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## Visions and Revelations

### Message 18: The Apostle Peter (6, Part Three)

*Note: This is a lightly edited transcript meant to aid saints in personal and small group fellowship and pursuing.*

When the door's really open. I tell you brother, I must share this because it's precious, but we are coming again to something quite profound. Can I just read it to you? So you know there's such a portion. What is an open door? *There's no distance between God and man*, because door's open. *So through the Spirit, God is no longer confined*. Remember, in the beginning we shared that God was confined. For at least 4000 years, He liked to be with man, He liked to be in man, He liked to say, "I want to be alive, abiding in my created human being." But He couldn't. Why? Because man sinned. As a sinner, God can't, God has to be apart from us, remote from us. But now, Jesus Christ died. His blood cleanses us from all our sins. And more than that, we are so thankful, not just that our sins are cleansed, now more than that, we have received the Spirit.

So now, when the Spirit comes into us, you know who comes into you? You say, "I'm regenerated, I received the Spirit," praise the Lord. The Spirit is a Holy Spirit, who comes into you. Also, the Spirit gives life. He is a life-giving Spirit, comes into you. This life-giving Spirit is just the last Adam, so Christ Himself comes into you. When Christ comes, He brings in the mighty God into you. You have to say, "Now within me, God is here." The kingdom becomes so real, because the King, the universal King, God Himself, now has domain. Not only in the church life, but in you and me.

So what? *This omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent God is now able to abide in those who were saved*. Remember, he waited for that for a long time. He sees Abraham, "I'd like to be IN you, but I can't." He sees Moses, "I'd like to be IN you, but I can't." He sees Elijah, "I'd like to be IN you, but I can't." Why? Because their sins are not forgotten or forgiven. "You can be such an overcomer. A valuable person before me, but when you were alive as a human being, I can only be your God outwardly." Now, this omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent God, now is able to abide in us. Now in this, we have a different life. We can say we have eternal life.

*This all possessing, all sufficient, all abundant God, has become a bountiful supply by us being united with God*. So He wants to be a bountiful supply, to be united with the saved ones. I'm... who am I? "Hey," He would say, "Hey hey hey, you've been in the church life for 30 years, and you are pretty dead. Why? You just listen to the messages. Let Me tell you, I am the all-sufficient, all-abundant, and the bountiful supply of life. Now, I'm one with you." I could have a very good illustration. I know that I should go a little bit slower now, otherwise you will feel even more bored. Brother, this is just like a rich man marrying a lady. That lady may be just common, but once she married the rich man, all the wealth of the husband is hers. Or just like a son was born in the family. You know, his whole life is very much decided on the day of his birth by his or her parents. Right? He has a life relationship, just as husband and wife have a union. That union's very precious. We even say, God has put it together, no man should divide it up, separate it, no man should hurt it. And more than that, just like a child, I am one with God.

Who am I? If you ask me, "Who are you?" I would say, "My name is Titus Chu. I'm Chinese. I have a hard life, and I'm a terrible man, that I..." One day, someone told Watchman Nee, "Wow, they consider you as this or that," Watchman Nee answered, which has always impressed me, that "I'm much worse

than what they say.” Then you would tell Watchman Nee, or tell any brother, “If you’re much worse than what they say, aren’t you so terrible?” If I were there, I would answer, “Yes, I’m very terrible. But for some reason, I’m united with this very God. This very God, He is what? All-possessing, all-sufficient, all-abundant. Now he has become a bountiful supply, united with me. I’m not poor.” You say, “Titus, in this way, shouldn’t we Christians overcome all the time?” I say no. I say, “The preciousness of being a Christian is not overcoming all the time, rather, it is being defeated all the time, yet always having the ability to come back to walk with Christ.”

There’s a general, all the time he fights, he is defeated. So he sent a report to the emperor: “Every time I fight, I am defeated.” So the cabinet members look at that and say, “Wow, that’s too bad.” So he reversed it. “Every time I’m defeated, I fight more.” It became something very good! His report was terrible, “Every time I fight, I get defeated.” Now it becomes, “every time I get defeated, I fight back!” Hey, you ask me, I’ll say that both are real to me. In my presence, don’t say things like, “My Christian life’s not overcoming at all.” On the other hand, when I give a testimony, I often say “Hey look! I’ve loved the Lord Jesus close to 70 years, and I’m still here!” You say, “Oh you must be an overcomer.” I say “No, no, no, I got defeated all the way every year, every month, every week, every day.” Possibly I’d have to give some testimony of my failure, but for some reason, I’m still here! Why? Because I’m united with the overcoming One, and He is the bountiful supply. He possesses everything, He is all sufficient, He’s all abundant, and out of these attributes, He created what?

