

Visions and Revelations

Message 18: The Apostle Peter (6) (Part Three)

When the door's really open, I tell you brother, I must share because it's precious. But again, we come again to something quite profound. Can I just read it to you? So you know there's such a portion. What is an open door? There's no distance between God and man, because door's open. So through the Spirit, God is no longer confined. Remember, in the beginning we shared God was confined, for at least 4000 years, he like to be with man, he like to be in man, he like to say "I want to be alive, abide in my created human being." But He can't. Why? Because man sinned. As a sinner, God can't, God HAVE to be apart from us, remote from us. But NOW, Jesus Christ died. His blood cleanses us from all our sins. And more than that, we are so thankful, not just that our sins are cleansed, now more than that, we have received the Spirit. So now, when the Spirit come into us, you know who come into you? You say "I'm regenerated, I received the Spirit," praise the Lord. The Spirit is a Holy Spirit, come into you. Gives life, is life-giving Spirit, come to you. This life-giving Spirit is just the last Adam, Christ Himself come into you. When Christ comes, he brings in the mighty God into you. You have to say, "Now within me, God is here." The kingdom become so real, because the King, the universal King, God Himself, is now having domain. Not only in the church life, but in you and I ourselves. So what? This omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent God, is now able to abide in those who were saved. Remember, he wait for that for a long time. He see Abraham, "I like to be IN you, but I can't." He see Moses, "I like to be IN you, but I can't." He see Elijah, "I like to be IN you, but I can't." because the sins are not forget, forgiven. "You can be such an overcomer, valuable before me, but when you were alive as a human being, I can only be your God outwardly." Now, this omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent God, now is able to abide in us. Now in this, we have a different life. We can say we have eternal life. What? This all possessing, all sufficient, all abundant God, has become a bountiful supply by us being united with God. So he want to be a bountiful supply, to be united with the saved ones. I'm... who am I? "Hey," He would say, "hey hey hey, you been in the church life 30 years, and you are pretty dead. Why? You just listen to the messages. Let Me tell you, I am the all-sufficient, all-abundant, and the bountiful supply of life. Now, I'm one with you." I could have a very good illustration. I know that I should be little bit slower now, otherwise you will be even feel more bored. Brother, just like a rich man married a lady. That lady may be just common. Once she married the rich man, all the wealth of the husband is hers. Just like a son was born in the family. You know, his whole life is very much decided in the day of his birth by his or her parents. Right? He has a life relationship, just husband and wife have a union. That union's very precious. Even we say God has put it together, no man should divide it up, separate it, no man should hurt it. And more than that, just like a child, I am one with God. Who am I? You ask me "Who are you?" I say "My name is Titus Chu. I'm a Chinese, that I have a hard life, and I'm a terrible man, that I..." One day, someone tell brother Nee, Watchman Nee, say "Wow, they consider you as this or that," Watchman Nee answered, which has always impressed me, that "I'm much worse than what they say." Then you tell Watchman Nee, or tell any brother, if you're much worse than what they say, aren't you so terrible? If I were there, I would answer yes, I'm very terrible. But for some reason, I'm united with this very God. This very God, He is what? All-possessing, all-sufficient, all-abundant. Now he become a bountiful supply, united with me. I'm not poor. You say Titus, in this way, we Christian overcome all the time? I say no. I say, the Christians' preciousness is not overcome all the time, rather defeated all the time, yet always have the ability to come back to walk with Christ. There's a general, all the time he fight. He was defeated, so he

