



THE UNSEEN

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Here in Honduras there is a minister who is completely blind. He preaches powerfully using his Bible which is in Braille. When someone asks him, “Brother, would you like God to give you back your sight?” he replies, “At my age, with my wife and son, I don’t want the Lord to give me back my sight; I want to stay as I am, because I hear about so much wrongdoing in this world that I don’t want to open my eyes to see this world. I’d prefer to stay as I am. I believe the Lord is my light and I can walk in His light.” Everyone admires this brother. At times he jokes, “When my wife asks me if I want my sight back, I tell her, ‘No, I don’t want to see, because if I see you and find out you’re ugly I’d have to find another wife.’” He jokes with his wife like this, but I mention him as an example because he says, “I can’t see anything of this world, but I can see spiritually.” In a literal sense he knows what it means to walk by what we can’t see. He doesn’t have his physical sight, but he can commune with God, he can see the glory of God, he can see marvels in the lives of other people, without the need for physical eyesight. Thank God we have our physical eyesight. But spiritually speaking, it’s good to be blind to this world and have our eyes open to God.

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 4:18) Although it makes no sense to the natural man, God wants us to follow what we can’t see! As children of God, we should fix our eyes on the spiritual and not the material. Many Christians want to live based on what is seen, not what is unseen. There are many churches, not all, but many, that want to see something material, something tangible and measurable; while the Word of God tells us here that we shouldn’t look at the things that are seen. And we as believers need to enter into what the Spirit shows us, not looking at the things that are seen but at the things that are not seen. Because as it says, the things that are **unseen** are eternal!

To follow what we can’t see means to trust God blindly. To believe that it’s His Spirit that is guiding our steps. Like the blind man who relies on a guide dog, a cane, or someone else to show him the way. **He tells us when we should go forward and when we should stop.** If we’re looking at the unseen things, we can see the Spirit; we can sense Him in our hearts. We can’t see God with our physical eyes, our hands can’t touch Him, but our heart can sense His presence. I can say that the Holy Spirit is in my heart, He’s in your heart, because we can sense His presence. We don’t necessarily need to see Him. Do you know that we, who have not seen and yet believe, are blessed? We’re blessed! Truly it’s marvelous to follow something we can’t see and yet to know that it is there.

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God. 29Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. (John 20:26-29) How many of us have seen Jesus like Thomas saw Him? None of us. But how many of us believe even though we haven’t seen? We believe Him! And we know He’s real! That He exists. We know He came to die on that cross, not because we’ve seen it in a movie, not because someone told us about it, but because that’s what His Word says, and His Word is truth. We know it because **He** is the truth and

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we believe Him. And what's more, His Holy Spirit convicts us that He exists. And this same Spirit is the One guiding each one of us to follow what we can't see. Something we can't see but which we know is there.

We can breathe the air, but we don't see it. We can't even see the air when it comes out of a fan. We can feel it. It enters and leaves our lungs but we don't see it. In the same way the Holy Spirit has entered our heart and we can sense Him there. His Spirit is there in us, and He enables us to follow what we can't see.

For the Christian who hasn't embraced the Holy Spirit it's difficult to follow what can't be seen. But for those of us who walk by the Spirit, it's as easy as eating bread. *Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them.* (Numbers 14:9 NKJV) When the spies went to the Promised Land, they saw the giants and enemies, but Joshua and Caleb said, "We can conquer them, we're going to fight and swallow them up just like someone eats bread!" **These two men already saw victory in their grasp, because they believed God!** How can we possibly believe that we can do marvelous things in the Lord? Because we believe God. As we believe God, we can do marvelous things in the Lord... Things that we never imagined we would accomplish; not by our own works, not because we're such good Christians, no; rather, through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus on the cross we can do these works. And we believe!

When I was young I never imagined that I'd be preaching the Word of the Lord. But this was His will. And in fact, of those that are reading this message, by faith there may be some future missionaries sat down learning, who will later go and preach the Word, and they'll be able to stand in front of the people and say, "I remember once someone said that I was going to preach and here I am!" But for this to happen we have to follow what we can't see. Not looking at the things that are seen, but the things that are unseen.

