

Visions and Revelations

Message 9: The Apostles Peter, Paul, and John

- A. The principles of divine visions and revelations in the age of grace:
- a) Visions are not necessarily miraculous (like the five examples at the change of the age), but they must be related to the will of God.
 - b) The center of any vision is the revealing of Christ, the unveiling of the truth, and the bringing forth an existence of a living in oneness with the Lord. All of these become realities in revelation after revelation.
 - i. No vision is for itself. Both visions and revelations are for bringing us to Christ.
 - ii. Visions and miracles are different. Miracles will only end with miracles. But visions reveal Christ and will conclude in Christ.
- B. There are four kinds of Christians when it comes to visions. One sees a vision, but doesn't respond. Another is in the reality of the vision, yet never sees it. Another sees the vision, and therefore pursues it with strong desire. Finally, one is in the reality of the vision, and through the accumulation of many revelations sees the overall vision.
- a) If someone sees a map of Europe and longs for Europe's rich history and culture, this is "a vision." However, they need to go to cities in Europe, such as London, Paris, Rome, Athens, and so on. On the other hand, if someone has never seen a map of Europe but has gone to all of these places, lived there, and enjoyed the nurturing of culture and humanities there, they would eventually fully understand Europe.
 - b) Seeing the map of Europe is like having a vision of Europe. It is appropriate for a man to have such a vision first and then the

revelations. On the other hand, understanding Europe by living there indicates that the accumulation of revelations can produce a vision as a picture.

c) If someone only looks at a map of Europe but does not go there, their vision is unsubstantiated. If someone only lives there and has no appreciation for it, they also lack visions and revelations for Europe. Christians today are almost just like these last two kinds of people.

C. The age of grace is the age of Christ as life. The visions and revelations are complementary to one another and mutually elevate one another.

a) Some see visions and gain revelations from them, as the apostle Paul did.

b) Some see hazy visions and gain revelations by following the Lord faithfully, eventually concluding in a clear vision, as the apostle Peter did.

c) Some follow the Lord lifelong and receive a complete realization of the Lord in visions and revelations, becoming witnesses of Christ, as the apostle John testified, “In the beginning was the Word” (John 1:1) and “That which was from the beginning...concerning the Word of Life” (1 John 1:1), and the book of Revelation.

d) Being faithful to visions enables us to live a life of dwelling in revelation upon revelation. The accumulation of these revelations constitutes a clear vision.

Acts 26:13–19 *New King James Version*

¹³ at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? *It is hard for you to kick against the goads.*’ ¹⁵ So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. ¹⁷ I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

¹⁹ “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.”

2 Peter 1:16–18 *New King James Version*

¹⁶ For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.