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## Visions and Revelations

### Message 20: The Life of One Who Has Visions and Revelations

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

*Prayer:* Oh, Lord, we're so thankful You've been with us in the last few months. You speak to us, You give us visions and give us understanding. You used this to strengthen us and carry us on. Lord, this is the last fellowship. We want You to anoint us. We desire that You can be so much with us. Give us a spirit of joyfulness and spirit of restfulness. We do have You, the giver of visions and revelations. Be with us this morning. We need You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Well, dear brothers, we come to the last meeting. It's actually not a message. It's just very simple fellowship based on one question: If you do have visions, if you do have revelations, what kind of life will you have?

To us, if you see something, if you receive something, then you could be buoyant, prevailing, doing a lot of things, but do you realize? Eventually, that's not how it was with Peter. Peter still had his limitations, still had weaknesses. The best way to look at Peter's life must come from the Lord Jesus' comments. When the Lord Jesus resurrected, Peter took the 10 disciples to go fishing, but they couldn't catch a thing. Eventually the Lord appeared to them, and they caught a lot of fish. Then they come up, and there's a fire, there's fish, and the Lord's there waiting for them.

Then the Lord speaks to Peter in a very interesting way. He said, "Peter, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked the way you liked, did the things you like. When you are old, you will stretch out your hand, and people—" to Peter that meant the Roman soldiers—"will bind you and take you to the place you don't like to be." The apostle John mentioned, "this shows how he will die to glorify God."

You know brother, in this very short statement, did you realize that He did not mention, "Peter, you will be prevailing. Peter, you will have no sin. Peter, you will have no weakness. Peter, you will have no problems in your life. Peter, you will be able to trust Me." No. The Lord's word is very simple. "You saw something. What you see should become a girder, gird you, that causes you to have another kind of life." Lord told Peter, "You will gird yourself to do the things you will." In other words, you are girded. What does girded mean? Remember, the Lord told that story in Luke. He said, "The servant in the field, he's doing a lot of things for the lord, the master. Then he comes home. Does he have the right to eat? No. He has to serve his master." Then He adds a word. "He girded himself, served the lord his master until his master ate and drunk." Not really get drunk, means get satisfied. "Then, it's his turn to eat and drink."

You know, brother, it's very interesting. If you look at the whole of Christianity, do you realize that so many workers are in the field, including us? We do a lot of things for the Lord, but we're not girded. How many Christian preachers are girded? How many good brothers, pure brothers, growing brothers, developing brothers, or manifested brothers are girded? Girded means what? "I know why I'm here. I know what I'm doing. I was in the field. I do a lot for the Lord, but now I gird myself. I realize—not

doing a lot for the Lord; I must have the Lord Himself. I must bring satisfaction to my Lord Jesus Christ. Until He's satisfied, I cannot be satisfied." So what "gird" means is this: "My goal is clear. The purpose of my existence is clear. The reason for what I'm doing here is very clear. I am here with my Master. I spent the whole day in the field, but now there's a precious time I can be with my Lord. Did you realize? In this parable the Lord was very careful about this: when you are with the Lord you are girded. You can do many things, a lot of things, but not be girded.

Now Peter is much better compared with all the servants in the field. Peter is girded first, then he goes to the field according to what he thinks. Means what? His purpose is clear, his goal is clear, the reason for his life is clear, the meaning of his labor is very clear, because he knows, this is the way to satisfy God.

The second stage is: when you are old you stretch out your hand, the people will bind you, and take you to a place you don't like. You know, brother, this portrays that whosoever had a vision, had a revelation, their life will be so special. I have a life way beyond "I'm overcoming, I do well, I'm prevailing, I commit no more sin, I don't have any world." No, it's not that. "I gird myself" means "I have another kind of living." A living to serve the Lord. When I am serving the Lord, I may still have weaknesses, I may still have limitations, I may still see how incapable, how powerless I am, but to the Lord all these don't matter that much. What matters is that he's able to gird himself, which means, have a kind of living according to the vision he has.

