

Visions and Revelations

Message 1: The Center and Content of Visions—Jesus, the Son of God

Paul Neider: Brothers and sisters, I'm here with brother Titus and some other brothers. Due to the quarantine we are under with not more than 10 coming together, we asked our brother if he would be a supply to the churches by sharing some messages that we could enjoy during the week for our feeding, our growth, our enlightenment. So he will be sharing some messages that are thirty to forty minutes concerning our vision and revelation that hopefully will be very practical, and the hope is that we will spend some time individually and together to review them, to digest them, and to have some fellowship.

Our desire is that each Lord's Day, groups could come together through the computer, through phones, and they will be able to together watch these thirty to forty minute messages concerning vision and revelation and have fellowship afterwards, that should be helpful and practical for our spiritual growth and our daily life, our going on together. So brothers and sisters, I encourage you to be very proactive to reach out to one another and for the leaders in the churches to arrange groups so that this can take place.

Titus Chu: Dear brothers, through this particular environment, the brothers and I have a lot of fellowship. We feel it is profitable if I take the opportunity to share something on a weekly basis. Every week, I will have a simple message, maybe even two, for us to enjoy, to be in. I was very much before the Lord considering this. Somewhat I had a feeling--let's come to something very very practical. We are not going to share a lot of teachings, doctrines, but practically let's come into what we have stressed all these years, that is, visions and revelations. Usually, when we come to this matter, they become very very spiritual. But in the Bible, many times it is related to practical matters. People see a vision, they change. People see a vision, they have a new life. People see a vision, they change the pattern of their life. People see a vision, they have a new beginning. Then, in the vision they see revelations. Every revelation can become their strength, can strengthen them, can help them to go on, can give them a clear direction. So brothers, when the topic I am going to share with you in this coming series of messages is "Visions and Revelations." But we are not defining this besides the first meeting in a short time. We are coming to all the practical cases--how Joseph had a vision or revelation, how Peter has visions and revelations, how Paul has visions and revelations. We are not talking about the truth about it. We are talking about how the visions come, the revelations come, affect them, and they become different. They are able to serve or follow the Lord much more clearly, precisely, and with stronger ability. They can go more buoyantly. So you can see my basic thought, or basic burden, or even basic desire--by going through these series of messages, we can know, or we are able to apply all the things we have heard through years in our daily life, in today's need, that we can go on. So all the messages, every message in this series, can be high, can be heavenly. But it must be, it should be, or I'd like it to be, very very practical, that we listen to it, we know how to apply it, they can affect our daily life and in turn also affect our church life.

Before you come to this, you should have a simple outline. This outline should be written for every message. This is easier for you to listen to what I say. It's also easier for you to apply, to review. So you should have this outline as I have in my hand.

Now, the title here says: "Visions and Revelations." Now, this morning, we come to the first message, Message 1--"The Center and Content of Visions." What is that? "Jesus," the person. "Jesus." He is the Son of God. "Jesus, the Son of God." The center and content of our vision. If we say "I see visions, I have revelations, I see so much, I was taught so much, I pursue so much," but eventually one question should be the answer to everything: "Did you gain Jesus Christ? Do you see Jesus is the Son of God?"

Every vision comes from the first vision stated in the New Testament. The first vision is the Lord sent angels or messengers to Joseph. In his dream, He told him "Jesus." The focus is Jesus, and then He is from the Holy Spirit. His operation is Immanuel. So you can see if I say, if you say, if you and I can say we heard something, we know something, we've been educated with something, now, be careful. It is easy for us to be in what we are educated, rather what we learned brings us to Jesus Christ Himself. Because the first vision is Jesus. The first revelation in the New Testament is Jesus, and only Jesus. So Jesus, the Son of God.

Before we come to the whole thing, if I can firstly give you a simple Preface. So this morning, the message may take you thirty-some, forty minutes, because we added the Preface in. In this Preface, it says what is the vision, what is the revelation.

