**The “*Power”* Points is a teaching summary**

**from the classes of Grace Bible Church of PA**

**Taught by Pastor/Teacher Ed Rish**

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**The Things which are not Seen**

In our series in Paul’s letter to the Philippians we have been noting the advance of the Philippians toward what could be considered the pinnacle of the grace filled life. We have been referring to that as living the resurrection life in time. Attaining to this life requires a lot of spiritual growth. In the past we stated that it is possible for believers to receive quick flashes and short glimpses of this life as they grow spiritually. The degree to which believers experience this life depends on their attitude toward Bible doctrine. Very few believers however, will reach the level of spiritual maturity where they will receive the magnitude of blessings that are available to them. This level of maturity is the point at which believers have executed GOD’s plan for their lives, attained to winner status, and glorified GOD and The LORD JESUS CHRIST (TLJC).

By the time a believer reaches this point, he will most likely have overcome the many obstacles that were placed in his path by the forces of darkness, some of which brought on intense suffering. He will most likely have left certain friends and loved ones behind, and he will more than likely have denied himself many of the things worldly minded people enjoy. But he’ll receive far more than he left behind. This is a promise from TLJC. Our LORD said in ***Mark 10:29-30 Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age.*** The point here is limitless grace is available to believers who execute GOD’s plan.

In order to experience grace, you have to be able to recognize grace. Through Bible doctrine resident in the soul believers recognize and understand just how blessed they really are. Worldly minded people focus on what they can see, and what can be seen is what satan wants man to see (power, wealth, fame, status, sex, approbation and everything that glitters). The old sin nature in man motivates man to chase after these things. What really counts cannot be seen with the naked eye. The apostle Paul wrote in ***2 Cor. 4:18 while 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.***

The difference between the temporal and the eternal is similar to the great chasm that separated Paradise from the other three compartments of hades. The chasm was so vast there was no crossing over. Arrogance is the chasm that separates the temporal from the eternal and arrogance can prevent us from recognizing and experiencing grace.

There is however another side to man, and GOD put it in man. It’s the desire for the eternal. Solomon said in ***Eccl. 3:11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart.*** Man has a built in desire to seek GOD. At some point in every person’s life they are going to come to the realization that GOD exists, and at that point they have a decision to make. Do I seek the eternal, or stay with the temporal? That which is temporal is always in your face, you don’t have to look for it, it’s always in front of you. Seeking that which is eternal on the other hand, is not that easy. You have to go out and get it, and those temporal things keep getting in the way. The temporal things keep calling man back to a world of dead ends but the persistent seeker will eventually find what he seeks. Our LORD said in ***Matt. 7:8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.***

GOD provides everything man needs to come closer and closer to Him and receive all the fantastic things He has in store for those who keep diligently seeking Him. Those things come under the category, *the things which are not seen.* Those things today are Bible doctrine or the Word of GOD. The things which are not seen are what the Word of GOD produces in the souls of believers. God also provides us with a way to see the things which are not seen. The problem doesn’t lie with GOD, He is not hiding. GOD never withholds grace. The problem lies with man.

Man often doesn’t want to see that which is unseen. The problem exists in every dispensation. In the dispensation of the hypostatic union GOD revealed Himself through the GOD-Man, JESUS CHRIST. GOD presented Himself to man in bodily form. Many however, didn’t see GOD in the Man because they were blinded by arrogance. Unbelievers are going to spend eternity in the lake of fire because they refuse to see the unseen. And many believers are going to miss out on fantastic blessings in time because they were unable to recognize and act upon grace.

The power of GOD is divine power. There is no power like it in the universe, but it cannot be seen. Divine power has the ability to take the unbeliever from the path leading to the lake of fire into the eternal state for all of eternity. Divine power at work in a person has the effectual energy to create invisible heroes, to overcome any amount of suffering, and to demolish satanic systems of thinking. Divine power has the ability to provide believers with a life of unimaginable blessings in time.