It was never difficult for Jesus to do a miracle; it was easy for Him. And note carefully, when He did a miracle, He never focused on the praises of the people, on them saying, "Wow, Jesus, what an amazing miracle you just did!" No, His focus was not on that. Where was His focus? On the cross. He was looking to the cross. He didn't focus on the people who were saying, "What an amazing man, we've never seen a man like this, we've never heard a man speak with such authority like He does..." He was looking to the cross. **The people were looking to the miracles, at all the works Jesus did, but no-one was looking to what Jesus was looking to. He was looking to the cross.** And if we are following Him, we also have a cross. We're not going to focus on how many people are in our church, on how much we've worked for the Lord, on what we're doing in the work; none of that's going to be our focus. If God wills, He can fill this place, but each person that comes to this place will have to learn to look to and focus on the cross. What do I mean, "the cross"? Well, we all have to learn to carry our cross and go outside the camp to Jesus (Hebrews 13:12-13.)

Why should we learn to carry our cross? Simple. Because Jesus told us to. (Matthew 16:21-24) *From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. What was Jesus focused on? The cross! Here He was telling His disciples what was going to happen. 22Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.* This Peter says, "No Lord, it can't be true that You're going to die!" Because Peter's focus was different to Jesus' focus. **Jesus was a focused man, focused on doing the will of His Father.** Nothing made Jesus happier than doing the will of His Father. Whatever the cost. *23But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

It's not easy to carry the cross. Some Christians say, "Before I started coming to church, before I accepted the Lord, I didn't have problems like I have now! Now I've accepted the Lord, my family have distanced themselves from me, I have problems with my wife, at times I have problems at work, and before, when I wasn't a Christian, I didn't have these problems!" Why? Well, **simply put, we have to learn to carry our cross.** These things can be part of our cross!

Some go on to say, "No, the Christian life is not for me. I think I made a mistake." And they go back.

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Jesus didn't say, "You're right Peter! Because I'm the son of God, I don't need to die! You're right! Folks, Peter loves me. Peter's a good friend; he's concerned for me. I'm going to pay attention to my good friend Peter, my good disciple. I'm going to listen to him. Peter's very worried so I'm going to try to avoid all this. I won't go to Jerusalem, I won't go to the cross; instead I'll listen to Peter's counsel." What in fact was Jesus' reply to Peter's concerns? *Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.* ²⁴Then said Jesus unto his disciples, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

It says, "**If any man...**" The Lord doesn't force anyone to be His disciple. "**If anyone** will (wants to) come after me..." The Bible shows that later on, when Jesus had ascended and the Holy Spirit came on the apostles, Peter learnt to carry His cross. Now he wasn't the same Peter, the one that said to the Lord, "Don't go to the cross!" Now he was a renewed Peter. A Peter full of the Holy Spirit, who was willing to go the cross himself because he loved Jesus. He could see long-term now.

I think we've been clear in teaching that the Christian life is not a bed of roses. It's not easy to follow the Lord. It's not enjoyable carrying your cross and following through. But this is for sure; it's a great blessing to do the will of God even though this involves trials, because the Scriptures teach us that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.** (Acts 14:22) So, we believe that if God is with us, we can move forward. We can follow despite the obstacles. We're going to move forward.

Jesus prayed to the Father, *I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil* (John 17:15.) That's what He prays for us. Because we're in this world, our flesh wants to lead us astray, but if we walk in the Spirit, the Spirit will hinder us from following after what we see, and will guide us in the path of what we don't see.

A prophet named Agabus came to Paul (Acts 21:10-14). This prophet didn't say much, he just came to Paul, took a belt and tied himself up with it, and said, "This is what will happen to the owner of this belt, if he goes to Jerusalem." This didn't stop Paul! Paul was the owner of the belt! He could have said, "If that's what's going to happen to me, I'm not going!" But Paul also was willing to do the will of God. He was looking at the things that are not seen. In fact, it was Paul who wrote to the Corinthians that the unseen things are eternal.