Point A--The pursuit and growth of the Christian life is a matter of visions. How much vision you have decide how healthy you are before the Lord. The advancement of your visions is your growth in Christ. Your growth in life is very much related to vision after vision after vision, in every vision revelation after revelations. So the pursuit and growth of a Christian life is a matter of visions. Then, in this we understand, your growth, your seeing the vision, is not by nature or talent. I am gifted, I am talented, this doesn't mean I have growth, I have Christ, I can grow in the Lord, and can be used by the Lord. No. Not by nature or talent. 2--Not by personal abilities. You can do a lot. You are able. You can manage many things. You can manage many persons. But, all this ability in following Christ do not bear high value, except it is supported by the visions and revelations you have received from the Lord. Then it's not by wisdom or your brightness. I am bright, I can read the Bible. I am wise, I can see things. No matter how bright, how wise you are, they don't count. What is crucial is by being faithful to God's giving vision and revelations.

Brothers, you can not say "I never had any vision." No. At least you had one vision, that's why you are saved. Let me ask you, if you do not see something, how can you believe in Jesus Christ? You never see Him. I am telling you there is a man on the earth died for us two thousand years ago, today He resurrected, He is in the heavenlies, He is the King of kings. Brother, how can a man's mind receive anything like this? According to man's logic, it is impossible. But

surprisingly, we all believed. You know why we believed? Because God has given us a vision. There is one time, a particular time, for some reason our heart is softened. In our deepest part, we have the realization, "I need Jesus Christ, my Savior." Who made it? Lord made it. How did He make it? He gave you a vision to see Jesus Christ is your Savior. Now, your whole life is going on based on this vision. When you receive Jesus, receive Christ as your Savior, as your inner being, you receive Him, He came into you, and He is your life. Now, are you able to grow, to develop, to become His lover, to become useful to Him? It is based on how faithful you are to the first vision. I'm saved, I love Him, then Lord will give you more visions. I'm saved, I want to follow Him, the Lord will give you more visions. The faithfulness to the first vision will lead you to the second vision, third vision, consecutively you have visions upon visions, and in every vision you have revelations upon revelations. You will say, "Wow, what is my life! Marvelous! So marvelous! I can't believe I am a common man. I don't treasure my natural ability, my talent, my wisdom, my brightness. Now I realize, it's all God's mercy that I have a vision to receive Him. Cause me to receive Him. In turn, I have revelations to follow Him. Then continue. What is vision? Vision is just a sight. I see something, that means I have a vision. I remember the story I read in the book when Watchman Nee was in prison at his very old age. He was either forsaken by most of the brothers know him or he had trained, helped or many brothers he loved and loved him passed away. He was very lonely. In the midst of all the common people, unbelievers they questioned him, they questioned him, they asked him. His answer's always very strong, a simple statement, I have seen what you have not seen. Remember this: I have seen what you have not seen. Means I have a vision, you don't. I live in this way because I have a vision. You don't, so you have your life, you have your way. I'm very different. I have a sight. Brother, sister, let me ask you, in your life, what is your sight? Your sight decide how are you going to follow the Lord. You have a sight. This sight is a heavenly sight. This sight is a sight in spirit. This sight is a sight of divine being. The more divine things, the more you see, the more you love divine things. I tell you brothers. It's very interesting. You are a Christian because of vision, even though you don't know it. You begin to love the Lord, because you are faithful to the first vision, even though you don't know it. And because of this, Lord give you more visions. So, in many years you are following Him it's step by step, you see more and more. You have to say, Lord I'm thankful, I don't quite even know it, but I see something. I cannot speak. I cannot explain. I cannot portray. I don't have word to state, but the fact is, I have seen something.

