

WCCC 2023

Brother Godwin Sun

**Have not been disobedient to the heavenly vision
(1)**

Good evening brothers and sisters. Let us first turn to the Word of God. We are aware that the theme verse is Revelations 3:11, to "Hold fast to what you have", so we won't have to turn to that passage.

"Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
Acts 26:19

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
Ephesians 1:17-18

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.
Hebrews 11:1-3

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,
Galatians 1:15-16

"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,
But now my eye sees You.
Job 42:5

The theme of the burden that I have received to share with brothers and sisters is from Acts 26:19: wherefore I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. I have already mentioned this

theme, and we have read through the passage, and this afternoon our brother has shared a portion of it. Thank the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, we know that in God's work, it is a great part of God's work that He gives vision to man. In Amos 3, it tells us, "if the Lord God of Hosts does not make known His ways to the prophets, we can do nothing."

So God makes known His mystery to His servants through visions. Only after we have vision can we know what we need to hold fast to. The vision reveals the truth of God's will unto us. God will use visions to direct all of His work on earth. When we have vision, then we have purpose, direction, the way, and action. This is very important.

What is vision? It is spiritual seeing. We see in the spirit - this is different from what we see with our physical eyes. The Lord opens the channel for us to see inwardly. This is important, because with this vision we can see the reality behind all that is outward. Without this we will be blinded by all that is outward, both in our life and service.

The apostle Paul saw the vision and was not disobedient to it. It is equally important for us.

Brothers and sisters, we know that it is wonderful to have spiritual vision. Throughout the Old Testament, we see the servants and prophets of God, when they have received a vision that is made known to them, it is a wonderful experience for them. From this revelation, they have a very special seeing. These are important matters.

God is using a special and unique way to reveal Himself to His servants. Why is it that it records for us that when these prophets see visions, it is very unique and wonderful? We know that the will of God is too grand. If we were to describe His will with words, it would be difficult to fully describe it. So if we were to use words to describe all these visions, perhaps the Bible would be ten times thicker.

So God uses this very special way to make known His will to us. Behind these wonderful visions, it speaks of the eternal will of God.

Many children of God, when reading through these visions, do not take careful note of the meaning behind these visions. Perhaps we are captivated by the strange imagery. So many pursue these things to see if they can find something different. We must realize that behind such manifestations, God means for us to understand His eternal will. We must realize that God uses spiritual visions to describe what is in His heart. We must have spiritual vision today to understand what is in His heart.

Therefore, true knowledge is vision - seeing within.

We know that when we read the scripture today and when we hear the messages, it is for us to know the will of God. Like our brother shared, God has spoken to us throughout these decades through messages. We need the Holy Spirit to do the work of revelation within us so that we can see.

When Paul writes of this knowledge and understanding in his epistles, he uses two different Greek words. These words are very meaningful.

knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Romans 6:6

knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

Romans 6:9

There are two words “knowing” and they are different in these 2 verses. The “knowing” in verse 6 is Ginōskō, and in verse 9, Oida.

Ginōskō is a general understanding, superficial and on the outward. This includes language and book knowledge that we may have. For example, the letter of the Word in the scriptures. For example, our preaching is expressed by language. It is the same principle of prophecy by the prophets.

Or we have spiritual books. When we hear the preaching and read the spiritual books, we have much of this sort of knowing. This knowing is important, but if we merely remain on this level of knowing, it is not enough. We cannot merely remain having Ginōskō, but should also have Oida.

Oida is used in the Bible hundreds of times, also translated as “to know”, but it is also “to perceive” or “to see”. Therefore all the knowledge we attain by Ginōskō should be entered into Oida. Otherwise we will lack the spiritual reality.

We have had so much preaching throughout the years, and we find it wonderful, but why is there only a fraction manifested in our lives? So in recent years, I realize we lack the second level of knowing. We are only living in the first level, and that is not enough.

In the book of Hebrews, there is also such teaching.

