after creation, there was One in whom the Father could be so satisfied, One in whom God can really have His domain. Through Him, there can be the ruling of God on earth. This is the reality of the kingdom of heaven. In other words, the reality of the kingdom of heaven is where Christ's life rules.

The only reason that the kingdom of heaven is "at hand" is because the Lord is at hand! (Philippians 4:4) Again, the kingdom of heaven is where Christ's life rules. Spend some time in these verses above and with our King, Jesus Christ. Touch the reality of the kingdom of heaven. We praise Him who lived a life on earth totally one with the Father and made the way possible for us.

DAY 4

1 Corinthians 14:45

And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

Psalms 87:5

And of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her; And the Most High Himself shall establish her."

Video timestamp: 8:53 - 12:29

Christ on the earth had the divine life of God. But now, in His resurrection, He became eternal life in spirit, giving life to us, so that we could also have the reality of the kingdom. Christ rules in life in us. Thus, the realm of the kingdom of heaven is the church today. What is the church? You know the brothers outwardly, but do you realize that in each one, God desires to rule? Christ as life in them *can* rule. As Christ rules in you, sometimes in a good way and sometimes not to your liking, eventually all your plans have to be put aside. This is the church. Christ ruling over me and you, and through me or through you, Christ rules over all of us. Learn to see the church in this way. See this brother? He's born of Zion. Christ rules in him. See this sister? Born of Zion. Christ rules through her. Can we pray for the Lord's ruling to increase in us this week? That we would go our own way less? That His ruling would be more automatic within us? May the Lord have mercy

DAY 5

Matthew 16:19

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.”

Acts 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Lord said to Peter that He would give him the keys of the kingdom of heaven, but what is this key? This very key is the Spirit! The kingdom of heaven is even nearer today than when John the Baptist and Jesus declared its arrival! In other words, this was not a one time static event, it is not something just for Peter! Today, when the Lord Jesus is in our spirit and rules over us, we are also able to declare that the kingdom of heaven has drawn near!

Today, this very same Spirit is given to every believer, and the Lord Jesus lives in every single believer! Peter, through the gospel, opened the door to the Jews and Gentiles. Today the Lord desires that the gospel would continue to go forth and that more doors would be opened! A door in this or that neighborhood, a door to the poor, a door to our friends, a door to our neighbors, the Lord desires today that many more doors would be opened!

Today the kingdom of heaven is with every believer. When you are with your family, your friends, your neighbors, your coworkers, you can say the kingdom of heaven has drawn near! Brothers and sisters, do you know that when a person receives the Lord Jesus, he enters into the kingdom of heaven? So with me, with you, when God can rule in us, we can experience the reality of the kingdom of heaven and we are able to help others to enter into this same reality! Furthermore, when we come together as the church and subject ourselves to Christ, we can experience an even deeper reality of the Kingdom of Heaven!

DAY 6

Colossians 3:11

Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

2 Corinthians 2:12

Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord

When Peter “opened the overall door” with his preaching, it meant that the gospel door was open! The gospel could now be preached to Jews, gentiles, barbarians, Scythians; it doesn’t matter who you are. This is the key to open the door of salvation. But it shouldn’t stop there, because today we also have the same Spirit that allowed Peter to open these doors. We need to ask the Lord to open these doors for us, not just for Peter! How can the Lord open doors in my life, while I’m at work, in my neighborhood, even with the saints? In every possible way imaginable, how can our doors be opened for the gospel to reach people in our lives? Consider someone that you may encounter regularly in your life. How can your door be open to them so that they can receive the gospel?

When Paul arrived at Troas to preach the gospel, he said that “a door was opened to me by the Lord.” I pray we can have the realization that in order for doors to be opened, the Lord has to move. We need to ask the Lord to open doors in our lives.