So eventually the last point. With the vision faithfulness to each and every vision. That's sight. If you have a sight, faithful to each and every sight. A vision may bring in many heavenly and spiritual revelations. In one vision there's a lot of revelations. Like I see a beautiful — maybe I use another illustration. Like I see a loving baby. I will say wow, this baby is so lovely. Look the way he smile. Look the way he stretch his little hand to respond. Look the way she look, or he or she look at you. But, we can't stop here. The father have a lot more revelations. He has a baby. The baby become his vision. But he has a lot of revelations. Look how strong he is. Look how bright he is. Look the way he reacts. Look how fast he learns. If he doesn't learn things, doesn't learn anything, at least the father can say, look at his appetite. He drinks milk so much. What is

that? Revelations. So often we have a vision. Because ignorance a vision becomes a simple picture. Lack of the depth. Lack of the profoundness. We have to be very faithful. Like a father and mother, we have the baby. We're faithful raising the baby up. We'll do everything. Then we found the growth of baby to the baby's maturity bring up is such a marvelous revelations upon revelations upon revelations. So, we follow the Lord. Lord will give the visions. Then we grow faithful to it. And grow. We'll get another vision. When we're faithful and grow then we'll have the third vision. Visions produce a lot. Each vision produce a lot of revelations. But overall, how marvelous that is.

Next point. This sight, this vision produce what? Your life produce forsaking, produce perseverance, produce assurance, and brings in the whole life of following. Just like I see the Lord. Because I see the Lord I forsook everything not of the Lord. I am ready to suffer anything because of the Lord. And I have full assurance the Lord is with me. And more than that, my whole life become a life of following the living Christ. It's just like a faithful parents to the child. For the child, they forsake a lot of their self-enjoyment. They suffer a lot. They get up at night, they forget about the time. They spend time with them. And eventually they have this assurance that I want to be with the kid. I'm sure the kid will grow up. And more than that, his whole life begins to begin to be controlled by the child they begot. What a marvelous thing. Follow the Lord is like this. The Lord was a baby in us. But if we saw Him, appreciate Him, really give ourself to Him, focus on Him, oh we'll see beautiful sceneries upon sceneries. Beautiful things upon things. What a life of following the Lord. What a life with such a value. More than that, such sight is elevating step by step. I see something, I'm faithful to it, I grow, I'm elevated, uplifted. One step to another step to a third step. And should be related to all the things we confront in our life. That the vision we received cause us to be different with all things happened to us. We are different. We respond different. People see a house they want to buy the house. They love the house. We see a house. We want to buy the house. We love the house. People see a house they can see: I got a house. We buy a house. We have the house. We'll see: me and my house both belong to the Lord. My house become a base of the blessing to the Lord. So, it's a common thing become very uncommon. People get married. People eat and drink. People have residences. People have transportations. People have cars. We have exactly the same. We don't have another kind of life, secluded. We live among the people. But we are very different. I am of Christ. My house: of Christ. My car: of Christ. My bank account: of Christ. Then more than that, me and my whole household is for nothing but Christ alone. This cause us to be uncommon. Because we are uncommon so we allow, allowing us to follow the Lord in a clear way. Nothing frustrated us. People can buy a house and caught by the house. People could have a good family life and caught by the good family life. End up hurting, may hurt the family. You know brother, we Jesus lovers, we have a house, we have a car, we have beautiful, good family life. But how marvelous is that. We had a vision, we realized everything is from Christ, in Christ, unto Christ through the salvation of Jesus. So, we can easily tell the Lord, Lord, everything I have is given to me by You. and everything I have is exactly for You. what a blessing.

