

# Revelation and Light

*By Peter McArthur*

## REVELATION IS A FORM OF SPIRITUAL LIGHT

"For with You is the fountain of life; **in Your light we see light.**" (Psalm 36:9)

**"But all things being exposed by the light are clearly revealed, for everything having been revealed is light."** (Ephesians 5:13)

There's a saying: "The prayer that won't move your heart, is unlikely to move the heart of God either."

The meaning behind this is to get us to be engaged in prayer and not just speak out without paying attention to what we're actually saying. In other words: pray specifically and with fervency. Note what James 5:16 says. **"Confess your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man avails much."**

The emphasis in the Greek apparently is on the word "fervent" not on "righteous". It's not simply our righteousness in Christ that gets our prayer heard (even though it's vitally important of course), but our fervency in asking.

If we initiate something in the Spirit, the Father will respond. The Holy Spirit always responds to spiritual activity – as long as it's righteous spiritual activity and not deception, pride or manipulation born from the soul of man.

Recently as I was pondering this, these questions came to mind.

- ✦ "What revelations did I have this week?"
- ✦ "What have I experienced this week in the Lord?"

It was as though the Father was asking me, "Are My revelations becoming your experience?" It was quite sobering. I began to see more clearly how the Father desires to present Himself to the Body of His Son. He loves to reveal Himself.

Partly because of this I began to understand how the Father wants us to receive an increase in spiritual ability. This would require us to learn to walk and live in His Spirit. Being sensitive in the Holy Spirit allows the Father to deal with us in many ways.

For example, if we are truly open to the ways of heaven, there may well be occasions when we shouldn't ask the Lord to stay His hand, but do with us as He chooses. That's a very serious attitude to have.

Remember what Job said: **"Even though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."** (Job 13:15). Now that's maturity in the Spirit.

Why does the Father desire us be spiritual active? Answer: So we can adjust our lives and align with His purpose. It's got nothing to do with becoming "more spiritual" and "holy" and

honoured by others. So many times people think that by being “more spiritual” they will be seen as more holy.

In fact it's the other way around. Becoming increasingly spiritual is the result of living a holy life, not vice versa.

Many of us have fallen for this trap at various times I'm sure. We think that if we can prophesy well (and hopefully accurately), heal the sick, and have insightful dreams and visions, then we'll be looked upon as spiritually mature, close to God, anointed, etc.

But it doesn't work that way. Miracles come out of holiness of life. You don't become holy because you can do miracles. This is the false reasoning the Catholic church has when it wants to “make a saint”. It goes looking for “holy people” and then sees if they've done a miracle – and whamo, you get made a saint! Quite unbiblical.

So it is that revelation, which is a form of spiritual light, enables us to see what God sees.

Look at this text about Elisha. **“And Elisha prayed and said, I beg You, O Lord, open his eyes so that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man. And he looked, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”** (2 Kings 6:17)

Dreams and visions are part of this too. Likewise also prophecies. Now most of us would thoroughly love to “see” into the heavenlies I'm sure. We would be thrilled to see into the spiritual realm and know what's going on. But seeing what God sees isn't a one way street. The other side of the coin is: Would you like to see how God sees you? Probably not.

This is the other side of spiritual advancement. To know God AND to be known by God. The more spiritual you become in Christ, the more aware of sin you will become. The point is, to grow spiritually will open us up to God's scrutiny. This is a point not usually recognised by many Christians.

The more revelations, dreams, prophecies and spiritual revelation you receive, the more you will personally come under the microscope of the Lord's gaze. It will be unsettling to say the least.

When God's light shines, everything is seen in its true colour. **“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we have to give an account.”** (Hebrews 4:13)

Spiritual advancement (or revival, if you like to call it that), whether it be individual or corporate, only seems to come when God's light focuses upon us. Therefore we need to see (1) our own state, and (2) God's abundant grace to meet the state we're in.

While most of us would think it would be a good thing to “see” just where we're at, it's quite amazing that we also have the ability NOT to recognise the pride and self-centredness within.

They said to him, **“Let us sit in your glory, one at your right and one at your left.”** But Jesus told them, **“You don't realize what you're asking. Can you drink from the cup that I'm going to drink from or be baptized with the baptism with which I'm going to be baptized?”** They told him, **“We can.”** Jesus said to them, **“You will drink from the cup that I'm going to drink and be baptized with the baptism with which I'm going to be baptized.”** (Mark 10:37-39)

The most effective Christians seem to have been those who judge their own lives, not according to their own measure, but solely according to the Word.

**"But if we judged ourselves correctly, we would not be judged. Now while we are being judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined lest we be condemned along with the world."** (1 Corinthians 11: 31-32)

If we desire spiritual insight into God's purpose for our lives, our churches, even our towns and cities, then first we need to let God's light work in us personally. It is a spiritual truth that our spirit is released from bondage and darkness according to the very degree of our brokenness. Or to put it another way; revival begins furthest from the eyes of man and closest to the eyes of God.

The effects of this are powerful, and indeed, vital. When we know our own weak spiritual state, we gradually learn to hate it. This makes us distrust our own thoughts, and seek only for God's. As we learn this reality, we actually grow quieter in the Lord. Wisdom brings a settling of the spirit man.

This can often be misunderstood by others who think "we've lost it" or have given up in spiritual things because we don't argue the point anymore, or think we have to defend every doctrine that's being debated.

Indeed the most common characteristic of a truly mature believer is their humility. They have been broken by the Lord many times, and learned to bend to His will. Spiritual insight and revelatory light is born out of the fear of the Lord.

The very shedding of the Father's light on us is not for condemnation, but for rewarding!

**Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;  
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,  
And lead me in the everlasting way.**  
(Psalm 139: 23-24)

**Teach me to do Thy good pleasure,  
For Thou art my God –Thy Spirit is good,  
Lead me into a land of uprightness.**  
(Psalm 143:10)

**My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land,  
so that they may dwell with me;  
he who walks in a perfect way shall serve me.**  
(Psalm 101:6)

It is a great joy to arrive at this place spiritually. It's an exhaustive journey because the soul will have to die many times, willing to be crucified and learn the ways of heaven. But the rewards are eternal, and bring great pleasure to our heavenly Father.

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