

Visions and Revelations

Message 1: The Center and Content of Visions—Jesus, the Son of God

Note: This is a lightly edited transcript meant to aid saints in personal and small group fellowship and pursuing.

Paul Neider: Brothers and sisters, I'm here with Brother Titus and some other brothers. Due to the quarantine we are under, with not more than ten allowed to come together, we asked our brother if he would be a supply to the churches by sharing some messages that we could enjoy during the week for our feeding, our growth, and our enlightenment. So, he will be sharing some messages that are 30 – 40 minutes concerning our vision and revelation that hopefully will be very practical. The hope is that we will spend some time individually and together to review them, to digest them, and to have some fellowship.

Our desire is that each Lord's Day, groups could come together through the computer, or through phones, and they will be able to together watch these 30 – 40 minute messages concerning vision and revelation and have fellowship afterwards. This fellowship should be helpful and practical for our spiritual growth and our daily life, our going on together. So brothers and sisters, I encourage you to be very proactive to reach out to one another and for the leaders in the churches to arrange groups so that this can take place.

Titus Chu: Dear brothers, through this particular environment, the brothers and I have had a lot of fellowship. We feel it is profitable if I take the opportunity to share something on a weekly basis. Every week, I will have a simple message, maybe even two, for us to enjoy, and to be in. I was very much before the Lord considering this. Somewhat I had a feeling – let's come to something very very practical. We are not going to share a lot of teachings, or doctrines, but practically come into what we have stressed all these years, that is, visions and revelations. Usually, when we come to this matter, they become very very spiritual. But in the Bible, many times it is related to practical matters. People see a vision, they change. People see a vision, they have a new life. People see a vision, they change the pattern of their life. People see a vision, they have a new beginning. Then, in the vision they see revelations. Every revelation can become their strength, can strengthen them, can help them to go on, and can give them a clear direction. So brothers, the topic I am going to share with you in this coming series of messages is "Visions and Revelations." But, we are not defining this besides in this first meeting for a short time. We are coming to all the practical cases – how Joseph had a vision or revelation, how Peter had visions and revelations, and how Paul had visions and revelations. We are not talking about the truth regarding them. We are talking about how the visions come, how the revelations come, how the recipients are affected, and how they become different. These visions and revelations allow

them to serve or follow the Lord much more clearly, precisely, and with a stronger ability. They can go more buoyantly.

So you can see my basic thought, or basic burden, or even basic desire. By going through this series of messages, we can know, or we are able to apply all the things we have heard through the years in our daily life, in today's need, so that we can go on. So all the messages, every message in this series, can be high, and can be heavenly. But it must be, it should be, or I'd like it to be, very very practical, so that when we listen to it, we know how to apply it, they can affect our daily life, and in turn, also affect our church life.

Before you come to this, you should have a simple outline. The outline should be written for every message. Then it will be easier for you to listen to what I say. It will also be easier for you to apply and to review. So you should have this same outline as I have in my hand.

Now, the title here says: "Visions and Revelations." This morning, we will come to the first message, Message 1 – "The Center and Content of Visions." What is that? The person of Jesus. "Jesus, the Son of God" the center and content of our vision. If we say "I see visions, I have revelations, I see so much, I was taught so much, I pursue so much," eventually one question should be the answer to everything: "Did you gain Jesus Christ? Do you see Jesus is the Son of God?"

Every vision comes from the first vision stated in the New Testament. The first vision was when the Lord sent an angel (or "messenger") to Joseph. In his dream, the angel told Joseph "Jesus." The focus was Jesus, and that Jesus was from the Holy Spirit. His operation is Immanuel. So you can see if you and I can say we heard something, we know something, or that we've been educated with something, now, be careful. It is easy for us to be in what we are educated in, rather than the thing we learned bringing us to Jesus Christ Himself. Because the first vision is Jesus. The first revelation in the New Testament is Jesus, and only Jesus. Jesus, the Son of God.