Then let's come to the last point. Each sight can come through appearing of the Lord. Now, how do I have a vision? Number 1: Lord appeared to you. Number 2: the revelation of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit shows something to you. Number 3: the manifestation of environment. Through the environment all of a sudden you wake up, you see something. That's environment can serve, can be served, or can serve the Lord as a real precious servant. We treasure all the happenings to us. Even brothers and sisters, these few months in the coming 2 or 3 months, we may confront a very hard life. Brother, we should be wise. Don't say that I have Christ, virus doesn't get me. No, there is a law. The law you have to abide in. So, you have to take care of yourself. Try to protect yourself. Try to be careful for other's sake. This is a law. We're going through this hard time. When we're going through that hard time, there could be a few possibilities. One is: I'm so sorry, I don't have enough income now. I'm so sorry, I have a hard time. Another is: I'm so sorry I cannot go out to have sight-seeings. I cannot travel. I can't do this or that. Another thing is: I'm going to be at home suffering all these days. I miss my sweet church life. Brother, no you don't see a vision. If you see a vision, you have to say, Praise the Lord. Everybody is home. But thank You Lord, You have given us the modern equipment. We have the facilities. We can talk to people. We can see people through the website. Through whatever. Through the phone. Through the whatever, FaceTime. Sorry, I'm not good at it, I can't tell you. but I know there are many means. We can preach gospel. Now many people at home, they don't know how to spend their time. Now read the Bible with them. Pursue with them. Pray with them. Many brothers may be recovered because we see the vision. This is Lord's arrangement, it's not just virus attack. It is a virus attack. Coronavirus attack. But Lord allowed it to bring us to have another kind of life. To spend more time with the Lord. To be more with our family. And to even, most of all, to be more to reach the brothers and sisters. Even preach gospel to your colleagues through the phone. Even fellowship through the whatever means with brothers who have not been in the church life for a long time.

What is this? Environment. Vision can come from environment for you to have sight. Now, I see something. And more than that, can be through the Lord's speaking. When the Lord speaks to you, you can have visions. I see something. I am finally could even be in our dreams. Could you believe in that? The first vision recorded in the Bible is in a dream. Joseph had a dream. Sometimes we have a lot of dreams and we like to interpret our dreams. If I could give you just two points to tell you how do you know you see something of the Lord in a dream? Number one, the word is very clear. I see something very clear. I dream, in my dream, my physically, my father pass away. I dream I was with him. It doesn't mean that much. There is a clear word, and you somewhat you know this is from the Lord. Secondly, remember secondly, when you wake up, the word is still with you, and when you are considering the word, there is anointing, the presence of the Lord is in your spirit. Lack of one, don't get into superstition. This is too easy for us to be superstitious. I dream of something, Lord has spoken to me. No. It is a clear word that you can remember. More than that, when you wake up, there is the strong presence of the Lord. You know this is from Christ. So, how do we have a vision? How can we have a vision? Here it says five things. The Lord appears to you, number one. Holy Spirit gives you revelations,

number two. Environment manifests it, number three. Lord's speaking by his angels, by his messengers, another thing. Then finally, in our dreams, which is minor, because that is when everything is immature, do you realize the first few dreams, visions, are in Joseph's dreams, why? Joseph is not a spiritual man. They don't even know they have a spirit. They are not yet qualified to consider as us, at that time. We are born again, we have Christ in us, he doesn't. So the Lord appear to him in a different way. But, still that is in the principal of the vision. Now we come to the first message, the first vision in the New Testament. First usually is most crucial, in the Bible, principal. The Lord's angel, or messenger, speaking to Joseph in his dream. Let's come to Matthew 1:18-25. I read to you.

¹⁸ *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.* ¹⁹ *Then Joseph her husband, being a just man [or a righteous man], and not wanting to make her a public example [in other words, he didn't want to expose her], was minded to put her away secretly. [just terminate the marriage, but do it secretly. So both can, so Mary will not be overly embarrassed]* ²⁰ *But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying [listen to this now, this is the content of the vision he got], "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife [this is a clear word], for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*

