

Not Seen but Eternal!



#2935 0404 21A Easter

VIRTUAL

Sight cancels *faith*—therefore the true Christian life is one in which we truly 2 Corinthians 5:7 “Walk by faith, not by sight.” Not Seen but Eternal—that is why 2 Corinthians 4:18 “We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” Living by faith is living by trusting on an invisible God—not seen, but He *is* eternal!

When we live by *sight* and trust on things we see with normal vision, our problems; troubles, difficulties, and discouragements seem to multiply—but when we live by trusting the *unseen* God, then we are confident that He is waiting to give us every good and perfect gift through faith in Him.

Every day we live *by* and act *on* unseen things around us and things in our possession. When we *know* that we have money at home, we can *act* by what we possess in that unseen amount of cash. We *know* how much money we *have* at home, and thus we act like someone who had that same amount in their *pocket*.

It is important, then, that we consider what we *have* in *divine* things but do not yet actually see with our *eyes*. We are *not* to be influenced by

things we *see* but confident by what is unseen—we are to live by the *eye of faith* in the unseen God. All too many people are controlled by what they *see* or *have* at the present time—regarding health, healing, money, ability, and other matters.

It is quite easy to *act* by how we *feel*; by the money we *have*; or be influenced by what we actually *see*. As we grow in our *faith in God*, however, we will begin to see what He has in store for us with spiritual vision, and what is rightfully ours by Christ’s work of Atonement. We then begin to *live* and *act* and *trust* on the unseen—*not* on what we see or feel but on what God has *said* and what He can *do*. Matthew 19:26 “With God all things are possible.”

It is all too easy to be influenced by what we *feel*; by what we *think*; or by what we *see*—and not by what we should *know* to be *true* by *faith* in the unseen God. It is easy to give in to the devil by accepting what he is suggesting—walking with a limp; using our other hand; or in some way giving in to the devil, instead of *acting* and *walking* and *believing* in what the power of God has already accomplished—“We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.”

Bible examples are recorded of those who walked by *sight*, and others who walked by *faith*. The advantage we have today is a clear description in Scripture of the unseen God and what we can expect Him to do for *us*—because Acts 17:27 “He be not far from every one of us”—not far from anyone who is willing to *believe* that God is waiting to *prove* what He can *do*.

Scripture then, places a big responsibility on us—it is not *theory* but *reality*—of what the unseen God can and will do. These real-world experiences explain how faith in an unseen God is applied so we can do the same. As we begin to trust the *unseen* God, He begins to enlighten our *heart*

and acts on our *behalf*—changing our *attitudes* and answering our *prayers*.

Troubles change to *peace*; sin to *righteousness*; weakness to *strength*; sickness to *health*; poverty to *prosperity*; and failure to *success*. We are *not* to be influenced by *seen* things, but to *act* on what God *is*; what He *can do*; and what He has *promised*—as we trust Him to do them. God is our *source* of supply; our *reservoir* of strength; and the *foundation* of our faith.

It is a *different* way of living from the *former* way of living because 2 Corinthians 5:17 “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” From the moment of giving our life to God, we are deciding to walk in light of things not seen—but knowing God *will do* what He promised.

A business person does *not act* by what is seen—on the amount of money in his pocket—but he *acts* on what is unseen—what he has *deposited* in a bank. His success in business is because he is acting and deciding on the unseen amount in his *account*—*not* by what is seen in his *wallet*. Likewise, we are to *act* and *live* as if seeing Him *Who is invisible*.

Moses left that unbelieving nation of Egypt, because he decided to believe and trust on the unseen God. If we are a *slave* to some sinful *habit* or *addiction*, our *freedom from* Satan’s grip depends on our *believing* and *trusting* on that same *unseen* God of the Bible—our God is *invisible*, but He is *eternal*. Hebrews 11:27 “By faith [Moses] forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”

If Moses had looked at *seen* conditions, he would not have moved from Egypt—and when we look at seen things, we are afraid to take one step of faith on an unseen God. Israel was held in bondage by the powerful nation of Egypt; and we

can be held to addictions, habits, and cravings by the relentless efforts of the devil.

