

# Surrender of the Vision Keeper

If you find yourself more drawn toward **prayer** than promotion, more toward humility than hype, you are being prepared by the Lord for the **glory of God**. What He is working in you is typical of what God is establishing in thousands of other believers.

However, before the Father ultimately reveals Christ as Lord over the earth, He will first reveal Him as Lord over the church. And while we should rejoice, we must also take heed. For until we are standing face to face in glory with Jesus Himself, we are going to be in transition. To each of us, Christ's call remains, "Come, follow Me!" (Luke 18:22). If we will walk with Him in obedience, He will take us into the fullness of His presence.

Still, transitions can be frightening. The uncertainty of those passages between **spiritual plateaus** can hold us hostage to yesterday's blessings. Let us recall with godly fear that the bronze serpent, which brought healing to Israel in the wilderness, by Hezekiah's day had become an idol that had to be torn down.

Our hearts must  
bow to God alone, for even **spiritual gifts**, when isolated from  
Christ  
the Giver, can become **idolatrous**. Therefore to successfully  
navigate  
this season of change, the Lord will require of us a fresh  
surrender to  
His Lordship. He will demand that our preconceived ideas and  
expectations be submitted to Him. For if we are continually  
telling the  
**Holy Spirit** where we expect to go, we neutralize our capacity  
to hear  
where He wants to take us.

### **Christ in Us**

To better understand the changes God is initiating in the  
church, we are  
going to study the life of Mary, Jesus' mother. More than any  
other  
woman, God had blessed Mary. She alone was granted the  
wondrous  
privilege of giving birth to the Son of God.

While the Lord's  
promise and purpose with Mary were unparalleled, in two  
significant ways  
His promise to us is similar. First, even as Mary received  
Christ into  
her physical body, we have received Jesus into our spirits.  
And second,  
as she birthed Christ, our quest is to see Jesus unfettered  
from the  
womb of our religion about Him. Our destiny is not just to  
carry Christ  
inside but to reveal the **fullness of His glory** in this world.

Even now, abiding  
within our spirits, deeper and more profound than our church

doctrines,  
is the actual **Spirit of Christ**. The consequence of this union  
of  
Christ's Spirit with our spirits expands the original seven  
Creation  
days into the eighth day. We are new creatures in a new  
creation (Gal.  
6:15). In this new beginning to God's eternal plan, Jesus  
Christ is the  
firstborn of a new race of men (1 Cor. 15:45).

As Jesus was both  
God and man, so the church is actually the dwelling of Christ  
in the  
temple of man. There is not a different Jesus in us than He  
who dwells  
in Heaven. He is Christ wrapped in glory in Heaven; He is  
Christ wrapped  
in our human flesh on earth.

Our salvation is  
nothing less than the Perfect One dwelling in the imperfect  
ones, the  
Almighty abiding in the feeble, the All-Sufficient God  
dwelling among  
insufficient people. This is the mystery and glory of our  
salvation:  
Christ in His completeness has extended Himself into our  
lives!

Crucial to the success of His mission is our receiving these  
truths with faith, determining that they shall be our *reality*,  
not just our *theology*.  
It is here, in this carrying of the actual presence of Christ  
within  
us, that we share with Mary the awe of God's purpose for us.

## **Jesus in Subjection**

While Joseph was a good man, it was Mary who nurtured Jesus and continued to raise Him after Joseph died. In fact, we shall see that Mary became the matriarch of the family. Uniquely, under her **spiritual influence**, Jesus matured. It was natural that over time Mary would consider herself the *Keeper of the Vision, Guardian of Him Who is to Come*, for in truth she was.

“And He continued in subjection to them” (Luke 2:51). This is an astonishing thought—Jesus, Lord of Heaven, in subjection to a lowly carpenter and his wife. Yet if we think about it, is it not equally astonishing that the rule of Christ in His church is, at least in part, subject to our initiatives? He submits Himself to our schedules and to our service times. He works within the confinements of our weaknesses and temperaments. Yet, we should honestly ask ourselves, is it a voice from heaven or the traditions of earth that determines how long we shall worship Him on Sunday morning?

If the Lord so decided, in an instant He could reveal His majesty and draw trembling surrender from all mankind. However, He restrains Himself, choosing not to intimidate but to inspire our obedience. He has chosen to hide His glory not *from* us but *in* us. And then, in order to perfect our character, He subjects Himself to our initiatives of hunger and faith.

However, the fact that Jesus will *accommodate* and submit Himself to the conditions we offer Him does not mean that He has approved of our limitations upon Him. The standard of the church is not the church; it is Christ. This is our present dilemma: Just as Jesus subjected Himself to Mary and Joseph and they became, for a time, the *vision keepers*, so we have assumed that Christ will continue to exist in *subjection* to us.

He will not. For as Jesus arises in His Lordship, to save us He must first deliver us from our efforts to control Him.

### **A Time to Let Go**

It is significant that Mary still exercised matriarchal supervision over Jesus even after He was a mature man. At the wedding feast in Cana we find Jesus, His disciples, and Mary, the vision keeper. "They have no wine," Mary told her son. Jesus answered, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come" (John 2:3-4). In spite of what Jesus just said, Mary tells the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it" (v. 5). While I am amazed at the fact that the Father worked through Mary's orchestration of this miracle, the fact is, Jesus did not come forth to do the will of His mother but His Father. It was time for Jesus, Mary's son, to begin His ministry as Jesus, God's Son.

A significant and necessary reversal of authority was needed in Mary's

relationship with  
Christ—a change that she had not anticipated. In her mind, her  
sense  
of influence was simply a continuation of her God-given  
responsibility  
as vision keeper.

The problem of  
control worsened after the miracle at Cana: “After this He  
went down to  
Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His  
disciples; and  
they stayed there a few days” (John 2:12). The verse reads,  
“He and His  
mother” went to Capernaum. Do you see? Mary, the keeper of the  
vision,  
has taken what she thinks is a legitimate position, an earned  
place of  
influence, with Christ.

In defense of  
Mary, she clearly has been with Jesus the longest; she has  
paid the  
highest price. More than anyone, she has heard the Word and  
believed it;  
her faith has borne Christ Himself! She has magnificently  
served the  
purposes of God. Perhaps she had every right to think that  
Christ could  
work the miracles as long as she remained a guiding influence.  
Her  
continued *mothering* was not evil but natural.

However, God had  
determined it was time for Jesus to be unfettered from all  
human  
influences of control. Jesus would now only do the things He  
saw His

Father do.

This,

I believe, is where God is jealously directing us: We are being emptied

of our agendas, false expectations, and nonbiblical traditions so that

Christ alone will be Lord over the church. God is requiring a **fresh**

**surrender** of the vision keepers.

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