With this life, *this vital and creative God can be mingled in the saved ones.* Out of these attributes, something should be produced. It’s not bad to testify, “When I am having weaknesses, I’m able to follow the Lord.” But remember, it’s not I am able to follow the Lord by going to the meetings, but rather, I’m able to follow the Lord with vitality and creativity. You know brothers, two things should be so precious to you. Vitality and creativity. If you don’t have vitality, you’re in trouble. Can you be in vitality? All you have to say is “Oh Lord Jesus! Amen!” You know what happens? Vitality is here. With vitality, there’s creativity. At least let me tell you, that number one, you have to say, “I like to be very creative, but not just by myself. I’m with the brothers and sisters.” And number two, “I like to be very creative, I like to find out, in the church life, who can be my companions?”

You know, when we were confined in our houses, you felt so bothered. Now you are free to go out to the coffee shop to have a cup of coffee with a brother, or a sister with a sister, a couple with another couple, it can be very sweet. You can have companions. Let me ask you a question, who is your companion in the church life today? And more than that, we can preach the gospel together. You could have a lot of thought right? You could write tracts yourself, you could reprint tracts yourself, you can find ways for gospel preaching. For instance, I use food to preach gospel, I use walks to preach gospel, I use “Hey!”... “hi” to preach gospel, daily I walk on the street with a mask on, and “hi, hi” you see someone “hi” back, quite sweet. You talk a few words, then “hi” again, you see that a few words can become a real door, you can talk about Jesus Christ.

Brothers, be very creative, huh? Preach gospel, and what else? You can have a kind of, I don’t know how to portray it, but I love it, very sweet, very homey, growth with others. You see a new one, could you be so creative, I like to see him grow. How? I don’t know, but maybe I can just invite him for dinner. Maybe I can just pray, read the bible with him, memorize one verse with him. I know one sister, that’s before my wife passed away, when Sharon was with me, she would be with another sister 2000 miles away. Maybe not 2000. 1000, 1500 miles away. You know, they read some spiritual books just by phone. They memorize portions just by phone. Both sisters now are with the Lord. My wife is with the Lord, that sister

also left. You know brother, isn't that very sweet? And more than that, you could visit the churches, just think about it, you could help the young ones, the new ones, to develop, to grow. Brother, I tell you, I just say this, you can find out your specialties. I'm a very good mechanic, that's a specialty, I'm a good engineer, that's a specialty. Spiritually, do you know you also have specialties? Something very special.

Yesterday, one brother brought me something, some beef, Chinese we made it. Beef and some cookies. I said where did this come from? They said a couple from Detroit. I got a little upset. Why don't you come to my house? You give me beef and I appreciate it. You give me cake and I appreciate it. This doesn't change or negate that. I still appreciate it, but how much I would like to see the couple come in. You know that wife is a good cook and good baker: Chinese food and American sweets. If that specialty is used properly, many can be brought in through the cakes and food. I can preach the gospel to many. That's my specialty, I use it. I just have a good smile, I use it. I see people, I smile, and people like me. I can preach the gospel. You know brothers, you all have specialties. You're not churchgoers. When the door is open, the Lord comes into you, and He doesn't only abide in you, He's united with you in life. He's mingled with you in who He is. Who is He? He is the vital One, the creative One. This vital creative One is now mingled with you. Finally, this Executor, full of creating power in all wisdom, can be incorporated with the saved ones. You can be incorporated with Him. You're one with God.

Once the door's opened, four things come. Number one: God is able to abide in you. Number two: the divine riches with the rich life can be united with you. Number three: this able Christ with His nature, with His vitality, and with His creativity can be mingled with you. Number four: eventually we can be incorporated with him, to bring out the accomplishment of God's will. The door is opened, not for you to just say "praise the Lord I got saved!" Praise the Lord you are saved. Hallelujah for that, we treasure it. But God says "can you grow in me through this open door? I am the very God. I desire to abide in you, I desire to be united with you, I desire to be mingled with you, and eventually, I desire to be incorporated with you. To be united with you is my life, I am God, I am the eternal life in you. Then to be mingled with you, my nature. Who am I? If I am that vital you should be that vital. If I am that creative you should be that creative. And more than that, my person, you can be so one with Me, and I can be so one with you in this open door.