For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; 3 and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All,

Hebrews 9:2-3

In Hebrews 9, it mentions the principle of the second veil. This is really important for us today. Within the first veil, in the Holy Place, there is the showbread and the lampstand. This tells us that when we live in the experience of the first veil, we have light, we have enjoyment. We thank the Lord that He has used His servants to speak to us through the years, and we have enjoyed it very much.

The showbread is made by the priests, just like the many servants who do the preaching today. We are making a big loaf of bread at home, and we share it with brothers and sisters, and they are satisfied. We are provided for.

I encountered an older brother. After I preached, he would come to me saying that he has enjoyed much. Many times, the Lord satisfies us with the preaching of His servants. We have increased in the knowledge of His Word. Such Word is like the lampstand that shines forth light.

But many times we remain on this first level. After the second level after the second veil, we come into God's presence. There is the ark of the covenant, within is the pot of manna and the tablets. There is the law of God, and the golden pot of manna - the bread from above.

So after we enter the veil, we truly enjoy the bread from above.

I often tell people that we need to partake of the showbread, but we eat it to enable us to enter within the veil to eat of the true bread - the manna.

We thank the Lord that countless servants have brought us much showbread and light. But the author of Hebrews reminds us that we need the experience of entering within the veil. Then we will enter from Ginōskō into Oida.

If we do not, we will feel that the Word of God remains outward. It will not enter into the depths of our life.

Paul also tells us that while it is important for the prophet to speak, prophecies are limited.

But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10

Brothers and sisters, this speaks to the church today. Although the preaching is important - and we have seen many blessed with the gift to preach the Word of God, and even Paul is gifted to

preach the Word of God, he was very clear on one thing: that the prophesying would one day cease.

Today we need the Spirit to do the work of revelation within us. When our eyes are opened, then the doctrine will be easily understood. Just like Job who said "I have heard of you, but now my eyes see you". What does it mean to have heard of Him? It means that all the understanding is by hearing, there is no personal experience before the Lord.

The Chinese saying "I can hear it a hundred times, but it is not equal to seeing". It is a wonderful experience when the Lord opens our eyes to see.

I can share a personal experience with you. In the recent decades, we know of T Austin Sparks, who have been able to use profound words to tell us the deep truths of God. Anyone who has read his writings knows of the profundity of his words.

In 1965, when I was still young, I read his books but never met the man. At that time, many shared about him. Some praised and others scolded him, even saying that his books were poisonous. I might not have been interested, but now I was definitely intrigued. I wondered "what sort of spiritual book is poisonous?", so I had to read it for myself. I took up his books, and realized I could understand none of it.

My English wasn't good, and his english was so hard to understand. I had a dictionary but this caused me so much headache. I wondered why I was able to enjoy other spiritual books, but not his.

Thank the Lord that the Holy Spirit opened my eyes. And at once I could understand what brother Austin Sparks was writing. I might not be able to use the language he uses - the light with which he sees is large - but now I understood. I also began to understand the scriptures.

When the Holy Spirit opens our eyes, it is wonderful.

At the time I came to serve the Lord, I had no training. As others were saying, "How can he know? He is not learned". Sometimes I share, and I realize that I have received no training. My experience is that if the Lord opens our eyes within, we will understand the Word of God.

Brothers and sisters, today we know that Paul had had such an experience. On the way to Damascus he met the Lord. And once he was saved by grace, the Lord gave him vision. Paul understood the importance of seeing. We know the bright light that shone upon and blinded him. And how Ananias prayed for him and scales fell out of his eyes. And from then on, Paul saw Christ, he knew the heart of God.

Brothers and sisters, it is important to see. We know that there are many truths in the Bible that come by seeing. They are hard for us to describe, but we know by seeing.

Let me give you an example. The Lord has given us physical eyes. They are wonderful. Most human knowledge is obtained visually. We have a lot of visual understanding. Many times this knowledge is difficult to describe with words.

Today we are in this auditorium where the seats are red. Our eyes respond to the reflection of the light. I can say "the seats are red", and I don't have to explain it to you - you have seen it. But if you ask me, "what is red?" how do I explain it? But I don't have to explain it because we have all seen it. If I had to explain this to a person who has never seen before, we would need to explain what red is. There is no way for us to describe it.

