

## Visions and Revelations

### Message 9: The Apostles Peter, Paul, and John

Dear brothers, by Lord's mercy we are coming to the ninth message. We begin to cover visions and revelations in the New Testament or in the Age of Grace. Or in the Age of the Spirit. Everything become very different compare with everything of God's operating become different compare with what He did in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament everything is based on miracles. God do everything in a principle of carrying a miracle. Just like the 5 examples we covered in the past weeks. Joseph – a miracle. Zechariah – a miracle. Mary – a miracle of miracles. And then the shepherds – miracles. Then the wise men – miracles. You can see that in the Old Testament God liked to appear to man, speak to man, ask man to carry what He desire. It's all in the principle of miracles.

Now come to the New Testament. Miracles still there. It doesn't mean because everything God does, somewhat has the principle in the principle of performing a miracle. Something we get so used to it; we don't think it's miracle. Actually, it's still miracle. How can you grow? How can you develop? These are miracles. But it become a law so we take as common. You know brother, in the New Testament miracles still there but miracle become so common that all the Christians got saved, that's a miracle. All the Christians see Christ as the Savior – that's a revelation. All the Christians realize they are sinners, they need the Lord – that's a vision. A revelation. So you can see that the whole New Testament age is come into being because of Christ's resurrection, because of Christ's ascension, because Christ life dispensing, because the Holy Spirit work as The Spirit unveil man of different things concerning God, concerning Himself, concerning God's, concerning God, concerning us, concerning what God desires. So brother, in the New Testament age, there are still miracles when we come to revelations or visions and revelations. But, they're not that stressed.

Let's say, if without the apostle Paul's experience, we can see almost it's of no importance. But anyway, it's still there. And more than that, because of this, all the miracles will be related to the will of God. God in the New Testament will give you a revelation, like, you are saved. Now, you are not saved because you need salvation, that's not only, that's only one part. You're saved because God desired you to be saved to be a precious stone for God's lively building a spiritual house to be built up. You see, everything God does is with the will of God in view. You shouldn't say, "I have a vision, I have a revelation. In turn, end up with a vision, end up with a revelation." No. you should say that every revelation, every vision God give to you relate to the will of God. This is number 1.

Number 2 – the center, the center of any vision is for reveal Christ. Let me ask you, when you got saved that's the first revelation every Christian has. On one hand, you have a revelation, you see you are a sinner, but eventually, what do you do? You receive Christ. You take in Christ. You receive Christ as your Savior. You begin to, begin to be a person of Christ, with Christ, with

Christ as the life abide in you. you are no longer just a man. You are a God-man. You are now a Christian. This is what this is relate to Christ.

You know brother, if you have this clear view, you'll be saved from many unnecessary things. People too easy to be caught something happen miraculous, something happened marvelous. Brother, no. the Lord only ask one question: will this bring you to Christ? Here, if I want tell you story, be endless. But we can't.

More than that, secondly, when you have the revelation, and visions and revelations, you will be somewhat elevated or unveiled to the matter of truth. Let me ask you, you are just a sinner, a common sinner. How can you believe in Jesus? And how can you even know the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse you from all your sins? You have a vision, you have revelations, with the visions and revelations what's happened, I know Christ, I know truth. What is the truth? If I believe in Jesus Christ I will be saved. What is the truth? The blood of Jesus Christ cleansed me from all my sins. What is the truth? Now I'm born again, I have new life, I have new living, I am part of the Body of Christ. All these are from a revelation. This vision, this from a vision, this vision with revelation lead you to all these riches of truth. So, eventually, lead you to a living. Now, the more revelation you have, the more vision you have. Maybe I reverse it. The more vision you have, the more revelation you have, the more you can be so one with Christ. You know brother, this is marvelous. In the New Testament we still have visions and revelations, But in life, but in Christ, but in loving the Lord, but by seeing Christ. And eventually, even we see something else that will lead us to Christ. This is marvelous.

Let me come back to you again. Brothers, without the vision, man perish. We need to have a vision. Now in the New Testament, we need to even more to have a new vision. But what is the problem? The basic vision we all have, otherwise we cannot be Christians. Every Christian began his Christian living by seeing a vision. A vision of Jesus died. A vision Jesus resurrected. The vision Jesus shed His blood for you. A vision that I am a sinner. In this a lot of revelations come in to tell you all kind of things. So, you have to confess sins upon sins you confess, you wept and you cried. You call on the name of the Lord, you receive as Savior, you enjoy the joyfulness in your spirit. This is the first revelation, vision and revelation every Christian should have. Afterward, your life should be a life of continuation, multiplication of visions and revelations.

