

CHANGING THE SEEN AND SHAPING THE UNSEEN

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We've been studying what faith is and we've learned that faith is what we believe. God's kind of faith is believing His Word. We now know that faith is not hope. Faith is now and hope is future.

What do we do with this knowledge? We use our faith to change what is seen and shape the unseen.

Seen things have become so real to some people that they have forgotten about the unseen. We live in a world of the natural. We rub shoulders with the physical day after day until the unseen realm seems unreal. We are almost tempted to believe it doesn't exist!

But the Apostle Paul said: *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 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. 2 Corinthians 4:17,18.*

These words almost cause us to think the Apostle Paul had lost his mind when he said, Look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. How in the world can you look at something you can't see? Paul is talking about unseen principles: the principles of God's Word which are actually spiritual law--spiritual forces that are unseen. These are eternal forces which always work when you set them in motion.

Notice what Paul said: *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen...*

In other words, if you're looking only at seen things, things of the natural, then the affliction will not work an exceeding weight of glory in you: It will work only while you're looking at things which are not seen.

You must shift over into the realm of spiritual law and begin to look at things which are not seen with the natural eye. You look at things which are not seen with the eye of the spirit--the eye of faith.

Notice Paul didn't say, All affliction will work a far exceeding weight of glory. He said it would happen only while you're looking at things which are not seen. Ask yourself the question: What are the things which are not seen?

If you're having financial problems and the bank statement comes back in red ink, then the thing that is not seen is the bankbook balancing or your need being met. The thing that is seen is lack. Paul said that pressure will work for you an exceeding eternal weight of glory if you will look at things that are not seen. It is actually the looking at the unseen that brings the glory, not the pressure of the affliction.

This agrees with what he said in **Philippians 4:8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**

In other words, get your mind off the problem and begin to think on the things that are not seen--the things you desire, the things you don't see with your physical eye. You must learn to see the answer by the eye of faith.

The word temporal means "subject to change". Things you are seeing with the physical, natural eye are always subject to change through spiritual law. So many times what we see with our physical eye does not agree with the Word of God, the promises of God. The world's system shapes the seen things around us. They seem to be very real, and they are real; but the Word of God says that they are subject to change!

God's Word is the establishing force of the image of unseen things. We should not allow circumstances and the cares of life to create images within us. Take God's Word and change things that are seen--the things you don't desire--into things that you do desire.

Words produce images inside us; but sometimes we get these images by making wrong assumptions. Because we have not shaped the unseen within us, we miss it. We let it go. Sometimes God sets it before us; but because we've never shaped the image of the unseen within us, we keep pushing it out of the way, looking for something else. We're so wrapped up in what is seen that we fail to see the unseen.

We need to recognize one thing: It is God's Word that will establish the image of the unseen within us. We should not allow circumstances or the cares of this life to create images within us. What the Word says should create the image.

Let me paraphrase what Paul said in **2 Corinthians 4:18: If you don't get rid of that image of looking at the seen, and produce another image inside you, then the afflictions of life will not work in you an eternal weight of glory. But they will, if you're looking at the things that are not seen.**

We should take God's Word and change the things that are seen--things we don't desire--into the things that we do desire. Someone said, I can plainly see my financial situation. I can plainly see the red ink on my bank statement. Those are things you can see. The exceeding eternal weight of glory will be brought into place by looking at the unseen. Notice, it is not the affliction that brought glory, but concentrating on the

unseen. The unseen is from the spirit world. Spiritual forces are released by God's Word being spoken.

Unseen things are shaped by the Word of God.

For example, the Word says: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38.

He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

2 Corinthians 9:6.

My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19

You may not see these things now with your physical eye, but they are very real. They are shaped by God's Word and your confession! When you look around, you may see lack; but God's Word says, Give, and it shall be given back...He which soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

You change the seen with God's Word. You shape the unseen by calling things that are not as though they were. Romans 4:17.

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are.

1 Corinthians 1:27, 28.

Look at the same passage in the Amplified Bible: No, for God selected--deliberately chose--what in the world is foolish to put the wise to shame, and what the world calls weak to put the strong to shame. And God also selected--deliberately chose--what in the world is lowborn and insignificant, and branded and treated with contempt, even the things that are nothing, that He might depose and bring to nothing the things that are.