Did you know that these days there are many comfort-loving Christians who want ministers to preach what they want to hear, not what they need to hear. There's a huge difference between what we want and what we need! We may want a load of things but do we need them? I believe that **we, as children of God, already have what we need; the Holy Spirit**, guiding us. Amen? But there are many believers that want just what they want. Once a minister called me aside and said, "Brother Oscar, I want to ask you a favor, would you preach in the open air to help our ministry?" "No problem," I replied. And he said to me, "Listen there's something I don't want you to mention when you preach. Don't speak about adultery or fornication." I asked him, "Why?" "Because there's some brothers in the church who give generously and are faithful in their tithes and offerings; they're people who help the church a lot. But they still need a little orientation in their walk with the Lord. Don't preach about those things, because if you do, they may leave the church." I replied, "OK, then I'll preach what the Lord wants me to, but I'll try to avoid preaching on those things." Man may ask something of us, but God has the last word.

I got up in front of the people and began to preach. I already had a message prepared but the Lord told me, "I want you to speak about my love." So I began to preach about the love of God, that God so loved the world, etc. "But there's something I need to say," I continued, as the Lord led me. "If you truly walk in love, and say you love God, you must stop lying, you must stop stealing, you must stop committing adultery, you must stop fornicating. The Bible says that if anyone is in Christ he is a new creature, that the old things passed away and everything has become new; and if you're still living that kind of life, you're deceiving yourself. The Bible says in Galatians 6:7 that *God is not mocked, whatever a man sows, that also shall he reap.* And if God wants me to say these things to you today, it's because He wants you to change your life and change your ways so that you can live for Him."

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They didn't invite me back to preach there again. But I had to say what the Lord wanted me to say! I had to say it because, brother or sister, we don't follow after the things that are seen! These men were givers to the church, and I imagine they said to the Pastor, "Don't bring that man to preach to us again; if you do, we'll stop giving to the church..." These things do happen. It was hard for those people to hear that word, but it was the truth.

If we love God, we're going to submit ourselves to Him! We're going to obey Him! And we're going to move forward with Him, looking at that which is unseen. **Our obedience shows our love for God; as does our attitude towards God as our Father.** Truly, there are people that only want to hear nice things. I didn't know the folk I was preaching to that day, but I imagine they found the word very hard. But they had to learn to carry their cross. Maybe some believers feel that it's not right and doesn't make sense to follow what we can't see. Some believers. But for those of us who live according to the Spirit, it should be our way of life, moving on confidently with the Lord. At times He will tell us, "Stop," and we will stop; and when He says, "Continue," we will continue. Simple.

Imagine the scene when they came to Jesus and said, "OK, we want you and Peter to pay your taxes." Even Jesus paid His taxes. There are various Christian businessmen who don't pay their taxes. Jesus didn't avoid paying tax; He didn't come to abolish the law. He said to Peter, "Go to the sea and open the mouth of the first fish you take out, and there you'll find sufficient money to pay both of our taxes." (Matthew 17:24-27) Peter hadn't seen the fish. He didn't even know what kind of fish to take out. He didn't ask, "Lord, what type of fish should it be? A tuna fish? Or perhaps a sardine?" No, he moved out based on what was unseen, trusting in the Lord. Anyone could have said, "Man, that's strange, why would anyone want to believe that a fish would come and give you money?" But it's all to do with believing God.

When my son was very young he became very ill. A shadow appeared on his lung, and he was only able to survive by using a nebulizer. Frequently he seemed to be suffocating and we took him to hospital. I believe the Lord wanted to bring me to a place of greater maturity in Him, to learn to see what I had not yet learnt to see. My son constantly had needles in him to facilitate IV treatment, sometimes in his hands, sometimes in his feet, and by now his skin was so broken that there was nowhere else to put the needles. God was constantly speaking into my life but I wasn't seeing what He wanted me to see, because I was so preoccupied with my son's illness. One time my wife and I took him to hospital and they were going to put a needle in a vein in his head. When I saw this, I said to them, "No, leave the child. You're not going to put anything else in him." The doctor said to me, "If we don't put this in, your child may die." I replied, "He's not going to die. God has told me He's going to heal this child." And he told me, "Oh, you Christians have ideas like that, but let me tell you something, if you take this child from here, you're going to sign a confirmation that you took him, and if he dies, you will be responsible. We doctors will not be held responsible. And if he gets sick again once you've taken him, don't bring him back here for help, because you're saying that you're taking him because you're a Christian. Don't bring him back here."

