

Visions and Revelations

Message 10: The Apostle Peter (1)

Well brothers, now we continue the matter of vision and revelation especially we would like to use Peter as a pattern. How the Lord constituted him, a common man. An emotional man, but eventually, become man possessed with a vision. Like he testified himself, at the end. That I saw a vision. There's glory. Everything is saturated with glory. In the midst of glory there's a glorious person, Christ. This is very impressive. This shows that vision is a crucial matter to every Christian. Actually if I say this, no Christian can tell you, "I don't see a vision." If he or she does not see a vision, they cannot be saved. Salvation comes from the first vision, which included revelation. I see a vision of salvation. In this vision I have the revelation of Jesus as my savior. He died for me. His blood cleansed me from all my sins. Now in this vision I see another revelation. I am poor. I'm a sinful man. My sin needs to be cleansed. Need the blood of Jesus to wash my sins away. Maybe at the same time I see another vision. I live in the corrupted world. Everything surrounding me is corruption. Drinking and so forth. All kinds of things are corruption that I must come out of it.

You know brother, usually when we say you need a vision or you need a revelation. We will take it superstitious. Something so high and so marvelous. Actually maybe we can say that if you consider the first five examples. These are things miraculous. In other word, how can this happen? But it's happened. Now in the new testament, it's a little bit different. It's the age of grace. It's the age of life. It's the age of dispensing of life in grace. Because of this, that we can be saved by what? By God coming to us. Yet we don't see a figure, God. But for some reason we have a kind of spiritual understanding, "Lord you are my savior, I am a sinner, you saved me. Please, I receive you as my savior and your blood cleansed me from all my sins. Lord save me. That I can become a real Christian, that I can receive the salvation." What is salvation? That will take you a life long to experience, but in the initial prayer you didn't pray the word salvation. But you prayed the word save. Save me. Not one Christian became a Christian did not use the word save me. You have said it. I have said it. We all said it. "Oh save me." That's our basic vision. With this vision, we have the understanding Christ is the savior. With this vision we have the understanding, I am a sinner. With this vision we understand, except with Jesus Christ's salvation, saving power, we have no hope. We will go to Hell. Lord save us. Now, these together become more revelation. This revelation is called the revelation of Jesus in his salvation. I see Jesus. I see the salvation of Jesus. So Jesus says he's the savior, Jesus died for me, I am a sinner, I live in sin, I grow up in sin, my person is a constituent of sins, but God has mercy. You know brother, we should be very happy. Talk about vision talk about revelation. They're not something so far away we cannot approach. We all have it already! Do you have a vision? Yes! What is that? Jesus is my savior! Do you have another vision? Yes! What is that? I am a sinner. Do you have a revelation? Yes! When I see Jesus, when I see me put together, it become a picture. That is the revelation of Jesus. In revelation there are vision.

Peter's is the same. He got saved, but he got saved actually not that clear. So he first saw the Lord and the Lord said you are Simon and you will be called Cephas and then he somewhat impressed. He followed quickly. He disappeared. Then Lord come to his place again. Called him. This time, he really see the Lord. You know what he did? He see another vision. He's not just the savior, he's the Lord. So he says, "Lord, depart from me." In this revelation, he also said, "I'm a sinner. Depart from me. I'm a sinner." I'm happy the Lord's answer to him is, "From now on you shall gain man. You're no longer a fisherman, you will be a fisher of man. Now you will preach gospel." You know brother, what this is? This means there's a vision. There's a revelation. The vision of Christ I see, the revelation, the vision of a sinner I am, then together I see a revelation. This revelation bring me to Christ. In the beginning It's so unclear. So what I got. Okay, so I go to the meetings and so forth, that's what I got. I got saved. I want to pray. I want to read the bible. I want to go to the meeting. I want to be with the brothers. This is all what I want. But do you realize God would keep on unveiling to you more than that. Look at Peter. The first time the Lord speak to him, "You shall be called Cephas. You shall be called a particular piece of stone. A useful stone." Now, at the same time, the second time he saw the Lord. His vision expanded. He says, "You are the Lord! You are the Lord." But he didn't say, "Lord save me!" but, "Lord depart from me." It's very interesting. I never heard a prayer, "Lord depart from me." Maybe this is a unique prayer by Peter in the church history. Everyone's prayer is "Lord save me, be with me, bless me." But his prayer, "Lord depart from me. Why? I'm a sinner!" When I see who you are and when I see who I am they totally do not match. But Lord told him, "Now, from now on, you will be a fisherman, but for man not for fish. You will be a follower of me." So do you see that a vision will always lead you to Christ himself. And with Christ you also receive some commitment that walk, cause you to walk heavenly. So okay, usually we say, "Do you have a vision?" If you have a vision, you see Christ. When we say I do have a vision, I really see Christ. Then my second question is, "So what?"