Before we come to the whole thing, I want to firstly give you a simple preface. So this morning, the message may take you 30 – 40 minutes, because we added the preface in. In this preface, it says what is the vision, and what is the revelation.

Point A – The pursuit and growth of the Christian life is a matter of visions. How much vision you have decides how healthy you are before the Lord. The advancement of your visions is your growth in Christ. Your growth in life is very much related to having vision after vision after vision, and in every vision, revelation after revelations. So the pursuit and growth of a Christian life is a matter of visions. Then, in this we understand, your growth and your seeing of the vision, is not by nature or talent. You may say "I am gifted, I am talented," this doesn't mean I

have growth, I have Christ, I can grow in the Lord, or that I can be used by the Lord. No. Not by your nature or talent.

Point B – Not by personal abilities. You can do a lot. You are able. You can manage many things. You can manage many persons. But, all this ability in following Christ does not bear high value, unless it is supported by the visions and revelations you have received from the Lord. Then it's not by wisdom or brightness. I am bright, I can read the Bible. I am wise, I can see things. No. No matter how bright, or how wise you are, these don't count. What is crucial is your faithfulness to the visions and revelations given to you by God.

Brothers, you cannot say "I never had any vision." No. At least you had one vision, that's why you are saved. Let me ask you, if you did not see something, how could you have believed in Jesus Christ? You never saw Him. I am telling you there is a man on the earth who died for us two thousand years ago. Today He is resurrected, He is in the heavenlies, He is the King of Kings. Brothers, how can a man's mind receive anything like this? According to man's logic, it is impossible. But surprisingly, we all believed. You know why we believed? Because God has given us a vision. There was one time, a particular time, and for some reason our heart was softened. In our deepest part, we had the realization, "I need Jesus Christ, my Savior."

Who made it? The Lord made it. How did He make it? He gave you a vision to see Jesus Christ is your Savior. Now, your whole life is going on based on this vision. When you received Jesus, received Christ as your Savior, as your inner being, He came into you, and He became your life. Now, are you able to grow, to develop, to become His lover, to become useful to Him? It is based on how faithful you are to the first vision. I'm saved, I love Him, then the Lord will give you more visions. I'm saved, I want to follow Him, then the Lord will give you more visions. The faithfulness to the first vision will lead you to the second vision, the third vision, and consequently you will have visions upon visions, and in every vision you have revelations upon revelations. You will say, "Wow, what is my life! Marvelous! So marvelous! I can't believe I am a common man. I don't treasure my natural ability, my talent, my wisdom, or my brightness. Now I realize it's all God's mercy that I had a vision to receive Him, which caused me to receive Him. In turn, I have revelations to follow Him.

What is vision? Vision is just a sight. I see something, and that seeing means I have a vision. I remember the story I read in a book regarding Watchman Nee in prison at his old age. He was forsaken by most of the brothers who knew him, by those whom he had trained and helped, and many brothers he had loved and loved him had already passed away. He was very lonely. In the midst of all the common people, the unbelievers questioned him and asked him. His answer was always a very strong simple statement, "I have seen what you have not seen." Remember this: I have seen what you have not seen, meaning, I have a vision, and you don't. I live in this way

because I have a vision. You don't, and therefore you have your life, you have your way. I'm very different. I have a sight.

Brothers and sisters, let me ask you, in your life, what is your sight? Your sight decides how you are going to follow the Lord. You have a sight. This sight is a heavenly sight. This sight is a sight in spirit. This sight is a sight of divine seeing. The more divine things you see, the more you love divine things. I tell you brothers, it's very interesting. You are a Christian because of vision, even though you don't know it. You begin to love the Lord, because you are faithful to the first vision, even though you don't know it. And because of this, the Lord gave you more visions. So, in the many years you have been following Him, it's step by step, and you see more and more. You have to say, "Lord I'm thankful. I don't quite even know it, but I see something. I cannot speak it, I cannot explain it, I cannot portray it, I don't have words to state it, but the fact is, I have seen something.