send the report to the emperor: "Every time I fight, I was defeated." So the cabinet members (or the like), look at that "wow, that's too bad," he reverse it. "Every time I'm defeated, I fight more." It become something very well! His report was terrible, "Every time I fight, I got defeated." Now it become "every time I got defeated, I fight back!" Hey, you ask me, I'll say that both are real to me. In my presence, oh don't talk about. My Christian life's not overcoming at all. On the other hand, when I give testimony, I say "Hey look! I love the Lord Jesus close to 70 years, I'm still here!" You say "Oh you must be overcomer," I say "No no no, I got defeated all the way every year, every month, ever week, every day, possible I have to give some testimony of my failure, but for some reason, I'm still here! Why? Because I'm united with the overcoming one, and He is the bountiful supply. He possess everything, he is all sufficient, he's all abundant, and these, out of these, he created what? Not (this is in life right?) all of this, with this life there is the vitality and creative God can be mingled in the saved ones. Out of these, something should produce. It's not bad to testify "When I am having weaknesses, I'm able to follow the Lord." But remember, not I am able to follow the Lord by going to the meetings, I'm able to follow the Lord with vitality and creativity. You know brother, two things is so precious to you. Vitality and creativity. You don't have vitality, you're in trouble. Can you be in vitality? All you have to say is "Oh Lord Jesus! Amen!" You know what's happened? Vitality is here. With vitality, there's creativity. At least let me tell you, that number one, you have to say I like to be very creative, but not me. I'm with the brothers and sisters. And number two, I like to be very creative, I like to find out in the church life, who can be my companions? You know, when we are confined in our house, and you feel so bothered, now you are free to go out to the coffee shop to have a cup of coffee with a brother, sister with a sister, a couple with another couple, it can be very sweet. You can have companions. Let me ask you a question, who is your companion in the church life today? And more than that, we can preach gospel together. You could have a lot of thought right? You could write tracks yourself, you could reprint tracts yourself, you can find ways for gospel preaching. For instance, I use food to preach gospel, I use walk to preach gospel, I use "Hey!"... "hi" to preach gospel, daily I walk on the street with a mask on, and "hi, hi" you see someone "hi" back, quite sweet. You talk a few words, then "hi" again, you see that a few words can become a real door, you can talk about Jesus Christ. Brother, be very creative, huh? Preach gospel, and what? You can have a kind of, I don't know how to portray, but I love it, very sweet, very homey, growth with others. You see a new one, could you be so creative, I like to see him grow. How? I don't know, but maybe I can just invite him for dinner. Maybe I can just pray, read the bible with him, memorize one verse with him. I know one sister, that's my wife pass away, when Sharon was with me, she would be with another sister 2000 miles away. Maybe not 2000. 1000, 1500 miles away. You know, they read some spiritual books just by phone. They memorize portions just by phone. Both sisters now are with the Lord. My wife is with the Lord, that sister also left. You know brother, isn't that very sweet? And more than that, you could visit the churches, just think about it, you could help the young ones, the new ones, to develop, to grow. Brother, I tell you, I just say this, you can find out your specialties. I'm a very good mechanic, that's a specialty, I'm a good engineer, that's a specialty. Spiritually, do you know you also have specialties? Something very special. Yesterday, one brother brought me something, some beef, Chinese we made it. Beef and some cookies. I said where did this come from? They said a couple from Detroit.

I got a little upset. Why don't you come to my house? You give me beef I appreciate, you give me the cake I appreciate it. It doesn't delete that. I still appreciate it. But how much I would like to see the couple, come in. You know that wife is a good cook, and good baker. Chinese food and American sweets.

You know that specialty. That specialty if used properly. I can bring many through these cakes and food. I can preach gospel to many. That's my specialty, I used it. I just have a good smile, I use it. I see people, I smile and people will like me, I can preach gospel. You know brother, you have specialties, you're not a churchgoer. When the door is open, the Lord comes into you, not only he abide in you, he's united with you in life. He's mingled with you in who he is. Who is he? He is the vital one, the creative one. This vital creative one, now mingled with you. Finally, you are this executor full of creating power in all wisdom, will be incorporated with the saved ones. You're one with him. Once the door's opened, Four things come. Number one: God is able to abide in you. Number two, the divine riches with the rich life can be united with you. Number three, this able Christ with his nature, with his vitality, with his creativity, can be mingled with you. Eventually we can be incorporated with him, bring out the accomplishment of God's will. Door is opened, not for you to just say "praise the Lord I got saved!" Praise the Lord you are saved. Hallelujah for that, you treasure it, but God says can you in this open door grow in me, I am this very God. I like to abide in you, I like to be united with you, I like to be mingled with you, eventually I like to be incorporated with you. To be united with you is my life, I am God. Eternal life in you. Then to be mingled with you, my nature. Who am I? If I am that vital you should be that vital. If I am that creative you should be that creative. And more than that, my person, you can be so one with me, and I can be so one with you, in this open door. So when the door's opened. Do you know in these 2,000 years how much happened? Millions and millions of people have God abide in them, received the Lord. Millions and millions of people began to realize I am one with God, united with God. and more than that, millions of people out of millions and millions say I operate with God in his vitality, his nature is mine. And eventually some real mature ones, we know that all the fathers, all the spiritual men, in this 20 centuries, you can say, wow they are incorporated with God. How marvelous that is, praise the Lord. Now, we come to just about the last point, the binding and loosing. You can see that in this simple verse, Lord has put so many things into it and everything is the big stuff. Because to us whatever is bound in heaven was already bound, whatever's loosed in the heaven was already loosed. We don't even care what kind of thing is that, but to the Lord is very crucial, I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, whatever you loosed in the heaven, what you bind should be bound in the heavens. This is marvelous. Why he said so? Because this is a process for the church to be built up. The door of heaven is already opened, so people can be saved. God can be with man, but still it's not a 3D structure. It's somewhat personally related to the Lord, the Lord's related to us, and we are related to one another. For the building up of the church. He must have done something called to bind and to loose. So through the work of the cross, the Lord has bound the strongman Satan and plundered his house with all vessels, which used to be the Lord's. You know the word is interesting. The Chinese translation says, it's his furniture. Actually, It's not furniture, here the Greek word is the vessels. Why? Because we were made a vessel. We were earthen vessels, made to contain God, we were earthen vessels to be transformed into a vessel that is of gold, silver, precious stone. Vessel with value, vessel with honor. So vessel points to every Christian, do you realize you're a Christian, you're a vessel? And now you're vessel is what? It's to contain Christ. If you are not careful you can contain many other things to squeeze Christ out, seemingly, to occupy your vessel. Your vessel is occupied with all kinds of things, other than Christ. The Lord desires to say that is when you were old. When you were under the power of Satan. When you belonged to the household of Satan. In that household that vessel can be filled with degrees, finance, riches, wealth, large house, small house, good life, proper life or a life that is very fallen. But whatever that is, the vessel is full, when the vessel is full there is no room for Christ. So the Lord begin to testify, through my work of cross, I have

