

Visions and Revelations

Message 16: The Apostle Peter (6) (Part One)

Dear brothers, in these many weeks, we are climbing together through a high mountain. Some of you may feel these messages are too profound, too deep. Then my answer is, it is very profound, it is hard. But it's necessary because anyone who desires to follow the Lord must understand the Father's revelation, Christ. Then Christ's revelation, that is Peter is a rock, and also Christ is eternal rock, another rock. Eventually out of the death of Christ, the rock become a spiritual rock. But with this rock, the Lord desire, declared, "I will build my church. You are Peter. Upon this rock," means upon the revelation of seeing me as Christ, "I will build my church." So you got all these terms, very hard. So we come to the last hard part: the Kingdom of Heaven. Okay. Before I speak, let me tell you, I am a little bit scared. It's hard. You are remote, and you are tired, you've been locked in your room for so many days, psychologically, or everything, you feel the frustration. And more than that, you are not able to be with brothers together, enjoy love feasts, enjoy sweet fellowship, enjoy prayer, enjoy companionship, everything seems robbed away from us. And I don't know what to say about our government. Look like the virus will be in United States even longer. My advice to you, brothers, take it from the Lord. Maybe we need the Lord confine us a little bit, so we can have more time before Christ. We can read the bible more, sing hymns more, have more personal time before the Lord. We can through the Zoom, or through the phone, we can have more fellowship with brothers. Maybe the Lord teach us another lesson. However, let me tell you good news. Good news is, we have a couple weeks on this matter of the kingdom. Once it is over, ah, everything will be relaxed. You'll come to salvation, you'll come to how Christ appeared Himself, give you the commitment, with apostles Paul and John. Things, especially with the apostle Paul, things will become relatively simple. So brothers, be patient. Try your best to take in what we are covering in this couple meetings. That is the kingdom of heaven. Because if you consider the verse, consider the verse, Christ declaration is this: "I also say unto you, that you are Peter," right? "and on this rock, I will build my church." Think about it. On this rock, I will build my church. Then he said, "The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Then more than that, this should be a paragraph, we feel that's good enough. More than that, he said "I will give you the keys of kingdom of heaven." Another thing come in, called kingdom of heaven. I will give you the keys of kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever you bind on earth, will be bound in heaven. Whatever you loose in earth will be loosed in heaven." I tell you, a simple declaration by Christ, but so profound, have so much content. This become a core of your whole Christian life. Your Christian life, you should remember, I like to be a Peter. Maybe I'm not as great as the *Apostle Peter*, but I like to become a little rock, I can be built by, through, the revelation built upon Christ, the spiritual rock. Then more than that, I will overcome the power of Hades. And more than that! I will join in with Peter that have somewhat the key of the gospel. The Lord will send me to Europe. The key should be opened the gospel Europe. Lord sent me to inner Mongolia, I would have the key, preach gospel in inner Mongolia. I tell you, all of a sudden, you realize "Wow! My Christian life is surprisingly romantic!" Who am I? A common American, a common Canadian, a common English speaking white or black man. Brother, but do you ever realize that the Lord can tell you, you are not the apostle Peter, but how

