

Visions and Revelations

Message 14: The Apostle Peter (5)

Well, we are coming to message 14, the visions and revelations of the apostle Peter. Right? Now, let me first tell you my physical strength and my voice are all limited. So I will try to rather work with this outline, speak slowly, just to cover what Lord desires to speak to us. I ask you brothers to stand with me, we work together. So in the beginning, it says, “The revelation of Christ.” Father give Peter a revelation, Peter was bold to declare it: “Who are You? You are the Christ, you are the Son of the living God.” This stirred up Christ. Christ was excited: “Simon Barjona, you are blessed. This is the revelation from the Father. It’s not from flesh and blood, from the Father. I say also unto you.” You see here, after Father give a revelation, we feel nothing can be more precious already. In the whole universe, we see Christ, we understand Christ, we receive Christ, we love Christ, we desire to follow Christ, we gain Christ, day by day we want to have a life with Christ. We can say that “What am I short? I am short of nothing. I have Christ. Christ is everything to me. Christ is everything to all the believers.” Isn’t this good? This is a marvelous. But this will not bring in the satisfaction of Christ Himself. That’s why He stood up. He told Simon, He said, “you are blessed. You have a revelation that was from God the Father, but I also say to you.” In His speaking, He said “I also say to you” have three points. Number one, “You are Peter. You are no longer Simon, you are Peter.” Then secondly, “On this rock I will build My church.” We just talk about, we just talk about that this very Christ unveiled by God should be everything. Then, all of a sudden, this Christ brought in another term: “On this rock, I will build My church.” You have Christ, you also have the church. You have Christ, you also have a church, and not the church, but “My church.” Not only “My church,” this church need to be builded up. Then, eventually, with this, He told Peter, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heavens.” you know, brother, the kingdom of heaven need key to open it up. “I will give you keys of the kingdom of heaven.”

Now we come, next point. “On this rock, I will build My church.” This is a big statement. The Lord says, if you ask the Lord, “Lord, what are You doing?” He say, “I am building the church.” “Why You save me?” “For the building of the church.” “Why You save us all?” “For the building of the church.” “For two thousand years, why You gain so many Jesus lovers willing to give everything to You?” He say, “Not just for me, but for the building up of My church.” you know, brother, we need a revelation of Christ. We also need a revelation to see the church. From God, we know Christ. From Christ, we should know the church. “Upon this rock, I will build My church.” Last time we talk about, church is *ekklesia*, called out to the caller, who is Christ Himself. Christ call us out unto Himself. We become a great universal entity. In this entity, you have apostle Peter, apostle Paul, apostle John. In this entity, you have all the fathers. In this entity, you have those who are so much a blessing to God and to man, such as, what, Calvin, such as Zinzendorf, such as Luther, with all this, and even today, we can say these men are all part of the church. And more than that, when we come to the church you see brother, many spiritual men, you love, you appreciate, you can see in this church is Madame Guyon, in this church, there is brother Watchman Nee, in this church, there is Brother Lawrence, in this church,

there is Hudson Taylor, in this church, the church of Christ, in this *ekklesia*, there is also so many spiritual men, and more than that, plus you and I. There is an entity, a great entity, universal entity. As long as there is time, this entity is enlarging, this entity is reproducing, this entity is blessing, this entity is bearing the name of the Lord as His testimony, this entity appears in so many localities, for what? For us, for man to know, we all need the lover, the creator, the savior, also the Lord to be our Savior and everything. You know, brother, we should be thankful.

So, eventually, Paul defined what is the church. What is *ekklesia*? *Ekklesia* is the body of Christ. This body including you, including me, including everyone who were born again, saved. Once you are saved, we are saved into the church to be a member of the body of Christ and to be a portion of the operating of the body of Christ. Every one become so valuable, so useful before the Lord, because together we are the church.

I wonder you see a vision. I see a vision. I would say, "Paul, you are so great. But you belong to the church, I also part of the church." I would say, "Peter, you are so marvelous. You belong to the church, I am also part of the church." And you can even say today, "Oh, my elder are so spiritual, he is part of the church, so do I. A brother so and so is so spiritual, he is part of the church, so do I." Because we altogether are the body of Christ.

This body is His testimony, and this body need to be what, builded up. Think about what does "builded up" mean? Basically you consider any building. Means what? I bring things not related to become related. I bring things isolated to become part of overall structures. I bring things that have very little value into something of grand, very precious building. You know, brother, if we see a physical building, we have this view: "What a marvelous building!" Now, how about a spiritual building? The Lord says, who are we? We are a spiritual body, need to be builded up as a testimony. So what are we? We are members to be builded up.

