

## AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus” in Luke 9

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 9: 18-36; Mark 8:27~ 9:13; Matt 16: 13~17:9

### 1. Peter’s confession of faith

- A. Having taught the disciples for nearly three years, our Lord gave an opportunity to the disciples to express their faith in Him—that is, their perception of His identity. They quoted various views of the people about Him – John the Baptist, Elijah or a prophet risen again. [v. 9:19] But, Peter confessed “You are Christ, the Son of the living God.” [v. 9:20; Matt 16:16]
- i. The Lord said such a revelation comes from God of heaven, not from “flesh and blood.” [Matt 16:17] When have such a revelation and comes to have faith in Jesus as our personal savior, it is a gift from God, not from men. So, we need to give credit and gratitude to God, although the work of preaching is by men and women.
  - ii. *“On this rock [petra, not Petros] I will build my church...”* --- Petra [rock] in this verse refers to the unmovable truth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and He came as the eternal truth. The Church of God has been founded and standing on this eternal truth of Jesus Christ as our Savior, not on one of His disciples, whose name Petros meant a stone.
- B. What has God revealed to us about Jesus? Who is Jesus to us?
- i. Most Jews regard Jesus as one of the prophets but not as their Messiah.  
: They fail to understand and believe that their ancestors worshipped God through the Lamb of God, who is Jesus Christ, and that their ancestors of the 1<sup>st</sup> century killed the Lamb through misunderstanding and hardness of heart.
  - ii. *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* [John 14:6]  
: When we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and King, we enter into the living promise of God’s salvation, are born into God’s heavenly family and enjoy the benefits of His kingdom.

### 2. Bearing the cross to follow Christ

#### A. Significance of the cross in the Christian life

*“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.”* [v. 23-26]

- i. This requirement of “bearing the cross” is perhaps one of the greatest hindrances to Christian conversion and progress in sanctification. “Why can’t I have both salvation and my own pursuits?” That is how many people think and they are unwilling to give up their own pleasures, greed, and selfishness.
- B. Why did Christ lay down this requirement? Why does God’s salvation require self-denial and walking in the narrow way?
- i. Because life may be gained only through death of the former self:
    1. A seed must fall and die so that a new life springs forth, grows and bear fruits: *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone: but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit.”* [John 12: 24]
    2. Numerous natural examples testify this principle of death and life: egg and chick, caterpillar and butterfly, etc.
  - ii. So that we may be borne again as new creation in Christ:

*But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. [Galatians 6: 14-15]*

iii. So that we may have the right to the Holy City of God in eternity

*Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But, outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. [Revelation 22: 14-15]*

### **3. Lord's transfiguration**

- A. Lord Jesus was transfigured before three disciples [Peter, John and James] on a mountain while He was praying. His appearance changed to that of His glorious person in heaven. Moses and Elijah came and spoke with Jesus about His forthcoming work of dying on the cross to fulfill God's plan of human salvation. These two OT servants of God came to encourage the human Son of God to bravely go forth to face the experience while the entire Heaven would be watching with great interest.
- B. A voice from heaven came to the disciples: *"This is my beloved Son; hear Him."* [v. 9:35] God wanted these disciples of Jesus to hear Him and watch Him go through the final stretch of His ministry on the earth so that they could become truthful witnesses of God's work to the world. Later Peter wrote of this account in one of his letters to the Christians as follows:

*For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. [2 Peter 1: 16:18]*

- C. Lessons for us
- i. This experience of seeing Jesus Christ as the Son of God can happen to us "when we pray." Even Jesus prayed to be transformed. We can also pray so that "transformation" occur in us, to put on heaven's glory on us, and hear God's voice speaking to us.
  - ii. Even Jesus needed encouragement from heaven as He faced the coming difficult experience of facing judgment and crucifixion. Let us pray for our pastors and brethren who face difficult experiences.

#### *Topics for discussion:*

1. *What is our confession of faith? Do we also believe Jesus as the Lord and Savior as Peter did?*
2. *Have you ever seen Jesus in His glory appearing to you personally? Please share such experiences.*