I replied, "OK, I'll sign your paper, but don't put another thing in my son's body." My wife was crying. And as we left with the child, another doctor came up to me and said, "Listen, don't pay attention to what the other doctor told you; if the child gets sick again, bring him back, look for me, and I'll attend to him. Perhaps the doctor was angry." I said, "We'll see what God says." And we took the child home.

He was sick for three days at home. At one point my mother-in-law said to me, "It would've been better if you'd not taken him out of hospital. This child is very sick." I replied, "Don't worry; we're trusting in the Lord." He was only sick for those three days; I believe the Lord was testing me to see how far my faith would go. I sat down before the Lord and said to Him, "Lord, You told me to bring him home. **I didn't bring him home based on emotion, or feelings, but because You told me to.** And if You told me to bring him home, it's because You're going to heal him."

After three days of crisis, his illness left him. Later we took him to another doctor, and they were amazed because the child had nothing wrong with him; not a shadow on his lung, not asthma, not anything.

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So, we can learn always to look at what the Lord wants us to look at. Not what we want to look at, but what God wants us to look at. I saw a miracle of God in the life of my child, and I said, "Lord, forgive me because I was blind, but now You've taught me to look to You." Since that time we haven't had to take our son to the emergency room. He's 12 years old now, back then he was between 9 to 12 months. He was in a critical situation, but the Lord saved him from that and the Lord has him in His hands now. We've learnt to see. There's still more for us to learn to see, but my prayer is, "Lord, help me to keep seeing what You want me to see."

Nothing is difficult for the Lord. We have to enter into that dimension, that for Him nothing is difficult. We have to find out and do what God wants us to find out and do.

The following Bible verse is my verse. We may have problems, everything may seem to fall apart, but I'm always going to declare what it says here, because God has taught us to see, and to look to the unseen. *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.* (Romans 8:28) We've been called; according to God's purposes we've been **called**. And if we love God, all things work together **for good**. At times we're faced with difficulties, but if we learn to look to the unseen, we'll be able to say, "We will eat this problem like bread, in the name of Jesus." For those of us who love God, all things work together for good.

You know, we look at the universe and the beauty of the moon and the stars that God created, and you know, everything was made from that which is unseen. Everything was made from that which is unseen! You consider those birds that sing so beautifully, the trees that give us shade and fresh air; everything was made from that which is unseen. *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that **the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*** (Hebrews 11:1-3 NKJV) That's how it is! That which is seen was made from that which is unseen. Do you understand? If we're going to follow that which is not seen, we must walk in faith. And if the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, is in us, we have faith, because it's a fruit of the Holy Spirit, and this fruit is in us! And we have to walk in this genuine faith.

Just imagine, the Lord simply said, "Let there be light," and the light was made. How easy, He just said it. We have to learn to walk in the unseen. The Lord said He was going to prepare a dwelling place for us, and I imagine that we will enjoy marvelous things there (John 14:2.) The Lord even has a new name for us (Revelation 2:17.) That's how it is. We can go on with Jesus, seeing marvelous things that the natural man finds it impossible to believe. But for us who walk in the Spirit, we are blessed by being able to see these things (2 Corinthians 2:9-16.) Let's not doubt! The natural man can't believe these things. Many times God sends His angels to protect His children in different situations, even though we don't see them. The word of God says that the angel of God encamps around those that fear Him and He protects them. I believe it, and I know the angel of God does just that (Psalms 34:7; Hebrews 1:13-14.) The natural man can't understand these things, but the spiritual man can.