So I give you seven, eight items. For you to say I see Christ. For instance you say, "I see a vision" or "I see visions and I see revelations." In these revelations and visions more and more I know. Who's this Christ? Christ is God. God with full responsible for me. He's responsible for everything I do. He's in charge. He's in charge. More than that, I see Christ as the man. In his humanity, he fully understands my need. My weaknesses. My sensation. All kind of emotions go through me or my disposition, whatever that means. I'm a man. But Christ as the real man, with his rich humanity out of the divine attributes. This humanity of Jesus becomes everything to us in our daily walk. So Christians have Christ as God responsible for him. Christians also have Christ as God walk with him. That you know wherever I am, I have great suffering, he's there. I'm extremely joyful, he's there. I have an extremely hard time, he's there. I cried out to him, "Lord, where are you?!" He's still there. Not as God alone, but as a man. I understand you. I understand your difficulty. I understand your frustration. I understand your agony. I understand your sufferings. Everything because I am the Christ. When I see a vision, vision brings me to something so subjective. Not just say, "I see Christ, praise the Lord, Christ is in the heavens!"

No, Christ takes care of me all my life. Christ walk with me and more than that, that with this marvelous Christ, this Christ is, he has his all-inclusive death of Christ.

Not only Christ is God. Not only Christ is man. Thirdly, the all-inclusive death of Christ terminated all fallen element in the old creation. So when you have Christ. You know this is an easy statement. But do you know the man Simpson? A.B. Simpson. A.B. Simpson realized exactly what I say here. Very strong. Christ's death is the all-inclusive death. To the point. To the point, he terminated all the things of fallen element. He was supposed to die very young, but he saw the death of Christ. Eventually he enjoyed the power of resurrection. Eventually, he lived up to nineties at that time. And you know brother, all the songs he wrote on the cross. All the songs he wrote die with Christ. All the songs he wrote resurrected with Christ. Because why? Christ to him is longer I see a vision. I see Christ. But I see a vision, I see the death of Christ. Not just see Christ as doctrine. I see the death of Christ as an application. Apply that. And more than that, and not only the death, but also the resurrection of Christ in power. He resurrected. In power of resurrection cause us to be empowered and pursue diligently. How can we follow the Lord? We are weak. But once we see his resurrection, in his resurrection, we also enjoy the power of his resurrection. That's why Paul said, "I know him and the power of resurrection. Therefore I pursue. Therefore, I forsook everything. Therefore I want to gain Christ!"

You know brother, when I say visions lead you to Christ, don't just say that, say the vision leads me to Christ as my God. He controls my life. Take care of all the things in my life. The vision of Christ lead me to God the son as man. As a man. Filled with sympathy, fully understanding our human weaknesses, our human needs. Then Christ, I see Christ as the one who died an all-inclusive death on the cross, so that all the things of the fallen world, terminated in him. I can partake of that. Christ died, I died. Christ died on the cross, I died on the cross. I died 2000 years ago. No longer I live, but now Christ live because I am crucified with Christ. Now you see, when I say visions lead you to Christ it is not a doctrine it is very practical. He is Christ as God, Christ as man, Christ as the all-inclusive death, then more than that. Christ also has resurrection, he has the power of resurrection. That power of resurrection causes us to pursue. We like to pursue Christ. To gain Christ. Eventually, more than that his transcending ascension. He ascended, his transcending ascension made him the Lord of heaven and the earth. And brought forth a divine heavenly realm. Christ as God, Christ as man, Christ as the inclusive death, Christ has the power of resurrection. Christ eventually have the transcending ascension. In this ascension, he is sitting on the throne. The whole globe is under his government. He is there carrying out God's economy. But more than that, he brings us all out of a realm. Where he is in the heavenlies. Where are we? In the realm also in the heavenlies. That's why Paul says, we are sitting with him in the heavenlies. We are sitting with him in the heavenlies. You know what we do in the heavenlies? If we say praise the lord I am in the heavenlies, so what? You can say in the heavenlies because I'm in the heavenlies. I am in the realm that realm is a heavenly realm. It's a spiritual realm, it's a divine realm, it's a mystical realm. That's a heavenly, divine, mystical, life, spirit realm. In this realm, it's a realm of Spirit. Just like air. The air surrounding us. Do you