So eventually the last point. With the faithfulness to each and every vision, there's sight. If you have a sight, and are faithful to each and every sight, a vision may bring in many heavenly and spiritual revelations. In one vision there's a lot of revelations. Like I see a loving baby. I will say wow, this baby is so lovely. Look at the way he smiles. Look at the way he stretches his little hand to respond. Look at the way he looks, how he looks at you. But, we can't stop here. The father will have a lot more revelations. He has a baby. The baby becomes his vision, but he has a lot of revelations. Look at how strong he is. Look at how bright he is. Look at the way he reacts. Look at how fast he learns. If he doesn't learn anything, at least the father can say, look at his appetite. He drinks so much milk. What is that? Revelations.

Often we have a vision, yet because of ignorance, our vision can become a simple picture, lacking depth and lacking profoundness. We have to be very faithful, like a father and mother, who have a baby. We're faithful to raise the baby up. We're willing to do everything. Then we find the growth of the baby, to the baby's maturity, brings up such marvelous revelations, even revelations upon revelations. Likewise, we follow the Lord and the Lord will give a vision. Then we grow in our faithfulness to it. As we grow, we'll get another vision. When we're faithful and grow then we'll have the third vision. Visions produce a lot. Each vision produces a lot of revelations. But overall, how marvelous is that?

Next point. What does this sight, this vision, produce? Your life produces forsaking, produces perseverance, produces assurance, and brings in a whole life of following the Lord. For example, I see the Lord, and because I see the Lord I forsook everything not of the Lord. I am ready to suffer anything because of the Lord, and I have full assurance the Lord is with me. More than that, my whole life becomes a life of following the living Christ. It's just like faithful parents to the child. For the child, they forsake a lot of their self-enjoyment. They suffer a lot. They get up at night, they forget about the time, they spend time with them, and eventually they have this

assurance that they want to be with the child. They're sure the kid will grow up. And more than that, their whole life begins to be controlled by the child they begot. What a marvelous thing! Following the Lord is like this. The Lord was a baby in us. But if we see Him, appreciate Him, really give ourselves to Him, and focus on Him, oh we'll see beautiful sceneries upon sceneries, beautiful things upon things. What a life of following the Lord! What a life with such value!

More than that, such sight is elevated step by step. I see something, I'm faithful to it, I grow, I'm elevated, and I'm uplifted. One step, to another step, to a third step. These steps should be related to all the things we confront in our life. The vision we received causes us to be different with all things that happen to us. We are different. We respond differently now. People see a house and they want to buy the house. They love the house. We see a house and we want to buy the house. We love the house. When people see a house they see just themselves getting a house. When we buy a house, we see "me and my house both belong to the Lord. My house can become a base of blessing to the Lord." So, a common thing can become very uncommon. People get married. People eat and drink. People have residences. People have cars. We have exactly the same things. We don't have another kind of life, secluded away. We live among the people, but we are very different. I am of Christ. My house, of Christ. My car, of Christ. My bank account, of Christ. Then more than that, me and my whole household are for nothing but Christ alone! This causes us to be uncommon. Our "uncommonness" allows us to follow the Lord in a clear way with nothing frustrating us. People can buy a house and be caught by the house. People can have a good family life and be caught by the good family life, and may end up even hurting the family. You know brothers, we Jesus lovers, we have a house, we have a car, and we have beautiful, good family life. But how marvelous is that? We had a vision, we realized everything is from Christ, in Christ, and unto Christ through the salvation of Jesus. So, we can easily tell the Lord, Lord, everything I have is given to me by You, and everything I have is exactly for You. What a blessing.

Then let's come to the last point. Each sight comes through appearing of the Lord. Now, how do I have a vision? Number one: The Lord appeared to you. Number two: The revelation of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit shows something to you. Number three: The manifestation of the environment. Through the environment, all of a sudden you wake up, and you see something. The environment can serve the Lord as a real precious servant.

