

Visions and Revelations

Message 11: The Apostle Peter (2)

Dear brothers and sisters, I'm happy we come to message 11. In the beginning we had this thought, was short, We'd like to get finished with 15, 16, 17 messages, however I realized our situation may not change. We may have to share all the way, cover it all the way to the end of August, we hope. In that way, we could make it richer. I'm not quite sure we can go slower, however we have long message this morning. How long? Just as long as my hair. You know what's the reason. You cannot go out and get a haircut, so I know some of you may be bothered why my hair's so long. You're welcome to my home to do my hair, if you know you're very healthy. But anyways brother, I like these messages. I like the topic. The topic is, "visions and revelations." A Christian need to be, to have a vision. With a vision, or visions, in every vision, there should be revelations. So eventually, their whole life is kind of, their kind of under a heavenly control. They don't live a life according to themselves. They live a life according to what we see. What they see. Just like Peter. Peter saw a vision. And saw a great vision. So now this morning we come to Peter's vision itself. You need to realize, all the Christian, healthy Christian life, live in the principal of vitality. Are you a healthy Christian? Not how much you know. Not how much you pursue or receive and understand. It's all how vital are they. Whatever you heard. Whatever you learned. Whatever you pursued. Whatever you gained. Whatever you experienced. If they don't bear the sign of vitality, that means, you can be in religion. Vitality is crucial. So what does vision, how does vision operate. A vision come. In the vision, there's a lot of riches. And riches, these riches is no longer objective. It become very subjective. It's not something to talk about. It's something to enjoy. To partake. To let that very thing God given to you, encourage you, vitalize you, cause you to be a person living. So I use a word, "made alive." You have to realize, the apostle Paul was very clear about this. So when he was writing, when he, when he wrote, Ephesians, Colossians, he, both books, are high, are both high spiritual books. Two books in the bible. In revelations. He stressed the fact of *made alive*. Ephesians chapter two verse 5 says, "When we're dead in our transgressions, he made us alive together with Christ." What means, "dead in our transgressions?" Means, we have problems. We have limitations. We have shortages. We have many things that offend God, yet we have no feeling about it, because we're dead to it. Were dead in our transgressions. Lord has made us alive together with Christ by being made alive. We understand what is transgression. We understand what is sin. We understand what is unhealthy, we also understand how precious it is to be one with Christ. We were made alive with Christ, we're in the heavenlies. We have to be very thankful that Christians, the precious part with Christians is not how much they know. It's how much of what they know vitalizes them. I know a lot. Not good enough. What I know become my vitality. Become my strength. Become my energy. Become my elevation. Become my source of pursuing. Become something that caused me to be different, because I do have something that is heavenly. The heavenly things make me alive. You know, do you know you have a vision? Let

me ask you, are you living or dead? The truth with you, are they living or dead? The life in you, is that life living or dead, or common? How do you know you're a person with vision? You can say, "I can't say much, but I know that I'm alive." Just think about, "I got my first vision. That is, in that vision, I saw two things. I saw Jesus my savior. I also saw me, a sinner. Savior and sinner. Sinner needs a savior! That's why I prayed, "Lord Jesus, save me. Save me. I have no idea what does blood mean. I have no idea what does cross mean. I have, even, I have no idea, what, how rich is this salvation, BUT for some reason, the day I say, "Jesus, I'm a sinner, forgive me of my sins and save me." You know what's happened? You are very joyful. You are very vital. You begin to sing hymns. You begin to talk with the lord a lot. You know, why? Because at that moment. In a very limited scope you saw a vision. Jesus is my savior. I'm a sinner, I don't have to go to hell. Lord saved me. So more than that, Colossian, also stressed, Paul also stressed, Colossians chapter two, he said, "when you were dead, your transgression and uncircumcision of your flesh. In other word, not just you have weaknesses, but also you don't even know how much a religious power controls you. So you think I'm doing fine because according to religion, I'm doing fine. I do make Sunday meetings. I do listen to Titus video, I'm doing fine. No, no, no, I don't say they're not fine, they're not adequate. So here, Paul says, "when you were in