know that the Greek word, the air and the spirit is the same Greek word. Just like the air surrounding us, now the Spirit is surrounding us. Think about you. God take care of you. Praise the Lord. God understands you. Christ takes care of you praise the Lord. And Christ understands you, praise the lord. And more than that Christ terminates all the negative things in you. With you. And more than that, Christ resurrected, you are resurrected with him and more than that, Christ is now transcended in the heavenlies. In the heavenlies where is he? He is the Lord of lords, more than that King of kings. More than that, he produced a realm for us to live in. Where are we now. Brother we say, I'm in my physical body, I'm in the U.S, I'm in China, I'm in Taiwan, I'm in Africa, certain country, No. This is true physically, spiritually, all the Christians are in the heavenly realm. Divine realm, a realm of Spirit! This realm, is a realm of Spirit. You have to say how marvelous that is. Where am I? I am in Spirit. And spirit is a realm for me. eastward, westward, northward, southward all Spirit. Upward, downward, all Spirit. Spirit fully surrounds me and in this realm when the Spirit is saturated, then what's going to happen? Now that causes us to be born in him. We are born in Christ. We are born in a realm. We were born in the Spirit. Spiritual realm. The moment you say, "Lord Jesus, I receive you as my Savior!" Who comes in? The Spirit comes in. Now, Spirit comes in and also bring you into a spiritual realm. So I'm born in that realm, in Spirit. And more than that, praise the Lord, also I can grow in this realm. In this realm I grow. I live in this realm. Then I walk in this realm. Then I get mature in this realm. Then all my life operation is in this realm. In this realm, all the things God is doing is becoming our operation. And eventually to be one with God and to incorporate with God in this realm. To be one with God. To what extent? To the extent God and I are one. I am incorporated with God. Also with what? IN this realm. Now when I say, you are brought to Christ. How marvelous is this Christ. Now we have to go real fast. And more than that, it's also unveiled the truth to you. When I say I have a revelation, revelation brings you to Christ. Revelations bring you to the truth of Christ. Because Christ said I am the truth. We have Christ we have the truth, which bring forth this. Not that you have the truth further and further, bring forth the elevation of truth. More and more we are elevated. When I first got saved, hallelujah I am saved, that's it, but you need to be elevated. Truth needs to be elevated. So with the elevation of the truth you have the initial truth. You have salvation, love the lord, love the meetings. Love the church life. But for the latter, when the truth elevates, more and more you will see you have a living with the Lord. Not enjoy him. I have a living with him. I have a fight. I am able to fight a good fight. I am gaining the righteous crown. My life is totally different. You see, your living is based on what? It has a lot to do with what you know. When the truth is unveiled to you more, then you are elevated more and higher. Well, we got to go real fast. No visions for yourself. Both visions and revelations are for bringing us to Christ. The more visions you have. The more Lord you have. The visions and miracles are different. Miracles end with miracles. With miraculous things. IN other words, I got sick, God has a miracle I am healed. So ends with I am healed. Now if this can become something real. And the Lord healed me. So what I stressed in not healing, what I stressed is the Lord. The Lord healed. But visions reveal Christ, concluding in Christ. And now we come to Peter's life and how Peter is constituted to become a person of visions and

