

Visions and Revelations

Message 7 Review: The Wise Men and the Star (Part 2)

A New Star

The star came to the wise men, but what does it mean? It means there was a new beginning. They considered: "This must be a sign of a king born among the Jews." That is exactly what John testified: "The Word became flesh" (John 1:14). When the Word became flesh, that flesh is a star. The wise men studied astronomy. They studied things on the earth. They studied philosophy. They had a lot of knowledge on many things. Now they realized: "We have found the real meaning of all our searches! It is related to that star!" A new star was coming under the one born to be king. "Let's find Him." This must be a new king; a new ruling. This appearance of the star produced the wise men's pursuing -- a long treacherous path -- to find Jesus.

Pay a Price

We know too much to the point that we don't even know what it means to pay a price. To us, everything is provided. Some brothers have to buy the land. Some brothers have to build the hall. Some brothers have to become rich. Some brothers have to labor. We have a church life, but for what? So that you can have a Lord's day morning meeting. Isn't that a shame? God's desire is not for people to know, to be happy, to have a good time, or to say "We have a good message." No! God desires people to say, "I see something, so I endeavor, I pursue, I pay a price, I labor hard, and I'd like to break the pattern of my daily life. I want to live unto God, to gain the best of Christ!"

A marvelous life began by the wise men's pursuing, eventually the star went before them. The heavenly vision is remote, but I see something. What I see controls my life, it affects my life. According to the vision, I labor. According to the vision, I pursue. According to the vision, I say, "Let's go on!" What will happen? The vision will become more and more real to us. Formerly, it's just a vision. Now, it becomes a substance. It becomes something that walks with me.

If a star can go before you, it must be very close to you and it was not very high. It is at a height that allows you to understand exactly where the star is going. You understand exactly where it is

leading. The star went before them means that this vision became more and more of a reality to the wise men.

Brothers and sisters, all of you have a vision. How else could you be in the church life? Did this vision become more and more remote to you? Or did it become closer and closer? If it became remote, that means you didn't pay a price for the vision; you failed it. But there are some, by the Lord's mercy, they can say because they were faithful, the vision became closer. It became more clear. It became more realistic, more applicable. The vision became part of their life. The vision, the Christians, their living, and their pursuing all became one. This is what it means the star went before them!

A Star Bearing Glory

Paul says, "Do you know you are also a star?" Every brother and sister has glory. Their glories differ from one another. This glory is based on: Do you love the Lord more? Do you have Christ more? Do you enjoy Christ more? Do you enjoy Christ as your life? As your supply? As your strength? As your wisdom? As your empowerment? As your life's goal? The Lord desires us to be stars saturated with Christ! Eventually the church can be a good testimony of the Lord!

The Lord Jesus was the star which showed God became a man, a God-man. We have received the life of Jesus in our spirit. We have become God-men. We must have glory! The Lord would say, "I don't want you to be a meeting-goer, I want you to be a man who bears glory!" I don't despise meetings. Christians must come together, but God with His special government told us, "Don't focus on meetings." Even when the meetings resume, I still want to be a star, shinning the glory of the Lord in the church life!

We should become one of the seven stars upheld by the Lord. The Lord holds seven stars in His hand (Rev. 1). In the church life we have stars. We have stars with glory, but the Lord will say, "I want more. I want to hold the seven stars." When Jesus lovers who are stars begin to live for the church, they become the seven stars in the hand of the Lord. These seven stars are **messengers**. A real messenger is a mediator. I bring God to man. I bring man to God. When I operate in the church life, the

saints will have more of God. The messengers bring Christ to man. They bring God to man. They bring the divine element and the divine person to the saints in the church life.

These messengers are the church life **operators**. A healthy church life needs a group of operators who initiate. They consider the need of the church, the situation of the church, the situation of the saints, and how the Spirit is operating and leading. If the church life has rich, good, mature, and faithful operators, as the stars held by the hand of the Lord, the church life is very blessed. If a sister says, "I have a need." The Lord can say, "Don't worry, there are operators here!" If a brother shouts, "I want to grow." The Lord can say, "Don't worry, the operators will help you grow!" These seven stars are messengers. These seven stars are operators. These seven stars are the overcomers.

Who are the **overcomers**? Everybody makes meetings, but I have a plus. Everybody reads the Bible, but I have a plus. Everybody preaches the gospel, but I have a plus. What is this plus? You want to preach the gospel? I'll preach the gospel with you. You need love? I'll render you love. With the brothers, I'll render you love to raise you up. With overcomers as the pattern, all the churches can be overcoming. The church life will be so healthy.

The stars are the nourishing ones. The stars are **life dispensers**. If you are with me, you have life. If you read the Bible with me, you have life. If you pray with me, you have life. If you eat dinner with me, you have life. If you go preach the gospel, I accompany you to go preach the gospel. There is a dispensing of life.

We need brothers to say, "We are the **shepherds**." These good shepherds are not saying, "Let me arrange this, let me do that." Rather, they say, "I like to be with you, whether just one person or a group." They are the head sheep. Shepherds walk ahead of all the sheep. The sheep follow them to know the right place to have proper rest. They bring the whole flock to the proper ground to enjoy the proper feasting, the proper nourishment, and the proper rest.

They are the **guides** for the saints and they desire them to say, "I'm the star, shining and glowing." When we look at every saint we should

think, "He should be shining. He should be glowing. I'd like to pay attention, pay a price, be with him, labor with him, and pursue with him, so he can be raised up. He can be a star to bless the church life. My existence is not that I can have a good time. My existence is that the brothers with me can grow up, develop, and be useful, and all of them can be blessings to the testimony of the Lord."

Two Morning Stars

The Lord declared, "I am the morning star." Peter declared, "Pay attention to the prophets, truth, and truth about Christ, focus on the Lord and gaining the Lord" (2 Peter 1:19). When we are daily pursuing Christ, the morning star will rise up within us. Christ declared, "I am the alpha. I'm the omega. I'm the beginning and the end. I'm the morning star. When I come out, there will be no more night. Day is coming! Everything of the old creation will disappear! Everything of darkness and night will disappear! Eternity is coming!" We will say, "Praise the Lord. This matches exactly what is in me! Hallelujah! The substance within me is also manifested!"

At the end of the Bible, the Holy Spirit (Christ) and the Bride (us) say together, "Come" (Rev. 22:16-17)! Why? Because we have a full enjoyment of Christ with the maturity of Christ. We match what Christ demands! The Spirit says, "Come!" We also say, "Come!" We are the morning stars. In us, we have the morning star manifested. When the morning star is manifested, Christ also declares, "I am the morning star." The Spirit and the Bride, Christ and the church declare together, "Come!"

We should tell the Lord, "I want to be a star. I want to be a star with glory. I want to be a star held in your hands and operating in the church life. I want to be a star that really pursues Christ." This star within us will come out and bring in the day, bring in eternity, and even match eternity.

Lord, forgive me for being a star with no light, with no glory. Make me a star with glory, held in your hand. With my pursuing, cause me to have a star grow in me. Make me bear a testimony to match your declaration. Lord, I want to be such a star held by you. I want to have a morning star rising up in me and testifying you in eternity.