We treasure all the happenings to us. Brothers and sisters, in these few months, in the coming two or three months, we may confront a very hard life. Brothers, we should be wise. Don't say that I have Christ, so the virus won't get me. No, there is a law you have to abide in. So, you have to take care of yourself. Try to protect yourself. Try to be careful for other's sake. This is a law. We're going through this hard time. When we're going through that hard time, there could be a few possibilities. One is: I'm so sorry, I don't have enough income now. I'm so sorry, I'm having a hard time. Another is: I'm so sorry I cannot go out sight-seeing. I cannot travel. I can't

do this or that. Another thing is: I'm going to be at home suffering all these days. I miss my sweet church life. Brother, no you don't see a vision. If you see a vision, you have to say, praise the Lord! Everybody is home, but thank You Lord, You have given us modern technology. We have the facilities. We can talk to people. We can see people through the website, through the phone, and through FaceTime. Sorry, I'm not good at it, I can't tell you how or what, but I know there are many means. We can preach gospel. Now, many people are at home and they don't know how to spend their time. Go read the Bible with them, pursue with them, pray with them. Many brothers may be recovered because we see the vision. This is Lord's arrangement; it's not just a virus attack. It is a virus attack, the coronavirus attack, but the Lord allowed it to bring us to have another kind of life: to spend more time with the Lord, to be more with our family, to reach the brothers and sisters, to preach the gospel to your colleagues through the phone, and even to fellowship with brothers who have not been in the church life for a long time.

What is this? Environment. Vision can come from the environment for you to have sight. Now, I see something. More than that, vision can be through the Lord's speaking. When the Lord speaks to you, you can have visions. I see something. It could even be in our dreams. Could you believe in that? The first vision recorded in the Bible is in a dream. Joseph had a dream. Sometimes we have a lot of dreams and we like to interpret our dreams. If I could give you just two points to tell you how do you know you see something of the Lord in a dream. Number one, the word is very clear. I see something very clear. I dream, and in my dream, my father passed away. I dreamed I was with him. That doesn't mean that much. But if there is a clear word, you somewhat know this is from the Lord. Secondly, when you wake up, the word is still with you. When you are considering the word, there is the anointing: the presence of the Lord is in your spirit. A lack of either one and be careful not to get into superstition. This is too easy for us to be superstitious in. I dream of something, and think the Lord has spoken to me. No. It should be a clear word that you can remember. More than that, when you wake up, there is the strong presence of the Lord. You know this is from Christ. So, how do we have a vision? How can we have a vision? Here it says five things. The Lord appears to you, number one. The Holy Spirit gives you revelations, number two. The environment manifests it, number three. The Lord's speaking by his angels, by his messengers, another thing. Then finally, in our dreams, which is minor, because that is when everything is immature. Do you realize the first few visions, are in Joseph's dreams? Why? Joseph is not a spiritual man. He doesn't even know he has a spirit. He is not yet qualified to be considered as us, at that time. We are born again, we have Christ in us, he didn't. So the Lord appeared to him in a different way. But, still that is in the principal of the vision.

Now we come to the first message, the first vision in the New Testament. The Bible principal of firsts is that the first instance of something is usually the most crucial. The Lord's angel, or messenger, spoke to Joseph in his dream. Let's come to Matthew 1:18-25. I read to you.

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man [or a righteous man], and not wanting to make her a public example [in other words, he didn't want to expose her], was minded to put her away secretly. [terminate the marriage secretly, so Mary will not be overly embarrassed] 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying [listen to this now. This is the content of the vision he got], "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife [this is a clear word], for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