revelations. How Peter can be. Now, the apostle Peter. Number one: it says I state here. There is a question of all questions from the Lord. The Lord asks many questions. Do you love me? We say yes. Do you care for my interest, we say yes. Are you my servant, we say yes. Are you following me, we say yes. Do you love to be my child, we will say we are most happy to be your child. But then the Lord asks you but tell me who I am?! All of a sudden we get caught. Too easy for us to say yes, yes, yes. But when the Lord asks the question is “who do you say that I am?” If the Lord asks you, Hey, “who do you say I am?” All of a sudden I think many of us here would be caught. Many would say he’s my savior, he’s my lover, he’s my this and that. The Lord would not be happy with this answer. Who do you say that I am? This question was for the 12 apostles. Now except for Judas, all 11 apostles were concentrated following Jesus, they enjoyed the provision of the Lord Jesus, they saw his living of human virtues, they saw his wisdom and power in all his living and walking. In other words, they know everything about Jesus. But for some reason when the Lord says, who do you say that I am all of a sudden seems they got caught. Then when the Lord asked such a question, they could not answer. Just like some elders, sorry elders, full timers, sorry full timers, leading ones, sorry leading ones. In the church today, they have a joy of the Lord Presence, they enjoy it. They are spiritual men. Good brothers. They enjoy the work. Because they serve. And fed by elevation of the truth. They have every day. But unconsciously, they live a noble religious life. Yet lose Christ as the focus. I go to meetings to gain Christ, but I like to go to meetings forget about gaining Christ. I read the Bible to gain Christ. But I like to read the Bible forget gaining Christ. I like to labor preaching gospel to gain Christ, but I end up preaching the gospel and forget gaining Christ. Christ is not the focus.

You know, it’s very interesting, many times the father and mother would ask, would tell their children, “I’m your dad”. And the mother would say, “I’m your mom”. You see, when I was a child I heard this, I’m frustrated. I know you are my mom. But you know what my father mother have in you? I give you food, I give you lodging, I give you clothing, I give you spare money, I give you good education, I took good care of you. Could you enjoy all these, do you know who am I? I’m your father, I’m your dad, I’m your mom. You know for some reason we like to testify all the food we have is so good, forget about the dad. All the house we have so good, forget about the dad. Oh, then whatever provision was so good, forget about dad. We enjoy all these, forget about the provider. This why many times the father, the mother like to say, “I’m your father, I’m your mother”. Just remind you, have a focus, have a focus. You should love the food I cook, but love me more. You should enjoy my provision, but enjoy me more. You should have all this. Whatever I bless you take it, but remember the blesser. You know brother, Lord desires the same thing. You enjoy all the things from me, but can you put me in the right place? When the Lord asks this question, the Lord ask, “Whom do you see I am?” He’s waiting for them to answer, “You are the Son of God, you are the Christ.” But for some reason, they cannot, it’s surprising. You know many cannot understand. Matthew can’t. I say, well, Matthew come in late, right? But, John should know. Another is Andrew, right? Andrew should know. They heard the heavenly voice, this is my beloved Son, in whom I’m well pleased. They heard it, and they