Brothers and sisters, this is how it is with our physical eyes. In the scripture, there is a lot of truth which is in the same way - that we see and understand. There is no further explanation needed.

What is sad today is that many children of God do not focus on seeing with our inner eyes. We use our pathetic and limited minds to understand. Just like a blind person trying to perceive color, we cannot do it. In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul tells us that the natural man cannot understand the things of God.

When we see the condition of the church on earth, we encounter so many using their natural minds to understand the things of God. In our generation, Christianity exalts the wisdom of man. We lift up man's knowledge and understanding, we believe that we can understand and explain the Word of God with our intellect. There is no way for us to understand the things of God this way.

There are truths in the scripture that are quite difficult to explain with language. For example, concerning the deity of the triune God. Is it One God or Three? Throughout church history, many have tried to explain this. When I was a young Christian, there was so much conversation on explaining this, trying to correct how people were explaining the nature of the triune God. A simple way of explaining it was how water, ice and vapor are things in different forms. And because man has tried to interpret it with so many ways, heresies appear.

Some of these questions, we do not need to try to explain. We read the Bible and thank the Lord that there is one God. When we read Ephesians 1, we thank the Father, Son and Spirit. We have no problem with that. It has to do with seeing. Just as we cannot explain color to the blind, this is the mystery of God. When He opens our eyes within, we receive it.

It is the same with our salvation. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see. Throughout the years, I have heard so many preach the gospel. Forgive me for saying this, but I have never heard any

preach the whole gospel truth. We bumble through our preaching and many are saved. Sometimes I don't understand what the brother is saying, and think that no one will respond, but many respond to the altar call. Do they understand what is being said? Perhaps not, but the Spirit works and opened their eyes. They see that they are sinners and they believe.

So the truth in the Word is truth we can see. Go ahead and preach, knowing our preaching is not perfect. It inspires a thought within brothers and sisters. We pursue and the Spirit works within to help us see.

In Ephesians 1, Paul writes that the church is the body of Christ. Do you realize that this truth has been a thorn in the Church's side for 2,000 years? People have tried to explain what this means. I, too, want to explain clearly what it means to be the body of Christ. I looked up books to see if any saints before us were able to explain this clearly. I have not found one. If you have found one, please let me know.

Are these things we can fully express with words? Paul simply says, "the church is the body of Christ". No further explanation. Then Paul prays for us that the Lord may open our eyes to help us to see. Because the Lord opened his eyes for him to see. He cannot describe it.

You could say that he expounded on it in 1 Corinthians 12. He mentions how we are different members in the same body with different functions. In Romans 12, Paul mentions how we ought to walk in our function as a measure of our faith. He did not really explain what it means to be the body of Christ.

But for those of us who believe, it is not an issue at all. When I hear some prayers, brothers and sisters pray without any doubt that the church is Lord's body, and I am a member. There is no doubt or hesitation. We know that this is the function of faith, and we are able to be firm on that.

Hebrews 11:1 tells that faith is the substance of things not seen, and the conviction of things hoped for. If we try to understand what it means to be the body of Christ and what it takes to be a member - these are questions I have had when I was young. There are so many members, how does this work? What sort of body is this?

Brothers and sisters, this is a truth that needs to be seen. Even though we cannot fully express it clearly, it is wonderful that when our eyes are opened within, we know when we see something wrong. When the Lord opens my eyes to see that the church is the body of Christ, then I know many Christian traditions are wrong.

We know that the church building is not the church, and all the rituals within are wrong. Many organizations are there within Christianity, but when we see the body of Christ, there is a sensitive response to things that are wrong.

This is a wonderful experience. There are many truths in the Bible that is incomprehensible to our natural minds. For example, Paul says that the church is a new man - singular. If we said each one were a new man, that we can understand. But when we are all saved as one new man, this is difficult to understand. But when we read the scripture and Paul says this, we have a wonderful experience and no issues.