Now, we come to the building. You, as a brother, I am a brother, you as a sister, she can be another sister, we all are individuals. Lord says, "I want put you together, not put you together, but build you up together. Everyone have to rely on others. Everyone have to depend on others. Everyone has her value. Everyone can become a supporting element to the testimony of the Lord." So there is elements of the building up of the church. Let's see, what are the elements for the church to be built up? Number one, of course you need the revelation of the Father to see Christ. Number two, of course you need the revelation of Christ to see the church. More than that, Christ, Christ, as the rock, need to be broken in order to become a spiritual rock. you have to understand this. It's very interesting. When the Lord says, "Upon this rock I will build My church," we only see the glorious part. We say "Praise the Lord, the creator is the rock! The creator of the universe is the rock! The center of the universe is the rock! The one uphold everything is the rock! The one who is going to inherit the whole universe is the rock!" The Lord would say, "Which is true. But remember that I cannot be a dry rock. I must be a rock can flow waters, can flow out blessings." So He says, "I need to be broken in order to become a spiritual rock. I am the rock. But not a physical rock, but a spiritual rock. I can become a spiritual rock." Right? So when the Lord Jesus was on the cross, at the end, He said, "Finished." Finished means what? "I have accomplished everything, accomplished everything. I become a real rock! I become a salvation! I become a Savior! But that is not enough. All those who are saved have to

be on this rock build up together. I want to build the church upon this rock. I finished My work.”

So the soldier came and pierced him then blood and water came out. Blood of course is to cleanse us from our sin. Water caused him to become a spiritual rock. And this rock is not just for us to build upon. It's with us. Follow us, bless us all the time, so to bring us. Bring us all together to have a life relation if it's with him. So we are joined with him. We have life association with him. We have life relatedness with him. We can enjoy him as the real life supply. Bountiful supply with all the riches with this marvelous triune God. For us what? For us to be built together. And more than that, not only the Father revelation. The Son revelation. The Son also needs to go through a process, so it's not a dry rock, but it becomes a spiritual rock. And Paul says, this spiritual rock follows us. We can be built upon such a rock, then what? Then, he also said, you Simon. Simon is a hearer. I hear something, and I am willing to obey. A good name. Willing to obey. Now you must be transformed to become a Peter. The word Peter is the word rock. Two genders. When the Lord used the word rock, it's feminine. When the Lord used the word Peter, it's masculine. One is petros, one is petra. Petra is feminine, petros is masculine. What does that mean? The Lord is the base, we are the manifestation. The testimony growing, blossoming, enlarging has a lot to do with how this Petros can testify of the Lord Himself. You know brother, this is very good. Four things, what is the process? I need the revelation of Father. I need the revelation of Christ. Then I have to see Christ today is the spiritual rock. He finished everything for me to be built upon. For me to be in life, to be related to Him. The Lord Jesus make me not just a good Simon, he made me a valuable Petros. I am not just a good Simon listen and follow, a good boy. I am the one testifying with the rock nature, with the rock constitution, that I want to testify the Lord. Here it says, a rock, one with Christ. Petros is Christ. In nature, in constitution, in operation and in purpose. What is my name? My name is Titus. What's your name? Your name can be John, Paul, can be Timothy, can be whatever the name. But everybody should have one real name. I am Titus, but I am also Peter. I am also Petros. I am joined to Christ as the spiritual rock. That with his life supply, I am transformed from the old Titus, natural Titus, original Titus. With a talent, ability, but of men, Titus, now I am transformed more and more into Petros. Something solid with me matches Christ. Not only matches Christ in life, matches Christ in constitution, in operation, in purpose. In everything I am one with Christ. That causes me to be able to be built up with the other brothers in the church.