transgressions," that's one aspect. Another aspect, "the uncircumcision of your flesh." Another word, your flesh live very alive. Not "spirit alive" alive. Not Christ alive. Your flesh is very alive. Now, so you think, look I go to meetings. Look, I listen to messages. Look, I have fellowship with brothers. I don't think they're wrong. They might, they could be something vital from the Lord, but if you're not careful this can be, here it says, "the uncircumcision of the flesh." I do it by my flesh. Everybody seek after his existence. In turn, everybody seek after a social life. Be careful. If you're not careful your existence, can focus on being in the church. Your social life are with the brothers. You don't have drinking friends. You don't have gambling friends. But you don't have, you do have some sweet brothers and sisters with you, are you vital? Are you with Christ? Is this according to Christ? Hard to say. Actually if you're not careful, that can be our flesh. Because still, I'm the center. You know, eventually, Paul says, "He made you alive together with Christ." He wiped out all the handwritings of requirement that was against us. All these things, handwritings, the law, the commandments, he wiped them all out and what, these things are contrary to us. Now, he has taken it out of the way and nailed all this stuff on the cross because you were made alive. Brother, *made alive* is a crucial thing. Think about, I love the lord close to seventy years now. In these years, what make my going on value. You say, well because you love the lord, you're a full-timer. Brother, don't say this. A full timer can be just as dead as any other brothers. An elder could be just as common as other brothers. Brother, I would say, by the Lord's mercy, in a period of time, Lord gave me a vision. Eventually it become dim, Lord come in and give me another vision and made it alive. So, redemption, to me is alive. Salvation, stage by stage, to me, is alive. *Made alive* become the most crucial thing. You know, here, now let's come to the message. Now, point one: All the visions and revelations Peter received were in the principal of being *made alive*. I see a vision. I see a revelation. Which actually means, I am *made alive*. Being *made alive* and all were eventually made alive in the

vision and revelation given by the Father. Father is willing to give you a vision. Remember Lord Jesus told Peter, this is not from flesh and blood. This our father in the heavens give you this vision and revelation. When he give you this vision and revelations you were made alive. Your question is, in what is a good feeling? I can sing a good song. I can say hallelujah! I get excited, it's okay. But remember that, this made alive is with key things. We give for instance it says, in your existence, you are made alive, firstly to Christ. The knowledge of Christ made alive. I'm saved, made alive means I enjoy the sweetness and the trustworthiness of the salvation. I'm saved, Christ is such a marvelous Savior, so you can say, Christ was made alive, so he's my lover, he's my life, he's my supply, he's my strength, he's my energy, he's my leader, he's my direction, he's the reason of my existence and I live only for Christ. Christ becomes different. I just don't tell people, I'm a believer in Jesus. I'm going to go to the heavens. To believe in Jesus is a precious thing, but do you enjoy it? If you enjoy it, it becomes so valuable, Christ was made alive. More than that, secondly, you the way you understand yourself was made alive. You know your problem, not your problem, our problem? Easier we think, we are marvelous or we think we are nothing. Easier we think, oh Lord Jesus aren't you so happy I love you? Or we think Lord Jesus how can I love you? You know brother, when you were really made alive, positive, negative became very clear to you. Who am I? I'm a sinner. I'm not a simple sinner, I'm a chief sinner. I'm a person against Christ. I'm a person, my being is a rebellious being, but Lord thank you, what a salvation, what a redemption? You redeemed me from the condemnation of the law, even from your own righteous judgment. You bring me to salvation and give me eternal life. I'm a person with Christ. No, more than that, I was made alive. I see my value. Peter saw his value, we will cover that later. Peter saw his value. I'm so valuable, You know brother? I was alive, don't just say, I studied the bible how about you? Don't just say, I love Jesus with the brother. It's good though. How about you? You have firstly been made alive unto Christ. Then you're made alive, even unto yourself. When you are made alive unto yourself you feel, I am so terrible. Then what happened? Lord thank you you are what a Savior. I am so shameful in talking about myself. Lord thank you. Your blood cleanses me from all my sins. I'm made alive. And more than that, I am a chosen of God. I am one of the chosen of God. And more than that I have Christ in me as life. I begin to realize, I have value. Brother, you should be made alive to yourself. Negatively, you say oh I am so terrible, positively you say I am so valuable. All the negative things, the Lord cleansed it, washed it, took it away. All the positive things, the Lord want it to develop, to juvenate and rejuvenate, to grow and eventually to the satisfaction of the Lord. And more than that, the knowledge of the Lord was made alive. Understand Christ differently now. More than that the declaration of the Lord is made alive. I heard the Lord declare a lot. But what he really say is made alive. Finally, of all the things the Lord has done, most are miracles. Many are not even miracles. Very good fellowship. He talks with different people. But anyway, all the things the Lord has done. His wisdom and power was made alive. Formerly he healed the blind. Now, he healed blind is made alive to me. I feel different. Then being made alive is a demonstration of visions and revelations. In a way, I'll say maybe demonstrations changed the manifestation. Then to make alive is a manifestation of having visions and revelations. How do

you know? You have a vision. Let me ask you a question? Are you alive? If you are a Christian alive before the Lord, you are a man in visions and revelations. And now, we come to points. The knowledge of Christ was made alive. It's interesting right? Peter should have heard the story. When Jesus was baptized he was right over there. If not in the crowd, then nearby. When Jesus came up from the water the heaven opened "This is my beloved son, In whom I am well pleased." What a declaration from heaven. What a voice is that? Then, his brother Andrew right? Andrew. His brother Andrew came to him and told him, "I met the Messiah." Then he saw Jesus, Jesus changed his name. Something with the Lord in the beginning was extremely attractive. I met a man. If his brother came: "I met a man. You know who is this man? He was baptized. When he came out the water, heaven opened and there was a voice that came out. "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. Shouldn't this be the Messiah?" Marvelous, I think Peter was alive at that very moment. Praise the Lord. Gradually for some reason. Yeah God did say this, yes this is true. But no impact. Once, no impact means the vision is not operating in him properly. He does have limitations now. After that, next one. Understanding of his self was made alive. Lord told him, his name was pretty good. When he went to see the Lord with Andrew, and the Lord told him, you are son of John (Jona should be John), you are Simon son of John. You know that's the best name you can get. Son is related to life, John means giving grace. You are a son of grace. More than that, your name is Simon, Simon means I hear, not only I hear, these two I obey. I hear the voice, I obey. Let me ask you. Can you find a better Christian than this? What a Christian is this? He's son of grace and he listened however God speaks to him. Lord told him, Oh you are Simon the son of John. Then the Lord all of a sudden changed, used another language Aramaic and tell him your name shall be called Cephas. Cephas means a precious valuable piece of stone. I think in the beginning he has three frustrations. I am so good, I am listening to the word of grace. I love God. Number two: you changed my name to a piece of precious stone and number three: you even used the word Aramaic. In U.S, most of us are just English. In other countries people are bilingual. Most countries are bilingual now. So Chinese will say, let me tell you, zhe shi (Chinese words) very important (English words). Zhe shi (Chinese-means this is) very important (English), another language to show you the listener: it is very important! He doesn't say (Zhe shi hen zhong yao= Chinese). This is very important. Lord used the word Aramaic to remind Peter, Hey what I say is very crucial. Peter should be very impressed with this right? Think about it, what is this? My name will be called, Cephas! I will be a precious piece of stone. When the Lord speaks about this he speaks in English, Chinese, all kinds of languages, just to stress to you: You got to hear, you got to hear, you got to listen, this is what I Speak to you. But even that for some reason, he can be bored. Common. Now, when I see the vision, my understanding to myself was made alive. I'm so valuable, even though, even though I am so disgraceful. I'm such a sinner, yet I am so blessed. I can be a piece of stone, precious stone, used by the Lord. And more than that, even the teaching of the Lord was made alive. If you consider the Lord's teaching, mainly four things: teaching related to God, teaching related to your godly living, teaching related to your living out of Christ, live Christ. In other words your daily walk, healthy daily walk. Finally, the teaching related to Satan. Teaching related to God, he