When we say the church is in union - oneness, but see that the church is so many, we have no issues. There is an understanding of this truth that we see.

There are many things we do not need to over-explain. Like the new heaven and new earth. It is hard to explain. This word "perfect" is a mysterious word. We have read all this in the scriptures. After we believe in the Lord, this is natural to us. If we really pursue into the word, questions may come up.

Brothers and sisters, many truths in the Bible need the Holy Spirit to reveal to us within. The truth in the Bible is truth understood by seeing.

One day when the Lord returns, when the Perfect One is come, on that day we will have perfect understanding. Today, while on this earth, it doesn't matter how eloquent we are or what great gifts we have, we cannot fully explain the truth.

Yes there still needs to be hearing of the Word, and the preaching is incomplete, but many times the preaching moves us.

We know that when one is saved by grace, there is a new life that enters into us. In this new life there is a function. In 1 John it tells us that we can hear, touch and handle, and see these spiritual truths. Paul prays for our spiritual eyes to be enlightened.

The enemy seeks to blind man's eyes. From Genesis, after God created Adam and Eve, the enemy knows that this creation of God is important to Him. Satan is not able to directly contend with God, so he can only try to destroy man, God's creation.

We know that in the garden of Eden there were 2 trees - the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And Adam and Eve partook of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Once they took of this fruit, their spirits died. They became spiritually blind. And their souls enlarged within.

We began to use this corrupt, fallen soul, to understand and explain, even the things of God. But we must realize that our inner eyes are blinded. We cannot explain spiritual things with our natural minds. That is why there is so much chaos in this world. We are trying to use our corrupt souls to rule over this world. Man is trying to use our own wisdom to explain the wisdom of God.

No matter how we explain it, it only causes division of the church into so many different denominations and sects.

I have heard that there are over 40,000 groups in Christianity. This is a result of man's different understanding.

Brothers and sisters, after Adam fell, mankind also fell. And we have become people who can only live under the power and wisdom of the soul.

Paul did not understand this before. He was very wise and highly educated under Gamaliel. He was very bright and intellectual, and had an understanding of Greek culture, not only a full grasp of Judaism. He was one who focused a lot on knowledge, but after he met the Lord and the Lord opened his eyes, he understood what a fool he was previously. 1 Corinthians 2 tells us that the wisdom of man today is that of fallen man and will perish. Why is Paul opposed to knowledge? Because knowledge is not true vision and seeing.

Many times it is difficult for us to distinguish this. In the past I have read many things written by very intelligent people. They have given great interpretation, and our wisdom can't be compared to theirs. We have great respect for them. Many brothers and sisters have been captivated by this understanding and knowledge. We thank the Lord that God uses Paul to oppose knowledge. This is very appropriate. Had God used Peter and John, we would have thought that they were unschooled people. But we have no argument with Paul. He is intellectual. From his own experience he tells us that natural wisdom has no function on spiritual matters.

Brothers and sisters, Satan uses the same method to blind us today. If we gravitate towards such things, it will cause us to be blind and not see.

When I was young I liked to get into philosophy. It was a source of pride for me. At their very end, they had nothing to do with the revelation brought on by the Holy Spirit. We live in the apex of man's knowledge. So much of man's philosophy and rights have come into the church. This is the scheme of the enemy to blind us.

When the devil deceived Eve he said that "on that day you eat this you will gain wisdom and be wise like God". This is a great attraction. We know we live in a dangerous generation. So much of the enemy's work has entered into the church.

First, knowledge. Young people love knowledge, but we must be very careful. After the fall of man, God has kept our soul for daily living. We need some human wisdom for our studies and our work. It is necessary for sustaining our daily living, but let us not drag it into the church or on to spiritual matters. If we go on that path, we will never understand the things of God. Paul clearly tells us that.

