

Visions and Revelations

Message 12: The Apostle Peter (3)

Dear brothers and sisters, now we are coming to another message on the visions and revelations in the new testament age, or in the age of grace. You realize that we covered that the Lord gained the three great apostles: the apostle Peter, the apostle Paul, and the apostle John. He used them as patterns for us to know how to properly abide in visions and revelations and eventually, become very operative, useful, in the hand of God, or for God's building, for God's testimony, for God's household. Now, this morning, we come to the visions of God. That means there is a vision from the Father, another vision from Christ. Christ gave a vision, the Father gave a vision. When Christ was asking the question "Whom do you think I am," and Peter had the revelation and stood up and said "You are the Christ, you are the Son of the Living God," that is a marvelous heavenly declaration. I think after that whole declaration, there could be a moment of silence. All the apostles would be very impressed. How can there be such a clear utterance? And then even the Lord Jesus was very happy, joyful, if I use the word buoyant, excited. You know, some people say the Lord was always Godly, he never run, he never got very happy, very excited. Well, at least when the prodigal son came home, he ran to receive him. So there is a statement that God does have the feelings of joyfulness, or excitement, and when the lost sheep was found, they were all joyful together. Here I say that the Lord Jesus becomes extremely happy. So he sort of shouted out, "Simon, Barjona, you are blessed!" why? Remember when the Lord Jesus, for the first time came he saw Peter, he told Peter "you are Simon, you are the son of john. You shall be called Peter. At that time, you don't see anything exciting. It was a sober, solemn statement made by the Lord, concerning this great apostle. Whether you are able to follow me or not, at this time that's not the point. The point is, you are a son of grace. And in grace, you learned to obey, to listen, to follow, but this time, the Lord changes his name. the Lord didn't say son of john. The Lord says "Simon! Barjona!" Jonah means dove, which is spirit. You are the son of the Spirit! Who are you? You are Simon, Simon, son of the Spirit. Let me tell you, you shall be called Peter. Two pictures, two statements. Can you realize the difference? One statement is just like when we were saved, even when we are called, its common. One statement is something was made alive. Peter was made alive, so the revelation from the Father, with this he sees Christ, with this he sees the teaching of Christ, with this he sees the declaration of Christ, with this he sees the miracles of Christ, with this all what he follows Christ, what he has seen what he's heard, went through, at this time, they all become something so so real. Then at the same time, when he says "you are Christ, THE Son of THE living God," then Christ answered "Simon Barjona! You are blessed!" this is not unveiled to you by flesh and blood. Then he said "I say also unto you, you are Peter." Did you see something very interesting? Here is a beautiful picture. The Lord come in, responding to what God has, Father has unveiled to, Peter, right? Lets come to the outline. The outline says, firstly, you have the revelation given by the Father. The revelation is what? Who is this man? Who is this man? The Father told, unveiled, to Peter, this man is THE Christ. This man is THE Son of THE living God. In other words, he is the unique one. Unique one to carry out God's economy. The anointed, the Christ, more than messiah, just be peaceful, making truce between God and man. But positively operating in carrying out what

God desires. So you are the Christ. And more than that, you also are the Son, the unique one, of the living, the unique one, God. This is marvelous. So the Lord told him, declare to him “You are so blessed.” Then he said “flesh and blood has not revealed this to you. But my Father who is in the heavens/” this part is hard to understand. Why? Basically how can blood, flesh and blood, give people any kind of revelation? Flesh and blood is flesh and blood! But for some reason, flesh and blood is able to produce something seemingly there. For instance, there, I said revelation means what? Its unveiling. I see something. For instance, even as a man, as a brother, as a sister, as a young or old, we all see something with different perspective. Which may affect us. I see knowledge. I see social status. I see success. I see wealth. This is one kind. I see drinking. I see indulgence in gambling. I see improper life. But I do have the kind of unhealthy satisfaction in my flesh. So here he said, Lord says “okay, Simon Barjona, I tell you, this is not revealing by flesh and blood. Why? Flesh and blood do not give you the real stuff. Flesh and blood can bring you forth seeming revelation that is attractive and seems right, but is of no value. It has no value. You look at it, it seems right. No there’s no value. Thus it leads to different perceptions, and different acknowledgements. For instance, the lust of the flesh, pleasure, the lust of the pleasure of the flesh causes people to indulge in the sinful world. I don’t understand, for instance, why people should gamble. I don’t understand. When I see people get drunk, I don’t understand why people get drunk. But somebody, some fallen person saw it, not only saw it, they think that’s it! So they drink. So they gamble. So they live an improper life. So they’re on drugs. So they’re doing criminal things. You think they have a vision? No. but they do see something. They can tell you, when I’m drunk I’m so happy. I say how about your headaches? How about your sleeping on the floor? How about the immorality you practice after you get drunk? How about you damage your liver, damage your health, I don’t see that, but you know what brother? Flesh and blood can produce attractive things. First thing is the sinful world. Then secondly, it’s what, it’s also vanity of the soul causing you to pursue the material world. You know, when you listen to the message, I believe if we have one thousand listening to this, five hundred listening to this, only one or two may have some experience, or still be in the previous category. The majority of us are in the second category. Are we sinful? No. but we’re occupied. We have a vision seemingly. We have a seeming vision. Something caught us. I want to be a professor, known professor, I want to be CEO, successful CEO, I want to have my books written, I’m a writer, I want to have my business, I want to have my school, I want... you know brother, there’s a lot of things actually all are vanity. Eventually, where’s the value? But in the process, flesh and blood still can attract you, attracts you to get a degree, a better degree, top university, attracts you to gain a success in a certain field, I tell you brother, this is a world thing. And thirdly, the noble sentiment. With everyone, even though our spirit’s dead, but the organ is still there, so within man, sometimes, there’s something noble, I want to know God. I want to understand God.

So they can become all kind of religious. If we're not careful even our Christian belief can become just a religion that is still void of Christ. I'm a nun. I'm a Catholic father. I'm a person, maybe serving, I'm a person serving God. But the Lord question is God only care for Christ. If you tell Father, “Father, please show me...” “Jesus Christ.” “Something else,” “Christ.” “Something more,” “Christ.” “Please Father, show me more...” “Christ! I only care for Christ! I only care for Christ, I only care for the one who is the Son of the Living God”. So none of these can be given to you by flesh and blood. More than that, the Lord Jesus commented, “Flesh and

blood has not unveiled this to you, reveal this to you, but my father who is in the heavens”. This is very interesting. Yeah, if you ask Father, “Oh Father God, I adore you”, he says, “I care for my son”. “Oh Father God, I worship your marvelous work”, he said, “Appreciate Christ”. I will give you a revelation, with Christ I accomplish my eternal purpose, with Christ everything become valuable. Then with the Son of the Living God everything become vital, bears the value of eternity. Not only valuable, but eternal. So the Christ means what? The Christ means the anointed one, the executor of God's economy. The Son of God means what? Means he is God. He is what? God. When we talk about, okay Christ is God, let me ask you, when you think about God you think what? A power? A government? A wisdom? A controlling person? The one that can take care of everything? Or you realize, “Oh, here’s one self-existing, ever existing”. I’m God. “I’m the Son of Living God” means Christ himself is self-existing, ever existing. Yet, he incarnated become man, partake of human nature, right? And more than that, you can say, Hebrew, in Book of Hebrews says, “He is without father, without mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days, without ending of life. Why? He is eternal, the self-existing one, ever existing one, the eternal life, now testified God”. So father says, “If you want know who, you want to have a revelation from me, I tell you I will not tell you do this, do that. I will not give you do this, do that. I’ll just show you there’s a marvelous person, Jesus Christ. He is the Son of the Living God. He is the Christ. As Christ he carry out God's economy. As the Son of the Living God, he produce all the vitalities. How vital? Vital enough to uphold the whole universe. This vitality now can become yours, and handle you, take you, lead you for you to partake, have part of eternal life”. So when Peter says, “You are Christ, the Son of the Living God”, Jesus was excited. Jesus says, “Simon Bar-Jonah, you are blessed. Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, it’s my Father who is the heavenly gives you this revelations”. Hey, in a way you can say a good picture should stop here. But no, more. Right after that Christ says, “I also give you a revelation. I say also unto you”. Not only God give you such a marvelous revelation, this revelation make you so joyful, make me so happy. This declaration is so powerful, right, that become the unique revelation in the universe. Even that, let me tell you, I say also to you, I also have a revelation. Father's revelation is me. My revelation is you. Father's revelation: “I am the Christ, the Son of the Living God”. My revelation: “You, a stone, shall become a precious stone, valuable stone for the building up of the church, for the building up of the body of Christ, for my satisfaction”. See if we come to see the outline, the Father's revelation gave to Peter is too good and too high. Am I right? Yet Christ revelation was you needed not as a supplement but as a completion. The first part is Christ, the second part is the church. The first part God do everything, the second part Christ do everything. God make Jesus the Christ even before universe began. He is the engineer, the architect. He is the means of creation. He is the one carry out God's economy all the way to New Jerusalem. But then Christ says, “I am with you. Oh dear apostles, dear disciples, I'm with you. Let me tell you, I'm so valuable, you are just as valuable. I am so precious, you are just as precious. Without me you can do nothing. But when you possess me, your position, your meaning of life, your existence, your operation, your growth, labor, they all can become so high”. So I say also to you, to make the whole picture complete, and this compare, I just use illustration, just what? It's just like Father says, “I will give you good piece of land, and you have the land”. You are happy. You can say, “Look at the river, look at the mountain, look at the field, look at the garden, look at the tree, look everything. Oh the Lord, or