So you can see the apostle Peter had a very romantic life. The goal of his life, very clear: "I'm going to serve the Lord according to what the Lord has shown me. I see a vision, I see visions, I see revelations, praise the Lord. In my life, I'm very free. I'm a servant of the Lord. I go where I feel the Lord led me. I ministered however I feel the Lord wants me to minister. I'm with people because I feel the Lord wants me to be with these people. You know, brother, if you ask me, I would say this is the most romantic life a man could have. I see something, I see the meaning of life, the substance of life, I see the reality of life, I see why the Christian was born and saved and received visions and revelations. Marvelous! Therefore I am a servant of the Lord."

What stage is this? Lord says, "When you are young." When you are young means what? Means 30? 40? 60? 80? We don't know, but anyways, with every Christian there should be a stage, "I see something, I want to exercise, I want to fulfill what the Lord has committed to me. I like to labor, I like to travel, I like to go to places, I like to exercise according to however I feel the Lord has told me." Did the Lord say "Wrong"? No, the Lord just said, "When you are young." If you don't have this stage, you miss a lot. Some brothers, all their life, they say, "I stretch out my hands. Bind me." Brother, your life is so boring.

But anyways, Peter eventually grows old. The Lord's prediction is when you become old, you will stretch out your hands. Means what? Willingly. Maybe willingly by force. "I know I have no choice." Maybe willingly because I just feel that's what I have to do. I stretch out my hands and let others bind me. I'm bound to the place I don't want. You know, today there's no Roman empire. Today there's no cross for us to die on. Today it's very simple. When we become mature, we live a life under a kind of bondage. We willingly live a life under that kind of bondage. Who binds us? The Lord binds us, the church binds us, the needs of the church bind us, brothers and sisters bind us, those who love the Lord bind us, those who don't love the Lord bind us. All of a sudden, it's not, "I have received something, I want to exercise." Rather, "Lord, I joyfully abide in Your government. I know You are the Lord. So if the church needs me,

I'm with the church. If the saints need me, I'm with the saints. If the pursuing ones need me, I'm with the pursuing ones. If there are those who do not love the Lord but need me, I'd like to spend time with those who do not love the Lord. People think they're hopeless? No, I feel that I can be with them." Brother, what kind of life is this? When you are young, you're so buoyant. "Go! Let's go! We want to preach the gospel. We want to evangelize. We want to go to cities, countries. We want to do things, raise up the Lord's testimony, raise up brothers who love the Lord, raise up brothers who want to serve the Lord full-time, hallelujah!" But eventually when we are old we begin to realize all kinds of needs are there. Not what I feel, but the need. How about the need of the church? I must live according to the need of the church. How about the need of this or that? I must live according to the needs. This becomes a kind of bondage, in a nice way. Binding. I'm bound. Bound by what? By the church's need, by the saints' need, by the "going on of the church" need, by the "testimony to be raised up" need, by all kinds of needs. I can say, Lord I am your servant. I'd like to peacefully, simply, just live according to You. This is the Lord's speaking to Peter.

Whosoever has visions and revelations, their life should be this kind of life. If I have visions and revelations, I should say "Go!" I should say "Labor!" I should say, "I gird myself to do whatever the Lord desires and what the Lord is after." This is very good — praise the Lord — but eventually, you become older and you realize that it is not a matter of what I'm burdened for, but of what the need is. There is so much need in the church life, there is so much need among many churches, and there is so much need with so many different brothers and sisters, and now they become my binding force. I have to live for them.

If you were to ask me, "I have seen a vision and a revelation. What kind of life shall I live?" I would say, check these two things: first, are you young, or are you quite mature? If you're young, then rise up. Drive your car to the neighboring town and preach the gospel. Rise up, walk around your neighborhood and talk to your neighbors about the gospel. I do something, I gird myself for the testimony, to fulfill what I have seen. According to what? According to what I feel that the Lord has led me to do, until one day, by the Lord's mercy, you grow. You grow unto maturity. Your concern is more overall now. Your concern is, *what is the best for the Lord* rather than *what I am burdened for*. At this time, how precious this brother can become. Do you realize that both the local church life and the church life among the churches need this kind of mature "Peter."

