



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** Keeping Sight of the Unseen

**SPEAKER** Ps Jason Teo

**THEME** Focus on the Spiritual

**DATE** 29 & 30 April 2017

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## The Temporal and the Eternal

*“For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

*2 Corinthians 4:18*

This week, Ps Jason reminds us of an inevitable truth: there are things we do not see, but are real and impact our lives in ways we are often unaware of. Our physical bodies, being worn down by affliction, suffering, persecution and old age will not last forever. Thus, he points us to Paul, who urges us to focus our attentions instead, on the eternal, unseen things of God.

## The Eternal, Unseen Things

### A. THE UNSEEN WEIGHT OF GLORY

We are promised a **greater glory** when we are changed into the likeness of the Lord’s glory [2 Cor 3:18]. This change happens as we work towards it by intentionally renewing our inner man. What we do today matters. We reap what we sow [Gal 6:7]; this greater glory of tomorrow is not independent of our choices today.

#### Transformation from glory to glory

In the light of eternity, our affliction is “but for a moment”. We are called to look beyond our present discomfort towards the weight of glory that is “far more exceeding and eternal” [2 Cor 4:17]. In this journey of transformation, we must be active participants! We are to renew our minds, put off the old man and put on the new, deny ourselves, pursue holiness and bear fruits of righteousness. These changes are continual and it is a process. Many of us are like caterpillars, eager to realise the majesty of a butterfly. We fail to understand that transformation occurs day by day [2 Cor 4:16] and the rate of change, while definite, is “one degree” of glory to another [2 Cor 3:18]. Yet, in this we can be assured: whenever God does something meaningful and good in us, **He does not rush the process.**

#### Failure to change

Of course, the converse is also true when we do not desire change and we neglect to feed our inner man. When we spend time that does not profit but takes us from God, we may never cross into the frontiers of flight and will be continually defiled by indulgence, bitterness or self-deception.

## B. THE UNSEEN PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is a Person with Force. And because change cannot occur without the Holy Spirit, we need to be **constantly connected** to Him [2 Cor 3:18]. In fact, when He moves, there will be **life and order** [Acts 2:1-13].

### The character of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is our strength, might, wisdom, comforter, guide and more. Amongst the many things He is to us and does for us, He brings us new life through His **creation** and **renewal** [Psa 104:30s]. Isaiah 43:19 describes this renewing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In the wilderness of our habitual sin, addictions and perpetual failures, in the wasteland where there is desperation and dryness amidst strained, broken and absent relationships – in these circumstances, the Holy Spirit breaks through strongholds, makes a way for us and gives us new life. And He promises to do all this when we **seek Him in humility** and **abide in Him closely**.

### Removing the stones

However, we still need to remove the stones hindering the flow of the current. These stones can be sins and baggage – our stubbornness, self-wilfulness, self-centredness, shame and hurt. When we leave these in the way, we reject and quench the Holy Spirit, which grieves Him tremendously.

## C. THE UNSEEN KINGDOM WITHIN YOU

The Kingdom of God is within us! While the Kingdom cannot be seen, it is not confined by space and it is by its **manifestation** that we know of its presence [1 Cor 12:7].

### How the Kingdom manifests in us as believers

We manifest the Kingdom of God through spiritual gifts [1 Cor 12:8-10], confession of Christ as Lord [1 Cor 12:3], fruits of the Spirit [Gal 5:22], righteousness [Rom 14:17], and authority [Mat 12:28]. We are prisms to the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom is revealed in **renewed minds, transformed lives, repentance, reconciliation, righteousness** etc. To pre-believers, the Kingdom of God looks like ordinary white light until we reveal its full, glorious spectacle through the way we live life. However, when the Kingdom does not seem to manifest in our lives, it does not mean the Kingdom is powerless. Rather, it reflects the measure of the assimilation of the Word of God in our hearts. For example, if a man professes to believe in Jesus but is not repentant, he will scarcely bear fruit. It's a matter of **incompatibility** [Matt 7:18]. There are different measures of the manifestation, thirty-fold, sixty-fold or even a hundred-fold.

## D. THE ETERNAL PLEASURES OF GOD

The unseen things **of worth** are not in the realm of the temporal, but in the eternal [2 Cor 4:18]. But eternal life is not just about duration – it's about quality (after all, the Lake of Fire is also eternal).

### An eternal life of value

Jesus wants our eternity to be filled with abundant fullness; a place in God's mansion, our crowns and rewards in a glorious and blissful future where we will rule and reign with Christ. But ultimately, our highest calling and greatest reward is to **fulfil God's pleasure** [Rev 4:11]. The pleasures of God are **forevermore** [Psa 16:11] and just as our parents' joy for us is not self-serving but to our benefit, God's pleasure is for our ultimate reward [Matt 25:20-21].

## The Motivation of Life

It is easy to get distracted by the visible and tangible things of the world, but Ps Jason reminds us to fix our eyes on the things unseen – for that which is seen, is temporal and that which is not, is eternal. As we fix our eyes on the unseen weight of glory, the unseen Holy Spirit and the unseen Kingdom of God, may the **Pleasure of God** be **the one thing** that drives us.

# QUESTIONS

What is the likeness of the glory of God? Which aspect of the likeness of the glory of God do you desire?

Knowing that the Holy Spirit should not be treated like a guest who is kept out of locked rooms in our lives, what is one room in your life you haven't opened to the Holy Spirit?

Do you seek the pleasure and the Kingdom of God? How does your life reflect and manifest this singular pursuit?