

Visions and Revelations

Message 17: The Apostle Peter (6) (Part Two)

God desired to be with His created man. In God's creations, it was so. "Let them have dominion." God desires a kingdom, right? How can He have kingdom? You see, he mentioned God created the vegetables, then the animals, then the birds, and so forth. All the creatures. Then finally created man. When He created man, He made it clear, "This matches to my ruling, to the kingdom of heaven. I will make man in our image, after our likeness, let them have dominion over this, over this, over this," right? So what? So God made us in His likeness, then we're after his image, outward, inward. We all are like God. God was very happy. God says "This is the kingdom of God. Not only I rule, I have co-ruler. These co-rulers were under my ruling and also rule, let them have dominion over all things, especially over Satan, over the creeping things that creepth upon the earth." That means Satan and the fallen angels. I want to have this, right? But most of all, after he made all of this, he bring man to the garden right? Told the man, that "Hey, there's one tree call knowledge of evil, don't eat it. Here's a tree of life." Then he said "All the fruit you can eat, right?" Pointing to the tree of life. A lot of things. A lot! Man took the tree of knowledge of good and evil, then fell. You know, to you sometime you think, "You fell, so what?!" No, man fell, then everything God has done in His wisdom and power, become confined, become confined. So due to man's fall, God was confined in the heavenly realm. Could you believe in that? At least four thousand years, God says "I like to abide in Adam." No! "I like to be with David." No! "I want to live in Abraham." No! "I want to be one with Isaac to a point we're totally incorporated." No! Why? Because sin blocked the kingdom of heaven, become something only remote in the heavenlies. God eventually, here says, that God can only, the ruler of the universe, he could only be an outward God to man. Men fall, so God is confined in the heavenly realm. Don't look down on the word confined. Four thousand years at least, God was patiently there. I look at man, he says "I love them." He look at man, "I want to be with them." Look at man, "I want to be one with them." Look at man, "I want this man enjoy 'my very God as the eternal life!'" Something eternal is support you. But I can't. He look at Abraham. He may have said "I love you so much. Look, I lead you all the way in your life." So eventually, when Abraham died, God had just sighed, "Wow, my kingdom, in reality, failed. I have kings ruling with this man. He's under my ruling. But! I'm not in him." He look unto something so good, marvelous! But it's not his. You know brother, God is confined. I tell you, if you ask me "God is frustrated with anything?" I say no. But one thing I say, I don't say he's frustrated. But he's for some reason, have to say I got to wait. So there's a long, over four thousand, at least four thousand years. God says "I'm God of Abraham, I'm God of Isaac, I'm God of Jacob." He can say all this. "I'm God OF." He cannot say, "Abraham's one with me, I'm in him, and he's in Me." He can't, because he's confined. Think about how sad the situation is. Even when I talk like this, I have a feeling, how sad. Abraham would say "Titus, how blessed you are. God has been so much with me, I have been so faithful to him, so faithful to him, but he is only my God outward. Hey Titus, what a naughty man like you, weak, much weaker than I, faith much less than I. But for some reason, now God has a kingdom, and his domain is not just outside, is also inside of you. How marvelous that is." So in this four thousand years, sad