We come to another point. The process of building the church. We say we like to be built up. How can we be built up? There's a process right? What are the process? Number one, the process of revelation. A person without revelation, can never be built up with anybody. Revelation to see Christ, the church. Then eventually you have with such a revelation, you realized, I need to be built up in the church life, in the body with the saints to bear the lord's testimony. Then how? It is by the growth. I have a proper growth in life. What is the kind of growth? It is a matter of transformation. I am transformed. From one stage of glory, one stage of life to another stage of life. One stage of glory to another stage of glory. One step of maturity to another step of maturity. Eventually what? I labor with the transformed being I labor. I fight to produce the operation. What is the process? Let me repeat to you. Five things. Number one

revelation. Number two, out of revelation, grow. Number three, in growth be transformed. Number four, with your transformation, labor and fight for the building up of the body. Eventually you produce what? A corporate entity. This is a glorious matter. The process of building up of the church is a process of revelation. A revealing of Christ by God, the Father. Number one, the revealing of church by Christ. Then, by the growth of the saints according to revelation. When I have revelation, I see something of Christ. I see something of the church. Brother, I began to have a real operation, I begin to lay hold, "Lord, I must grow, so I can have more Christ. So I have be more a blessing to the church, in the church, so I can be blessed by the church. I need to grow." Then let's ask another question. How can you grow? If you grow with a revelation, you need to grow. How can you grow? Number one. Grow up in the Word of the Lord. You grow, you cannot bypass the Lord. The Lord said very strongly, I am a spirit, I am life, that's very strong. And here also declare very strong, I am the Word of life. Christians have three things very crucial. Number one is spirit. You don't have spirit, you don't have anything. You are not strong in spirit, you'll be short of everything. You are strong in spirit, you will have everything. You have to be strong in spirit and more than that, you also have the second thing. You must have the body. You must have the church life. You must be with brothers and sisters. Look I am here, within me, I have a spirit. Surrounding me, there are all the brothers and sisters. I'm in spirit, I'm with brothers, when I am with brothers, I must be in spirit. When I am in spirit, I must be with the brothers and sisters. But in the middle, there's a basic core, that is the Word of God. You must have the Word of the Lord. eventually at the end of Peter's life he wrote. He said hey brothers, let me tell you, who you are. you should be like newborn babies. Long for guileless milk of the Word in order that by it, you may grow unto salvation. Do you see that? How can you have a process of growth, so eventually you can be a builded member of the body? Number he said you have spirit no problem ,you have saints no problem. But pay attention to the Word. Pay attention to the Bible. Pay attention to the Word of Christ. Pay attention to Christ in the Word. The Word of Christ, The Lord spoke and all the Bible, Christ is the real content, substance. So the Word give you milk. He said "What is the Word?" The Word is the guileless milk of the Word. When you have the Word, you enjoy, you enjoy the milk, you enjoy nourishment. So here, how do you grow? I say you already have a spirit, and you already have the member, the other members, the brothers and sisters. Now you, you, everyone of us must say "Lord, I want to love Your Word. I want to be in Your Word. I want to enjoy Your Word. I want to be with Your Word. I want Your Word to be my food, my supply, in my daily life. I want Your Word as the guiding principle in my walk. I want Your Word to be builded up in me that I could have a stature that satisfies Yourself." Let me repeat to you, you hold the Bible, what is the Bible? The Word. The Bible is the Word. What is in the Bible? It is Christ. How do you touch Christ? By all the words portraying Christ. The whole Bible is focused on Christ. When you come to the Bible, you enjoy Christ, and you enjoy nourishment, and you enjoy food supply, and you enjoy something the Lord is so rich, given to you in the Word. In the Word, there is Christ. But remember that with Christ, there is always the Word. When you say "Praise the Lord I see Christ!", where's the Bible? You can say according to the Bible, Christ is my savior, Christ is my blesser, Christ is my leader, Christ is my water of life, Christ is my everything, Christ totally satisfies me, because I have the Word, and in the Word there is Christ. Word leads us to Christ, the Word provides us Christ, and the Word regulates us to be in Christ. With the Word, we know

how to behave, with the Word we know how to be before the Lord. You want to build up the church? Building up the church is not talents coming together. You like music I like music, which is good. Better than not coming together. But don't think that is the building. Building is where I love the music, you love music, we come together enjoy Christ together in music, and the music gives you and gives me Christ together. We are builded up. By what? By the regulating of the Word. This is precious.

