



Open Vision: Part 2 – A New Man

The Lord has focused my attention again on the theme of the Open Vision, on this aspect of walking in the faith of the Son of God and being led by the Spirit. I believe the Lord is pressing His Ecclesia into this dimension of intimacy and relationship with Him, especially in these last days. As we said in 1 Samuel 3, the word of the Lord comes with vision, not intellect because the Lord has to bypass our intellect and our own ability so that His purposes can be revealed and accomplished. Our intellect will very often block God's purpose or make it something else.

God wants His purposes accomplished through His Ecclesia and He wants to use the word of God WITH open vision. That is the way He has done it through history and I want to take you a little bit further in Acts 10.

He (Cornelius) saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying to him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said to him, Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodges with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the seaside: he will tell you what you ought to do. Acts 10:1-6

This was a Gentile, beloved. He saw in an open vision an angel of God coming to him and saying to him, "Cornelius!". And when he looked at this angel, he was afraid. Here is the fear of God. The open vision will bring the true fear of God which is so vital in order to obey Him in these last days when there will be so many major shifts on earth. The angel begins to instruct Cornelius to send messengers to the place where the apostle Peter is staying because the Lord wants him to hear the message of salvation. This is a Gentile who knows that a Jew is not going to come into his house, but the Lord gives him a supernatural encounter that bypasses his own understanding and he obeys immediately.

The next day, Peter is going up to the rooftop to pray. He has not eaten and is very hungry. God knows that he is hungry. He falls into a trance and he has an open eye vision. He sees a vessel coming down from heaven, like a sheet which is tied in four corners and under it are all the clean and unclean animals. He hears the word of the Lord, "Kill and eat, Peter!" Peter responds as a JEWISH believer. He knows the dietary laws and so he says, "Lord, I've never eaten an unclean thing from my youth." And then the sheet goes up again. This happens three times. Peter is hungry and God uses a vision of animals, killing and eating in order to get to a very primal place in Peter. He's trying to bypass not only Peter's mind, but his culture, his customs, even the very law that he has known and loved. God is after something enormous here, beloved. He is ready to bring the Ecclesia into a new dimension, a new dispensation and He does it with His living word AND vision, not intellect. The Lord has to go much deeper than our reasonings because of who we are as fallen creatures. We need an encounter with the Lord because the things that God desires to do, has done and will do are so powerful, so much bigger than what we can conceive that He has to bypass all our human limitations.

While Peter is pondering this vision and what it means, the men come from Cornelius. At the very same moment, Peter hears the voice of the Lord telling him to go downstairs, to receive the men who have come, and to do whatever they say. This is a big intervention of God for a big purpose and God knows exactly what He's doing with Peter. The men tell him Cornelius' message and the next day they set out for the house of Cornelius. Now just picture this, beloved. This is a Jewish man who has never walked into the house of a Gentile, but he has just had a tremendous experience with the Lord. When he gets to the house, he says, "You know that it's an UNLAWFUL thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company or to come into the house of another nation. BUT GOD has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean."

This is powerful, beloved. This is a shift in the whole history of the Jewish people. This is a shift in the whole history of the Gentiles. God is on the move. He desires to restore the family of God. He wants to bring His Jews and Gentiles together into 'One New Man'. He wants to graft the Gentiles into the Commonwealth of Israel. And the only way that He can do this is through an open vision, just like He did with Samuel when He was about to judge the house of Eli in order to restore Israel to the word of the Lord and open vision. These are big moves of God. These are big manifestations of the heart of God and the fulfillment of the promises of God and He has to do something way beyond human limitations.

When Peter walks into the house it's filled with the family and friends of Cornelius - all Gentiles! He begins to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's amazing. He gives the full message of salvation to the Gentiles, the same way he gave the full message of salvation to the Jewish people. God is no respecter of persons, to the Jew first and also to the Greek/Nations (Romans 1:16). While Peter was yet speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on all of them which heard the word and those of the circumcision were astonished. Why? Because they saw that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles for the first time in history! Peter's message to the Gentiles came with a manifestation of the power of God!

The Lord is about to do great and mighty things on planet earth. He's about to do great things in the Church. He's about to reveal the glory of His Son. He's about to mature His Body by forming His Son in us. Jesus didn't do anything except He SAW what the Father was doing and He HEARD what He was saying. Beloved, God wants you to hear His voice with vision, not with intellect. I want to encourage you to ask the Lord to do this in your life.

Let's keep praying that the Church will be moved and stirred into this level of intimate relationship with the Lord, to hear the word of the Lord with open vision, with 'chason nifrats' (Heb) - vision that breaks through, that bursts out, something that you were not expecting, that you could not conceive of with your own thinking, vision that bypasses the whole realm of human thinking to such a degree that you can no longer exalt your own human reasoning, above the knowledge of God. This is that intimate knowledge that comes through the heart, through a living experience with God. I want to encourage you, beloved, to expect and believe for this level of walking in the faith and the footsteps of the Son of God.

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