I desire to transform you into a useful piece of rock. How I desire to use you as the building materials. How I desire that through the building, that there's a victory declared in the local churches that gates of Hades cannot overcome this builded church. Eventually, that many of them say we are not Peter, we are WAY behind Peter. But, we could have the keys, which means that every one of us who love the Lord, who are with Christ, we can never do what Peter, apostle, the apostle Peter do, but we all can have part of his operation. If he's preaching the gospel to the Jews, we can. If he's preaching the gospel to Gentiles, we can. If he open the door for all the Jews and all the Gentiles overall, then we have the ability to open the door of our neighbors, of our school mates, of our colleagues, of our relatives, of another city, of another country, of another language. But we can also follow the footsteps of Peter. So now, let's come to the basic outline. It says that Christ, point one, Christ desires to gain a built up church. He wants the church to be built up. What is that? Which is built on the spiritual rock. Spiritual rock means it always delivers, supplies, something spiritual, like what? Like the water of life. So how can you and I build together? Brother, you are young and Caucasian or black, I am old and I'm yellow. However, do you know something very surprising? When you say I love Jesus, when I tell you I love Jesus too! You know what's happened? We are related. There's a life relationship between us happened. For some reason we feel, oh we are so close, so near. We ARE for the same goal, same purpose, that the church be built up. When the Church build up, then the power, the gates of Hades, shall not prevail against it. You know, when the church build up, Satan can do very little. You can say, number one, I read this to you. Number one, what is Hades? Hades is a place Satan rule. Wherever Satan has ruling, sometimes very manifest. You go to a casino, you go to a bar you can clearly see Satan has ruling over this place. But sometimes you can go to a very decent place, you would be surprised, Satan here used a very decent way, but gained people away, robbed people away from Christ, bring them into the power of Satan, means a system of the world. Bring them into this. So here, Hades is a place Satan rules. There are many gates. You see Jerusalem have 12 gates, praise the Lord for that. A lot of gates. I think Satan, the Hades, have more gates, with authorities, with power. You say "How can you say more gates?" Well, a gates of university, a gates of government, a gates of success in business, a gates of be specialized in something, the gates of I am a good dancer. I don't mean fake dancing, fallen dancing, I mean maybe ballet, maybe swan lake. Let me ask you, when the swan lake was there performed, we all were there, really impressed, appreciate it. Right? I don't say it's right or wrong. Let me ask you, how many of them will be robbed away from that? Here's a piano. What's wrong with a piano? Nothing's wrong with piano. But do you know how many people should be of Christ, should belong to Christ, should be one with Christ, should live a life for the testimony of Christ, now totally captured by that keys and that piano. Could be very beautiful, could be in a way we are sitting there enjoying it. And we may not even have a feeling! Oh, such a talent. I can say this, sometimes I meet someone write a very good book, novel. I meet the writer. I just had a feeling, such a man, if he's for Christ, how valuable he is. Now, he's just a novelist. Well brother, many gates. You can't believe it. With carpentry, there's a gates. With welder there's a gates. With those who live a common life, there are gates. With those who specialize in anything, I'm an artist, I'm a painter, I'm a musician, I'm a novelist, I win noble prize in physics, I win a Nobel prize in whatever, brother, do you realize eventually most of them apart from Christ. Satan gained them. So here, I write in this way, there are many gates

continually sending out all kinds of things from Hades, and take captivity into the power of Hades. In the beginning, I just love music. Eventually, I'm possessed by music. Eventually I live in music, unto music, for music, with music, I'm attached to music, so I call myself a musician. Is there a musician Godly? Yes. But most, for some reason, they were captured, and taken into something not healthy. So here, I give you, it is hard for saints to overcome the temptation from Hades, unless they are build up the church, yeah build up church. Why? Firstly, the temptation of very, various, some very good, some very bad, some are very noble, such as what? I'm working on my PhD. I serve the Lord, I contact so many young people. I met so many brother tell me I'm working on my PhD in a certain university, I'm specialized in something usually I don't know what does that means, but I'm specialized in something, I'm doing research, develop in something. Brother, that's very noble right? What's wrong with getting a PhD? What's wrong with getting a master or bachelor degree? What's wrong with going through a college or going through a professional school? There's nothing wrong. They're noble! But for some reason, some go to study for a PhD they're for Christ. Some go to study for a PhD, they're for PhD, they're very different. I'm working on my degree, but I'm of Christ. I'm working on my degree. I'm for my degree, they're very different. One belongs to the Lord, one belongs to the realm of Hades or nonprofit organization for the benefit of fellow mankind. I'm working for something welfare. They can be common such as ordinary jobs. Some are special, most of them are very common. I just get a job, I'm a mechanic, I'm an engineer. Well offering a sufficient, but common human life. Some most are having one or two or two or three items. I can be very common. Meanwhile some can be very common. Such as materials or fleshly vices. You know, fleshly vices mean I got into it. I'm addicted to it. Fleshly means what? I have my couch, I have my house, I have my car, I have my nice living. Right? But for some reason, we consider it altogether called the realm of Hades. They can take you, they can swallow you. You can say, I'm satisfied all I want is to live this kind of life to raise my kids. Marvelous, there's nothing wrong with it. But without Christ you got into the realm of Hades. So point c, no matter how much saints love the Lord. It is easy for them to be swallowed by the power of darkness into the gates of Hades if they fail to see the church and the necessity of the building up. If I don't see the church, I don't care about the building up. Then easy for some reason, I get caught. I say this in a very nice way. Look I'm smiling right? I'm not upset, including myself. You're locked at your house. One week, two week, three week, so finally you're released. You're able to work, but what's the distance and how careful you should become. Especially if your household has somebody who is older. You're even more careful. You know brother? What's happened? Within you, there's a longing. I like to go to the mountain. I like to go to the beach. I like to visit the south. I like to go to another city. One brother even asked me. He's a dear brother. "Titus, with your disposition, you have been bound in Cleveland for so many months. Are you still able to handle it. I told him if I'm not careful, Hades can come and swallow me. I must learn to be more in Christ. Through what? Through the church life. I tell you. What the church life give to me? No matter how limited we are, I have brothers to fellowship, i have brothers to pray with. I have brothers to consider whatever the decision I need to make. I have brothers who support me. I have brothers who protect me. I have brothers who stand with me. For some reason, I realized Satan can do very little. I have a job. I don't, I'm 85, nobody offers me a job, I want to try some place if I can get a job, which I believe they will say sorry you're too old. Brother, when you are