So the door is opened. Do you know how much happened in these 2,000 years? Millions and millions of people have received the Lord and have God abiding in them. Millions and millions of people began to realize I am one with God, I am united with God. And more than that, millions of people out of millions and millions can say I operated with God in His vitality, His nature is mine. And eventually some real mature ones, all the fathers and all the spiritual men in these 20 centuries were incorporated with God. How marvelous this is, praise the Lord.

Now, we come to just about the last point, the binding and loosing. You can see that in this simple verse, the Lord has put so many things into it and everything is the big stuff. To us whatever is bound in heaven was already bound, whatever's loosed in the heaven was already loosed. We don't even care what kind of thing is that, but the Lord is very careful. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in the heaven, what you bind on earth should be bound in the heavens. This is marvelous. Why? Because this is a process for the church to be built up. The door of heaven is already opened, so people can be saved. God can be with man, but it's still not a 3D structure. It's somewhat personally related to the Lord, the Lord's related to us, and we are related to one another for the building up of the church. He must do something called "to bind and to loose."

Through the work of the cross, the Lord has bound the strong man Satan and plundered his house with the all vessels, which used to be the Lord's. You know the word (for vessels) is interesting. The Chinese translation says, it's "His furniture." Actually, it's not furniture, here the Greek word is vessels. Why? Because we were made as vessels. We were earthen vessels made to contain God. We were earthen vessels to be transformed into vessels of gold, silver, precious stones, vessels with value, and vessels with honor. So vessel points to every Christian. Do you realize as a Christian, you're a vessel? What kind of vessel? A vessel to contain Christ. If you are not careful you can contain many other things that squeeze Christ out, and seemingly occupy your vessel. Your vessel is occupied with all kinds of things other than Christ. When you were under the power of Satan, when you belonged to the household of Satan, in that household, your vessel can be filled with degrees, finances, riches, wealth, large houses, small houses, a good life, a proper life or a life that is very fallen. But whatever that is, the vessel is full and when the vessel is full there is no room for Christ.

So the Lord begin to testify, through My work on the cross, I have bound the strong man, Satan, and have plundered and robbed his house of vessels which used to be mine. Do you realize that? When the Lord died for you, you were cleansed. You received Jesus as your savior. And the Lord says, now I need another step. I want to bring you out of the kingdom of Satan. Now look at you. You are filled with so many things not of Christ, and other than Christ. We are in the world that belongs to Satan. You're saturated with so many things. Now, I want you to be a vessel of honor, so I must capture you. So when the Lord ascend he led captives (we were captives of Christ). He led us, those who were captives. We used to be of the household of the strong man, of Satan. We were his captives, filled with the things of the Satanic kingdom. Now, the Lord has captured us back. When he captured us back, he wanted us to be full only of Christ.

Darby translated this verse interestingly, "Wherefore having ascended up on high (talking about Christ). In Christ's ascension he led captivity captive. Captivity captive, both are us, right? We were formerly in captivity of Satan, under the power of Satan. Under captivity, means we were brought out of where we original were or where we belong or where we should be. We were in captivity means we were brought to some place we should not be. We were under Satan, we should not be. We were under the power of Satan, we should not be. We were in the kingdom of Satan, we should not be. We were a vessel, but under captivity, in captivity. The Lord says, "Now, I capture you back! You have become My captive." So Darby translates in this way: "Wherefore having ascended on high, He has led captivity captive." I like this. Who am I? Was a captive, in captivity under Satan. Now I can become a captive of Christ. Led captivity captive, and has given gifts to men. Lord capture us. You can say, "Could be with reasons." He can say, "I capture you because I love you. When I look at you, I'm happy, that's why I capture you."

Well, this is marvelous. I believe the Lord is doing that today. Do you know that every time you go to the Lord, "Lord Jesus, I love You," the Lord is so happy. "Lord Jesus, You are my Lord," the Lord is so happy. "Lord Jesus, my life is Yours," the Lord is so happy. "Lord, I'd like to sing a song to You," the Lord is so happy. "Lord, I'd like to memorize a verse to You," the Lord is so happy. But the Lord would say even more, "I don't just enjoy you, I love you. You know what I really want? I want you to be My captive." In other words, "You become a slave of Me. I have the full ownership over you. You belong only to Christ." When you say, "Lord, I am Your captive," then what? The Lord says, "I will make you a gift." And He has given gifts to men.