God, give me such a marvelous piece of land of Christ". Then Christ says, "But let me tell you, I will give you a house. Just with land is not adequate. Marvelous, beautiful, from God. But I'll give you a house". God's revelation constant, centered on Christ. Our revelation, Christ given to us, centered with how we can have value in Christ, with Christ, for Christ, by bearing Christ, and testifying this very God's economy. More than that, he said, "I say also". Also means what? God say something, I also say something. Means what? There is addition, there is extending, expanding, elevating. Something here God gave to you can be flat, I make it richer, I make it more bountiful, I make it more attractive, I make it more valuable, I make it more appreciable, and I make it more realistic in your daily life. I say also to you, now here if I read this to you, point four: therefore it is not perfect and complete to have Father's revelation knowing only the Lord is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. In addition to this revelation, to this revelation from the Father, it is necessary to see, receive the revelation from Christ. Father's revelation is Christ. Christ's revelation is the church. Father's revelation is Christ. Christ revelation is church. If I can say this, if you can just even follow me, God only care for Christ. Christ only care for the church. When God give you anything to give, he give you Christ. When Christ give you anything, he gave it to you for the building up of the church. Then after that, Christ continued, "You are Peter". A quick word here, "You are *petros*" is a masculine word for the rock. This is not *lithos*, usually stone use word *lithos*. Not an ordinary stone, but a specific valuable stone that matches the rock, *petra*, that's Christ himself. So, you are Peter, *petros*. I am the rock, *petra*. You are Peter as a name. I am *petra* as a solid facts. I am a *petra*. You know it's very interesting, here is three words involved. Who is Peter? A *lithos*, just a piece of stone like all of us. Who are you? A piece of stone. But the Lord like to say, "Hey, I want to call you Peter. I want to call you *petros*. I want to call you a specific piece of stone with high value". Why? Because *petros* matches *petra*. This stone matches the rock who is the foundation of everything, right? Matches the rock. Here he says, "You know Peter, you are Peter. You are Simon, right? I want to call you Peter. When I call you Peter, I say, I see a product. This product the nature is different, the constitution is different, the exhibition is different, the solidness is different, the operation is different. It's no longer just a common stone, but a piece of rock, piece of rock. This rock matches the foundation rock. You know, what is this? This is Peter. But let me ask you, do the Lord have the same desire to us all? Lord should, should the Lord, do the Lord like to say, "You just be any piece of stone? I want you to be a precious stone. So I want what? I want firstly, I want chose you. You are my chosen vessel. Number 2 – I want to have lordship over you. I want to be your Lord. Number 3 – I want to have My workmanship over you. I want to transform you. I want to work on you. eventually, I want to give you commitment. Peter, upon this rock I will build the church. That has a lot to do with you." So, you see brother, for you to become a valuable person before the Lord, for you to say, "Lord, I dare not call myself *petros* but can I tell You, I just don't like to be a common *lithos*, just like any other stone. I like to be chosen by You. This on You. I want You to have lordship over me, be my boss, take care of my life, take care of everything I need. Be the real leader, real king to my life. Then Lord, please work on me. Transform me. Anything unhealthy, anything healthy, anything proper, anything improper, please all put divine element into it. So all the negative things can be disappeared, the positive things can be not just a thing, but a constitution of something divine, matches that *petra*."

So finally, there is a commitment, “You are Peter.” Right? “I will give you something.” We cover that next message. But tell the Lord, “Lord, please make me Peter. Choose me, own me, transform me. Eventually, Lord I don’t want just to be a brother in the church. I want the brother in the church life with heavenly commitment. With heavenly commitment.”

