

THE FATHER'S HEART

...according to all that is my Heart and in My Mind. 1 Sam 2:35



A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

by Pastor Ikenna Okeke | Text: Rev.1:1-20

7TH MAY
2023

Why was it needful for Jesus to be revealed to John the beloved, seeing that he was the closest to Jesus (of all the disciples) during His ministry on earth? Writing about himself, John said he is the one whom Jesus loved, and the other disciples often reached out to help them ask Jesus some deeper questions, yet Jesus had to be revealed to him. He was so close to Jesus, yet needed a revelation of Jesus.

Surprisingly, when Jesus was revealed to him, he fell at His feet as dead (Rev.1:17). Also, when God called apostle Paul, the first thing He did was to reveal His Son in him before he sent him to preach Him (Jesus Christ) among the Gentiles (Gal.1:15-16). This is why the life and ministry of Apostle Paul was extraordinary, all because of the revelation of Jesus Christ.

There is necessity for the revelation of Jesus Christ in every believer before he can live the life he's called to live successfully.

When the Bible talks about 'the Son being revealed in you' it is referring to a revelation that will cause a change in the way you live, affecting your judgement in all things. Based on this, many believers will say they know Jesus, but this knowledge/love that the average Christian professes for Jesus is like the love most people have for babies. Everybody loves babies and loves to play with them until they poo or begin to cry uncontrollably. We quickly hand the baby over to the mother or nanny. This kind of love does not want to be inconvenienced, but to enjoy itself with no benefit to the one loved. This is how most of us love Jesus, we don't want Him to probe too much into our lives. We don't want a Jesus that gets into our lives and begins to obstruct what we do. We don't want a Jesus that listens in on our conversations. We love Him, but we want Him to leave us to live our lives as we want. We love Him on our terms - how we want to love Him, not how He wants to be loved.

We are considering this subject because of a misconception we all have – the question is: do I know Jesus? Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. On the third time, Peter became a bit agitated and finally said "Lord, You know all things;

You know that I love You." (John 21:15-17). It was only after this response that Jesus stopped. This means that before now, Peter's answer (that he loved Jesus) was not enough, until he said Jesus knows that he loves Him. Beloved, you can easily say that you know Jesus. The question is: Does He know you? For example, you may know the newly coroneted king Charles of England, but does king Charles know you? A one-sided knowledge is incomplete and cannot really benefit you.



In the parable of the ten virgins, the Lord (bridegroom) told the five virgins who ran out of oil in their lamps that He did not know them (Matt.25:11-13, though they (the five foolish virgins) came knocking with confidence that they knew the Lord, expecting that He would open to them. These were virgins, not harlots, who even had oil burning for a while, yet He said He didn't know them. We must strive to know Him and be ready to show it so that He can affirm it (Matt.7:21-23).

If you know Jesus, you are at least better than those who do not know or care about Him at all. Do you prefer some parts of the scriptures over others? Are there some kinds of sermons you don't like listening to? Even if the answer is yes, you are still better than many people who don't read or listen to the word of God at all. However, the problem with this position is what psychologists refer to as the 'better than average effect' or the psychology of 'confidence of better than'. This sense of false security is called illusory superiority. Being better than average does not mean that you have met the standard set by the Author and Finisher of our faith, it just means that you are a better failure among all that failed.

We may be better than a lot of people, but our call is to keep looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith, not people. Also, it is good to look behind and be grateful because you are not where you used to be, but the proviso is to forget those things which are behind

and be reaching forward to those things which are ahead (Php.3:13). Remember, He brought the children of Israel out to bring them in (Deut.6:23). God's plan for us is exactly the same. Remember that you are not yet in – keep pressing on! God's purpose for making man in His image and after His likeness, is that anytime He (or any other person) looks at you and me, He sees Himself.