We also need young "Peters." If a church life had a lot of young Peters who always go out, who always gird themselves, who preach gospel, who visit the saints, who raise up new testimonies, who go cry for a couple of hours, who go to a new town and try to raise up a new testimony, do you realize how good that would be? Also in the church life there are some mature ones. Their consecration is much more than just *what I do*. Rather, it involves *what the Lord desires*. How do I walk with the Lord? How do I work with the Lord so that the Lord can fulfill what He desires? That means your hand is stretched out, and you are bound to do what the Lord allows to happen. And we are joyfully abiding in the Lord's government. At this time, a man who has a vision can joyfully say, "Lord I am so thankful. When I was young, I was a fighter! Now that I am old, I am abiding in you in such a peacefulness and restfulness, yet so girded, so alert, so diligent, to make sure that everything satisfies Christ."

If you ask me, “How do I know a brother has a vision? What kind of life do they live?” First, they get away from the low things, such as saying “I don’t commit sin anymore,” or, “I don’t lose my temper anymore.” It seems the Lord ignores these kinds of things. Rather He asks you, “How about the active side? How about the positive side?” Brother, don’t look at your weakness; look at how positive you are, how active you are, how much you’re girded, and how much you can say “I serve the Lord according to how I feel burdened from the Lord.” This is number one.

Second, when the Lord unveils to Peter, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heavens. With this, you can do so much. If you open it, nobody can shut it; if you shut it, nobody can open it.” Brothers, with such a high vision I believe Peter was so buoyant and joyful. I don’t know if he looked at John and said, “I got you!” or looked at James and said, “I’m better than you, right?!” then finally saying, “You know that I’m the biggest apostle right? I’m the biggest brother, right?” I don’t know what happened, but psychologically, he could be quite high, and he could feel very marvelous.

At the same time the Lord says, “You have to know that we are going to Jerusalem, and after we are in Jerusalem I will be put to shame. I will be challenged. Eventually, I will die on the cross, and on the third day, I will be resurrected.” You know brother, it’s very interesting. Peter is just like us. We listen to messages, but we only listen to the part that we like to hear. Peter never heard the last part, “I will be resurrected.” He only heard, “The lord is going to suffer. The Lord will be persecuted. The Lord will be challenged. Eventually the Lord will be beaten and He will be nailed to a cross.” Peter must have thought, “Oh how could that be?” So he grabbed the Lord and said, “Lord no no no! This would never happen to you!” You know the Lord’s answer? “Satan get you behind me.” The one who was just told, “you are the rock,” has become Satan. The Lord answers, “Get behind Me, Satan!” Why? Because “you care for the things of man, and not the things of God. If you want to keep your soul-life, you will lose it. If you desire to lose your soul life, you will gain a soul life.” Do you know what this means? The Lord is telling Peter, “You see a vision. To be in the vision, you must know how to handle your soul life.”

This is hard to understand. You lose your soul life, you gain your soul life. So what do you want us to do? Brothers, do you realize the difference? 60-some years ago, I loved the Lord with my soul very much. 60-some years later, I still love the Lord with my soul very much. What’s the difference? It’s a different soul. I lost a natural soul. I lost a rotten soul. I lost a mixed soul. I lost the soul that was seemingly after God, but really after myself, or seeming after myself, but always after something else. Eventually, the Lord says, “I’m transforming you.” What is transforming? Transforming is the changing of your soul. Your understanding becomes different. Your appreciation becomes different. What you lay hold of becomes different. The goal of your life becomes different. Your soul decides your person, it decides your existence, it decides your future.

When I was young, I had a soul that said, “I want to serve the Lord!” But it was very mixed with, “I want to be a great preacher! I want to be a great servant of the Lord.” No. Now you have a soul that is so pure that the Lord says, “you have lost your soul because you deny your soul-life. I will grant you a soul life that’s very pure.” Why do you serve the Lord? Because I love the Lord. Why are you living such a life? Because I have this precious Christ. My soul becomes like a crystal. Formerly, I was a muddy soul. An opaque soul. A soul that was not clear, yet was for Christ. Now you have a soul so pure: it is just for the Lord alone. Hallelujah.

