

Visions and Revelations

Message 15: The Apostle Peter (5) (Cont.)

Well, we're coming, we continue our burden, the visions and revelations of the apostle Peter. Then, more than growth, this growth actually is transformation. The more you grow, the more you are transformed. So with the process of transformation, all the saints who have revelation must, point one, be transformed to be one with God's will by the renewing of your mind. What does transform mean? It's very simple right? There is a form, when the form is changed, it's transformed. I'm in one form, transformed, changed to another form. Right? But usually, like my physical body, I'm being transformed every day. After 85 years, I have transformed to my heights. That could be my forty-some years, then I can transform down! And look at me today, so ugly. It's filled with spots and wrinkles. And everything is unpleasant. You want to walk, you want to do everything, whatever you want, something seems wrong there. This also is a kind of transform. But brother, spiritual transform is from glory to glory, from one stage of glory to another stage of glory. From life to life. From maturity to advanced maturity. Transformed means I, when I'm saved, I just have my old mind, old "I." I'm saved, I'm a Christian now, I believe in Jesus, so I go to meetings, I like the message, I don't like the message. See? You see? You're not transformed. I like this brother, I don't like that brother, I like this brother's preach, I don't want him to preach, you see brother? You are so much by yourself, you are not transformed. That very form you were saved come into the church life still the same form. That is okay, for 3 months. That is okay for half year. That is *not* okay for long term. How long you been saved? 15, 10 years. 10 years I've been in the church life. Okay, so how are you today? I don't know, I'm bothered. You know why I'm bothered in my church life? I don't like that elder. Every time I see that elder, my head aches. I'm very bothered. That elder bothered me 10 years. Means what? 10 years, there's no transformation with you. The elder may not even realize he's bothersome to you. If he realize, he may quit his eldership just to make you happy. But do you realize how terrible we can become? We need to be transformed from one form, transformed to another form, from one level of life, to grow to another level, another level, another level. In every level there's a new form exhibited, it's transformed. I was... I better not overly develop, but anyways, right? What is a transformation? Be transformed to be one with God's will by renewing of your mind. How do you know you are transformed? First, come to your mind. Your mind is settled right? I want to be a doctor. I want to be a millionaire. I want to be a CEO. I want to be a teacher, I want to be a professor. Or, I want to be just a family man. I just want to be with my wife, my children. There's nothing called right or wrong. There's nothing wrong to be a doctor. There's nothing wrong to be a rich man. There's nothing wrong to be a family man. BUT let me ask you this questions, is this what the Lord wants? Is what you want, the Lord's want? I served the Lord with my capacity. I see a millionaire, he also can serve the Lord with his capacity. I see a professor, he also serves the Lord with his capacity. I see another one is just a common family man, that he serves the Lord with his capacity. But we all have one central goal,