It's very interesting. You know, for instance you have the apostle Paul. He saw a vision miraculously. The Lord just appeared to him in the heavenlies and speak to him, "Why you persecute Me?" And he asked, "Who are You and what You want me to do?" This is one kind.

Another is Peter. He saw the vision but take him whole lifelong to realize how marvelous that vision. Thirdly is the apostle John. We don't even know which incidents, which time you can say he clearly had the vision. But eventually, he is totality of all the visions in his writing he talk about Christ. In his writing, he talk about Christ's work. In his writing, eventually he says, He is the Lord walking in the midst of the churches. In his writing, he talk about what happened

through the ages, that's in Revelation. And finally concluding into New Jerusalem. Right? The Kingdom feast which leads into New Jerusalem. Brother, this is marvelous. So, see three case. One is like a bomb. "POW! I see something." One is like, "yeah, I saw something but it's not clearly". One is, "I don't even seemingly see anything, but for some reason I keep on seeing it. I keep on seeing it." You know, how can you have this?

Before I come to three person, I use this 5 minutes to tell you there are four kinds of Christians. One kind of – I see, but I don't do. One kind is, I'm in, but I don't see. One kind is, I see with the vision, therefore I do it smoothly, easily. Another kind, I never even see the vision, but I'm in such a reality, eventually I put it together, Oh, what a great vision! Four kinds.

Just like I give you illustration, for instance, we all, many people desire Europe. Europe is very attractive continue with, with what? With different cultures, civilizations. I tell you, so you have 4 cases. When I was young, I see a picture of Europe. I was very attracted by the culture of Athens, by the military and the bureaucracy builded up by Romans. Eventually, I'm very attracted by the wise operation of British. And the romantic life of Paris. You know brother, these are all part of rich things in human culture. I see it, so I see it. I can say, I know Europe, I understand Europe. Have you ever been there? I have never been Europe. These are like most Christians. I see Christ, I see the marvelousness of Christ. I see Christ is everything, but I never pay a price to have the reality.

Another kind is, well I live in Rome, or I live in Paris, I live in the Chinatown in Paris. I live the American town in Paris. I am in French for how many years, but I never speak French because the post office speaks Chinese or American. The grocery store speak Chinese or American. You know, eventually, I'm that riches, but never able to obtain the fullness of all the riches. I'm eat the French bread, but I don't understand the culture of it. I may eat the very good French food which is famous, but I don't understand what made it that marvelous. That means, I have something of Christ, I make the meetings, I read the Bible, I sing hymns, I enjoy the Lord but I'm never able to coming out of where I'm in. to into what God desires to be in. I'm limited, I'm confined.

The third kind is, I see a vision, I pay a price for it. I see a vision of Europe; I pay a price to go to Europe. Because I have a vision, so I know I first go to London, then I go to Paris, then I go to Rome, then I go to Athens, then I know the four special characteristics of Europe culture. Of, sorry, I'm limited with it, but at least I know the four very different. All with its extreme high success. I have a picture, so when I go it's very easy. Oh, this is London. Oh, this is Paris. Because I see the picture. I pay a price to what I see, just like Christians. I see Christ. With unsearchable riches, then I jump into the, to pursue these riches. Talk about salvation or redemption? Oh, marvelous, I'm in. Talk about salvation? Oh marvelous, I'm in that all my life. Talk about the bountiful rich supply of the Spirit? I'm in! Daily I'm in this. Talk about the Word make you wise. The Word give you life. Oh I'm in that. I'm in the Word of God. Brother, you

see, I am, have a vision, but I'm really in this vision. The vision become my reality. My substance. I grow. I develop well.

The fourth kind says, I never saw a vision, but I was in London many years. I was in Paris sometime. I was in Rome, I was in Athens, I was in these cities travelling. I understand their culture. Eventually I never see a vision, but the vision become part of me. I didn't see a picture of it, but the picture become my being. Talk about Europe, I know so well because I invest myself, live in these places.