Many Christians refuse to be captives. They are saved and are positionally out of Satan's kingdom. But for some reason, many vessels are alive and have legs. The Lord brings them out of the Satanic kingdom,

but they have legs so they crawl over and go back to the Satanic kingdom! They say, “I would just like to have some drinks. I would just like to watch some movies. I would just like to have a future. I would just like to be very rich.” You don’t even realize that you return to the Satanic kingdom. If you do return, even should the Lord capture you back again, the Lord will know you will still have to go back—you still *want* to go back. The Lord would say, “Hey, listen! I took you out of captivity! You don’t belong to Satan, you belong to *Me*! You are My captive!” You may say, “Lord, I’m willing to be Your captive. Be my Lord. Do whatever you want to do with me. Work whatever You want to work with me. Lead me however You want to lead me!” For some reason the Lord says, “Yes, when you are My captive, I will make you a gift. You are a gift to man.”

What are the gifts? These gifts could be apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, or teachers, but they are all gifts. Do you realize how marvelous this is? You were in captivity. You were a vessel in captivity. Your vessel was filled with all the negative things, all the improper things, or even something noble, yet without God (without Christ). The Lord says, “I bind the strong man! I died on the cross! I crucified the power of the evil one! I tell you, now, I capture you back to be My captive. I want to make you a gift.” Everybody loves to bless the church. If I were you, I would say, “Lord, I would like to be Your captive. Please, have Lordship over me. Work on me. Develop me. Train me. Build me up. Make me a vessel of gold, of silver, of precious stones. Make me a vessel of honor so that I can be useful.” Now, when you say something many will listen to you, because you are a gift to the church. You could be an apostle; “But,” you say, “I’m a sister!” Well, you could be a woman apostle. You could be a woman prophet. You could be a sister evangelist! You know, Watchman Nee was saved by a sister, raised up by a sister, and supported in his life by some sisters serving with him.

So, brother and sisters, remember: it’s not that I think I’m important; it’s not that I feel I have a lot to say. You could have a lot to say, but remember: even when I have so much to say, I know one thing: “I am His captive. He is my Lord. He can transform me.” Now, when He makes you a gift to man, he gives you to the church, so that the church can be built up. Why are there apostles? To build up the church. Why do the prophets preach? Not because they have something to say, but because when they minister, the church gets built up. Why do evangelists preach the gospel? Because people get saved; they collect the materials for the building up of the church. Why are there shepherds and teachers? They are all for the building up of the church.

Brother, think about the four stages. Number one, I was a vessel, but in the household of Satan. I’m filled with things of this world. But one day, the Lord bound the strong man and took me out of captivity. He captured me back to be His captive. Now I render the Lord full surrender. I say, “Lord, I want to be worked on by You. I want to be transformed in You. I want You to do everything with me because I am Your captive.” Eventually the Lord says, “I will make you a gift.” First, I was in the Satanic kingdom. Second, I become His captive. Third, I become a gift for the church. Fourth, the church is builded up because of me.

Do you know what the church is short of today? The church lacks ministries. These ministries do the work of the Ministry of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul says “for the work of the ministry,” (Eph 4:12) which means the Ministry of Christ. Now, they become a blessing to the church for the church to be built up. Through His death on the cross, Christ has spoiled the power of principalities and authorities and made a show of them publicly. Christ says, “I am overcome! I am overcoming! I overcame death. I am in resurrection. I am in ascension. I am the Lord of lords. Satan can do nothing and has no part in My operation.” Praise the Lord for this.

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The apostle Peter was able to work with the Lord for the binding and loosing because Christ accomplished all this. That's why Peter said "When I'm filled in spirit, I can open the door. When I open the overall door, many servants of the Lord can open more doors. Many Jesus lovers can open more doors." Even if I'm just a simple sister, a simple brother, I can open my neighbor's door. I can open my parent's door. I can open my children's door. Some door can be opened, and I can be of value to the Lord. But the more you are a captive, the more you are under Him, the more you are under His government, the more you can say, "Lord, capture me. I totally belong to You and to You alone!" the more the Lord can make you valuable. An open door can be given to you and the church can be blessed by you.

The binding and loosing was also given to the church. Not only can you have it, but the whole church can have it. For instance, when someone causes a problem that will damage the church the elders can fellowship with them. If they refuse, then the leading ones can say, "The church will not accept you. We will treat you as the Gentiles." When this happens, do you realize how blessed we are? What the church binds, heaven has already bound. What the church looses, heaven has already loosed. Hallelujah for this! The church and the Lord operate as one. The church does something, then the Lord says, "I am in that." The Lord is doing a lot, the church says, "We are partaking of it." Hallelujah!

So here you have the satisfaction of God's desire, the reality of the kingdom of heaven. God is no longer an outward God; He is able to be united and mingled with every saved one in His life, and God can be our God, we can be His children, and we can become the testimony of the body of Christ. What is this? This is the kingdom of heaven. May the Lord have mercy.