We must understand that at the new birth, we are like cute little newborn babies. But if after four years (example) that baby fails to grow, nobody will refer to him as a cute baby any longer, but as a source of concern. Similarly, after salvation (new birth), you are expected to grow and keep getting transformed, through the revelation of Jesus Christ (that brings growth and transformation), and not by mere information (knowledge) or compulsion. The whole purpose of our faith is to become like Christ daily. This is only possible by knowing and beholding the true Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own" (John 10:14). This means that knowledge is not complete (null and void), it has to be mutual (Jesus knows you and you also know Him). Also, the apostle Paul said "But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God..." (Gal.4:9). Concerning Abraham, God said He has known Abraham that he will command his children and his household to keep the way of the Lord (Gen.18:19). Therefore, it is in this state of mutual knowledge (between the believer and God) that we become useful to God. Furthermore, the Bible says, "But if anyone loves God, this one is known by God" (1 Cor.8:3). It means that to be known by Him, we must love God with awe-filled reverence and obedience. When you hear God and find it hard to obey Him, awe-filled reverence means going to Him in prayer to ask for help to obey Him. For us Christians, prayer is God's provision to make us what He wants us to be. Have you prayed to God about what you know He wants you to do?

Beloved, this revelation of Jesus brings you to a place where you know how great and awesome He is, and this develops in you a sense of confidence and trust. Then, like the psalmist, you can confidently say that "the Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want" (Ps.23:1). Then, you will be able to focus on seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness without worrying about your needs because He is your Shepherd.

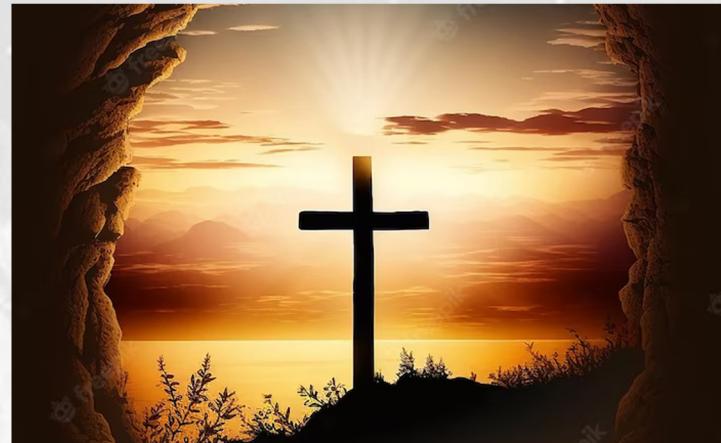
A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST 2



by Pastor Ikenna Okeke
Text: Php. 3:1-14

14TH MAY
2023

We have been contemplating the importance of the phrase "the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him (Jesus Christ) to show His servants" (John) - Rev.1:1. We saw that the Jesus whom John saw was not the son of Mary that he knew in the flesh but Jesus the Son of God glorified! We also saw that Apostle Paul's ministry was very effective because he was also given a revelation of Jesus Christ (Gal.1:15-16). The revelation of Jesus Christ is fundamental for every Christian to make a good success of his calling, no wonder the bible says that eternal life is the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ (John 17:3). We also established that we must not be fixated on the past progress, but must keep pressing toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



From our main text here, we see that the apostle Paul said that he counted as loss the things that were gain to him (achievements, etc.) for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus (Philippians.3:7-10). Paul's goal was only to know Christ Jesus and nothing else. A closer look at the people who caught a revelation of Jesus Christ reveals that as a result, they became more focused on the heavenly agenda. This means that the reason many of us are still fixated on the things of this passing world is that we have not yet caught this revelation. For example, it was because of this revelation that Moses forsook the pleasures of Egypt not fearing the wrath of the king, because he endured as seeing Him who is invisible (Heb.11:27). Beloved, if you see Him, your pursuit will be to become a living sacrifice as your reasonable service (Rom.12:1).

This is why the Bible says, “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Cor.3:18). – the transformation we experience here comes from beholding the glorified Jesus. So long as we see and contemplate His glory with an unveiled face, our transformation is automatic. The challenge is that many of our faces are veiled, obstructed by other things, and so, unable to see Him glorified. As long as we allow our personal visions and problems to take the front view, it becomes difficult to see or know Him. It is only when we surrender all to Him that the veil is taken away for us to see and know Him. For example, if all Joseph kept before him was his dream (to be reunited with his family or to be the greatest), he would not have served well in Potiphar’s house or in prison. With an unveiled face, he served well as a slave and prisoner before becoming prime minister.