God has chosen things that are not to bring to naught things that are! He is simply talking about things not revealed to the physical senses. Hebrews 11:1 tells us: Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Faith is the substance, the raw material. One translation says that faith is giving substance to things hoped for, to what you desire and what is not yet manifested to the physical senses.

Faith is the substance that God used to create the universe, and He transported that faith with His Words. God used His words as containers to transport His faith out there into the vast nothingness, into the darkness.

He said, Light, be! And Light was! (Genesis 1:3). When there was nothing but darkness, God took the Word light and spoke it into existence. He took that which was not and

brought to naught that which was!

In [Genesis 1:26,27](#) we are told that God created man in His own image and likeness. Therefore, man is capable of taking those things which are not and bringing to naught those things which are! He is capable of taking things that are not revealed to the physical senses and bringing to naught things that are revealed to the physical senses.

Faith is the substance of things, but you can't see faith. Faith is a spiritual force. You can't see someone's faith. An airplane can be seen. You can see it, touch it, and feel it. Naturally speaking, the airplane is too heavy to fly. It weighs about two tons when empty; but because of the law of lift, it can fly. A lift is an unseen force produced by the unseen air flowing over the wing. For years, men didn't know anything about that law. But when you understand these laws and set them in motion, one law has to give way to the other. Things that are not seen put to naught things that are seen, and an airplane flies like a bird.

You don't supersede one law with another by violating God's laws. First, you have to find out how they work; then you have to cooperate with them. Operating according to God's laws causes you to be able to shape things that don't seem to be--the unseen--into a workable situation.

An excellent example of changing the seen and shaping the unseen is shown in the life of Abraham. Let's read [Romans 4:16, 17](#). Notice, it is God and Abraham who are calling things that are not as though they were. God said, I have made thee a father of many nations. Abraham didn't have a child at that time, but the Bible says he believed God, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness.

This is the way you begin to change the seen and shape the unseen. Abraham called things which were not manifest in the natural realm as though they were--until they were!

Abraham was the man who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken. He was 99 years old and his wife was 90; but he was not weak in faith. He would not consider anything that contradicted what God had spoken.

Let's notice what God did to bring about what He had said. [Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And God said unto Abraham, as for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.](#)

[Genesis 17:5, 15](#)

God had promised Abraham something that was absolutely impossible in the natural. Abraham was too old, Sarah was too old; and God does not violate His laws. So God changed their names! Abraham means "father of many nations" and Sarah means "mother of nations". Every time Sarah stuck her head out the tent door and called

Abraham! He didn't hear Abraham!--he hear Father of Nations!

The Bible says, **Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17)**. God changed the seen and shaped the unseen for Abraham and Sarah by using their own voices!

When Abraham said, "My name is Abraham," he was saying, "I am the Father of Nations." Every time Abraham said Sarah, she didn't hear Sarah; she heard Mother of Nations. Every time she said, "My name is Sarah," she was saying, "My name is Mother of Nations." She was changing the seen and shaping the unseen with her very own voice.

God's way of changing the seen and establishing the unseen is with words. Words produce images in your spirit and in your mind. The Bible says Sarah received faith to conceive seed. She did it by hearing God's Word for her. When anyone said Abraham or Sarah, they were saying, Thus saith the Lord.

God said, I have made thee (past tense) the father of many nations. The Word says that Abraham believed God, and he went about calling things that were not as though they were. This is the way you begin to shape the unseen.

And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead...(vs. 19).

If you want to change the seen, the first thing you need to do is consider not. Don't consider what you can see to be eternal. Don't consider what you can see to be established because the Word of God says things which are seen are temporal; they are subject to change by the Word of God and your faith!

Abraham believed God: and being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb. He cast down imaginations and brought them into obedience to the Word of God.

Sometimes you have to cast down your imagination. **(2 Cor. 10:5)** . The devil will use your imagination if you let him. You must cast down imaginations and bring them into obedience to God's Word.

To get rid of the seen, or what seems to be, you must get your mind and spirit so programmed with the Word of God that you will reject all the devil has to offer. Your spirit will scream, Reject! Reject! It doesn't agree with God's Word!

Then you begin to shape the unseen by God's Word. Why should we walk in defeat and in despair when God's Word has been spoken? God has already had His say on the subject. The problem is that some don't know what He has said, and that enables the devil to take advantage of them.