Moses boldly asked Pharaoh to let them leave, but he replied Exodus 5:2, “*I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.*” Moses did not let this discourage him, but he held to his faith as if seeing his invisible God. He *believed* and *saw* the unseen things that God *promised* to do for them—so he “*Forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king.*”

To be in serious danger, and to still take a risk on the unseen God, is genuine *faith* on the divine *power* of God. Moses was holding on to his faith and “*Seeing him who is invisible*” Hebrews 11:27. He continued to believe that God was *big enough*, and *faithful enough* to give them the victory they had asked of Him in prayer.

It was more dangerous and more risky to walk through the sea with literally *tons* of water walled up on either side—which could engulf and destroy them in seconds. If they had acted on what was *seen*, not one Israelite would have moved an inch into the Red Sea, but they believed the unseen, and trusted the powerful God behind those tons of water, so they went through in faith, with no fear of failure.

Every step through that sea, was a step of pure faith in God, and of trusting on His divine power to keep the water in place until they were safely on the other side. It was in *confidence* and *boldness* that only *God* could give those who were trusting Him in faith. 2 Timothy 1:7 “*God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*”

Egypt approached the sea and went through by what was *seen*—but *not* by faith on the *unseen* God—and they *perished* in the flood! The tons of water came back with crushing force and ended their lives forever. If we walk by what is *seen*, we also can be overcome by difficulties, problems,

and troubles that want to overwhelm us—but when we move ahead in *confidence* and in *dependence* on the power of God, we go through tough places as Israel walked on dry ground.

Trusting the *unseen God*, enables us to go from sickness to *health*; from poverty to *prosperity*; from strife to *peace*, and from defeat to *victory*—at home, in work, with finances, and with everything else. It begins by taking one step of faith and in dependence on the divine power of the *unseen God*—who is *waiting* to do great things for those who are willing to trust Him in faith.

Romans 1:20 “*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*”

Another Bible example is given of seeing with *spiritual* eyes—what *cannot* be seen with *human* vision. The king of Syria went against Israel, but whenever they attacked, Israel was prepared to defend. The king called for a meeting to determine who was a spy.

A servant said 2 Kings 6:12 “*None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.*” Elisha was informing Israel’s king of Syria’s combat strategy.

So, a large military force from Syria was sent to capture one prophet of God. The Syrian king thought that this would end the problem. When Elisha’s servant went out the next morning, he was alarmed to see that 2 Kings 6:14 “*Horses and chariots and a great army*” had surrounded the city during the night. He said to Elisha 15 “*Alas, my master! What shall we do?*” To which the prophet replied 16 “*Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*”

Elisha had already learned the spiritual lesson of depending on, and trusting in, the faithful but invisible God. His servant needed spiritual vision to *see* God, so 2 Kings 6:17 “*Elisha prayed, and said, ‘LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*”

God is *greater* than any problem; and more *powerful* than any army, illness, force, or situation we face. God is greater than anything that could attack us or harm us. All that God *is*, and can *do*, is ours for the *asking* and *receiving*—by faith. We need not *earn* it and cannot *merit* it, because it is *free*—through faith on the atoning Blood of Jesus Christ.

Seeing the *unseen God* in whom he trusted, enabled the apostle Paul to sing praises to Him at midnight while he was in prison. No locks, no bars, and no power can stand against those who trust in the *unseen God* of the universe.

Elisha *knew* that the unseen God was *present* with him—just as He is with us today. Jesus, as God manifested in the flesh, promised Matthew 28:20 “*I am with you always, even unto the end of the world*”—therefore Romans 8:31 “*If God be for us, who can be against us?*” *Not Seen but Eternal!*



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