situations, one day the great news come, remember? When the angel appeared to Mary, he says, "Great good news! Great good news! Even the heaven and the earth should really see it. I will get the first God-man. Man of God. God and man totally one." Who is that one? Jesus Christ. Because he was not born by man, by flesh, he was born by the Spirit. Christ, the firstborn, and the prototype of the reality of the kingdom of heaven. Outwardly you look at him, he's a man. In reality, God would be very happy. I didn't get man-kind yet, but I got one prototype! I got one prototype! Oh, this one is marvelous, you know that? I am in this man. God can, I would say, joyfully, satisfying sigh. "Wow I made it. Wow, I made it. All these years, after my creation, creating of man, I can't make it. Now in Jesus, you see, he's a man, but he's God. You see he's God, but he's a man. He is a reality of kingdom." He's a prototype of king's domain in full. So he's the firstborn prototype of the reality of the kingdom of heaven. Through him, the heaven rules. Heaven can say, "Now I have a rule with man. There's ONE man, at least. A little over two 2000 years goes, at least there's ONE man, THIS man, I have a full ruling. The king has full domain." This is the reality of kingdom. So we come now, the Christ, the firstborn, the prototype of reality of kingdom of heaven, through him the heaven rule, the reality of the kingdom of heaven is where Christ's life rules. Now we understand right? Christ on this earth, he has the divine life of God. In his resurrection, he become eternal life in Spirit, give life to us, so now we could have the reality of kingdom. Why? Christ now rule in life in us. Realm of kingdom of heaven is the church today. Do you realize that? Outward, you think about what is the church? I know brother Tong, I know brother Wang, I know brother James, I know brother John, I know all these brothers. Brother, this is outwardly. Do you know that in everyone, God desires to rule? In everyone, Christ as life in them CAN rule. I'm saved close to 70 years. In these close to 70 years, 67 years, let me tell you, Christ rule. Sometimes in a good way, the more he ruled the more prevailing I am. Sometimes, in a way I don't like, because he rule, I lose all my freedom. I want to do this, I want to do that. I want this future, I want that future. Because Christ rule everything I plan have to be put aside. But this is the church. What is the church? Christ in me, Christ in you. And together, Christ rule over me, Christ rule over you. And through me, or through you, Christ rule over all of us. This is what? This is a marvelous Church life. When you consider the church, don't think about the building. Don't think about even congregation. Think about Oh, this one born of Zion, Christ rule. On that one, born of Zion, Christ rule. On this one, me, myself, oh I'm just a young brother, a new brother, a fallen brother, a brother full of my opinions in the church life. But I am under the ruling of Christ. In the beginning, a tiny little bit. More and more, Christ's rule more, I grow, and this very growth caused me to have the reality of the building of the body of Christ. How good that is. Christ rule in me 67 years. You say "WOW! You must be marvelous at it." Don't talk about. Don't talk about it. We all are fallen, we all have limitations. But let me tell you the difference. Christ's rule over me more automatic, more easy then 50 years ago. 50 years ago, Christ tried to rule me, I argued a lot. I still tried to push him away a lot. I still try to make my own decision a lot. But now I'm old, in the old age, I can tell the Lord, Lord thank you, you rule. I welcome your ruling. Appreciate your ruling, let me tell you, without your ruling, I don't even know how to live. Cause I'm in the kingdom life, a life with the kingdom of heaven. Christ rules. And more than that, Christ died and resurrected, releasing, loosing the reality of the kingdom of heaven. How could this be? Because he died. It

was one prototype, just Jesus Christ. He's fully under the divine ruling. He's the exhibit of the kingdom. So that's why he can declare to us, the kingdom of heaven is NEAR!