that we want to find out what is the will of God. You realize can have two kinds of living? Your living, your living, according to YOU. Your living according to the will of God. How marvelous is this? You need to be transformed. Transformed. So your mind is renewed. You begin to know what is the will of God, what God desires. If I can use a strong word, what is God's economy. What is God's eternal purpose. What God wants to accomplish. One day, your will matches that will! Well, that is very great. Very great. You know what's our problem? We do things, we do things, to just please ourselves, or please whom we should, we think we should please. Parents do things to please the parents. No, children do things to please the parents. Parents do things to please the child. You know brother, God says, "You can do many things, I don't care if you are in what field, I want to ask you, in what in that field where you are, can you live a life according to the will of God? According to God's purpose? God's economy? What God is after? According to God's desire?" Will your manner of living make God so happy God says "The way you live is exactly the way I see you ought to live." I'm a professor, you are professor, I'm a professor successful, very famous in my field. You're a professor, very famous in your field, but brother do you realize God desires us to be one, to be one, that whatever the field I'm in, I'm for God's purpose, God's economy, God's will, and for the will of God. You know brother, this is the first transformation God brings you out of your own scope, your own field of life, your own hope, expectation. God desires you, desires to bring you out of your own plan of life. God says "You can do everything but it got to be for my purpose, my will, my desire, you must be one with my will, renew your mind." Brother, renew your mind so you know what is God's will. Then more than that, you need to grow deeper. You need to have a life, life of what? Beholding and reflecting. Here, if I go a little bit slow, number one, I really desire to be one with the Lord. How can I be so one with the Lord? How can I say I know the will of God? I have to put aside my choice, I have to say Your choice. I have to put aside my plan of life. I have to say Lord, You plan my life. How would you have it? By beholding and reflecting. That is a very beautiful word. You can behold Christ, then you reflect Christ. If you see Christ all the time, eventually you look like Christ. Just like what? Just like even today live on the earth, did you realize husband and wife are beholding and reflecting? So eventually, husband a little bit look like wife, wife little bit, we call what, family face. And more than that, even their children, even their children. I see some families father, mother, and few of their children, they all are about the same. The way they move the same, the way they do things the same, the way they see things the same, the way they make logic the same. Why? Because they are beholding and reflecting. The Bible says we need to have unveiled face. When the family cannot reflect? Cannot behold and reflect? If one member is fake. That member is fake, the beholding and reflecting is gone. Because he is veiled. You understand what is fake? I don't like to get into the improper, unhealthy family situation, but could happen. Could happen. You know brother, how much we need the Lord's mercy. We say Lord I want to come to You with unveiled face. "Hey! Lord, I look just like this, please see me. I look just like this. I'm just that simple, I'm just that improper. I'm just that in my fallen state, I'm just that in my weakness and limitations. I'm just like that in my very, all kinds of frustrations. But Lord I come to You, oh Lord I come. Lord I come just as I am. Lord I confess

who I am. I want You to know who I am. I want to tell You this is what I am. I want to let You know how limited I am, or how joyful, how sad, all this I want to let you know everything.”

When I present my real situation to the Lord with unveiled face, the Bible says just like there’s a mirror. Who’s in the other side of the mirror? It’s not you, it’s Christ. You come to see your own face. Christ was in the other side of the mirror. So you look at the mirror you see Christ. The more you see Christ, the more you reflect Christ. The more you see Christ, the more you are conformed to Christ. How marvelous is this? You know brother, how can you have transformation? Renew your mind. Don’t live by yourself. Live for God’s will. More than that, beholding and reflecting Christ. Every day dear brother, I advise you, don’t make religious prayers. “Lord I pray do this do that for me.” Rather, every day spend 20 minutes, 30 minutes, come to the Lord’s presence groaning, sighing, call His name. “Lord I’m just like this, I need You.” If the Lord lead you to sing a hymn, enjoy a hymn. If you have a bible with you, read some verses. Then, reading the verses, enjoying the hymns, bring you more into Christ. You are beholding Christ and reflecting Christ. Eventually, transformation will be there. You know brother, I should say I’m very thankful. Renew your mind, you can be transformed. Then beholding Christ and reflecting Christ you can be transformed. And more than that the Bible says, now the Lord is able to bring all things together to transform us. If I can read the verse. And we know that God causes all things to work together for good for those who love God. Could you believe in that? God works all things together. The reason you are able to find such a place to live, the reason you buy such a car, the reason God allows you to have such a job. The reason you have these coworkers. The reason some are so sweet, some are so hard. Some are so greedy, some are so nice. The reason why, you have to take my word in a good way, the reason why you have these few kids. Some are so sweet, perfect child. Some are so hard to handle. The Lord works in simple ways. God causes all things to work together for those who love God. In other words, if you do not love God, you just get into, I got his naughty boy. No you don’t have a naughty boy, that poor boy has a naughty dad. That’s why God has to arrange all things to work together. For those who love God, “Lord I love You. Because I love You, I don’t insist on anything. I don’t hold anything, I want everything to be in Your presence.” “To those who are called according to His purpose.” Eventually he wants to bring us through transformation into glory. How marvelous is this. Brother, seemingly I think things are very simple right? How do you have transformation? Change your mind. Make God’s will first. Second, live a life very honest, genuine, sincere before the Lord. Open up everything. Number three, there is nothing called I am unlucky, nothing called I am not blessed. God always blesses you. You are always under His blessing, but when He blesses you according to His way, many times it is very hard, but you have to say praise the Lord, it is hard, but transform me. With this, you labor. You know, brother, nothing can help you more than labor. But not just say “I go, I go.” No, no. Paul says I labor, I warn every man, admonishing every man or teaching every man. I warn every man and teach every man. Or, I rebuke every man, and also I nourish every man. That I may present every man full grown in Christ. Now, you have some transformation. So you have to learn to be with others. When you are with others, remember, you labor, teach him, warn him, nurture him,