We see in [Romans 4:20-22](#) that Abraham wouldn't consider anything except what God said: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what God had promised, He was able also to perform, and therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

The word righteousness is an Old English word that means right standing. Abraham's faith was considered or imputed to him for right standing with God. Some might say, "I don't understand it. I don't have any trouble believing God for finances, but I do have trouble believing Him for healing," or vice versa. The same problem may exist in other areas.

When you get your mind renewed to the Word of God concerning prosperity--and realize that it is God's will for you to prosper--then you can operate in that faith. But you can't believe any further than you have knowledge. You have to get yourself in line with the Word of God in the other areas, too.

If you have been taught that healing went out with the apostles and that God doesn't do miracles anymore, then you're inhibited in that area. You're not in right standing with God concerning miracles.

You may be right with God; you may make it to heaven. But in one or more areas you might not be in right standing. It's not imputed to you for right standing because you are believing wrong. You are talking wrong and thinking wrong, because you have been taught wrong. [Faith comes by hearing God's Word. \(Romans 10:17\)](#)

Sometimes if you're going to change the seen to the unseen, you have to shut your mouth! Take Zacharias, for instance. God sent the angel Gabriel to speak to him. Gabriel said: [Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. Luke 1:13](#)

Zacharias and Elisabeth had been praying for this. But when God sent the angel with the message that their prayers were going to be answered, Zacharias said, "How do I know you're telling the truth? Give me a sign." (v. 18) Gabriel probably thought, If we don't get this guy's mouth shut, it's not going to work. Just picture Zacharias going to Elisabeth. He might have said, "A guy appeared to me who seemed to be an angel and said his name was Gabriel. But he said some strange things, and I just don't know. What if he wasn't from God?"

They would have thought about it, talked about it, got unbelief stirred up, and the birth of their son would never have come to pass. God pressed the angel to get Zacharias' mouth shut.

Gabriel said, "All right. I'm going to give you a sign. By this sign you'll know that it'll come to pass. (Not only that, but also he was insuring that it would come to pass!) You'll be dumb and not able to speak until it happens."

Here you see the wisdom of God. God said, "I'll take the things that are not and bring to naught the things that are." Words that are not spoken are much more powerful than words that are spoken in unbelief.

The Word of the Lord has been spoken. God's Word is out. God's Word is the final authority on any subject. To change the seen things, sometimes you must get your mouth in motion. There are other times, if you're going to change what's seen, you will have to practice the vocabulary of silence.

This is especially true in situations where Satan comes against you so strongly that you can't bring yourself to say the things that are positive or in line with the Word of God. The pressure is on, the circumstance is wild, and all that rises up within you is against what God says. You know if you say anything, it will be negative; so don't say anything!

Be quiet before God because His Word has already been spoken. You have confessed it for weeks, but now it's time to be quiet. Jairus is a good example of keeping quiet after confessing in faith. In the [5th chapter of Mark, verses 22-23](#), Jairus came to Jesus in behalf of his daughter:

Behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw Him, he fell at His feet, and besought Him greatly, saying, my little daughter lieth at the point of death; I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. Jairus said, ...and she shall live. Those are his faith-filled words. He is building a faith image--shaping the unseen. He set the law of faith in motion with his words of faith. Follow Jesus, in [verses 24-27](#), as He goes to Jairus' house and see how it worked:

Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him. And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing better, but rather grew worse, when she had heard of Jesus, came in to press behind, and touched His garment.

Notice what was said of this woman. After spending all she had (indicating she may have been rich at one time) and suffering many things, she was nothing better, but rather grew worse. No doubt this woman had within her a "grow worse" image.

Many Christians have formed within themselves a "grow worse" image. They never see themselves getting any better. They never see themselves having any more than what they have had because of past experiences. Perhaps they allowed fear to creep in and cause the circumstances to be as they are. Sometimes it is just a wrong decision they made that brought on the problems. Then the devil said, "These problems are happening because God is teaching you something."

When they believed him, they received that "grow worse" image as being from God the Father. Then they couldn't pray in faith. That image held them in bondage for years

because they were deceived by the evil one. All that time, God in His mercy would have loved to heal them or deliver them if they had released faith in God's deliverance.