Now, brother, what kind of Christian are you? Are you number one? Praise the Lord! Something so marvelous! And you go home and sleep. Or are you second one? I go to church meeting every Lord's day. I go to listen to the messages. How about the riches of Body of Christ? That's not my concern. I'm happy with a hall. I'm happy with a brother who preach. I'm happy with a brother make the food together. I'm happy to have, enjoy such a Lord's Day morning sweet time. Brother, this is just like you stay in Paris, but in the Chinatown in Paris. American town in Paris. You never even really know Paris. And third kind is, I fight. I saw something. Therefore, I fight based on what I see! That's Apostle Paul. I pay a price to gain. If I see the heavenly Christ, I won't pay all the price to gain this heavenly Christ. The fourth kind is, I'm not sure I'm that excited. But I love the Lord. I want to love the Lord. I want love the riches of the Lord. I want enjoy the riches of Lord, I want abide in the riches of the Lord. I want riches of Christ. The sweetness of Christ. The omnipresence of Christ. The odor of Christ. The Christ Himself become part of my everything. I tell the Lord, "Lord without you, I cannot even live! I cannot live properly, healthily. I must have you. Have your presence. Have your word. Have your leading. Have your operation. Have you with me all the time." Eventually, what? I have a very clear vision. Because I abide in the riches, eventually the riches, like puzzles come together, produce a beautiful picture.

So brother, before I come to the real thing, I say, these three, four kinds of living on this earth. Don't say, "I saw something," yet go have your life. Don't say that "the church life's only part of me. The things relate to the Lord is only part of me." No. You never see something high. You don't have visions. You don't have revelations. And if you do, you can say, "Praise the Lord, I see something." That is very good. You go easy. You know first stop, London. You don't go to Rome, then fly to London, then go back to Athens, then come to Paris. You mess up the whole thing. You will have a clear picture how to I go step by step in following Christ. Then finally, I like the last one. I'm not Paul. I don't see such a big thing. But I just want to love the Lord. Just like, I love to be in Europe. I like to be in London. I like to be in Paris. I like to be in Rome. I like in, to be in Athens. Eventually, do you realize, the four major pillars constitute, according my view, constituted the European culture, becomes the one who loves these cities. The one who love to enjoy these cities. To us, I love Christ. I love his redemption. I love His salvation. I love His supply. I love He to become everything of me. I love to live in Him. I love to walk with Him.

I love to be one with Him. I love to even mingle with Him. Even incorporate with Him. I love to be so much one with this Christ, eventually I have a clear vision.

Just like, if you allow me to testify, me. You say, do you have a great vision? No. You see something marvelous? No. But sixty some years ago, I love Him. I love Him all these sixty some years, at the end something become so clear to me. I see a very clear vision of who God is, what God desires, how God operate, how God move. I have a clear vision according to my limited experience. Oh praise the Lord, I say. You are so marvelous.

Now, we have to come to three persons. These three apostles are the examples of three person really receive the heavenly visions. The first one is the Apostle Paul. You know why got to be, have to so miraculously him? Because he was a Jew. He was hundred percent in Jewish religion. He was a Pharisee. He was a top Pharisee. He followed the law to the uttermost. He said, according to the law, I'm not condemned. I'm so much in the law, God says, if that is the case, I have to do something extraordinary. I appear to you. In the heavens. And I ask you, why you persecute me? And I tell you, that I am Jesus, the one you persecuted. And I want to tell you, now, stand up, stand up, be strong. As a called one. You shall be my ministry. A ministry fulfill my ministry. Right? You shall be a witness. I tell you what to do, I'll send you out to what? To open. Let me read this to you. He said, "It's hard for you to kick against the goad." So Paul says, "Who are you Lord?" And the Lord answered, "I am Jesus, whom you have persecuted. Rise! Stand on your feet." Means, be strong as a Jesus follower. Rise, stand on your feet. Don't be a coward. "Stand on your feet. I have appeared to you for this purpose." I have a purpose for you. "To make you a minister and a witness, both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will unveil to you." You see me now. You have to see a lot more. I like this statement. I see Christ. But there a lot more Christ I have to see. I see Christ so clearly now. And my corresponding, my conversation with Christ is so heavenly. But even that Christ says, much more! He said, eventually he said that, he said, "I will send you out. To open people's eyes. To turn them from darkness to light. From the power of Satan to God, that, receive forgiveness of sin. And then, become inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Five things. Open their eyes. Darkness to light. Power of Satan to God. Receive forgiveness of sin. Finally, do you know that? Paul? Not I just appear to you, to work, preach gospel. Let me tell you, I want to have a marvelous inheritance. An inheritance. I want get a marvelous inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me. Paul eventually testified. Oh King Agrippa. I therefore, not disobedient to my vision. This vision controls his life. So clear. Commitment so clear. So he knows from now on, I'm for Christ. From now on, I'm for soul. From now on, I'm for church. From now on, I'm for the testimony of God. Who am I? I'm a minister, I'm a witness. Marvelous.