heard from John the Baptist, “Behold the Lamb of God, take away the sin of the world.” And even Andrew went to Peter and told him, “I have met Messiah, I met Messiah”. In other words, I know I see Christ. But for some reason I think maybe I don’t know what’s happened, when the Lord says, “Whom you say that I am?” They are silent. John should at least say, “You are the Son of God. In you God is well pleased.” That’s at least they should say. Andrew should even say, “You are the Messiah, I testify about that already to my brother Peter.” Right? But for some reason they all are silent. You know why? You know why? Too often we live a Christian life serving the Lord, faithfully serving the Lord. For some reason forget the Lord we serve. We serve the Lord but forget the Lord we serve. We love the Lord but forget the Lord we love. Love become an issue, Lord is not the issue. I love Jesus so much, I hope so. Brother things happen, you still love the Lord, but you take your way. Just like a young man and a young girl dating. They love one another very much. But one day the young boy told the girl, “I’m not going to marry you. I enjoy your love, and you know how much I love you. But I’m not going to marry you.” Or one day the girl tell the boy, “I’m not going to marry you. I don’t belong to you, my love belong to you.” What kind of joke is this? But this happen right? In human culture, in human living, this kind of thing happen. You know brother, Let me say this, do you realize often you say, “I love you Lord.” You stress the love. “I’m with you Lord”. You stress the with. “I serve you Lord.” You stress serve. That’s where you are able, you try to do a lot. But where is Christ? So when Christ ask, “Whom you see I am?” John, all of a sudden his mind blocked. It should be so clear, right? “You are the Son of God. In you God is well pleased.” Andrew should’ve come up, “No. I know you are the Messiah!” For some reason they both failed, all the rest are failed. You know brother? Here I just put the notes up. Peter eventually come in and said, “You are Christ, the Son of the living God”. What’s the difference between Messiah and Christ? Messiah is the Old Testament word, the Messiah Priest means Anointed Priest. Right? Then eventually Christ is the Messiah means the Anointed One, which stress on the peace. God and Man can have peace. In the New Testament, Messiah similar word, same word in Greek is Christ. But denotes what? Denotes the one who carry out God’s economy, perform all the divine operations. Praise the Lord for this. So eventually Peter come up, “You are Christ, the son of living God.” This is a high revelation. Peter’s experience in a way, what he experienced, were all the same as other eleven Apostles. They all do the same, right? He was with them. Then if not less, you know why? Because there’s maybe close to one year, close to one year, Peter was apart from the Lord, was at his home, was a fisherman, a little boss of a fisherman’s group. But anyway, but because here I read to you. Because of God the Father’ revelation, all the divine divinity he saw the Lord who is God live out all the sweet teachings he heard from the Lord. The divine life he live out, the sweet teachings he gave, right? And the miracles he experienced the Lord who is the God-man to do. As God, he live out the divinity. As man, he minister all the sweet things, and as the God-man he also perform the miracles to heal all kinds of need, right? But, here it was not merely a teaching, but the Christ in God’s plan, not merely miracle but the Christ is in operation, not merely kind of living but the manifestation of the Christ as God himself. Therefore Peter rose and testify, “You are the Christ, the Son of living God”. Let me ask

you, how could this happen? In principle it's impossible right? All eleven, of course Judas possible don't even care, but all eleven, all eleven really care. All of a sudden they were caught. I believe at that moment, there's divine vision render to Peter. He saw something. He saw a picture, this picture, in this picture include who this is Christ, God testify. Include how he teaches, include how he heal all kind of people, include how he lived his proper laboring life as a son of man. All of sudden, all these things was made alive. We talk about, "Oh I heard the voice." God declared, "This is my beloved son in whom I'm well pleased." But I know, I know. We heard him teaching, "Blessed are the pure, for he shall see God." I know, I know. How he take care of the lepers, how he take care of the sick, all kind of need. You know brother? You know, but you, it's not alive to you. Just like today, you go to conferences, you heard messages, but many times do you realize you will impress with many things but they are not made alive to you. If they are not made alive, made alive to you, they cannot be a revelation or vision. Peter saw a picture. If I can portray that picture just like a big field. Big garden, with all kind of riches, but they where there, but in that particular moment they all were made alive. All made alive! Oh look at the tree, oh look at the flower, oh look at the fruit, oh look at the things grow in the garden. All of a sudden the whole garden is saturated with life. Look like the birds and everything, the singing of, the bees, the butterflies. Everything was so beautiful, harmonious operate together. I saw a picture, this picture is not a garden. This picture is a lively garden. I saw Christ, I saw his teaching, I saw his doing, I saw how he perform miracles, I saw God declare him, I saw all this. But I tell you at this time I realized they are alive. If they all are life the one who give this is Christ, is the Son of the living God. So brother, a picture, a living picture, a picture that's alive, can bring you into all the riches you know. All the conferences, all the trainings, all the things I heard, all the Bible I read, all the spiritual books I read, all of a sudden, one day, by Lord's mercy they were made alive, at that time you can say, "I see Christ". That's why Peter boldly declared, declared, "You are the Christ". Now, I just read the last two lines. Now the Messiah, focusing on man's need, of the Old Testament. But the Christ focus on God's desire in New Testament. Peter's declaration testify all he saw, all he heard, all he followed were now a picture made alive! You know brother? We need to tell the Lord, "Lord, give me a picture, and make this picture alive. I don't want to be in religion, in dead doctrines. I want to be in living truth, in living spirit, in living revelations, so I see Christ, I see he's living Son of God." Praise the Lord for this. We stop here today.