No doubt that "grow worse" image had hold of the woman in the 5th chapter of Mark. Notice what changed this "grow worse" image into a faith image: when she had heard of Jesus...(v. 27). What had she heard about Jesus?

No doubt she heard words that Jesus had spoken. He was going about touching people and saying, "Be healed. Be clean. Go and be whole of your plague." She heard that these people were instantly healed. Most likely she heard what Jesus had said concerning sickness and oppression of the evil one. (Luke 13:12) I am sure she heard about the Covenant.

We know she heard about Jesus. Jesus was the Word of God. When she heard about Jesus, she heard the Word. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17) When she heard these things, they produced faith inside her. They began to change her image. Then she started changing the seen and shaping the unseen.

How did she do it? With her words! The Amplified Bible says, "She kept saying, If I only touch His garments, I shall be restored to health." She started down the road to where Jesus was and kept saying, "If I can but touch His clothes, I will be made whole. If I can but touch His clothes, I shall be restored to health. I shall be...I shall be..."

She then began the process of building a faith image within her spirit. Keep in mind that The Amplified Bible says, "she kept saying". She didn't quit saying it. Don't let the Word depart out of your mouth. Meditate therein day and night. Observe to do all that's written therein; then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. (Joshua 1:8)

So she set out to get rid of that "grow worse" image by building an image of health, life, and strength. She did it by speaking faith-filled words. God created this universe by speaking faith-filled words. The Bible says in Hebrews 11:3 that He framed the worlds by the Word of God. Faith-filled words framed this world. The Word of God will frame your world also, if you will begin to speak it continually.

When that woman touched His garment, straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague (v. 29). The last thing that happened was she felt in her body that she was healed. Sometimes we want that to be first. We say, "If I feel it, I'll believe it. If I see it, I'll believe it." That's not the way it works.

Remember, Jairus was with Jesus and the multitude. They were on their way to Jairus' house when all this happened. While He yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, thy daughter is dead; why troublest thou the Master any further?

Here is Jairus' opportunity to let the words he has spoken depart and let fear come. But he has already built a faith image in himself by speaking those things in faith. As soon as Jesus heard what the runner said, **He turned to Jairus and said, Be not afraid, only believe (v. 36).**

Now look at what Jairus said: Nothing! Not one word!

God will take the things that are not and bring to naught the things that are. There was Jairus. His little daughter was dead. But Jesus said, **"Don't be afraid. Only believe."** Faith is the substance of things hoped for, or desired. Faith is the raw material, the spiritual raw material, from which things you desire are made.

Fear is the opposite force of faith. It is the substance of things not desired. If you have fear, the thing you don't desire will come to pass. Jairus didn't say anything. At this point, he took things he didn't say and brought to naught the things that were said. The word of faith had already been spoken: She shall live. Jesus walked into that situation, and there was the little girl, dead. All the relatives were there, weeping and wailing, and He ran them all out. Listen to the words Jesus spoke: **"She's not dead. She's asleep!" (v. 39)**

Now wait a minute. She is dead, but Jesus said she's not. That sounds like a lie. But Jairus' words and his silence would not allow the death. Bad news was destroyed by silence.

Jesus is talking and acting in Kingdom principles. We must get an understanding of this if we are going to operate on the same level of faith. He is talking things that are not and speaking as though they were.

What is Jesus doing? He is not trying to convince them she is alive. That would be a lie because, naturally speaking, she is dead. He is effecting something by what He's saying. He is highly developed in the God-kind of faith. Here is where some people are missing it. They say, "I started saying certain things, and nothing happened. I said it four or five days and it didn't come to pass." They are not developed in it.

Keep saying. Keep speaking. You're shaping the unseen. The first thing your words are doing is causing faith to come. You're really not going to affect many things until faith comes.

Jesus walked in and spoke to that dead girl, and she rose up! That was creative power flowing out His mouth because He was highly developed in Kingdom principles. I want you to realize this is the way Jesus ministered in the earth. On every occasion when He set out to change the seen, He absolutely would not talk about what was seen. He would not consider the thing that was seen as being permanent, only temporary.

Your words will change the seen and shape the unseen if you use these same principles of the Kingdom. God said: **I create the fruit of the lips. (Is. 57:19)**
You don't have to accept what you see now. You don't have to go through life with the things that are now seen, for things that are seen are temporal--they are subject to change!