young, someone tell me, I offer a job in Arizona, in Utah, in Montana, in hawaii. You know quickly you can say, I'm happy, I'm in church life. Praise the Lord I can go there, I will still have something. No for some reason you go to a place by yourself, isolated, pushed by the job, pushed by the job you just took. Only a few months you find out, your protection is gone, your Christ is gone, your trust is gone, your joyfulness in the church life is gone. Why? Because you ignore being builded up in the church life. This is why the Lord says I will build up my church upon this rock. Means they always enjoy my life supply. They always have revelation from Father to see me and for me to see the church. Therefore, what? There's a protection. Hard for anyone to take me away. Brother, how do you overcome the unnecessary. Not necessary. How do you overcome? They are there all the time trying to grab you. Trying to take you. Maybe you are at home too long. You say well, I watch movie. Then you find out you watch one movie, two movie, three movies, you find out your whole person can be occupied by movies. Maybe I'm at home, there's nothing to do. I learn a trade, music instrument, then you find out you get occupied. Brother, you need to be builded up. Even at home, even with this time, everything is that hard. Please call brothers, fellowship with brothers, pray with brothers, read the bible with brothers, memorize verses with brothers together. In these you enjoy what is build up the church. Then, when the gates of Hades cannot overcome the builded up church, then the Lord says something even more. There's a kingdom of the heavens. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of the heavens. Now we come to another hard topic. The kingdom of the heavens. You know, everytime a brother talks about the kingdom, the kingdom, we have a little frustration. What does that mean? Will kingdom means king domain right? Who's the king? God is the king. Lord Jesus Christ is the king. The resurrected Savior is the king. When the resurrected Christ domain. When God domain, here we can say this is the kingdom. The kingdom of heavens means, God is domaining, he has full control in the heaven and he likes to bring the heavenly kingdom down to the earth. The kingdom of heaven is a realm of God's government in the virality of his life. You consider, you can have a good king. If the king is vital. All the time he thinks about we need this project, we need that project, we need to do this for people, we need to do that for people. The whole kingdom is filled with vitality. If you have a king who sleeps all the time, you can say the whole kingdom will settle. There's always peacel nothing happens. Christ is the king, Christ resurrected now is the king. God, triune God is the king. With him what does it mark? It marks something vital. He would say, the kingdom of heaven, in the realm of government is in the vitality of his life.

You remember John says, "In the beginning was the Word." Right? The Word means, what, operating! Something's moving. Something's exercising. Something's refuse to be common. Something's always desires to accomplish the eternal desire of God Himself. He is always in action, active, with vitality, to accomplish what He wants.

Now, in this realm, this become a realm called a kingdom, king's domain. If you see a picture, you can say, "I see a picture of a realm. In this realm, there's all the vitality, what moves is the vitality of life, the vitality of love, the vitality of power, the vitality of strength, the vitality of righteousness." I tell you, all the divine attributes composed, become together, become the totality of the vitality of this very God. He desires to do a lot, that He could have a whole domain.

