

Visions and Revelations

Message 11: The Apostle Peter (2)—

The Pattern of the Constitution of

Visions and Revelations in the Age of Grace

⁵ *Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:5)*

¹³ *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13–14)*

- I. All the visions and revelations Peter received were in this principle of “being made alive.” All were eventually made alive in the visions and revelations given by the Father.
 - A. The knowledge of the Christ was made alive.
 - B. The understanding of “self” was made alive.
 - C. The teachings of the Lord were made alive.
 - D. The declarations of the Lord were made alive.
 - E. All the things the Lord had done in His wisdom and power were made alive.
 - F. “Being made alive” is the manifestation of having visions and revelations

II. The knowledge of the Christ was made alive

Peter knew the declaration of God, that Jesus is His beloved Son. However, this declaration gradually lost its vitality in Peter. Peter loved the Lord and had this vision of the Son of God, yet the vision lost its

impact in him. Now, at this very moment, the vision was made alive in him, and he was able to testify, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!”

III. The understanding of “self” was made alive

The Lord Jesus had changed Peter’s name from Simon to Cephas (Aramaic, meaning “Peter,” masculine), which means “a valuable stone.” Peter realized not only his weaknesses and failures but also his value in the Lord (eventually, he became a pillar of the church and the first layer of the foundation of the holy city, Gal. 2:9, Rev. 21:14). Therefore, when he declared, “You are the Christ,” he was buoyant!

IV. The teachings of the Lord were made alive

At that very moment, Peter realized by revelation the marvelousness of the Lord’s teachings.

- A. First, he began to realize, “I only long for God.” The teaching of the Lord is, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8). The center of Peter’s understanding was “the pure in heart.” Only the pure in heart shall see God. Yet the pure in heart must be “the poor in spirit” (Matt. 5:3), knowing he has nothing, he can do nothing, he can boast of nothing, and he can rely on nothing. Being poor in spirit enables him to mourn (Matt. 5:4). Mourning enables him to be meek (Matt. 5:5). Being meek brings in his hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matt. 5:6) and enables him to be compassionate to others, which further enables him to be merciful (Matt. 5:7). Only this kind of person is “the pure in heart.”
- B. Next, “I desire to live a healthy moral life,” because the Lord said, “Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matt. 5:28).
- C. Next, “I don’t want to live a religious life but a Lord-magnifying life,” because the Lord said, “Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:9–10).

D. Next, “I desire to live a life disassociated with Satan,” because the Lord said, “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6:20, 22).

V. The declarations of the Lord were made alive

Suddenly, by revelation, Peter realized that the Lord’s declarations are abundant and real. These words can’t be spoken by anyone but Christ, the Son of God.

A. “that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6)

B. “those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24)

C. “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (John 6:35)

D. “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his innermost being will flow rivers of living water” (John 7:37–38).

E. “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12).

VI. All the things the Lord had done in His wisdom and power were made alive

A. The Lord cleansed the leper; the leper is me—my rebellious being (Matt. 8:1–4).

B. The Lord healed the paralyzed servant of a centurion; the sickness is my weakness and impotence (Matt. 8:5–13).

C. The Lord Jesus healed my mother-in-law’s fever; the fever is my enthusiasm in religion, assuming I can serve the Lord by myself (Matt. 8:14–17).

D. The Lord healed a woman who had a flow of blood; this makes me

realize that I am just a person who has a flow of blood and cannot keep spiritual things in me (Matt. 9:20–21).

- E. The Lord healed two blind men; the Lord revealed to me I am blind in the way of my life and I am also blind in the way of following the Lord (Matt. 9:27–29).
- F. The Lord Jesus cast out the demon in the mute; this shows me I am dumb in preaching the gospel of the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 9:22–23).
- G. The Lord called me to be an apostle, which enables me to begin a whole new heavenly life to labor for the Lord and to fight for the Lord’s kingdom (Matt. 10:1–2).

VII. Peter was able to rise up and declare buoyantly: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!” When Peter received the revelation, at that very moment all that he saw, all that he heard, and all that he experienced became not merely teaching after teaching, not merely story after story, but a complete revelation as a picture made alive to him. The **conclusion** of the complete revelation became the vision that caused him to rise and testify: “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!**” This complete revelation then caused **the Lord** to rise and testify: “**Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven**” (Matt. 16:17).