Then how about Peter? Peter is very different. In the very beginning, he sort of, unclear. Right? He saw something, I think he was happy, then his brother, what's his name? Andrew. His brother

Andrew come to him. We saw Messiah. He, of course he was shocked. You mean, what we have been waiting for finally come? We, you saw Messiah, who is he? So he brought him to Jesus and Jesus was very nice to him. Oh, you are Simon right? Simon, your name shall be called Cephas. Cephas means a stone, but a kind of particular stone. A stone has value. A stone stand for something. That you will be called Cephas. He saw Jesus, he know He's, somewhat know He's Messiah. And he realized his life should be related to this man. You know what's happen? He escaped. He went home to be with his family. And then, I think after a period of time, Lord Jesus come to visit him. And visit him, number one, he healed his mother-in-law. I think that can be a sickness for quite long. So once that miracle's done, people crowd in, want to see what's happen. Then Lord Jesus has to go to the boat, stand on the boat, give the message to them all. I think Peter begin to see something. It's not just a one change my name. There's someone have a healing power. Then he listened to his ministering, there's such one can really minister to so many people and meet their need. And after the whole thing, Lord says, take the deep, take the boat to the deep. Let's get some fish. So eventually he got so much fish, you know what's happen? He really see. He was not clear at all, now he's clear. So he said, Lord. You know what Lord means? You are my master. Lord, lord. But he didn't say, I'm going to follow you. Lord, get away from me. You are my Lord, but tell you honestly, I'm totally disqualified. Look how much I'm escapee. I saw you before. I run away, and you have to come, now you do something, now I see you much more now. You're not just changing my name. You are the healing one. You are the ministering one. Actually you do miracles to cause the fish to be caught in such a marvelous way. Lord, now depart from me. Why? I'm a sinner. Now he sees Christ. Now he see himself. He has a vision. A revelation. Vision and revelation is related to Christ. Christ become the Lord. Also related how he's not qualified. I'm not qualified. Depart from me. The Lord's answer is interesting. From now on you will not get fish. From now on you will get man. Look, in my presence, how much fish you got. Look, in your coming days how many man you will get. He saw a vision. Now, I tell you, his life is a continuing of this kind of visions and revelations. Then he see more. Then he see more. Then he see more. At the end of his life is so marvelous. He wrote second Peter. He said let me tell you brothers. I had a view or I viewed. In otherwards, I see the process. I see what's happened. I viewed all the happenings. I viewed with my Lord. You know what I see? I see a glorious image. A glorious person. Sit right in the midst of all the glorious circumferences. Everything that's surrounding him is glory. You know brother? Very simple statement pointing to things. Number one. God didn't do anything without his glory in view. He do everything with the desire to see that people begin to see what a glorious God he is. Secondly, God do everything with His Son in view. The glory eventually become his son. Focused. Concentrated. Even become a person, His Son. His son become an image of glory. You just think about this improper illustration. You go to a palace. A golden palace. Everything is golden and glorious. Today, you do. As a tourist you do. You walk in, you find out nobody's there. They had a feeling how empty is this glorious thing. All the gold. All the artistic design. All the marvelous building. But such a glorious building, but who is the figure inside? But think about 100 years ago. Right in the middle was the emperor. There's a glory but that is temporary