More than that, grow up according to everyone's own portion as everyone is gifted. This is very interesting right? Do you know who are you? I am a brother. Praise the Lord you are a brother. I'm a sister, praise the Lord you're a sister. Now, who are you? You say, I'm a fulltimer. Hallelujah you're a fulltimer. Who are you? I'm an elder. Praise the Lord you're an elder. But whether you're an elder, you're a fulltimer, you're a brother or sister, we can consider this all as status in the church life. In the spiritual body, we ALL are either joints or portions. With everyone, nobody can say "Now I'm in the church life, I am nothing. I'm just so new, I'm so young." No brother, even you are so young, you are so new, you have your portion. You have your parts. And if you grow, grow a little, with a little maturity, you become a joint. You know brother, everyone you need to realize we grow, grow up according to my portion as everyone is gifted. I'm gifted at my portion. For instance, a brother who really can sing hymns beautifully, when he sings songs, people appreciate it. Am I right? This is his portion. But he develops the portion by knowing the salvation, by knowing salvation of Christ, by knowing the love of Christ, by knowing the redemptive work of Christ, by knowing God's purpose, God's economy, God's operating, by knowing what the Lord is doing every day with us, all this can become the real substance of this music. Some people sing the music, a song, beautiful, some people sing a song touching. Some people sing a song after hymns over, it's over. Some people sing a song, after that singing, a lot develop. Many will love the Lord, many will consecrate, many will give because why? Because the ability of the one portion, operate so well. So brother, you have a portion. What is your portion? We don't know. Maybe even you don't quite know. BUT! Lord put you in the body, placed you in the body, as a part, as a portion, maybe even as a joint. You have your particular meaning. You should say I don't quite know exactly what I am, but I know one thing. Without me, something will be short in the church life! I have my portion, I want to express that portion, my portion must be brought in to functioning, I tell you, when many saints are by the Lord's mercy growing properly according to his portion, this growth will become such a blessing. Do you realize you give a good testimony, many can be moved. Do you realize, you give a message, concerning gospel, many can be saved. Do you realize, you share something of your experience of Christ, many will love the Lord because of that. This is our growth. Number one, we have the Word. By having the Spirit and having the Saints. And more than that, more than that, we can see that I have a portion. My portion grow, my portion develop, my portion operates and blesses.

So eventually, through this, if I say three points, five things right? Firstly Spirit, secondly, members of the body, thirdly the Word as the center, guiding us all. And more than that, who am I? I'm just a tiny little member of the body, a small portion, but I grow, with my growth, with your growth, with many growth, brother's growth, eventually grow up into the headship of the Head. We grow unto, into Christ Himself. So Christ can really do. So by being here, the verse I give to you "But holding to truth in love, we may grow up in Him in all things who is the head,

Christ.” Truth is a Word. Holding the Word in love. Am I right? That we may grow up in Him, in all things who is the Head, the Lord becomes the real Head. I wonder, you understand what I’m talking about? For instance, this afternoon, my sharing is hard. Why? With my physical limitations, then my mind is not that clear. My head has a little problems. My spirit may be, should be, okay. But for some reason, do not come together. I am thankful that you listen with patience all the way. But brother, do you know how frustrated is our real Head Christ with us? Almost all the members is disobedient. The Head says do this, we say no. The Head says don’t do that, we say no. Seems we are professional “nos.” We always tell the Lord, “Lord I love You, I love You so much.” So the Lord says “if you really love me, in this way!” we say “no.” So you need to grow, you need to have the Spirit, you need to have the saints with the Word. And more than that, you need to treasure your portion, develop your portion, let your portion grow, grow until what? Until when this portion can have the full exercise with the Head. Grow up into the headship of the Head. Maybe I give you some illustration. If you sleep overnight, you put your hand whole night. The second morning, this hand is here okay. It’s a healthy hand. But doesn’t quite listen to the head. Something is painful, some muscle is frustrated, some joint doesn’t work well. You want to move the hand, it doesn’t move as it ought to be. So what, head has no problem, even hand is good hand, but for some reason, the hand did not grow up into the head! There’s problems. You know brother, what is the frustration with the Lord in building us up, in building us up as His own testimony? Most of the saints not in the Word, most of the saints do not treasure what he has, and do not really treasure his own growth with his portion. So eventually, the headship of the Lord cannot be that free. He wants us to preach the gospel, we say no we want watch football. He wants us to go to be with the saints, we say no we want to go to McDonald’s. He wants something, we say no. Eventually, the Lord says we have a function we can grow so healthy. Our growth manifests by these two things: with Spirit, with the saints in the Word. With my portion, I develop it. So these portions is joined to the head. When the Lord move the hand, becomes so free! I have my hand on my head sleep overnight, the second day, morning, my hand is not good at all. I don’t cut it off. I don’t say you terrible! I begin to move my hand, right? I begin to exercise my hand. I begin to stretch out my hand more. I begin to do all things to my hand with the hope that eventually the circulation becomes so normal, so healthy, now grow up into the headship of the head, the head, so whatever I want the hand to do, my hand can render full operation. This is what the Lord desires us with the process of growth. May the Lord have mercy, may the Lord bless us. Lord be with you, amen.