On my way to church, carrying my Bible, sometimes people say to me, "Ah, you've got the double-edged sword with you." They say that because they see me with my Bible. But if they don't see this Bible, they may think that I am or am not a Christian. But did you know, when you've been feeding on the Word of God, if you leave your Bible at home and go somewhere, you still have the double-edged sword with you, ready for use. If we're taking what God says in the Bible and we are praying those things, praying the Word, even if we don't have the Bible in our hand, it is written in our hearts; we have the double-edged sword not only with us but also unsheathed and ready for action.

The Bible says we have an enemy, that we are in a battle, and that we have weapons, even though we don't see them. When it speaks of our weapons, it's not talking about carrying a revolver or a knife. *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds* (2 Corinthians 10:3-4) The weapons of our warfare are not carnal. Man invented weapons to destroy other men. But as Christians our weapons are not carnal. We are heavily-armed because the Spirit of God is in us. Why are the weapons of our warfare not carnal?

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For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12.) Here's why the weapons of our warfare are not carnal. Because the battle is not carnal. Our enemy is not our neighbor. Our enemy is not our brother in Christ, sitting next to us. Our enemy is not our earthly brother. It's not our wife.

Let's look at how we are armed. *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...* (Ephesians 6:10-11, 13-14) Who is the Truth? Jesus Christ is the Truth! *and having on the breastplate of righteousness...* He is Righteousness! *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.* (Ephesians 6:15-16) Do you have the shield of faith? That's what you use to quench the fiery darts of the devil! These are unseen things. You walk with your shield of faith but no-one sees it. When there's a riot or a demonstration here in Honduras, the police move forward covered by their large shields. If they don't have their guns they have tear gas grenades, but as they move forward their protection is their large shields. You can't see your shield, but you have one! You are moving forward covered by that shield. Protecting yourself against the darts of the devil. Be careful not to drop your guard! Be careful to keep your shield up, so the enemy won't be able to harm you.

There are our weapons. We can't see them! But that's the point! That's God's will, that we should walk by faith, by the unseen, and thus be able to move forward. We walk by faith and not by sight. That's how we need to walk in the Lord.

So the question today is, Are we following that which we can't see? Because if we're not, we need to start with this teaching and learn to walk by what we can't see, always trusting in the Lord, saying, "Lord, I'm here to do **Your will**. I will follow where you lead and go where you tell me to go." The Scriptures say that Abraham left his home without knowing where he was going (Hebrews 11:8) The Lord said to him, *Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.* (Genesis 12:1) He didn't know where he was going, but he left. Because he believed God. It's quite possible that many missionaries that the Lord calls to Honduras come here without knowing where they're going. But they come!

We have to learn to walk by what is unseen. That's where the victory is for each and every one of us. And if something happens along the way, we'll always declare that for those that love God, all things work together for good. Always declare that! Even if something terrible happens, say, "Everything will work together for good." At times bad things, tough things happen in our lives, but if we love God, all will work together for our good. Many people in this country who don't know God say "Ah, if I lose my job, God will give me something better." People that don't know God say that. So just think, for those of us who know God, who seek to follow Him, we can say with even more confidence and joy, "Lord, for those of us who love you, everything works together for good."

That's what the Lord wanted us to hear today. Let's move forward in the Lord.

"Lord, help us to follow after that which we don't see, knowing that we want to do Your will. May Your Spirit always be the One guiding us. We only want to follow, love and serve You. May we take personal possession of every verse and every promise that You've given us, and of the word that says that we must carry our cross. May we carry our cross, and come outside the camp, carrying our cross but believing, o God, that the same glory that you manifested in Your Son, you will also manifest in each one of us who has taken up our cross, believing and recognizing that You are our God. Allowing the carnal to die and allowing the spiritual man to grow inside us. Thank you, we give You glory and honor. And in the name of Jesus, bless this people, each young person, each husband, each mother; bless them in the name of Christ Jesus. Help us to move forward in Your will, and may we always be ready to say, "Here I am Lord, send me." Amen."



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"IF ANYONE THIRST, LET THEM COME TO ME AND DRINK"- JESUS
(JOHN 7:37)