

Visions and Revelations

Message 14: The Apostle Peter (5)—

The Revelation by Christ (2)

¹⁸And **I also** say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will** build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹And **I will** give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven... (Matthew 16:18–19a)

I. The revelation of Christ

“I also” and two “I will”s

1. “**I also** say to you that you are Peter”
2. “on **this rock I will** build My church”
3. “**I will** give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven”

II. “on this rock I will build My church”

A. The Church (*ekklesia*) is an organic entity. The apostle Paul defined it as the body of Christ (Eph. 1:23)

*“...and gave Him to be head over all things **to the church, which is His body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.**”*

B. Four elements of the building up of the church

1. The revelation by God the Father: the Christ—the Son of the living God
2. The revelation by Christ: “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church.”
3. Christ, the rock (*petra*), needed to be broken in order to

become the spiritual rock (1 Cor. 10:4). The last words of the Lord Jesus on the cross were: “It is finished!”, indicating that He accomplished everything. (John 19:30)

4. Simon (a hearer) had to be transformed to become Peter (*petros*)—a rock one with Christ (the *petra*) in nature, in constitution, in operation, and in purpose.

C. The process of building the Church

1. a process of revelation
 - a. the revealing of Christ by God the Father
 - b. the revealing of the church by Christ
 - c. by the growth of the saints according to revelations
2. a process of growth—all the saints who have revelations must:
 - a. grow up in the words of the Lord

“As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation.” (1Peter 2:2)

- b. grow up according to every one’s own portion as everyone is gifted.

“Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part [portion], causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.” (Eph. 4:16)

- c. grow up into the headship of the Head, Christ

“But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ.” (Eph. 4:15)

- 3. a process of transformation—all the saints who have revelations must:

- a. be transformed to be one with God’s will by the renewing of the mind (not natural)

“And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.” (Rom. 12:2)

- b. have a life beholding and reflecting Christ

“But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.” (2 Cor. 3:18)

- c. be transformed and conformed to the image of His Son by all things working together

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...He also glorified. (Rom. 8:28–29a, 30b)

- 4. a process of laboring and fighting

“whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ; for which also I labor, fighting according to His operation which operates in me in power.” (Col. 2:28–29)

5. a process of the corporate operation

“Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part [portion], causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.” (Eph 4:16)

III. The building up testified by the apostle Paul (1 Cor. 3:11–15)

- A. He was a wise master builder who laid a foundation, which is Jesus Christ. We must take heed how to build upon it.
- B. We must build on this foundation with gold, silver, and precious stones. Gold is the nature of God; silver is the salvation of Christ; precious stones are the works of the Holy Spirit. The building is built up in the triune God by His work. Therefore, if anyone builds upon the foundation with wood, hay, and straw (which indicate man’s power, wisdom, and talents), his work shall be burned.
- C. Each one’s work is revealed and tested by fire. If anyone’s work which he has built on the foundation endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved.

IV. The power (the gates) of Hades shall not prevail against her, the builded-up Church.