Second, the traditions of religion. This is also terrifying. Even Judaism caused Paul to be blind. Paul later describes how Judaism blinded the Jews. Why should it blind us? Doesn't it follow the laws Moses received? Moses himself had revelation. He had vision, receiving revelation from God on Mount Sinai. He received the ten commandments and vision for building the tabernacle. But brothers and sisters, there is a great reminder to us: they have treated the laws of Moses as doctrine, and it created this steadfast tradition of Judaism, and has ensnared the Jews.

Paul clearly tells us in 2 Corinthians 3. When Moses entered into the tabernacle, his face shone. When he appeared, the people dared not look upon him. Moses did not know his face shone, and did an interesting thing: he covered his face with a veil. At that time perhaps women veiled their faces, but the men did not. Moses covered his face with a veil so that people would not be afraid. Each time he came out of the tabernacle he would put on the veil, and over time this became a misconception among the Jews, that Moses' face would always shine and Moses was always right, and they should always hold fast to the teachings of Moses. Paul reminds them that the light of Moses' face faded away. They did not know that Moses' face would not always shine.

In the past 2,000 years, many saints have drawn close to God and their faces shone. We also see that the light has faded away, because the Lord leads His people forward. So sometimes when we read the books of the past, we see truth that is self-evident to us, but at that time it was a great revelation.

So what Moses did created a fearful tradition for the Jews. Even today when they read the scriptures, a veil is placed upon their hearts. But when they turn to Christ, the veil would be removed, but it is so hard for the Jews.

Religious tradition is a scheme of the enemy that does great harm to the church. In the 2,000 years of church history, we see so much of man's sayings and how they are still being kept. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus said that they were teaching the wisdom of man in vain. This is an important thing. We know that Christian tradition has caused many to be blind. We know that you are clear: we are not receiving a religion, we believe in a true and living God. The Lord did not come to this world to establish a religion, but we see so many children of God stumble under tradition. So much reason and philosophy has entered into the church.

In Paul's time, he had already felt the great influence of these things. So as children of God we must take heed and pay attention to these things. Satan's work on earth today is to cause us to be blind. If we are blind, we will not understand God's Word when we read it. Let us be alert. The Bible tells us how the enemy works from the dawn of time. Today, we need the Lord's vision and seeing.

We thank the Lord that His work is one that opens our eyes. How does God open our eyes?

Firstly, He gives us a new life. I have shared that in this life, there is an instinctive function of hearing, seeing and handling. But today, we see great numbers of children of God struggle. Many brothers and sisters know in their experience that they have life, yet there are many who have eternal life at the moment they believed, but seem to have forgotten right after. They still live according to their old life. Many Christians still live as if there is no difference from those who do not believe. Besides holding our Bibles and coming to church on Sunday, there is no difference.

Brothers and sisters, do you realise you have a new life within? John tells us in 1 John, "I write you these words that you may know you have eternal life". We know that these words were not written to unbelieving friends, but to Christians. If we know that we have life, we would live differently. If we live in this new life, we would be different from those in the world. So many children of God believe in the Lord but do not realize that they have a new life, or live it out. That is why we cannot see anything.

So John tell us "concerning the word from the beginning that we have seen, we have heard, our hands have handled". So when we live in this life, we can see, hear and handle. We should know if our Lord is with us. He is in our midst. Can we feel Him? Do we know He is here?

He has given us a new life, but we must know that we have this eternal life. We must live according to this eternal life. In these last days, we need to return to life. Many times we see in the church, there are many Christians who have outwardly good deeds, but we cannot touch the feeling of life within. We need special mercy and grace from the Lord.

I remember when I was young, the brethren before us focused on the feeling and the response to this life. Many can feel this life that is within us, and they come before the Lord to repent. When they offend others, they come and confess to others. This feeling we have of this new life is very tangible.

Let me share a small experience I had when I was younger.

When I graduated from middle school, we had a graduation ceremony. We didn't have a school hall so we rented a theater for the graduation. After the graduation many went back to the school. The teachers were still in the theater. When the students went to the school they discovered that no teachers were in the office. They went wild. They opened all the teachers' drawers, taking back all the things that had been confiscated.