Why? Look, the kingdom of heaven is here. I'm ready to die for you. I'm ready for you to repent, to receive me right? But, how could this be? One day he died on the cross, then he resurrected. He releases life. Okay, after this life is released, you need a Peter to open the door. So that we all can be brought into salvation, the body can be builded up. So through peter's opening of the door to Jews and to gentiles, God was able to be organically united with man. You see, peter didn't do it how about that. Well peter did it and the Lord commanded Peter to do it. The Lord said you are Peter and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Now you can bind and you can loose. Just like i have done. Based on what? Peter remember, I died on the cross. I resurrected. I bound the strong man, then I released my life. I loosened all those who were under captivity back to Christ himself. Praise the Lord for this. We believers were unable to participate in the reality of the kingdom of heaven. Now we come, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. This is the declaration of John and of Jesus himself. Number one, Christ testified that I am the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven is at hand means I am right here for you to repent. Introduced by John the Baptist. When John the Baptist preaches he knows who Christ is. He knows the kingdom of heaven is with Christ. Christ is the kingdom of heaven. So when John began his ministry he boldly declare, repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Then Jesus continued. You should like this. You should say Lord Jesus you are at hand. Any time you, you are the kingdom of heaven, that I as a man, I should repent. When I repent, I can be one with you. This indicate that the day for God and man to be united and mingled was at hand. Means salvation is at hand. When salvation is at hand, when salvation come, you are united with God you are mingled with God. Now the Lord Jesus can come into your spirit and rule over you. Now he was a prototype. Now we have, the reality, I'm saved, the Lord is in me, so the kingdom of heaven is right over here with me. When we all are together we can say, this is the church. Not only Christ is the kingdom of heaven. Not only we Christians one by one kingdom of heavens. Eventually all the congregation, the church is the kingdom of heaven, the body of Christ become the reality of the kingdom of heaven, when Christ died and resurrected. He's not only the savior of one, he's the Savior of all the Christians for the body of Christ of the church. We should be very happy, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Why? He's here. Why? We believe in him. Why? We can all believe in Him. He's here, I can be saved. You can be saved. We all can be saved. The three steps. Number one Christ, the prototype of the kingdom of heaven. Number two, we can be part of the kingdom of heaven by united with the Christ, believing in Jesus Christ. Part 3, We all one by one together can be one with Christ, therefore we are the body of Christ. Praise the lord for this. Next point, the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Let me tell you, this terms bother you and me. We are simple Christians. To us believe in Jesus Christ and get saved, that's good enough. We know that, we eventually go to Jerusalem, not go to heaven. But anyway we are not going to Hades for sure. But for some reason the Lord Jesus like to bother you. You know why? He keeps on trying to tell you, wake up. Elevate yourself. Enlarge yourself. Know something more. You just consider this one verse. This verse covers, I also say, then you are Peter. Then upon this rock another point. Then, I will build, another point. My church, another point. Then the gates of Hades another point. Cannot prevail against it. Then, I also. I bother you that much, and I know you cannot take it. You feel tired of it. Why? Because we are not desperate after Christ. Christ is

burdened, we are not burdened. What Christ is after, we may not be after. What Christ says is so crucial, we feel why it go to be that complicated. Didn't you tell us believe in Jesus I will be saved. Didn't you tell us if I confess my sin, you are faithful and just and will forgive my sin and I will become righteous. Didn't you say all this. Why you get so complicated. You know why? Let me say this. You live for yourself. God lives also for Himself. You say wow, you mean God is selfish? My word is, I rather God be selfish, not you selfish. Because you're selfish, everything becomes nothing. When God says, I wouldn't use the word selfish sorry. Because He loves the world. I will say God has a center as a focus. Maybe he says to a point, only when I gain what I want, I will be totally satisfied. This is why i personally say, i will even pray, lord jesus can you be for yourself. Even with me, can you be for yourself? I don't like to have a God for me. I like to have me for God. Then, the Lord will say even more, I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Remember we spent previously how much time what is the kingdom of heaven. Now it's getting even more romantic. There's a key. Please use your imagination. How beautiful that key should become. How weighty that key should become. Because that is very key opened up the kingdom of heaven. I will give you the keys to open up the kingdom of heaven. We used to say, Peter got the key. My question is yes Peter got the key, who wants it opened? Peter even has no idea, what is that? I have a key to open up the kingdom of heaven. I don't even know what that is. But the Lord says I will. The lord himself is the one who desires to open the door and provided the key. I will give you the key! I will give you the keys so you will open up the kingdom of heavens. Who is the one opened? I want to get into my house. I'm 85. So at the gate I want to open up, at my age I pick up the key, a young brother beside me, Titus let me open up for you. Wouldn't I appreciate it? Wouldn't I say thank you brother. For me to find the hole for me to stick the key in? I'm still okay, I'm not shaky. But if I'm 95 I'm a little bit shaky, I hope at that time I don't, but I will say someone will help me, that's most marvelous. That one got the key, opened the door and got in and say, the house is mine because I have the key, I opened it. Isn't that stupid? I'm the one who has the key, that's why I gave you the key. I'm the one desired to open the house, that's why I give you the key to open the door. So brothers, many times Christians they will say, Peter is the only one that has the key. No Lord Jesus had the key and committed Peter to open it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heavens. So he opened it. How did Peter open it? Surprising, Peter should have said. Hey lord where is the key? Give me the key, I'm ready to open it. Where's the key. The Lord says the key is a spiritual key, not a physical key, not a golden key. You know what is the key? The key is myself, as the Spirit, I pour down and baptize you into the body, once I baptize you, now you have the key. Remember? It's 120 of them, praying together, eventually the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost poured upon them. Upon this, Peter became united with Christ. Peter you can't open anything unless you're one with me. When the Spirit came, When I was baptized in the day of Pentecost with 120, for some reason, I am very clear, what is the kingdom of God. I got the key. Then become the one who held the key to the door. Then he opened the overall door. You know what is the overall door? For instance there is one house, physical and real. I never stayed in the house. I wanted to be in that house desperately. That house has a key, you gotta have a key to enter into that house. Responsible held by brother Yen. Then he take you first floor, second floor, third floor. Then there's another apartment. There's another key. That key, brother Yen wouldn't give to anyone but me. So you see, in that house there's one key to get in. There's another key to open