bound the strong man. Who is the strongman? Satan. And plunder his house, rob over his house. Vessels which used to be the Lord's.

Do you realize that? When the Lord died for you, you're cleansed. You received Jesus as your savior. And the Lord says, now I need another step. I want to bring you out of the kingdom of Satan. Now look at you. You are filled with so many things not of Christ, other than Christ. We are in the world, belong to Satan. You're saturated with so many things, now I want you to be a vessel of honor. So I must capture you. So when the Lord ascend he led captives (we were captives of Christ), he led us. Those who were captives. We used to be of the household of the strongman, of Satan. We were his captives, filled with the things of Satanic kingdom. Now, the Lord capture us back. When he capture us back, he want us to be fully only of Christ. So Darby translated this verse interesting. Wherefore having ascended up on high (talking about Christ). In Christ ascension he led captivity captive. Captivity captive, both are us, right? We were formerly in captivity of Satan, under the power of Satan. Under captivity, that means we were brought out of where we were original belong or should be. We were in captivity means we were brought to some place we should not be. We were under Satan, we should not be. We were under the power of Satan, we should not be. We were in the kingdom of Satan, we should not be. We were a vessel, but under captivity, in captivity. The Lord says, "Now, I capture you back! Capture you back, you become My captive." So Darby translate in this way: "Ascended on high, He has led captivity captive." I like this. Who am I? Was a captivity, in captivity under Satan. Now I become a captive of Christ. Led captivity captive, and has given gifts to men. Lord capture us. You can say, "Could be with reasons." He can say, "I capture you because I love you. When I look at you, I'm happy, that's why I capture you." Well, this is marvelous. I believe the Lord is doing that today. Do you know that every time you go to the Lord, "Lord Jesus, I love You," the Lord is so happy. "Lord Jesus, You are my Lord," Lord is so happy. "Lord Jesus, my life is Yours," Lord is so happy. "Lord, I'd like to sing a song to You," Lord is so happy. "Lord, I'd like to memorize a verse to You," the Lord is so happy. But the Lord would say even more, "Not just I enjoy you, I love you. You know what I really want? I want you to be My captive." In other words, "You become a slave of Me. I have the full ownership over you. You belong only to Christ." When you say, "Lord, I am Your captive," then what? Lord says, "I will make you a gift." And He has given gifts to men.

Many Christians refuse to be captive. They are saved. Their position is, "I am out of Satan's kingdom." But for some reason, I tell you, many vessels are alive and have legs. They come out of Satanic kingdom, Lord bring them out, they have legs, crawl over go back to Satanic kingdom. They say, "I just like to have some drink. I just like to have some movie. I just like to have a future. I just like to be very rich." They didn't reality they come back. If they go back, even the Lord capture you back again, the Lord will know you will still have to go back, You still want to go back. Lord says, "Hey, listen, I take you out of captivity! You don't belong to Satan, you belong to Me! You are My captive!" You say, "Lord, I'm willing to be Your captive. Be my Lord. Do whatever you want to do with me. Work whatever You want to work with me. Lead however You want to lead. Lead me!" You know, brother, for some reason, the Lord says, "Yes, when you are My captive, I will make you a gift. You are a gift to man."