glory. Actually a stupid guy there to be sort of glory, but you see Christ. Paul and Peter says, I couldn't tell you what is my life. My life is just saturated, glory! At the end of my life, I see a glorious circumference. Everything's glory. Surrounded by glory. But in the middle, there is an image. There is a man. There is a man who is not in the glory. There is a man, he himself is the constitution of glory. Wow, what a vision is this. What a revelation is this. He's at the end of his life. His word is, "I don't have to talk about myself too much." To shameful. I'm weak. I'm the weakest among the weak. I'm the one who is a failure all the time. There is nothing I can boast. But I follow this Lord. This marvelous Lord. Let me tell you, at the end I consider all what I've been through. I consider what I have seen before God. I see wow, there's a glorious man. Not a man in the glory, but a man of glory. A man who is the glory. There is a glorious figure. A glorious man. A glorious God-man. Right in the midst of all the glories. I'm short of utterance. Also, you are short of time. If we could spend one hour, I think we can be very happily enjoy such a marvelous thing. A man of glory. A man constituted with glory. A man who is glory. Right in the midst of all the glories surrounding. What you see? GLORY! What did you enjoy? GLORY! Wow, what a vision. What a revelation. Eventually, Peter, from a person not clear at all, ends up with what a marvelous testimony. And the third person. It's interesting. That is John. John, I think that when he was very young he see something. He see a vision or whatever. Because he sees his cousin and he's also John the Baptist. Related to John the Baptist so when he was very young he was considering what my life should be. I know the messiah is coming. I know something great has happened. So he went to John the Baptist. Then, you know he has heard the voice said this is my son in whom I'm well pleased, but he never talk about it. He didn't talk about it. Then when John the Baptist introduced him to Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God take away the sin of the world." He doesn't even talk about that. He is very simple. Yeah, yeah, all these are marvelous. Hallelujah, I see a lot. But let me tell you no matter how much I see there's no way to compare with the fact, I just love Jesus. It's not a matter of seeing how much. It's a matter of how much I love him. I love Jesus. I will not depart from Jesus. I will be with Jesus. I will care for Jesus' well being. I will care for Jesus' needs. I'll care for whatever Jesus have. I am with Jesus. I'm a lover of Jesus. I can be used as the apostle, but I love Jesus. But I can be put aside just to care for the mother of Jesus, but I'm of Jesus. You know, loving Jesus become everything. I love Jesus. I give myself to Jesus. I'm for Jesus. I'm following Jesus. Brother, I wish you can be this kind of brother. You can say that, a vision of Paul, oh that's too far. A vision of Peter, I wish I could have. Everybody could have that. But I'd surely like to be John. I don't know that much but I just know: love Jesus. Love, give my life, give my person to Jesus. You know what's happened? Eventually, after he was an operating apostle and become a tender, something care for Jesus' mother. Then eventually, he went to Ephesus. In Ephesus, he begin to write books. How he wrote his epistle? In the beginning was the word. The word was with God. The word was God. The word became flesh. Tabernacled among us. Isn't that a vision. Isn't that a revelation. Shows, has a very clear revelation, but he doesn't talk about it. When he write his epistles it just come out automatically. Then come to the book of the epistle of John. That is which is from the beginning, which we have seen, which our ear has heard, our

eyes have seen, our hand have touched, we have touched, and eventually our hands handled. Who is he? The word of life. He didn't talk about a vision, but talk about Jesus, oh yeah I heard him. Oh yeah I see him. Oh yeah I touch him. What a marvelous Jesus, yeah our hands have handled him. You know who is him? He is the living word of life. Isn't he a person of revelation. But revelation didn't come with revelation. Revelation come from loving Christ. I just love the Lord. Because of this, I become a person of visions. I do have something. I do see something, but for some reason, I don't stress on that. I stress on that I must have Jesus every day. Then at the end, you know who got the biggest? If you say, who is the biggest prophet? John. Who has the biggest vision? John. John saw the vision of seven local churches. John saw the vision of this Jesus walk among the seven local churches. Then John saw. John testified about the ages. I saw these horses, these horses, these horses. About ages. Eventually he said how about the overcomers? Eventually he said how about the finally there's a feast. A feast of marriage. Eventually he said, I saw New Jerusalem. What a man of vision. You have Paul start with a vision. You have Peter growing in the vision. Then, you have John and tell you, yes Paul's vision will become mine. But much more richer. Much more fuller. By what? I'm just like Peter. Defeated many times. I'm, my nickname is Son of Thunder. I always get mad at people. Maybe sometimes I even get mad at Jesus Christ. I'm just a terrible person, but I tell you, I can't believe loving Jesus is so precious. Just love Jesus. If the Lord would give me a vision like Paul, hallelujah. If the Lord gave me some vision like he gave to Peter. My word is, Lord please advance it. Make it richer. Make it fuller, until i can see there is an image of glory, a person of glory in the midst of all the glory. And more than that, can we say "Lord, how much we desire to be John". Just love you. Just have you. Be loving you, having you, eventually Lord Jesus I have the greatest revelation. The revelation from present age, age of grace, and churches, and all what God is doing, all the way to kingdom. All the way to New Jerusalem. May the Lord have mercy to us. We tell the Lord, "Give me a vision. If not clear, advance the vision. If i'm not at all clear, please let me love you. Love you so much eventually the great vision can come out from my life of loving you." May the Lord have mercy. I stop here.