up another realm. You may use the key to open the house. I will use another key, open my apartment.

So what does “overall door”? Means there’s a door brings you into a huge realm. In that field, there are so many doors to be opened. With Africa, many many doors. With Oriental, many many doors. With Caucasian, many many doors. Yellow, white, black, with different cultures, different race, many many doors. But there’s an “overall door.” Until that door’s open, nobody can get in, can do anything. He’s the one opened the overall door.

Then what? Then he begin to preach. So you have two things. After he was filled in Spirit, let me ask you, actually who opened the door? The Spirit opened the door, right? But who did the preaching? Peter did the preaching. When they were speaking in tongues, like thunders, then many people crowded over. Am I right? Then Peter stood up, strongly preached the gospel. The Jesus who you crucified, the Lord has made Him both the Lord and Christ!” Marvelous! You know, brother, at that time, they asked, their heart pricked, they asked the question, “What should we do?” So Peter told them, “First, repent and be baptized for the remission of the sin! And receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” So they all were baptized into one body. How many at that time? Three thousand. You say, “Wow, what a big number!” No. Consider two thousand years. That door is open, and still open. How many multi-millions of Jews are baptized into this one body? But remember, that is only one key. That only means God’s chosen people have the right to come into the salvation of Jesus Christ, to be the body of Christ.

Then Peter went to Cornelius. Again, he gave a message. While he was giving the message, just in the middle, he was interrupted, the Spirit just come down. Then Cornelius and the family and people there, they all begin to speak in tongues again. That’s what? Another key, opened up the door of Gentiles. Right? They all speak in tongue. So here, the second one, “In the house of Cornelius, Peter was preaching, the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles.” I tell you, Peter was really a solid rock. If he was a piece of mud, he would get so upset, “Hey, Lord Jesus, wait till I finish my preaching! I’m doing my job! I’m supposed to preach, right? I’m preaching!” Then the Lord says, “I don’t care. I’m so desperate. I want to bring the Gentiles into My salvation! I want to baptize them into the body of Christ!” You know, these two great baptisms come in through Peter. First one, through Peter’s preaching, Jews were baptized into one body. Then, through Peter’s preaching, Gentiles were baptized into one body. The door, the big door, the major door, the real door, was opened. And one body come into being. You and I, today, I am yellow, you may be white. I am old, you may be young. But makes no difference. We all were baptized into this one body. Because Peter opened this overall key.