What are the gift? These gifts could be what, apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers, but they all are gifts. You know, brother, how marvelous that is? You were in captivity, a vessel in captivity. In this vessel, in your as a vessel, filled with all the negative, all the improper, or even something noble,

but without God, without Christ. Lord says, "I bind the strong man! Or I died on the cross! I crucified the power of the evil one! I tell you, now, I capture you back to be My captive. I want to make you a gift." Hey, brother, everybody love to bless the church. If I were you, I would say, "Lord, I'd like to be Your captive. Please, have Lordship over me. Work on me. Develop me. Train me. Build me up. Make me a vessel of gold, of silver, of precious stone. Make me a vessel of honor so that I can be useful." Now, when you say something, not nobody listen to you, many will listen to you, because you are a gift to the church. You could be an apostle; you say, "I'm a sister!" Woman apostle. You could be a woman prophet. You should be a sister prophet. You could be a sister evangelist! You know, brother, eventually Watchman Nee was saved by a sister, raised up by a sister, and supported in his life by some sisters serving with him. So brother, sisters, remember, it's not what I think I'm important. It's not what I feel I have a lot to say. Brother, you could have a lot to say. But remember when I have so much to say, one thing I know, "I am His captive. He is my Lord. He can transform me." Now, when He make me a gift to man, then what, to the church, so the church can be built up. Why is there apostle? Build up the church. Why the prophet preach? Not because "I have something to say, but because when I minister, the church gets built up." Why evangelist preach the gospel? Because people got saved to collect the materials for the building up of the church. Why there is shepherds and teachers? They all for the building up of the church.

Brother, think about the four stages. Number one, I was a vessel, but in the household of Satan. I'm filled with things of this world. But one day, the Lord bind the strong man and what, He take me at captivity, He captured me back to be His captive. So now, thirdly, I render the Lord full surrender. "Lord, I want to be worked on by You. Worked upon by You. I want to be transformed in You. I want You do everything with me because I am Your captive." So eventually, Lord says, "I will make you a gift." Number one, I was in Satanic kingdom. Number two, I'm His captive. Number three, I become a gift for the church. Then number four, the church is builded up because of me. You know what the church is short of today? The church lack of ministries. These ministries doing the work of the ministry of Jesus Christ. Just like the apostle Paul says they are unto the work of the ministry, which means the ministry of Christ. Now, they become a blessing to the church, for the church to be built up. So here, I read you: "Through His death on the cross, Christ has spoiled principalities, authorities," means spoiled their power. Now, more than that, "And made a show to them publically." Christ says, "I am overcome! I am overcoming! I overcome death, I am in resurrection, I am in ascension, I am the Lord of lords, and now, Satan can do nothing, has nothing to, no part in My operation." Praise the Lord for this.

Then, thus, the apostle Peter able to work with the Lord for the binding and loosing. Because Christ accomplished this. That's why Peter said "When I'm filled in spirit, I can open the door. When I open the overall door, many servants of the Lord can open more doors. Many Jesus lovers can open more doors." "Even I'm just a simple sister, a simple brother, I can open my neighbor's door. I can open my parent's door. I can open my children's door. Some door can be opened, and I can be of value to the Lord." But, I tell you, the more you are a captive, the more you are under Him, under His government, the more you can say, "Lord, capture me, I am totally, I totally belong to You and to You alone!" the more the Lord can make you valuable. Open door can be given to you, church can be blessed by you.

The binding and loosing was also given to the church. Not only you, the whole church can have it. Right? For instance, when someone have a problem, cause problem, that will damage the church, the elders can fellowship with them. They refused, then the leading ones can say, "The church will not accept you. We

will treat you as Gentiles.” When this happens, you know brother, how blessed we are. The church bind, the heaven already bound. The church loose, the heaven already loosened. Oh, hallelujah for this! The church and the Lord operate as one. The church do something, Lord says, “I am in that.” The Lord is doing a lot, the church says, “We are partaking of it.” Hallelujah!

So here, you have the satisfaction of God’s desire, the reality of the kingdom of heaven. God no longer is an outward God. He is able to be united, mingled with every saved one in His life, and God can be our God, we can be His children, and become the testimony of the body of Christ. What is this? This is the kingdom of heaven. May Lord have mercy, we stop here.