said: "Blessed are pure, for he shall see God." That should be the most important, right? But he didn't start, right? He start with blessed are those who are poor in spirit. You're poor in spirit which lead you to mourn. "I'm poor in spirit. Lord have mercy, oh I'm poor, poor in spirit." Because you're poor in spirit, you call to the Lord, "Lord I cannot boast, I need your mercy." Because of this mourn cause you to be very meek. You're not bossy anymore, you drop all the self-confidence. And more than that, meekness leads you thirst for righteousness, hunger and thirst, tell Lord, "I want to be healthy. I want to be proper." Eventually that lead you to the compassion of others and merciful. Finally you're pure to God. Hey, do you want to be pure to God? When I was young this verse, one verse I love the most: "Blessed are the pure, for they shall see God." So my prayer, "Lord have mercy that I'm so pure unto you, I see you." Lord says, "Wait a minute. I want you to be clear, if you are not poor in spirit, poor in your heart, nothing's gonna happen." You begin with, "Lord have mercy, have mercy, I'm poor." Then develop all the virtues, lead you to say, "I want to be pure. I just want to be pure, to love you alone." And more than that, more than that, it also next come to a holy life. You know this verse is not hard to understand. Lord said, Lord told, the Lord told the disciples and those who are with him, you look at a woman and have evil thought, you already. It's not I see something beautiful, it's a look, look at. You look at a woman, [Chinese], you look at woman and have an evil thought go through you, you are committing fornication. Means what? Godly. Godly. Look only at Christ alone. There are a lot of beauty, a marvelous building, marvelous creation, marvelous flowers, marvelous all kind of animals and so forth, and you can even see a handsome man, a beautiful woman. You see them one day in the airport. I see a pilots, about age fifty, really handsome, with a pilot's dress and it's very normal. I went to him, I say, "Sir, you look so grand." You see anything evil? No nothing evil, it's just something for you to appreciate, the way he dress, the way he walk. But don't look at something improper and program, have thoughts over you. Now you've got to be godly, and more than that you're living have to be so holy. I live Christ. I live Christ. And finally that you have nothing to do with the world, because Lord says, "Only lay up for yourself treasure in Heavens." You know you're pursuing, you gave me everything. You have to say, "Do they match Heavens? I have a car today, do they match Heavens?" If they don't means what? I focus on the car, only want to gain the car. I pay a price for the car, work overtime for the car, even don't ignore my family to gain this car. They don't match Heavenly things. So eventually I seek after treasure in Heavens. More than that, even he is clear the declaration of the Lord was made alive. If you ask me how many declaration you have, I would say so much, Lord declared. But there few things are very crucial. Number one, the Lord says, "He who is born of the Spirit is spirit." What a declaration! You, dear brother, you, dear sister, you. You should be born of the Spirit. If you're born of the Spirit, you know what make you unique, valuable? He who was born, is born of the Spirit is spirit. So what a declaration. Your whole being: the kernel, the most crucial element, the most crucial substance, the most crucial thing that lives in you is Spirit! I have a revelation, I have a vision, I see Spirit! I realize without the Spirit nothing works! He who is born of the Spirit is spirit. Now in the vision I realize I must pay attention to my spirit. I have a spirit, I treasure it. I have a spirit, I nourish it. I have a spirit, I strengthen it. I have a

spirit, I exercise it. I have a spirit, I feed my spirit so my spirit can be the real substance of my being. What kind of person are you? Spirit, I'm a spiritual man. I'm a man of spirit. And more than that, he also said if you want to worship God, worship Him in spirit, and in reality. And more than that, he also declared, "Who am I? I'm the bread of life for you to be satisfied. I'm the water of life so you will not be thirsty. Then, I'm a light of life so you know your life way." Let me ask you, on this earth what are the three most crucial things? You can say air is most crucial, but nobody ever short of air, except something drastic. In principle, air is always there. Now he said you need three things. You need sun, you need light so you know the direction. You need bread so you have strength. You need water so you are satisfied. So Lord says, "Who am I? Let me declare to you first about you. You're born of Spirit, Spirit. Worship me in spirit and in reality." Then he said, "Come to me. I am. Who am I? I am the bread of life. I am the water of life. Then I'm what? The light of life." Okay, water of life didn't say in that way, so you