encourage him, rebuke him, so that he can be full grown in Christ. That will give you real transformation. Nothing gives you more growth than the brothers, sisters in the church life you labor with. You labor with them, they give you growth. Eventually will produce a corporate operation. This is marvelous.

If I read, the process of corporate operation. Out from whom (Christ), the body being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply. That means every joint is a blessing. Joint means those who are quite useful. The elder can be a joint. The brother who ministers can be a joint. But more than that, through the operation of the measure of each one portion causes growth of the body unto the building up itself in love. You know, brother, we always ask the question, the gifted one is precious or not so gifted. The mature ones are precious or some younger ones. The Bible here gave us the crucialness of the situation. Lord desires to have joints in the church life. You need good joints. But joints never can operate properly except if there's the operation of each one of the parts and each one's portion. Who are you? You can say I'm a joint. Maybe I'm not, but I'm a portion. Look at my arm, I don't have a marvelous arm. You look at the muscle man, look at the arm, with all eggs over. You can count eggs through their arm. You can see strong muscles. So when the joint works, it becomes very powerful. When you stretch out the fist, it's not the joint that stretches out the fist, but it's the muscle that produces the strength of the stretching. When the joint says I want to do something, the parts, the portions has to say, we want. We are rich parts make the joints very valuable. Look at me, my hand will not have much strength. Actually, tell you honestly, at my age, 80-some, I cannot walk that long, I cannot walk speedy as fast as I used to. Brother, what happened? It's not the joint, I don't have a problem with my knee, I don't have problems with my ankle. I have a problem with my muscle. The muscle in my leg has problems now. The part is not that good. Therefore I cannot walk that well. Could you believe in that? We usually think it's the joint that decides everything. Right or wrong? Yes. But when the joint does everything healthy, strong, with strength, with testimony, that is not a joint, it's a part. Do you know how crucial you are? You can tell the Lord, "Lord, who am I? I am not a joint. I have been saved only one year, two years, three years. I don't have much, but I tell you, I am a really good part. If you want to stretch your hands, the part here says, Amen. A lot of eggs here with strength, with my strength the joint becomes powerful." I tell you, no matter how strong is the ministry, without the parts, the saints, being strong that church will never stand up. No matter how strong is the joint, when the parts, the saints are weak, are common, are churchgoers, are only making meetings, they will never have a prevailing church life. Prevailing church life do not just come from joints, come from the parts. I hope we can tell the Lord, "Lord build us up. If I'm a joint, make me an able joint, but if I'm a part, make me a healthy part." The very part is where the strength is. The very part is where the display of the healthiness is. This very part decides the healthiness of the building up of the body. So when you see the body built up, when you see the testimony built up in localities, you need joints, you need the ministry, you need good leading ones, able leading ones, but more than that you need all the saints to be healthy parts. So you can see in this, "Lord transform us to a point, not only our mind changes, not only daily we have the Lord's presence. Not only we are being transformed, all things work together for us to gain the glory. More than that, now, we labor. More than that, Lord make us either a strong joint or a strong part. When I'm a strong part maybe eventually my operation will come in to the strong joints. Brothers and