Beloved, it is because we don’t see God glorified that we disobey Him. The apostles asked the council of rulers and elders whom to obey – God or the council (Acts 4:19).

The revelation of Jesus Christ is what gives every believer stability in these perilous times. The knowledge of God will sustain you when the going gets tough. The Christian that doesn’t know God will call the process a problem, when in fact it is God’s means for getting him to the place of glory.

God is the maker of all things (John 1:1), and there is nothing impossible for Him to resolve in our lives. Also, God made man in His image and according to His likeness (Gen.1:26). This means that man was not a by-product but an intentional design and product of God. Therefore, a complete and successful man is one who is in the image and likeness of God. Anything short of that is a failure. God gave man His Holy Spirit to help him to attain and maintain His image and likeness in all

situations by continually bearing the fruit of the Spirit. This is pleasing to God. To this end, God (our maker) is involved in everything that happens or is happening to us (Ps.100:3) and watches our responses and reactions in all situations. He expects that by our godly reaction in any situation, we remind people of Him.



God has all power and is able to change your situation in a twinkling of an eye because He is the Almighty! Noah understood this and based on that, built the ark even though he had never seen rain before (Gen.6:13-22). When Mary was told about the immaculate conception she asked, ‘How can this thing be, since I do not know a man?’ the angel told her that the “Holy Spirit will come upon her and the power of the Highest will overshadow” for her to conceive (Luke 1:34-37). In essence, it is only the power of the Most High that will accomplish every purpose of God in our lives. God is not the power, but the Highest that possesses and controls the power.

To get maximum glory in any situation, His power always operates alongside His plan. Therefore, even when it seems that His power is not in manifestation, we must remember that His power is operating in line with His plan. So, we must trust and wait for Him. This is knowing God and His ways like Moses did, and not just His acts.

Levels of Knowledge

1. The ground level is comprised of Atheists who say there is no God, but God calls them fools (Ps.14:2) because a simple look at nature clearly reveals the existence of God (Rom.1:20-22).
2. The second level are those who worship the God they don't know (John 4:22).
3. The third level are many who jump from one church to the other in search of the anointing that will solve their problems, not knowing that the bane of miracle and breakthrough is their lack of the knowledge of the God they claim to serve (Jer.2:11). If they knew God, they will remain with Him like Zacharias and Elizabeth did until their prayer was answered. Therefore, instead of running from pillar to post, reinventing new gods (Deut.32:16-17), patience is a virtue that every Christian must have.
4. There are also those who know God but deal with Him on a transactional level. For example, while Martha was busy trying to prepare food for Jesus, Mary sat at His feet to learn of Him (Luke 10:38-42). Later, we see that Mary's revelation of Jesus led to her anointing Him before His death and she was also the first to see Him after His resurrection. Martha was transactional but Mary knew Him and today we still talk about her. Beloved, strive to know God at all costs.

Prayer:

Lord, please remove every veil (fear, situation in Nigeria, past experiences, etc.) that is blocking me from seeing and beholding Jesus glorified, in Jesus name.

My Personal Experience

About Love

When I hear the word, "love", I ask myself, what is love? Then I take a look at 1st Corinthians 13, which talks about some characteristics of love; Love is patient, but I was not patient with my siblings; Love is kind, but I was almost never kind to my classmates, especially the bullies; Love is not boastful, but I boasted about my academic performance, not considering the fact that the Lord could bring down my grades. But when I gave my life to Christ, I changed. I became more patient, humble, and generous. I showed more love to my siblings and friends. Learn from my experience and show more love to your neighbors.

By Adebiyi Adeola Ayomide

HARD QUESTIONS ON 1CORINTHIANS 13

LOVE IS PATIENT

Would my family or co-workers describe me as a patient person do I have a short fuse?

LOVE IS KIND

Am I kind and gracious towards others especially when they fall short of my expectations?

LOVE DOES NOT ACT UNBECOMINGLY

Am I rude do I often interrupt others am I considerate of their feeling or point of view?