I was a little slow and arrived only when everything had been looted. We went to the sports equipment store, to find everything had been taken. I found an air pump, and thought to myself, "I'm not leaving empty handed, so I'll take this". I had not believed in the Lord yet at that time.

We moved from central Taiwan to north Taiwan. I got saved in high school. The brothers always told us that we needed to follow the guidance of the prompting of this new life. If we sin, we have to confess. And if we wrong someone, we have to repay.

I was only in my teens. I was praying before the Lord, and a picture of the air pump flashed before my eyes. I recalled that I had stolen that air pump. I told the Lord that it was so many years ago. But everytime I prayed, I saw the air pump. I knew I had to deal with this. I searched through my things for the air pump and found it near the water pump at home. It was totally rusty.

"Lord what should I do?" "Deal with it". I knew I would not have peace.

So I scrapped off the rust and wrapped it up in newspaper. I wrote a letter to the Principal, saying that I was from the class of such and such a year. I was even the vice-president of the cohort. I wrote that I had stolen the pump, and I asked for forgiveness.

I mailed it out, and the heavy burden fell off. But at the same time I was afraid, unsure of how the Principal would respond. None came.

Those days, there was emphasis on the feelings that would come from this new life. This life is the foundation of your living. It is the foundation of our service.

We must realize first that we have this life. It is an important thing to know this in these last days. If we have this life and follow the guidance from this life, your eyes will be opened to see.

We know that the more we mature in this new life, the greater the function of this seeing. So Christians should pursue the growth of this life. We thank the Lord that not only does He give us this life, He gives us the Holy Spirit to live within us. The Holy Spirit has a great function within us to enlighten the eyes of our heart.

Today, as long as you have this life, regardless of who you are, you should be able to see.

Perhaps when we are young, we are foolish, thinking only the leaders have this seeing, and just going along. But how foolish that is! When a child is born they can see, that is normal. Being able to see is not out of the ordinary.

What is important about that is knowing that many saints before us have had vision, but we cannot live in the vision of others. We must live in the vision for the present day. This is not about being proud or being humble, this is the work of God.

Brothers and sisters, we need to have that vision today.

Not too long ago I was in Hong Kong, fellowshiping with brothers and sisters. I said, "In Taiwan, many of the young people do not like to work, and live off the inheritance of their parents. There is a label used on these people, which is 'ones who feed off the older generation'". When I shared this label, they asked, "what do you mean?"

The older saints had vision and spiritual understanding, and we become the second generation, only feeding off the vision from the first generation. Spiritually speaking, the saints in China are doing the same. It is not that it is bad, but it is not enough.

We need to live today. We need the vision which God gives us today. So that the will of God from ages past may be made anew in us today. We all have the life of the Lord. We all have spiritual eyes. We are all able to see. So we must pray fervently.

At the beginning I shared how we need to pray fervently. When Paul encountered some grand spiritual truth that cannot be fully expressed in human language, he said that he could only pray fervently for them, that the Lord would give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation to enlighten the eyes of their hearts.

This is an urgent need today, especially here. We pray that the Lord will open our eyes today, so that when we depart from this conference, we will have vision anew. We must have the mercy of God. We cannot spend our days in spiritual blindness. May the Lord be gracious.

Our brother also mentioned this: that it is the pleasure of the Father to reveal His Son in us. We come before God with such faith and pray, looking to Him, that by His Spirit, our eyes may be opened. Brothers and sisters, spiritual vision is spiritual seeing. When you have this seeing, you will know where the way is, what God's will is, and we know what we have to hold fast to.

Today while we are on earth, we do not hold fast to that which we ought to hold fast to, and hold fast to that which we ought to let go. May the mercy of God be upon us.

Lord, our hearts are filled with thanksgiving unto you. Not only have you redeemed us, you have given us a new life, causing us to have spiritual eyes that we may see. In this conference, may we not only hear your messages, but we want to see. Place this longing and desire in each one of us. May your spirit move greatly in this meeting, that our eyes may be open. In this dark and chaotic world, may we see clearly so we know how we ought to follow you. Thank you for being with us this evening. Hear our prayer, in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.