



Walking In
REVELATION

by Penn Clark

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There are only a few things in this life that I truly treasure. One is the glory of the Lord that I have experienced, His anointing upon me, and His voice speaking to me since my youth. Perhaps the greatest treasure has been the abundance of revelation He has given to me. For whatever reason He has chosen to grace my life with an ever-expansive revelation of His name, which is His heart and character, as well as His motives and manner. Beyond this, He has given me an abundance of revelation from His word. Much of this took place during the first five years of my knowing the Lord as a young disciple, when He downloaded a steady stream of truth to me from His word. I have spent the last thirty-five years just trying to write it out and steward what He has given to me. The third kind of revelation I have often experienced has been prophetic revelation, which came through encounters with men and women of God. I have been blessed to have crossed paths with those who, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, have impacted my life. In this brief study, let's explore each of these layers of revelation so that we can walk in them.

God has always been revealing Himself in a progressive manner. He first revealed His name to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but in a limited way. Then He revealed more of Himself to Moses, using a different name and showing His power to a greater way than ever before. Later, while confronting the corrupted priest named Eli, He said:

"Thus says the Lord: Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? (1 Samuel 2:27)

In the Old Testament, revelation seemed to come largely through His prophets:

Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7)

In the New Testament, revelation belongs to all of His children because of Jesus Christ:

At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:25-30)

As we do His word, walking out what He taught, we get a glimpse of His heart:

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him. (John 14:21)

Ultimately, we will know Him as completely as He knows us, even though this will take forever:

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. (1 Corinthians 13:12)

WALKING IN REVELATION OF THE WORD

Another aspect of revelation occurs when He takes the lid off of His word, revealing hidden treasures to us. This kind of revelation is part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. Jesus promised that we would be guided into all truth and that the Holy Spirit would speak to us, declaring or revealing what Jesus has for us:

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. (John 16:12-15)

Here are some other verses about this kind of revelation that can help us see how important it is:

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter. (Proverbs 25:2)

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. (Deuteronomy 29:29)

Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth. (Jeremiah 33:6)

He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. (Matthew 13:11)

And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'" (Luke 8:10)

However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:6-14)

How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. (1 Corinthians 14:28)

WALKING IN PROPHETIC REVELATION

Not only does God allow us to know Him, and give us revelation about His Word and His ways, but He allows us to experience specific revelations about the details of our lives through the gifts of the Spirit. I think He does this, largely, so that we might know that He knows us. Often these occur when we come in contact with His prophets. Here are some examples of this at work in the lives of others:

Samuel revealed that the lost donkeys had been found:

"But as for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not be anxious about them, for they have been found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on you and on all your father's house?" (1 Samuel 9:20)

Elisha revealed the battle plans of the enemy:

Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place." And the man of God

sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." (2 Kings 6:8-13)

Elijah revealed the intentions of the king:

Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria, and was injured; so he sent messengers and said to them, "Go, inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury." But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?' Now therefore, thus says the Lord: 'You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" So Elijah departed.

And when the messengers returned to him, he said to them, "Why have you come back?"

So they said to him, "A man came up to meet us, and said to us, 'Go, return to the king who sent you, and say to him, "Thus says the Lord: 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'"" (2 Kings 1:1-6)

Ahijah revealed the cunning of the king:

At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick. And Jeroboam said to his wife, "Please arise, and disguise yourself, that they may not recognize you as the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Indeed, Ahijah the prophet is there, who told me that I would be king over this people. Also take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him; he will tell you what will become of the child." And Jeroboam's wife did so; she arose and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were glazed by reason of his age.

Now the Lord had said to Ahijah, "Here is the wife of Jeroboam, coming to ask you something about her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus you shall say to her; for it will be, when she comes in, that she will pretend to be another woman." (1 Kings 14:1-5)

DANIEL'S EXPERIENCE

Daniel was the one person in the Old Testament who seemed to operate in the revelation gifts the most. Here are some verses that pertain to his experience:

He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him. (Daniel 2:22)

Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. (Daniel 2:27-28)

As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart. (Daniel 2:29-30)

The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret." (Daniel 2:47)

Jesus often knew what was in people's hearts. I don't think this happened because He was God in the flesh, but because He had the same Holy Spirit that He made available to us. For example, in John 1:47-48, Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him,

"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

PAUL'S EXPERIENCE

In the New Testament, the person we can study to learn more about each kind of revelation is the Apostle Paul. His first experience with this happened on the Road to Damascus when Jesus

revealed Himself to him, shedding the light of revelation upon him, including a revelation about his future purpose:

But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' (Acts 26:16-18)

Paul later wrote about this experience as he was relaying his testimony to a church:

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. (Galatians 1:15-17)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1:11-12)

Notice how he said that the gospel had been given to him by revelation through encounters with the Living Christ, as had been promised by revelation:

"Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there, came to me; and he stood and said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that same hour I looked up at him. Then he said, The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' (Acts 22:12-15)

While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. (Acts 26:12-16)

Years later, Paul submitted these revelations which Jesus had given to him to the other apostles at Jerusalem. This act of submission was made known to him by revelation:

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain. (Galatians 2:1-2)

Perhaps he was being used as an example for the rest of us, so that we can see that no matter how we get our revelations, we should be accountable to others. It would be safe for all of us to submit any significant revelations we have been given to those in authority, lest we run in vain.

Maturity can be marked by the kind of revelations given to us, which help us keep moving forward. If we think we are mature and we are not, God will reveal even that to us:

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. (Philippians 3:12-16)

PAUL'S PRAYER

The apostle Paul had been praying for the church at Ephesus, specifically asking that revelation be given to them. Here is what he wrote:

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 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... (Ephesians 1:15-17)

Paul seemed to think that having an ongoing revelation of the Lord was key to our spiritual growth. This was his experience and he wanted it for the churches he had established. We should be praying this for our own church as well as for our loved ones, especially if they seem stalled or lacking passion. I have often prayed this for myself through the years and feel that the Lord has answered it at all the different stages of my life. Here is the same section of scripture from the *Today's Living Bible*:

I have never stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you wisdom to see clearly and really understand who Christ is and all that he has done for you. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future he has called you to share. (16-18, TLB)

The *New International Version* makes it plain:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. (17-19, NIV)

I like it in the *God's Word Translation* as well:

I pray that the glorious Father, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know Christ better. Then you will have deeper insight. You will know the confidence that he calls you to have and the glorious wealth that God's people will inherit. You will also know the unlimited greatness of his power as it works with might and strength for us, the believers. (17-19, GWT)

Here is the same section of scripture from *The Amplified Bible*:

[For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him,

By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones),

And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, (Ephesians 1:17-19, AMP)

It is by God's grace that revelation happens. Paul mentions this in his letter to the Ephesians in chapter 3:1-5:

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.

Finally, we should pray for revelation. There is a powerful invitation to do this found in the story of Jeremiah in prison. While he was there, cut off from everything else, the Lord manifested Himself to the prophet and invited him to ask for revelation. This is an amazing encounter, made sweeter by the context in which it was offered. Are you going through a hard time? Rather than praying your way, out, ask the Lord to show you something in it. He may show you something of His name you do not know. He may give you a revelation of His Word, or even a revelation about yourself or circumstance.

God hides things, but it is hidden for us, not from us. There is something about the search that makes what we find even more valuable. We are told in Proverbs 25:2 that it is our privilege to search for that which is hidden:

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

This has been my experience. I pray that you will find this to be your experience as well.