So we have said two things already. If you see a vision, what is going to happen? First, you see a vision. So, when you are young, you realize your life is for serving Him desperately! Serving in Him with all your life, with all your strength, doing everything to satisfy Christ. But it is according to what you *feel* is right. When you are old, you'll find all kinds of needs which the Lord allows to happen. So, you have to stretch out your hand and let the church's needs bind you; to let the saint's needs bind you; to let a specific need bind you. So you are under a kind of bondage, yet it is so healthy because that makes you a protector, a life giver, a stability, a source, and a strength for the church life, for the saints, and for all what may happen when God operates.

Second, this process is one of forsaking your soul — even denying your soul. Whatever you like? No, not if it's not according to Christ. Whatever you appreciate? No, not if it's not according to Christ. Even the best desire for Christ, such as when Peter held Jesus and said, "No this will never happen to you!" No! The Lord says, "this is Satan. Get behind me." You must deny your soul life to get a better soul life. Transform your soul life. Purify your soul life. Crystallize soul life. A life that's so clear before God and before the Lord.

Now the third thing is that the Lord brought the three disciples to the mountain and he was transfigured before them. I think they were praying and as they were praying, the Lord Jesus was transfigured before them. His garment was white as light. His face was shining as the sun. This means on the side of the humanity of our Savior Jesus Christ, there's nothing you can challenge Him on. But even more crucial is the divine side. The one who put on the garment is more precious than the garment itself. Now, in Him, He would say, "Look at Me. Who am I? I am just God." That must be a glorious realm or a picture of glory. The Lord was there and in this marvelous glory, two men appeared, Moses and Elijah. One is the law. One is the prophets. Looks like the Lord would say, "My glory has to be upheld by the law. My glory has to be upheld by the prophets." That doesn't mean you do things — that's the law. It means the law becomes your reality. We have the law outwardly, but even more, we have the law inwardly so within us we know how best to please the Lord. We can say, "Lord, I want to know You! I want to be one with You! I want to have my living and my walking totally in Your satisfaction!"

Brothers, at this time, there is a real Moses in glory. Not in commands but in glory! Then, when I say, "I want to see the word. I want to minister the word, I want to speak for the Lord, I want to be an oracle for the Lord's testimony," brothers, now you have a prophet, a prophet fully in glory. Remember this, the law by itself — no glory; prophets by themselves — no glory. They must join the glory of Christ and then the glory comes out. In other words, if the law was kept because of law, there is no glory. If the law was kept because of life, the law of life, and lived out of us, there's a glory. If a prophet speaks a lot, someone even says, "Oh, Covid-19, oh, this is what..." Brothers, there is no such prophet. When a prophet is in the glory of Christ, that means all of what he ministers, all what he says, all what he speaks as an oracle to help God's people, must be in the glory of Christ, must lead us to Christ, must bring us to Christ, and must bring us into the oneness with Christ. If a prophet does not lead us to Christ, but rather only to the truth, or only to some need of a present time, then there is no glory there.

Eventually, you see a marvelous picture. There is a big glory from Christ. His garment is crystal white, and His face shines out as the sun, meaning God Himself is manifested through Him. If you take it as a

half-circle, on this side there is Moses and on the other side, there is Elijah. Let me say again, Moses has no glory, Elijah has no glory. They abide in the glory of Christ. Why? Because they both lead us to Christ.

Peter had to be tested here. Peter's thought was, "I see three men in the glory. I see Jesus, I see Moses, and I see Elijah." He didn't realize there was only one glory, the glory coming from Jesus Christ, the Son of God, covering Moses and covering Elijah. They joined in to that glory. So he began to say, "Well, I want to follow the Lord. Praise the Lord, this is so marvelous. I will get three tents, one for You, Jesus, because You will always be the first, but also one for Moses and one for Elijah." Brothers, do you realize what this is? Whether young or old, when you follow the Lord, your life will be like Peter. When you follow the Lord, you will have to go through the process to deny your soul life and follow Him, so your soul can be transformed. And more than that, you have to be brought out of religion. What is religion? "Isn't that marvelous? Christ is glorious! But here's Moses, if I can do this I'll be okay. And here is Elijah, if I can preach like this, I'll be okay."