I think to Joseph, and to all the Israelites, this "Holy Spirit" was a new term. The Spirit was never mentioned as the Holy Spirit. It was the Spirit of Jehovah, the Spirit of the Lord, there was the mention with Daniel's friends – in them, there was the Holy Spirit. However, actually, in them was the Spirit, the holy, meaning a goodness: the goodness in their spirit. In their spirit there was holiness as a virtue. Now here it says, He was born of the Holy Spirit. You have to realize, the Holy Spirit mentioned is related to God's operation. When he is doing something, his person is called the Holy Spirit. His doing of something, is called The Spirit. That is why The Spirit led Jesus to the wilderness, because the Holy Spirit operating is called The Spirit. The Spirit is the Holy Spirit. Then we will sometimes say "The Spirit was not yet," which means there was a certain thing the Holy Spirit could not yet do. It had to wait until Jesus was glorified. Then, eventually Jesus, last Adam, meaning he terminated the Adamic race, became the life giving spirit. That means the Spirit now can give life. The Spirit can lead. The Spirit can do a lot, but The Spirit, after Jesus' resurrection, which is the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit now can give life to man because he is the life giving spirit. You might ask, then how about Jesus? Brother, don't ask these questions. The Triune God is one. Don't make them three. The Triune God is three in operation, in their way of their operations, don't make the operations one. But it is very interesting, but anyways, that which was conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

What does Jesus mean? Jesus means Jehovah plus, or Jehovah saves. J, Jehovah. Jesus, J. The beginning is the same. J is Jehovah. Jesus means Jehovah saves. He is the savior. Now, in this dream, he was very strong. Remember, the Holy Spirit came, and now in the age of The Spirit, the Holy Spirit is operating. The first operation of the Holy Spirit is to bring God to man. God was conceived in man, and more than that, who is this man? He is the Savior! He is Jehovah saves, because he will save his people from their sins. It is interesting right? *From their sins.* Sins, implies sin, with sinful nature. Sins means not only do you have a man with a sinful nature, but with a sinful nature, they grow a lot of manifestations of sin. The manifestations include things very evil, but also including some things not necessarily condemned by man. What is sin? Sin is when you do things not related to God. When you are not related to God, in God's sight, that is a sin. God like us to be with him, abide in him, live in him, live out him, so he want us to

not be in sin, and not to be in sins. Because of sin, we have sins. Sin means we are against God. Not one with God. Sins means things not of God.

Brothers, could you believe, many things to us that are so proper and so healthy, yet God would ask, is that of me? If that's not of me, that is part of sins. We condemn sinners, you are gamblers, you misbehavers, you are corrupted, but here he says, he will remember. He will save his people, including you and I, from our sins. Are we gamblers? No. Are we alcoholics? No. Are we very corrupt? No. Are we sinful? Yes. Why? Because in the past, before we were saved, we denied God. That was our sin. One day we are saved, but be careful, we still need to be saved. Why? There are many things we do, and God would say, I am not a part of it. You want to have a good car, I don't think it is a problem. But, if you want to have a good car for yourself and you ignore God's leading, that is a problem. So, everything you do, please brothers and sisters, remember, God has to be involved. The Lord has to be involved because he will save us from our sins.

Now we covered, the Holy Spirit, Jesus, Jehovah saves, and more than that, now regarding his name, the angel said "*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*" which is translated, "God with us." You know what this means here? Why is it so crucial? Everything Jesus Christ does, including not only saving you from eternal perdition, but also saving you from every situation, all has one principal: I am with you. God with us. Well, we should be very happy. In the first vision, the Lord unveiled three things clearly to Joseph in a dream. Number one, the Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes, and the New Testament age is coming. Number two, Jesus is here. He is Jehovah saves. Number three, when he saves us from all the sins, the way and the means is through "he is with us." What a salvation. Brothers, I don't know how to tell you, I am so touched by this. Lord, I appreciate it. You are my Savior. You are Jehovah saves. You are with me. You are from the Spirit, you are with me, and you are from the Holy Spirit. Your being with me means I will have the presence of you as the Spirit all my life. What is my life? My life is a life of Emmanuel. Hallelujah, what can be more sweet than this? Brothers, this is our first meeting, I will stop here. The Lord be with us.