Then after that, the Lord uses a strong word, “Upon this rock, I will build My church. I will.” You know brother, the Lord rarely use the word “I will.” Seems Lord will declare “I am. I am willing to do. Someone need, I will go to help him.” He seemed like He liked to teach, “blessed are you.” Let me, here He is very strong “I will” unconditional. For instance, there is conditional. I will ask the Father; Father will give you Comforter. I will. Then, “I will” you follow Me, I will ask you to gain man to be fishers of man. I will. And more than that, He also said, “If you destroy the temple I will! I will, right? In 3 days, I will raise it up.” But they’re conditional. They are condition for you to have Lord. There are condition for you to work, labor. There is a condition for you to see there is a spiritual body, spiritual temple raised up by the Lord. Even though they crucified Him. There is one “I will” unconditional. Unconditional, I WILL! That means, whatever happen, I am going to do it. I will.

So, here, if I can quickly read it over to you it’s good enough. I will. This is unique expression in the 4 gospels. It’s unconditionally referred to what the Lord desires. Unconditional. This is just what I want. Indicates that the Lord’s eternal will speak out what the Lord is laying hold of and what Lord will work and accomplish unto eternity. Only this, the builded church, can satisfy God. In other words, let me tell you, 6000 years I’m doing it. I’m still doing it. I will, whatever happen, I will.

We like to say, “No, no, no, Lord is doing a lot!” No, Lord says, “I only do one thing. I will build My church. This is the only, “I will.” A strong “I will.” I will speak out that Christ is only focused on this one thing. This is My burden. This is My desire. This is My expectation. This is why I am here. This is even why there is God. Just for this builded up church. Therefore, I will. Which is what obtained *petros* and builded church on the rock. Look at what He has: Has creation, right? He has redemption, right? He has salvation, right? Has incarnation, right? Has the ascension, right? He become life-dispensing, right? Eventually, He obtained the New Jerusalem. You can say, “Wow, Lord Jesus. All this so marvelous!” But Lord says, “Do you know why I save you? Because I will build the church. Do you know why I am with you? Because I will build the church. You know why I will lead you? Because I will build the church. Because I will take care of you? Because I build the church.”

Brother, we Christians like to focus on many things. Oh, I speak in tongues, let’s have a tongue-speaking church. Oh, I have a healing, let’s have a healing church. Oh, I really believe justification by faith, let’s have a church justification by faith. Oh, we really believe you need to be baptized in the water, so let’s have a Baptist church. This, there’s nothing right or wrong. But God never say I will baptize, insist on, forever. God never will say, speak in tongues, keep on speaking. God says, I will build the church. You know why I save you? Build the church. You know why I bless you? Build the church? You know why I attract you to love Me? Build the church. You know why I bless you? Build the church. You know why I am so much with you? Build the church. You know why I give brothers and sisters surrounding you? Build the church. You know why sometimes I am so hard on you? Even you cry out! Because I want build the church.

I want produce many *petros*. I don't like all *lithos* only. I like to see a church built up. Eventually you can say, every spiritual experience, every spiritual blessing, every spiritual enjoyment, every spiritual attainment, every spiritual things you feel Lord so much with you, you can be proud of, you can be happy with, you can give testimony. Lord says, "No, I'm not for that. I will do all these on you, with only one purpose so you can be builded up in the church life. This all what I want. I will.

Okay, you know brother, so if you read, if we can go outline like this. That eventually, He's only for this one thing, that I will build the church. You know, sometimes there are a religious things, individual spiritual experiences. They are there. But remember, you think this is what God wants, you're wrong. God healed me; therefore, God want me to heal people. I don't think it's improper, wrong. But I say, inadequate. Why? God is not just a healer. If He just want to heal people, He just tell people not to get sick, that's all. God want to gain a builded up church. So, all the spiritual things we have, no matter how precious they are, you can say that it, this is not exactly what Christ has in His heart. Brother, can we tell the Lord, "Lord I am so thankful God give me revelation, I see Christ. I see the Son of living God. I am also so thankful, Christ say also unto me, I will. This "I will" decide my life." I will tell the Lord, "Lord, if You will, then let this humble person, a person has been fallen, the person live by grace also declare with you, we will also! You want build the church; we want to build the church. Please bless us with all, multiple, with all blessings with multifarious wisdom. But please, with all the blessings, can we all conclude with, build up the church and not different element?" What a glorious life is this? A life one with God the Father, a life one with God the Son, and when Christ says, "I will" I will say, "Lord, I will too. We will together, we only care for You, Your heart, and Your desire. You don't give up, we don't give. You insist, we insist. Be merciful to us." We bless Him. I stop here.