

Secrets Revealed

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“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7

Bill Johnson says, ‘God loves to hide things for us not from us.’ He uses the illustration of parents hiding Easter eggs for their children. They want the children to have the eggs and they are delighted when the children find every one of them. The reason parents hide the eggs is to receive pleasure when the children find them. The younger the child the more obvious places they are hidden like right beside the basket, by the chair or on the shelf. As the child gets older the eggs are hidden behind the bush, in a bird’s nest, under the pail or in a hat. In the same way, God is delighted when we search and find the things that God has prepared for us. When we are young in the faith the things God has prepared for us are obvious and it delights the heart of God when the new believer discovers the elementary truths of their relationship with God. It’s a tragic thing when older Christians are content in gathering **Easter eggs** on the surface of their relationship with Jesus. In that case even though, *deep is calling out to deep* the older Christian does not wade into the deeper revelations the Holy Spirit has for them. Psa. 42:7.

Deut. 29:29, “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God, but the things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of the law.” I see the **revealed** things as building blocks; they build my faith so I can please God better, they build truth so that I can walk in greater liberty, they build confidence so that I can move ahead quicker, they build love to dispel fear, they build patience because I know where I am heading and they build ministry because I know what He has shown me. In the Bible, Peter’s first revelation was that Jesus was the Christ the Son of the living God. Jesus told Peter that he did not receive this revelation from another man but it was revealed to him by the Father Who was in heaven. Matt. 16:16,17. Peter needed that building block of revelation to receive the next building block recorded in Acts 10. This new revelation opened Peter’s spiritual eyes to see that God was going to save Gentiles as well as Jews. This revelation was necessary, for this was one of the things that God had prepared Peter to walk in, the preaching of the gospel to the Gentiles. Revelation blocks that build on one another are like the progressive vision that we need so that we don’t wonder aimlessly in our Christian walk. With every fresh revelation, God was building vision in Peter’s heart. **Revelation** is given to us so that we **can do** what He wants us to do. Look again at Deut. 29:29. When we allow revelation to come just for the sake of head knowledge it becomes vain and empty. The verse that says, *knowledge puffs up*, is certainly true in this case. What do you want, a big head or a big heart?

Paul's understanding of the gospel of salvation came by means of **revelation**. In Gal. 1:11-12 Paul stated that the gospel was not taught to him by other men/teachers but that he received it by the revelation of Jesus Christ. None of the N.T. writers expounded so clearly on the doctrines of Redemption, Propitiation, Justification, and Sanctification as Paul did. The revelations he received from Jesus on these truths, helped many of his contemporary Apostles and disciples to understand the gospel of salvation better. These were not **new truths** because we can find all of these described in the Old Testament, but they were **new revelations**. What we need is new light shining on old truths that have the power to bring new transformations. The new revelations helped the early believers to transpose the O.T. typology into N.T. reality and experience. Our challenge is to look at the revelations of Paul and let God bring us fresh revelations that we can relate to today. They should never change the truth but they should change us.

I have stated before that our revelations should be primarily about the Lord Jesus and from the Lord Jesus. The human mind always longs to know the future but the eternal spirit is longing to know God. Paul's desire was that *I might know Him and the power of His resurrection*. You can often tell if the believer is living out of their mind or out of their spirit by the things they focus on. If the focus is mostly future and the knowledge/revelation they get doesn't change them to love the Lord God or their neighbour better, it might not be a revelation from God. In Ezek. 13 there are some strong words that God speaks against those with prophetic ministries who say what others are saying or they speak something out of their own heart or they repeat what others have said. If the words/revelations give false peace, or if they give strength to the wicked(ness), if they bring evil judgement down on the people that Jesus loves, be careful about repeating these prophecies/revelations and be careful about receiving these from other people. To make a proper judgement in these things we need to know the loving heart of Jesus and we need to know who we are in Him. He is in the business of building His body, not destroying it.

In saying that, we still need to be open to receiving revelations from the Lord. Paul says in I Cor. 14:26 when you have a believer's gathering/service, the Holy Spirit might give someone a song to sing, someone else might share a doctrine, someone else might have the gift of tongues, another might receive a **revelation** and someone else might have the interpretation. All of the above are not to come from the same person but all of these are valuable to the building up of the body of Christ.

Paul received revelation concerning the gospel of salvation; not only did it help him in his relationship with the Lord Jesus but it helped many others to understand what Jesus had done and what He was doing. The revelation of *grace* had a huge impact on his life. For a man taught in the things of the law and self-works this revelation freed him like nothing else could. He went

on to write that *he was what he was because of the grace of God and that he worked in the ministry as hard as he did because of the grace of God.* I Cor. 15:10 He took no glory for himself but gave it all to Jesus Christ who shaped his life by that grace. Again it was revelation that transformed his life. See Eph. 3:2,5

Some guidelines in judging revelation.

1. Can this revelation become practical in my life?
2. Will this revelation change the way I think or feel or how I handle situations?
3. Does the revelation you receive make you more loving to the Lord Jesus and to all people?
4. Do you find yourself more gracious, merciful and patient toward others because of this revelation?
5. Is Jesus more real to you because of the revelation?
6. If the revelation concerns a doctrine does it fit in to what has already been revealed in the Bible? Example: doctrine of reconciliation to God by the blood of Jesus; does your revelation fit into all the O.T. types of reconciliation and does it fit into what has already been taught in the N.T. concerning reconciliation? It might not be the same picture or words but does it fit the rest of scriptures?
7. Does this revelation free you or does it bind you up more? It should free you!