

Visions and Revelations

Message 9 Review

The Apostles Peter, Paul, and John

Four Kinds of Christians

The first kind is after the meeting, I go home and sleep. The second kind is I go to church meetings, I listen to messages, I read the Bible, I sing hymns, but I don't care the riches of the Body of Christ. The third kind is I see a vision, and I fight based on what I see. I pay a price to gain what I see!

The fourth kind is I am not sure if I see, but I love the Lord. I want to love the Lord. I want to enjoy the riches of the Lord. I want to abide in the riches of the Lord. I want the sweetness of Christ, the omnipresence of Christ, and the fragrance of Christ. Christ has become my everything. Lord, without You, I cannot live properly and healthily. I must have You, Your presence, Your word, Your leading, Your operation, and have You with me all the time! Eventually, I will have a very clear vision. I abide in these riches which are like puzzles, they will come together to produce a beautiful picture.

Don't say I see something, yet have your own life. Don't say the church life is only part of me. No! If you see a vision, you will have a clear picture how to follow Christ step by step. I am not like Paul, I don't see a big thing. I just want to love the Lord. I love His redemption. I love His salvation. I love His supply. I love He can be my everything. I love to live in Him. I love to walk with Him. I love to mingle with Him. I love to be so one with Christ and eventually I will have a clear vision.

Sixty-some years ago I began to love Him. I have loved Him all these years. At the end something has become so clear to me. I see a very clear vision of who God is, what God desires, how God operates, how God moves. I have a clear vision according to my limited experience. Marvelous!

Heavenly Visions

There are three apostles as the example of people who received the heavenly visions. The first one is the apostle **Paul**. Why God had to be so miraculous to him? Because he was a Jew. He was one hundred percent in Jewish religion. He was a top Pharisee. "I will appear to you in heaven and ask, Why do you persecute Me?" Paul asked, "Who are you Lord?" The Lord answered, "I am Jesus, the

one you persecuted. Now, stand up! Be strong as a called one! You shall be My ministry. You shall be My witness. I will tell you what to do. I will send you out" (Acts 26: 15-16a)!

"I see Christ, but there is a lot more I have to see. My conversation with Christ is so heavenly, but Christ says, Much more! 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 they may receive the forgiveness of sin, and become an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me." Paul testified, "King Agrippa. I therefore, was not disobedient to my vision" (v. 19). This vision controled Paul's life. His commitment was so clear: "From now on, I am for Christ. I am for souls. I am for the church. I am for God's testimony. Who am I? I am a minister. I am a witness."

Peter was very different. In the beginning, he was not quite clear. His brother, Andrew, came to him, "We saw the Messiah." Peter was shocked, "The one we have been waiting for has come?" Andrew brought him to Jesus. Jesus said, "You are Simon? Your name shall be called Cephas." Cephas means a stone, a particular stone, a stone which has value, a stone which stands for something. Peter saw Jesus, he knew He was the Messiah, and he realized his life should be related to this man.

But Peter escaped, he went home. After some time, the Lord came to visit him. The Lord healed his mother-in-law. Because of the miracle, people crowded in the house. The Lord got in a boat and stood there to give a message. Peter began to see something: "Jesus is not just someone who changed my name. He has healing power." Peter listened to His message and saw Him, who could minister to a big crowd and meet their needs.

"Take the boat to the deep. Get some fish." Peter got so much fish. He really saw something. He was not clear before, but now he was clear. Peter said, "Lord," which means "You are my master." He didn't say, "I follow You." Instead, "Lord, get away from me. You are my Lord, but honestly, I'm disqualified. I am an escaper. I saw you, I ran away, and You had to come to me. Now I see You much more. You don't just change my name. You are the healing one. You are the ministering one. You make the fish to be caught in a miraculous way. Lord, depart from me. Why? I am a sinner."

Peter saw Christ. He also saw himself. He had a vision and revelation. It was related to Christ. Christ became the Lord. It was also related to his disqualification, "I am a sinner, depart from me." The Lord's answer was interesting: "From now on, you will not get fish, you will get men. In My presence how much fish you got, in your coming days how many men you will get."

Peter saw a vision. His life was a continuation of this vision and revelation. He saw more and more. At the end of his life, he wrote Second Peter. "Brothers, I had a view. I viewed all the happenings with my Lord. I see a glorious circumference. Everything is glory and surrounded by glory. In the middle, there is an image, there is a man. He is not in the glory, but He Himself is the constitution of the glory! My life is saturated with glory!"

What a vision! What a revelation! "I don't talk about myself. I am shameful, I am weak, there is nothing I can boast, but I follow this marvelous Lord. I consider all what I have been through, and all what I have seen before God. There is 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!"

The third person is the apostle **John**. He saw a vision when he was very young. "What should my life be? I know the Messiah is coming." He went to John the Baptist and heard a voice from heaven, "This is My son, in whom I am well pleased," but he never talked about it. When John the Baptist introduced Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," he didn't talk about it. He was very simple. "All these are marvelous. Hallelujah, I see a lot. But 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 how much I see. 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 care for Jesus' well being. I care for Jesus' needs. I care for whatever Jesus has. I am with Jesus. I am a Jesus' lover. I can be used as an apostle, but I love Jesus. I can be put aside just to care for Jesus' mother. I'm of Jesus."

Loving Jesus became everything to John. I love Jesus. I give myself to Jesus. I am for Jesus. I

am following Jesus. Brother, I wish you can say, "A vision like Paul, that's too far. A vision like Peter, I wish everyone can have that. But I'd surely like to be John. I don't know how much I see, but I know I love Jesus. I give my life and my person to Jesus."

After John became an operating apostle and a caretaker for Jesus' mother, he went to Ephesus and began to write books. "In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God" (John 1:1). "The Word became flesh... Tabernacled among us" (v. 14). "What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands. Who is He? The Word of Life" (1 John 1:1). Isn't that a vision? Isn't that a revelation? Revelation didn't come with revelation. Revelation came from loving Christ. "I just love the Lord. I become a person of visions. I do have something, I do see something, but I don't stress on that. I stress that I must have Jesus every day!"

At the end, who got the biggest vision? Who is the greatest apostle? John. John saw the vision of Jesus walking among the seven local churches. John saw and testified about the ages. John saw the white horses, red horses, black horses... He talked about the overcomers. He talked about the wedding feast. "I saw New Jerusalem." What a man of vision!

Paul started with a big vision. Peter grew in a vision. John said, "Paul's vision will become mine, but much richer and fuller. I am like Peter who was defeated many times. My nickname is Son of Thunder. I am terrible, but I can't believe loving Jesus is so precious. I just love Jesus. If the Lord gives me a vision like Paul, hallelujah. If the Lord gives me some visions like Peter, "Lord, please advance it, until I can see there is an image of glory, a person of glory, in the midst of all the glories!" Lord, how much we desire to be like John. To just love You, have You. By loving You, having You, I have the greatest revelation: The revelation from the present age, churches, and all what God is doing, all the way to the kingdom, all the way to New Jerusalem!

May the Lord have mercy to us. We tell the Lord, "Lord, give me a vision. If I am not clear, advance the vision. If I am not clear at all, let me love You so much that a great vision can come out from my life of loving You."