don't go back say, "Titus where did he say water of life?" He did say that, right? If you drink, he who believe in me, Scripture have said out of the innermost being will flow rivers of living water." Isn't living water a water of life? So, marvelous fact. So look at his declaration. All of a sudden Peter was clear. Oh, marvelous. And more than that he said, "I am the light of the world. You follow me, you are not in, walk in darkness. You will have light of Life." Hey brother, I tell you I'm so happy I have a spirit. I love the Lord in my spirit with reality. I enjoy the bread of life. I enjoy the water, flowing, living water. I enjoy the light of life, lead me, direct me, cause my whole life very meaningful. And I'm not short of anything. What a declaration the Lord has made. And more than that, all the Lord has done. You know brother, outside you can say all these are miracles. No, they are very real. Number one, he said Lord heal the leper. You know Peter look at the leper, Lord healed him. Praise the Lord for that, right? Peter was, "Wow, what a miracle! Hallelujah! My boss, my Lord is great!" Then they begin realize, "Wait a minute, when I see the vision I begin to see, 'No that leper is not another, it's me. I am fallen from inside. My sickness doesn't even see outside. People see me with suit, nice stress. But very few people see me and realize what an evil man, only I know. I'm leper. And the Lord healed.'" And more than that also paralyzed. One thing he did is a leper, another thing was paralyzed. Paralyzed means what? Means no strength to walk. Don't you have that experience? I want to love the Lord, how? I want to follow the Lord, how? I want to do something pleasing to God, how? I want to be one with the Lord, how? But when you have a vision of this Christ, who is he? He heals the paralyzed. He says, "Rise up. Pick up whatever and walk." Brother, inside we're terrible. Outside we're terrible too. But more than just being paralyzed, we can have the high fever. I see many Christians are high fever Christians. We're zealous, want to do this, want to do that. But I tell you, brother, I say in a very nice way, especially when the things you do go with you. You like these things. I know a sister, every time a love feast comes, she is resurrected. She comes in, coordinate the whole thing, after the love feast is over, she disappeared. What is that? A fever. No Christ, but activities for Christ. No Christ, but doing things for Christ. Lord says, I will take care of the fever, so you can serve the Lord properly. More than that, Lord says I don't want your enthusiasm in religion. I want you to be healthy. And more than that, there's a flow of blood with

the woman. When the Lord healed the woman with the flow of blood, which is kind of embarrassing for a woman to let people know I have a flow of blood. It is kind of embarrassing. Which means what? Which means blood a sign of life can keep on coming to you, but for some reason, hey brother, sister, please don't be offended. Your love to your family, which is proper, your love to your career, your love to your development, your love to a new car, you love to success, your love to be known, your love to be appreciated, your love to be above somebody else, your love to be the CEO or whatever, your love to success, or self-importance, for some reason, push away the life you receive. You're in a very good meeting. Praise the Lord for that. You receive life, praise the Lord for that. Till Monday morning, you go to office. Quickly, a lot of things come in, push away every life element that you have. The life you receive flowed away, so here he said, what did the Lord do? He does with the leper. He does with paralyzed, he did something with high fever, overly zealousness, he did something to balance the flow of blood. Now, life you have, you must keep. Truth you have must be vital. Spiritual things you received must be alive. So the blood doesn't flow away. More than that, the Lord take care of blind, with no goal what should I do. I don't know. But the Lord comes. Now, I healed the blind. I know the way. Eventually, he take care of the dumb. Who are you? Hey, if I say don't be offended, you are, sorry, you are number one a leper, you are number two paralyzed, number three high fever, number four with flow of blood, number five, you're blind. You know why so many people go to San Francisco? Blind. You say the Lord lead me to go to San Francisco. No problem. To go to San Francisco is not sin. To follow the flow is something wrong. Blind. Everybody go to San Francisco to get a job. Brother, don't you have a job in Cleveland? Don't you have a job in Pittsburgh? Don't you have good jobs in Columbus? But you don't even fight for it! You fight for oh, where everybody is going, we go! Brother, what does that mean? Blind. We can easily be blind, and out of this, we become dumb. We cannot testify. We cannot declare, we cannot tell others I have