I think to Joseph, to all the Israelites, this is a new term. The Spirit was never mentioned as the Holy Spirit. It was the Spirit of Jehovah, the Spirit of the Lord, there is the mention of Daniel's friends – in them, there is the Holy Spirit. No, actually, in them is the Spirit, the holy. Means, a goodness, the goodness in their spirit. In their spirit there is holiness as a virtue. Now here says, he was born of the Holy Spirit. You have to realize, Holy Spirit is mentioned is related to God's operation. When he is doing, his person is called the Holy Spirit. His doing something, he is called The Spirit. That is why The Spirit leads Jesus, The Spirit leads Jesus to the wilderness. Because Holy Spirit operating is called The Spirit. The Spirit is the Holy Spirit. Then we will sometimes say "The Spirit was not yet". Well, which means there is a certain thing, the Holy Spirit cannot do yet. It have to wait, to wait until Jesus was glorified. Then, eventually Jesus, last Adam, means he terminated the Adamic race, became a life giving spirit. That means The Spirit now can give life. The Spirit can lead. The Spirit can do a lot, but The Spirit, after Jesus' resurrection, which is the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit now can give life to man because he is the Life Giving Spirit. You say then how about Jesus? Brother, don't ask these questions. Triune God is one. Don't make them three. Triune God is three in operation, in their way of their operations, and don't make the operations one. But very interesting, but anyways, conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

²¹ *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."*

What does Jesus mean? Jesus means Jehovah plus, or means Jehovah saves. J, Jehovah. Jesus, J. In the beginning is the same. J is Jehovah. Jesus means Jehovah saves. He is the savior. Now, in this dream, in this dream, he was very strong. Remember, Holy Spirit come, now the age of the

Spirit, the Holy Spirit is operating. The first operation of the Holy Spirit is to bring God to man. God conceived in man, and more than that, who is this man? He is the Savior. He is Jehovah saves, because he will save his people from their sins. It is interesting right? *From their sins*. Sins it mean sin, with sinful nature. Sins means not only you have a man with a sinful nature, but with a sinful nature, they grow a lot of sins manifestations. The manifestations including things very evil, also including something not necessarily condemned by man, but it is sinful. What is sin? Sin is you do things not related to God. When you are not related to God, in God's sight, that is a sin. God like us to be with him, abide in him, live in him, live out him, so he want us not be in sin, and not to be in sins. Because of sin, we have sins. Sin means we are against God. Not one with God. Sins means things not of God. Brother, could you believe, many things to us, so proper, so healthy, yet God would ask, is that of me? If that's not of me, that is part of sins. We condemn sinners, you are gamblers, you are misbehaviors, you are corrupted, but here he says, he will remember... he will save his people, including you and I, from our sins. Are we gamblers? No. Are we alcoholics? No. Are we very corrupt? No. Are we sinful? Yes. Why? Because in the past, before we were saved, we denied God. That was our sin. One day we are saved, be careful we need to be saved. Why? There are many things we do, God would say, I am not a part of it. You want to have a good car, I don't think it is a problem. You want to have a good car for you and ignore God's leading, that is a problem. So, everything you do, please brothers and sisters, remember, God has to be involved. The Lord has to be involved because he will save us from sins.

Now we covered, here is Holy Spirit, here is Jesus, Jehovah saves, and more than that, now he, his name, the angel said "*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*" which is translated, "God with us." You know what does it mean here? Why is it so crucial? Jesus Christ in doing everything, including saving you not only from eternal perdition, save you in all the situations with one principal: I am with you. God with us. Well, we should be very happy. In the first vision, Lord has unveiled to Joseph in a dream, has three things clearly. Number one, Spirit. Holy Spirit comes, New Testament age is coming. Number two, Jesus is here. He is Jehovah saves. Number three, when he saves us from all the sins, the way, the means is that he is with us. What a salvation. Brother, I don't know how to tell you, I am so touched by this, Lord I appreciate. You are my Savior. You are Jehovah saves. You are with me. You are from The Spirit, you are with me, you are from the Holy Spirit. Your being with me means I will have the presence of you as The Spirit all my life. What is my life? My life is a life of Emmanuel. Hallelujah, what can be more sweet than this? Brothers, this is our first meeting, I stop here. Lord be with us.