Now, you ask, who is this God? It's very interesting. One great servant, Moses, he asked God, he said, "Can you tell me Your name? What is Your name?" You know, God answered not His name, but His existence. He said, "You want to know that?" He said, "I am who I am. I am that I am." You know, brother, none of us dare to say, "I am," because tomorrow, today become "I was." Even now, one minute ago, that "me" was "was." I am 85, how much I hope I would be 70, or even 60, that I can be energetic, I can be fully burdened and not feel tired, I can exercise, but that is "I was," not "I am." Well, today I say, "Oh, I'm 85, I'm old, I'm tired." I told myself, "Don't say too much. 5 years later, you may be even worse. 10 years later, you may be even much worse. You may. 20 years later, who knows where you are?" But, remember that, there is One in this universe, to Him there is not summer or winter. To Him, there is nothing called this year or next year. He said, "I am who I am. You want to know who am I? You want to know My name? I tell you, it's hard to give you My name, but let Me tell you who am I. I am who I am." This means what? Means He is self-existing and ever-existing triune God. Who is our God? Who is the king of the domain? He would say, "The domainer, the one who domains, is self-existing and ever-existing." We have verse, or hymns, right? "Yesterday, today, to eternity, Jesus never change." Then we say, [sings] "Jesus never change, Jesus never change." You know, brother, it's beautiful, but still, if you go deeper, not "never change," even His existence is self-existence. Nobody created Him, He's just there. You say, "How could that be?" That's why He's God. That's why you are a man. He's God. That's why He's self-existing and ever-existing. Self-existing all the way, there's no time. I don't know, in eternity, all the way, He's the same existing. Self-existing, ever-existing, triune God Himself.

So you talk about His being. What kind of person is this? He is omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent. Means what? He's always there. He knows everything. And He's always with His power. Always. Hey, do you realize, there is such a God who is ruling in the universe. Who are You? He says, "I am who I am," or, "I am that I am. You know that? I am always here. I know everything here. And I always have power over everything here." What a glorious, marvelous God. And He has the power of creation. "Tell you, not only I am eternal, I am able to create. I create the universe. I create the earth. I create creatures. I create man. I have power of creation. I am all-possessive, all-sufficient, and all-abundant."

More than that, His existence full of energy. His being has omnipresence, He has the power of creation with whatever you need, He supplies. And more than that, His existence, you say, "How God, You are there?" He says, "You want to know? Let Me tell you, My existence is just power. The existence of power. Existence of vitality. Existence of energy. Full of vitality, full of creativity." I say a word to you brothers, you know why you are so bored in the church life? You're short of creativity. If you can say, "The church is my church. I am 40, I am 50, I've been in the church life how many years, I've heard all the messages." Brother, none of them count! Forget about it! Use them as capital for you to have creativity, then you are one with God. God is full of creativity. Nothing to Him is routine. Everything is fresh. Everything is with new, produces new hope. And full of execution in the power of His wisdom. He is so wise. He knows how to execute it. You know, we have a creation, "I want to have a university." But we have no power. I don't know how to do it. I know that we should have a university. Like, I really mean that. I wish that everybody can be in a Bible class. Let me tell you, since we brothers are

common and common, become even more common, even the leading ones dare not have classes. I told the leaders, "Go, have a class." Oh, no. Brother, now, could I tell the leaders, the elders: "Full of creativity." Could I tell you brothers, "Pursue." Hey, brother, brothers sisters, could you have some creativity? Could you begin to think about how the Lord has given me so much, I have heard hundreds of messages, how do I use it? Should I write? Should I share with others? Should I get a group of brothers together to make it richer? Make it an exhibit? Brother, what does that mean? Creativity. You know where creativity comes from? Creativity comes from God Himself. He is the first one, let me tell you, if He doesn't have creativity, why He create the universe? Why He create man? Why He create all the beauties of the universe? Why create many things that encourages or satisfies man? Brother, He is vital, full of creativity, then what? Full of executing in the power of His wisdom. I am wise, but my wisdom is not a though. My wisdom is a power. I exercise it. I execute it. Eventually, all things will happen."

Then, you ask Him, "Ok, You got all this, You are so marvelous! What do You want?" He said, "I desire to dwell with man."

May the Lord have mercy. We stop here.