sisters do I make sense to you? I hope we can see something, we can tell the Lord, "Lord make me healthy. I want to go through such a marvelous process. I don't want just to be a churchgoer. I want to go through a process for the Lord's building up." Eventually, I am very happy to say everybody can declare, "I can be a healthy part for the building up of the body of Christ. I don't have much, but I am a part. For me to lead, no! For me to exhibit life, yes! For me to have Christ yes! For me to display strength yes! With the joints operating, I'm the part support with full strength. Here you can see there's a building up of the body. If you read the verse it says the operation of the measure of each one portion. I'm a portion, I operate, causes growth of the body unto the building up." Joints give you supply. But eventually it's all the portions, all the parts, operate so strong then the growth of the body. What is the growth? The growth is building up. How good is that? If you ask me, Titus what is building up? I say when you brothers all grow properly. Your growth in life is the building up, but with what? With exercise. I labor on people. I become a real life-giving part, real strength, supporting strength, that you can even say in a very nice way, "Lord Jesus I am not much, but with the joints I am such a marvelous portion with such a marvelous part. My portion, my part can be a real blessing, to whatever the joints desire to do. The joint says "I preach gospel," there are many parts that say "Amen!" Gospel is preached. If the joints say let's preach gospel, and all the parts was like 85 year old muscle, no strength, how can you do it? May the Lord have mercy.

Eventually, let's come to the last two points, simple. Building up testify the apostle Paul. Apostle Paul talks about the building also. Number one he said he was a wise master builder who laid the foundation which is Jesus Christ. Christ the foundation. We must take heed how to build upon it. You want to be in the church life? Take heed how to be in the church life properly. We must build on the foundation of gold, silver, and precious stones. Foundation no change. There is a foundation, Christ is the foundation. We use gold, we use silver, we use precious stone build upon it. Then what? Then God is very happy. So what is gold? Gold is God Himself. Gold is the nature of God. What is silver? Silver is redemption of Christ. We have God Himself. We have the redemptive work of Christ. You know, brother, this is marvelous, right? Not only I am saved, I also have salvation. This salvation work, not redemption, sorry, salvation work. This salvation work within me change my whole person. Change my whole person. I am a person of Christ. My disposition saved. My temperament, saved. My talent, saved. My smartness, my smartness, saved. My self-centered life, saved. I am saved from all these, I become a man of silver, so one with Christ, willing to give up everything for the Lord's interests, for God's interests. And more than that, precious stones are the work of the Spirit. I allow God to work on me, to do everything on me so that I can be one with God. So Father, Son, Spirit. God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit, produce the three things--gold, silver, and precious stones. We must build with this. Without God? No building. Without salvation of Christ? No building. Without the work of the Spirit, transform us, no building. Brother, we can be a builded material by having God, having Christ, and having the work of Spirit.

Now, this building is building on the triune God's work. But anyone build more than this, he work by wood, hay, and straw. Wood somewhat is not that bad, hay become very little value, but still has value, straw--zero value. But whatever that is, brother, this all what, this all include has no value before God. This indicate we build according to our power, our wisdom, our talent, our

ability, our means, our ways, our skillfulness. You can have all this, when you have all this you try to build, all this shall be burned. Brother, I am building the church all these years, I always have this question: "Lord, take care of me." If I only build with my talent, my ability, if I only build with my wisdom, if I only build with my ways, my means, if I only build with my skillfulness, God says, 'I will burn it!' But if I can build with gold; what does that mean? People served by me become gold. People served by me experience the salvation of Christ. People served by me are willing to go through all the environments, circumstances, let the Spirit pressure him so that he can become the precious stone. If I can produce this, then what I have is valuable. I can build meeting halls, God says, "Little value." I can do a lot of things, God says, "No value, eventually, be burned." So, each one's work, eventually, Paul said in this way: "Each one's work is revealed and testified by fire." One day, fire will come, burn. If anyone's work which has been built on the foundation endures, he will receive a reward. Why it says "endures"? You cannot burn gold. You cannot burn silver. You cannot burn precious stones. You burn them, they're still gold, still silver, still precious stone. Right? But if you're wood, hay, straw, eventually they will go through fire, they all become ashes. Nothing left but ashes.