Then God said, "This is My beloved Son. In Him I am delighted." You know, brothers, many things we say, "Lord, may we please You." God would answer, "I am happy you do this. But you know, I delight in only one person: Jesus Christ. The One who makes Me happy is only Jesus Christ. You must gain Christ." But here, in religion, we say, "We want to see Moses. We want to see Elijah. How much I dream I can be Elijah." I tell you, when I was young, I loved these stories. The only thing I regretted was Elijah was raptured. I know I cannot be raptured, but I hoped one day I could give message and so many people could be saved, and so many churches could be revived. Brothers, because of this, I looked at some brothers who were spiritual, and I thought, "This is Moses. This is Elijah. Follow this man! Worship God because of them!" Should we worship God because of Moses? Yes. Should we worship God because of Elijah? Yes. "God, thank You for giving us Elijah, and giving us Moses." But remember their glory – they didn't have any. Their glory was manifested by joining Christ. When they joined Christ, they were in the glory of Jesus Christ. How often are we in religion and we just want to see spiritual men. Oh, he walked with Christ. When you are with him, you can smell Christ. You see him and you can sense the Lord's presence. Brothers, don't you feel it's kind of interesting? Even wanting to follow a spiritual man can lead us away from Christ.

I have always had a kind of peculiar thankfulness to say, "Lord, thank You, I was not with Watchman Nee." If I was with Watchman Nee, I may possibly say, "This is Moses, this is Elijah, let's make three tents." But I'm very thankful I was very much helped by a brother. I still remember one day he told me that, "Brother Titus, even if I tell you to do something, if the Lord didn't, don't do it. You must follow Christ." He always tried, like Moses, like Elijah, bring us to Christ. Brothers, a man in religion loves the Lord but meanwhile, they also want to see some Moses. They also want to meet a few Elijah's. They want to say, "Praise the Lord, I'm with that spiritual man. I can give you a testimony how many years ago, when brother so-and-so was with me I could feel the Lord's presence." Brothers, is this right or wrong? There's nothing wrong, but be careful. If you are not careful, you will be like Peter: "Let's have three tents. One for You, one for Moses, one for Elijah."

You have visions and you have revelations, and they should all bring you only to Christ. You should appreciate a man of God, a God-man, a Moses. You should appreciate a powerful prophet like Elijah. But

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you should always know, “I believe in Jesus. If a brother helped me, praise the Lord. If a brother opened up some spiritual things to help my going on, praise the Lord. But you know what is most precious? The most precious thing is I don’t worship Moses and I don’t worship Elijah. I worship God, Christ, alone.” When you say, “Moses and Christ!” God will intervene. God will say, “THIS is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him. Just Him. Listen to Him. Listen to what the Lord has to say to you.

When you see a vision, three things will be your life. Firstly, I really appreciate it. Can we all say, “I am girded [I’m ready]! I want to go out! I want to preach the gospel! I don’t care if it is so spiritual, but I’m burdened, I’m really burdened. Brothers, this is a blessing. Until I become mature, I am under a kind of limitation from the church, from the saints, and from the environment. But when I am young, I would like to go out and testify Christ! I would like to pioneer for the Lord’s testimony! Secondly, I want to deny my soul life, so I can gain a soul life that is clear, that is crystal, that is pure, that is only concerned with Christ Himself, which is to bring a profit to Christ. Thirdly, I don’t want to be in religion. When I follow the Lord, I appreciate Moses and I appreciate Elijah. I appreciate men of God, I appreciate the servants who speak God’s word and open it to us, who help us, who raise us up, but even then, I know: who do I follow? Christ! Who’s my Lord? Christ! Who’s the center of my living? Christ! You have a vision? You need to have a life of nothing but Christ. May the Lord be merciful to us.

We are at the conclusion of these twenty messages. I hope they can be a profit to us all. How about our going on? Brothers, in every message there are some nuggets. Try to pick out the nuggets. Abide in it, pray according to them, and give yourself to exercise through this help. May the Lord have mercy. We will have a one or two month break. If the virus is over, praise the Lord, then the churches can go back to a normal church life. If the virus is still very strong and still limits our coming together, I hope we can continue with the visions and revelations of the apostle Paul and of the apostle John. May Lord have mercy on us. I am very thankful for you standing there, even though I don’t see you, and for your being with us in our labor. The Lord bless you, and the Lord be with you.