In this, you can say, “Oh, Lord Jesus, marvelous! Peter opened the door!” Wait a minute, Paul began to say something. Paul began to say, “When I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, a door was opened to me by the Lord.” Hey, did you realize there’s another door? This is a door for a city, a door for Troas. “When I was in Troas, a door was opened to me.” Which indicate when Peter opened the overall door, that means gospel can be preached to the Jews, gospel can be preached to the Gentiles, gospel can be preached to the Greeks, gospel can be preached to the white, gospel can be preached to the blacks, gospel can be preached to the yellow, gospel can be preached to high quality educated PhDs, gospel can also preached to those more valuable

common people like you and me. Gospel door is opened! I'm so happy, I tell you, brothers, Paul's testimony, "When I was in Troas, the door was opened to me," but remember his testimony, he didn't get into that. He was unrestful because he want to see Titus, he just left. But it shows, you know what's precious with Christians? Door's open! Hey, brother, let me tell you, your neighbor's door is open, that street door's is open, that neighborhood door's open, that city's door is open. Brother, for some reason with all the doors, we declare, "he's not ready, he's a Jew, he's a Chinese, he's yellow or black, or he's white, none of them want Jesus!" Brother, you know why? Because you never know the door is already open. If we know the door is open, the church in Cleveland will be so vital with preaching the gospel. Every neighborhood, there's an open door! Every street, there can be open doors! Your neighbor can be an open door to you, your relatives can be open door to you!

So eventually, this indicate, when Paul was preaching, he used gospel as the key to open the door of salvation. Then, remember, pay attention to this: for two thousand years, many servants of the Lord have opened the doors to many races, nations, continents, in many localities throughout the earth. I say this, brother, these are still too big. If every brother learned, "Thank you Lord, Peter is a member of the body. I'm also a member in the body. Peter's great, grand, useful member in the body, but I am at least a portion, at least a muscle. I can have some blessing." Brothers, then you can say, "Lord, open the door. Don't just open the door for Peter! Don't just open the door for Paul!" Even Watchman Nee in his publication, one of his journal's called "Open Doors," just "Open Doors." Brother, can we also say, "Lord, I like to have a door open."

You know what is my dream? I'm talking about church in Cleveland. My dream is 5, 6, 7 of them, every one pray with 4 or 5. I tell you, elders don't have to come together discuss the church. There's not much to be discussed anyway! You want to discuss it, 20 minutes, it's done! But every elder have a team, we pray for open door. I pray with three families, two families, four families, five families, but not more than that. But this small group, our name is called "Open Door Team 1," "Open Door Team 2." Some work with young people, open doors. Some work with older people, open doors. Some work in this neighborhood, open doors. Some work in far away, remote neighborhood, open doors. Door must be open, and the door has been opened already by Peter, through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Today, we all were baptized into this one body. We can say, "Door is open." How good is this? An open door.

You just think about today, all the good brothers—those brothers who are experienced, who are in the lead, they have no desire to care practical matters, window need to be repaired, this is deacon's work. They just say, "My burden is work with three, work with four, we pray together, every morning we pray together, every day a few times, every week a few times we preach together. And then, we fellowship one another, we strengthen one another, we preach gospel, we take this street, 'Lord, in this month, we take these three streets.' We want to knock every door in these three streets. We don't talk about it. We do it." Let's exercise, with a small group of brothers, an open door.

I'm not, on one hand, I'm 85. On the other hand, I'm not in Cleveland all the time. If I'm in, I'd like to have a little team. Five of us. I'd like to work with them, "Let's pray together, let's read the Bible together, let's study with one another together, let's go out preach the gospel together,

let's pick up 50 houses and tell the Lord, 'Lord, give us two months. In these 50 houses, could you get one? One household can be gained by You?'" Brother, you go out, because the door's open! There is an open door! Overall door is opened by Peter, then Paul testified, "I'm in some place, there's an open door, for the gospel." Then, I tell you, Watchman Nee says, "What is my work for the local churches? It's an open door. It's open door."

You know, brother, from here, we come to the next part. What can constitute an open door? I'm sorry, when I preach like that, I feel this "open door" is too hard for you. Maybe we should stop here, you have a very good meeting, and you begin to pray a lot and say, "Lord Jesus, we don't want to know more. We want to be in that open door, we want to be the executor, wherever we are, door's open. We go! Door's open!"

May Lord have mercy, we stop here.