a risen Savior! We cannot testify, My Jesus so sweet, so loving to me! I can't. Why? Because I'm dumb. Hey, do you appreciate all of this? All of a sudden, Peter realized, "I'm not just a simple Peter. Who am I? you know who am I? I'm a leper. I'm, secondly a paralyzed. Third, fever. Fourth one I have, flow of blood. Fifthly, I'm blind. Six, I'm what, a dumb! That's why my whole Christian life is terrible!" But you see a vision. "Oh you take care of all this, hallelujah, you do take care of this!" So eventually, he said praise the Lord. Such a poor man to be called as an apostle. To labor with God. To fight for his interest. Now we come to the last point. Peter was able to rise up and declare buoyantly, means what, he saw the vision, right? When Jesus asked who do people think about me? Oh your Isaiah, you're Elijah. You're... what. Then he said what do you?! What do you say about me?! Then all of a sudden, this is a puzzling thing, because everybody should be clear, right? They should say, and they may not use the word Christ, but at least they can say you're the son of God. We heard it! John can answer, I say in a good way, it's not so good, John should be able to answer this. And Nathaniel, the second one, Nathaniel should be able to answer. They two were there, clearly heard the declaration in the heavenlies, but then for some reason, they can't answer. You know why? The vision's dim. They are the apostles, they are with Christ all the time. But it become common.

Just like preaching brothers, preaching becomes common. Just like elder take care of church become common. Just like a faithful serving one serving in practical matters, it becomes common. Brother no. You cannot be common. Peter stood up, he saw a vision. You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. You see three. You are the Christ, the Son, the living God, all unique. There's only one living God, the one living God only has one son, and this only one Son is the Christ, the anointed one, to carry out God's economy. When Peter received this revelation, and in the very moment, all that he saw all that he heard, all that he experience, become not merely teaching, after teaching, story after story, but a complete revelation as a picture made alive to him. You know what, Lord Jesus says whom you say I am? He stood up, just dah dah dah all things come together. You say wow! I see who's Christ, I see who am I, I see how he teaches, I see how he handles things, I see how he asks us to live a certain life. I see his commitment to us. All of a sudden, WOW! It becomes a clear picture! Just like what? Just like a young brother saw a young sister. Young brother and young sister grow up, know each other for years, especially in the church life, but one day that sister or that brother become a vision. WHOOO! And with that vision, a lot of revelation comes. Oh, she's so beautiful. Oh she's so virtuous, oh she's so capable. Oh she's so sober, oh she's such a nice Godly woman, a lady, all revelations come in with this vision. It's a picture. Nobody can say, maybe there's exceptions, in principle, hard for people to say know why you married that girl? Because her eyebrow so beautiful. There got to be something as a vision, inclusive. Everything with her become real attractive. I didn't say it, Watchman Nee said it. He portrayed love in this way. Everything with the other part become so attractive to the one who experience this. You know brother, a picture comes. When the picture comes, everything seems to be very clear, so at that moment, what he saw, what he experienced, what he heard, all of a sudden, became a pictures with a complete revelation made alive to him. Oh, now it's clear. I see Christ. What a savior. I see Christ, what a poor man. Yet what a commitment. I see Christ, you understand? What kind of life I can live out. I see Christ, how can I walk with him. I see Christ, how he expose me in so many angles, yet in every part, he's my healer. I say Lord, I am so happy, I have a vision. That's why Peter here boldly declared that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. This complete revelation then caused the Lord to rise and testify. After he shared that, the Lord was excited, hey Simon! Barjona! Let me tell you! This is not from flesh and blood, this is from God the Father! What does this mean? God the Father is willing, waiting to give you a vision, to give you visions to give you revelations, so you can become followers of Jesus with commitment. May the Lord have mercy. This is a long message, but may the Lord have mercy to us. Tell the Lord, Lord I want to be Peter, I want to have that picture. I want to have that vitality, I don't want just to have doctrines and truths, things I learned, all the things I know, I want them to be as spirit, energizing in me. Make that life to me. I can declare, I'm following the resurrected Christ! He carries God's economy. May the Lord have mercy, I stop here.