

Visions and Revelations:
Message 20 — The Life of One Who Has Visions and Revelations

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

John 21:18–19

*Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, **you girded yourself** and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”*

Luke 17:7–8

*And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, “Come at once and sit down to eat”? But will he not rather say to him, “Prepare something for my supper, and **gird yourself** and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink”?*

Video timestamp: 2:19–7:28

What does it mean to gird yourself? When you gird yourself, it means you first see a vision and then you live according to that vision. You have a clear purpose that causes you to live your life in a certain manner. After Peter saw a vision, the Lord stated that he girded himself. This doesn't necessarily mean that Peter would always be prevailing from then on or that he would never sin again. It simply meant that he is clear that his living is for the Lord based on what the Lord revealed to him.

In Luke, when the servant girded himself, he understood the purpose of his role to his master and that he must serve him first. In our lives, are we bold enough to say we have “girded” ourselves? Can we declare to the Lord that our living is for Him and Him alone? If not, then I pray the Lord can reveal a vision to us that is so clear that causes us to give our all to Him.

DAY 2

John 21:18

*Most assuredly, I say to you, **when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.***

1 Timothy 4:12

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Video timestamp: 7:29–9:24, 11:06–11:27, 12:14–15:45

The apostle Peter led an extremely romantic life. He was girded, meaning that he was clear that his life was for the Lord and His satisfaction. The Lord showed him a vision and his life was based upon what the Lord showed to him; he knew the meaning of his life. He was free to follow where he thought the Lord was leading him.

Remember, the Lord distinguished a period of Peter's life as "when you were younger." Every Christian—including us!—should have a stage of life when we are young, when we are bold and committed to walk, labor, and live according to what we feel the Lord has told each one of us individually. Perhaps in this stage, we may hear a word about self-life or mixed intentions, and begin to over-analyze, becoming fearful or timid. It's possible we may hear this word and think we should be bound. However, if we don't have this stage in our youth, we will miss a lot. Peter was not bound when he was younger. He was *girded*, and he was clearly committed regarding his life's purpose to serve the Master. But he did not despise his youth, and neither should we.

If you are young in your Christian life (whatever that may mean): Rise up! Let's go preach the gospel! Let's raise up the Lord's testimony in many new cities! And let's raise up many others who love the Lord as we do. May the Lord really capture us and stir up this committed spirit of power, love, and a sound mind.

DAY 3

John 21:18-19

*Most assuredly, I say to you, **when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.*** This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

Video timestamp: 9:25–11:06, 11:28–12:13, 12:14–15:45

Whoever has visions and revelations should have a life like this. Today, there's no Roman Empire. Today, there is no cross for us to die on. But for us, when we become mature, we will still live a life that's under a kind of bondage. *You will stretch out your hands* means you go under bondage willingly. "I know I have no choice."

Who binds us? The Lord binds us. The church binds us. The needs of the church bind us. Brothers and sisters bind us. When you are young, you should have the feeling, “Go! Go! Let’s go preach the gospel! Raise up testimonies! Fight for the vision we have received!” But when you are old, you realize that all kinds of needs are there. It’s no longer how you feel, but the need you see. This is a good kind of bondage. You see a need in the church, so you have to live according to that need. You see a need in the saints, so you live according to that need. Your concern is *What is best for the Lord*, rather than, *what I am burdened for*. Can you say, “Lord, I am your servant. I’d like to peacefully, simply live according to you”? The churches need these kinds of mature “Peter.”

DAY 4

Matthew 16:23-25

But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his [soul] life will lose it, but whoever loses his [soul] life for My sake will find it.

Video timestamp: 17:25–22:49

Another aspect of the life of someone who has seen a vision is to learn how to handle their soul-life. “If you lose your soul life, you will gain your soul life.” This can be a peculiar or confusing statement, but the key is realizing that our soul can become different. Although we always love the Lord with our souls, we initially do so from our natural, mixed souls. But as we continue to walk with and grow in the Lord, He transforms us.

Transformation means that our souls change; our understanding, what we lay hold of, our goal in life, and even our person becomes different. Maybe when we were young, we wanted to serve the Lord, but it was mixed with a desire to be a great and recognized servant of the Lord! But with time, as we learn how to deny our natural soul-lives, we slowly will be transformed by the Lord. Eventually, we want to serve the Lord, not for recognition or self-love, but purely because we love Him. We live such a life purely because we have this precious Christ.

Brothers and sisters, we can’t change our own hearts. Only the Lord can operate in such a way to transform our souls. But may our prayer be that we learn to handle our soul-life and learn how to deny our self. This is, after all, the Lord’s word: “If you deny your natural soul-life, I will grant you a soul-life very pure.” May the Lord have mercy on us.

DAY 5

Matthew 17:2-5

and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”

Hebrews 1:3

Who [Christ] being the brightness of His [God's] glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Video timestamp: 23:58 – 28:30

Brothers and sisters, when you read these verses, do you have a feeling that wow, Christ is so glorious. His face shone like the sun and his clothing became white as light. When Paul saw Jesus on the road to Damascus he described the light as being brighter than the sun!

Sometimes we may think such-and-such brother is so spiritual, so talented, if only I could just be like him. Wouldn't that be glorious? But no, God here reminded Peter, James, John, and even us today, that no, *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"* Christ is the only one with whom God is pleased, Christ is glory himself! Brothers and sisters we may respect, honor, and admire many spiritual brothers and sisters, and we should, but let us not forget that their glory is in Christ! Their shining, their brightness, their radiance, their aura, their spirituality is all tied to Christ, joined to his glory. Brothers and sisters today, when we are very much in our spirit, very much have the Lord's leading, very much have the Lord's anointing, then we also become partakers of Christ's Glory!

DAY 6

Matthew 17:3–5

And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

Video timestamp: 28:30 – 33:02

Christ is the one whom God is well pleased with right? So what about the older brothers and sisters before us, how do we follow them and follow Christ? If we were with Martin Luther during the reformation, wouldn't we consider how glorious he is because he really saw that salvation is by faith alone? We can love the Lord very much. but don't we also enjoy being with some spiritual men, with some very godly men? That is just like Peter. He said, I will build one tent for Jesus, one for Elijah, one for Moses. He didn't get it, that only Christ mattered.

Brothers and sisters, every spiritual man or woman isn't just for us to appreciate and admire. They should bring us to Christ, to see something more of Christ, to enjoy something more of Christ, to consecrate ourselves more to Christ. We can very much appreciate a brother like Hudson Taylor, a sister like Madame Guyon, or the Apostle Paul, but do their writings, their biographies, their testimonies, draw us closer to Christ? When we get some spiritual help from these brothers and sisters, we feel encouraged to love the Lord more, to pursue the Lord more, we should praise the Lord and give him thanksgiving for that! We should treasure and not despise the portion of these dear saints but, they should not replace Christ. They should not replace our focus. May we always remember that it is only Christ, and Christ alone with whom the Father is well pleased.