LOVE DOES NOT SEEK IT'S OWN

Am I selfish do I think about others needs ahead of my own?

LOVE DOES NOT REJOICE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS BUT REJOICES IN TRUTH

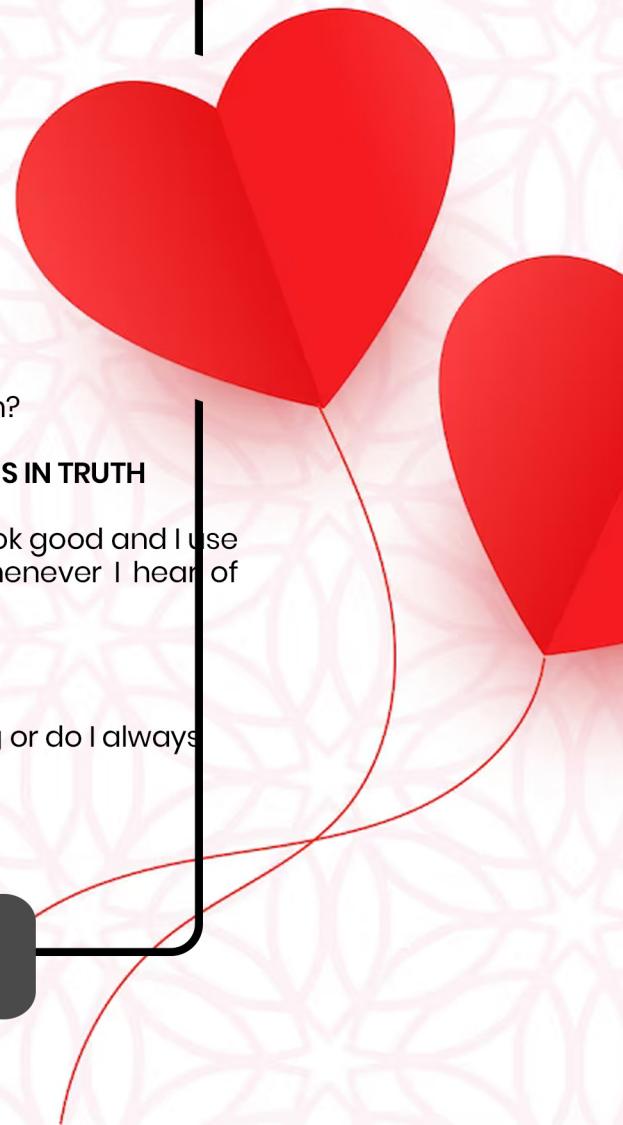
Am I glad when others fail or sin, because it makes me look good and I use it as an ammunition against them, am I truly happy whenever I hear of others victory in the lord?

LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS

Do I bear with others in their immaturity or short becoming or do I always correct them?

MEDITATE ON IT.

By Emmanuella Olatunji Folaranmi, 11 years old
and Juanita Suleiman Umar, 9years



UP COMING EVENTS

THE FATHER'S CHURCH CALENDAR FOR 2023

S/N	DATE	EVENT
1.	June 14th-18th	Men Under Authority Summit
2.	July 8th	Joy Force General Meeting
3.	August 16th – 20th	TAGS – The Ambassadors Got Something
4.	August 27th	Praise Night
5.	September 16th	KLM Empowerment Summit (6th Anniversary)
6.	October 11th – 15th	Freedom Fellowship Programme
7.	October 28th	General Joy Force Meeting
8.	November 17th – 19th	MSG Conference
9.	December 2nd	KLM Love Feast
10.	December 10th	Joy Force Awards
11.	December 17th	Family Fun Day
12.	December 20th	Carol Service
13.	December 25th	Christmas Day
14.	December 31st	Crossover Service



WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday: Celebration Service @9am

Wednesday: Kingdom Keys @6pm

First Friday Of Each Month - Throneroom Service @ 6pm

First Sunday Of Each Month - Communion Service @ 9am



www.thefatherschurchonline.org



Prayer line: 07031588404



Every Saturday @7.30am



Every Monday @7.45pm



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