If any works burn up, he will suffer loss. In other words, "I did so much!" Lord says, "Let Me burn." After You burned all that I served, little Christ, little God, little work of the Spirit, only man's wisdom, only man's ability, outwardly is a beautiful building, but God says, "When the fire come, they disappeared, he will suffer loss." Of course he suffer loss. Your lifelong labor burned just like that, disappeared! But eventually, he himself will be saved. I am thankful for that. I tell you, I am learned to build with gold, silver, and precious stones. Then at the same time, I know, unconsciously, there's some, a lot of wood. I cannot say, "Everything with me is gold!" Only Christ can do that. But all this, I'm happy, will be burned. One day, in eternity, what I see, whatever I labored, I built, for the testimony, which is of gold, of silver, of precious stones, exist in eternity. All the things I do which can be beautiful, all burned, no value. Why? Because they are wood and so forth.

You know, brother, when the church is built, it's so solid. How come so solid? The builded church is full of life. Full of growth of life. Full of maturity of life. The life element domain the church life. And more than that, brother more than that, that when this church life is builded up, what you see? Everything has eternal value. You see gold, you see silver, you see precious stones. When a cluster, when a group of these together, these kinds of materials together, builded together, brother, eventually the Lord says, "The gates, which are the power, the gates, Greek word can be the power, the power of Hades shall not prevail against her, the builded church." Why? There's nothing to overcome. You try to overcome gold. How can you? You try to overcome silver, how can you? You try to overcome precious stone, how can you? You try to overcome maturity of life, which is eternal, how can you? You try to overcome the element that with eternity, that bear the nature of eternity, how can you? I tell you, the lot of gates, Hades have a lot of gates. One gate goes to college, one gate goes to money, one gate goes to politics, one gate goes to business, one gates to go sin, all kinds of proper, improper, sinful, or common, all kinds of gates, but all the gates issues a lot of devilish elements, belong to Satan. You say, "No, I'm a professor!" Your university belong to Satan. I say, but take my word in a good way, if anything not of Christ, it belong to Satan. And all this cannot burn. Don't say "that day." Even

today, isn't that true? I, I'm a professor. Brother so-and-so is also a professor. I'm a professor because I want to be a professor. I'm bright enough to be a professor. I'm good enough to be a professor. I'm very special, manifest, in my field. He also is a professor. As a professor, he got to be bright. He got to be hard study student. There got to be something with him. But for some reason, I'm a professor, so many things touches me that I just cannot be proper for God's building. Yet for him, he's very solid. Anything frustrate him? No. "I'm for Christ. I'm for the church. I'm a professor. I honor my professor-ship. I honor the university I'm in. I honor the students I teach, and I love them. At the same time, nothing touches me, because I am for God's will. My mind has renewed! My person is with Christ! And I am transformed!" You know, brother, when I'm such a man, the gates of Hades cannot overcome us.

Don't say "that day," today the gates of Hades always release all kinds of elements out. All kinds of things come out of gates of Hades. Just to trap man. Just to try to capture man. Even, try to capture Christians to blind many Christians, for them to say "this is ok," including religious field. But there's something says, "I am of gold." Anything that is not related to God, God Himself, I'm not interested. I'm of silver. Anything's not through Christ's salvation, I'm not interested. I'm a precious stone. I only care, testifying Christ alone." Don't you like this verse? The gates of Hades cannot prevail against a builded up church. Why? In the builded up church, what you see? The precious elements. What you see? A marvelous growth of life process. What you see? The elements that's needed. We all have the revelations. We all have the experience of mind being renewed, reflecting the Lord's presence, and transformed. Then we all have labor, we are builders, brother, with what? With gold, silver, precious stones. Over here, I think Satan would sigh, "I cannot make it. These people are so Christly. These people are so God, as God. I cannot overcome it." That's why Lord says, "Peter, I say also unto you, upon this rock," that is Christ, "I will build the church." When you have the vision of Christ, you are ready to be part of that building. "Upon this rock, I will build the church." You know, brother, in this marvelous building, you can say we have lifelong experience for us to enjoy, to pursue, to be in. Eventually, you can say, "Lord, I don't know much at all, but I'd like to be a good part, good muscle, that I'm the one produce the strength of the church life, because I'm so strong in the Lord!" May Lord have mercy, may Lord bless us. Lord be with you. Amen.