

CNL Season 2009
3.2 Influencing the Invisible pt 2
Transcription

We are focused outwardly on the kingdom of God, it takes humility, then we're going to see these crowns. We're going to see these rewards in eternity grow, grow dramatically. And it all comes down to thinking about it as a bank account. It's like paying it ahead. Heaven is a bank account. Our lives are bank accounts. Investing in others is a bank account. If you encourage others, if you witness and pray with others, you are adding to their bank account. There are some people that hang around with that are just draining your bank account. I'll tell you the danger of people who drain your bank account cause you to doubt. You may be hanging around the wrong people. Because if your bank account is draining, but your not in anyway shape or form encouraging or leading them to Christ, then they would be dangerous to you because if your bank account is emotionally and spiritually drained so low that once Satan comes in and "bang" and you turn around for your reserves and they are not there. You could fall. Let me encourage you today in building one another's bank accounts up sharing experiences together. Celebrate the good qualities of the people in your family. When is the last time dads, moms, kids? When is the last time you all got together as a family and said "you know what? What's great about you? Do you know what God has blessed you with? What God has just encouraged me in my heart about you? I just want to lift you up. When is the last time that you filled each other's bank accounts up? And then when is the last time that you told your kids what they did wrong? When is the last time that your kids yelled at each other and told each other what they were doing wrong? When is the last time the kids were frustrated with you because you did things? We're really good at unplugging and

draining out the bank accounts but are we as good at filling up the bank accounts? And you see if we're busy filling each other's bank accounts in Christ? Do you know what's going to happen in heaven? As you encourage others as you give of yourself to others as you love others as you care for others, as you embrace others do you know what is happening in heaven? Your crowns are growing! Your treasures are growing, there is a long term pay off going on as your getting a blessing here. In other words, this is a win-win situation guys. You do it the devil's way; it's a lose-lose-lose situation. What was that, three loses in a row? It's a LOSE _ LOSE situation but it's a win-win situation when you do it God's way because its not just the effects short term here that you have in relationships, its long term up there but I want to tell you something else its long term down here as well. Jonathan Edwards, you know the story about he had a tavern-owner hated Jonathan Edwards, just couldn't stand him. And Jonathan Edwards had a heart for Christ. But this tavern-owner hated God, just hated God publically. But we took a look at the descendants of Jonathan Edwards who shared Christ and shared the love of Christ in spite of this man's attacks, shared the love of Christ with his children and his grandchildren. We looked at the generations following him, looked at 150 of those who descended from Jonathan Edwards 150 of them turned into be ministers, missionaries, evangelists, even godly senators, righteous leaders. Powerful people who changed the world. The tavern owner who hated God and who taught his kids to hate God turned out to be murderers, horse thieves, and people who did assault and battery. Prostitutes. A great number of them committed suicide. What you and I pay out into the people's lives is going to be an investment in the future. But what kind of investment for the future are you and I making? What kind of words do we speak that are going to pay off in the

future? What kind of attitudes are we going to have that will pay off in the future. Is it going to be that which glorifies God? Like Jonathan Edwards descendants or is it going to be that which degrades the kingdom of God and degrades God? Folks, it's not just a payoff up there long, but there's even a long term payoff down here. There is life after death, there are generations after we die, there is eternity. One day a boss walks into work and says, "Bob, who was his employee, Bob's kind of lazy anyway. And he says, "hey Bob. Do you believe in life after death?" And Bob the employee says, "Oh yes sir, sure." Boss says "well that explains it, because after you skipped work yesterday, for your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you." (laughter) Ok, one of the things as we look at this next verse, Mark 12:38, we have to remember that some of us will be surprised as to has the biggest stack of crowns or the greatest rewards or however else you want to see it in heaven. Who has the most authority, who has the most glory, who is presented with the most rewards? Would you read this verse Mark 12:38, "and Jesus said unto them in his teaching beware of the scribes which love to go in long robes for a pretense to make long prayers. These shall receive greater condemnation – would you circle the words "greater condemnation". There are levels of condemnation and levels of reward. In hell there are levels of punishment, in heaven there are levels of reward. Adolph Hitler and these people who murder the innocent will actually judged harshly for what they have done. God is a just God. Amen? All sin offends God. But not all sin is equally offensive to God. Now that's a misnomer when people say, no all sin is the same to God. Actually its not. Jesus said if a man causes a child to stumble it would be better for that man to tie a stone around his neck and drown himself in the ocean than to cause a child to stumble. I'd say Jesus has kind of a priority issue when it has to do with

children. We're living in a culture that's abusing, molesting and degrading and harming children. Exposing children to things that they shouldn't be exposed to. I don't think God is happy with this culture because of that. Or killing children before they are born. I don't think God is happy with that. He forgives that sin, clearly if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, but God is saying to us, what investment are you making? If you don't know Christ this morning as Lord and Savior, let me just show you the reality is, as you continue to rebel against God, it stacks up as evidence in the courtroom against you. I think we're going to be surprised here it talks about these scribes, let me tell you everybody thought, ooh these scribes and Pharisees, ooooh, when they go to heaven they are going to have these really big palaces ooh, they're going to have lots of crowns. And what does the word say? They are going to have great condemnation. Greater than anybody else...oooh. In other words, if you have been given a lot and you've done nothing with it, God's going to say, "What did you do with it?" What's wrong? You were given 10 talents not one, the guy with one invested one and made ten; the guy with ten talents buried it and lost it? And didn't get anything out of it? God is going to challenge you and me with what we've done with what we've had. Do you all remember the little widow and the mite? In fact if you all want to write down verse, just scribble Mark Chapter 12:42. That the widow and the mite, here's a widow, here she goes and she drops 2 mites. I don't know if you know what a mite is, do you know what a mite is? It's a little bug that this, no it's not a little bug, just kidding, but she drops these two little mites. Did you know that when you look at these mites that are made out of copper. If you look at them, they are like this tiny. Two of them together don't even equal a penny. In fact the stamp on it to this day, it hard to even see what the

stamp is because you can hardly see it on this little coin. It weighed like a tenth of an ounce. She dropped these two about one tenth of a penny into the treasure. Now Jesus was there with the disciples and he says, look at this woman. She has given more than all of these pompous scribes and Pharisees who publicize it. She has given more than they, because she has given out of her need, out of her want. They gave out of their luxury. I remember years ago knowing a millionaire, a multi-millionaire who was a church once sat next to a buddy of his pulled out a hundred dollar tossed it in the plate and gregariously said, hey it's on me this weekend and he laughed. I thought to myself, you know that's dangerous, you know why? He's not giving out of his sacrifice, this is chump change. But there will be people who sit in that church that are not famous millionaires like this guy who will give sacrificially when they have little. And do you know what's happening in heaven when they do that? Their glory and their rewards are growing. And the day is going to come to that millionaire when he goes to heaven and walks up to the pearly gates and expects the crowd to go (crowd noise) and do you know what they will be doing? They walk past him noticing this little lady who dropped in two pennies going (crowd noise). And the millionaire's going to say, "What about me?" We're going to be surprised in heaven where the glory goes. We're going to be surprised in heaven where the treasures go. We're going to surprised in heaven when the radiant voice of Jesus more loudly says, "well done, good and faithful servant." And it has to do with what you've got and what I've got and what we do with what we got. Not just financially, but our time, our words, our love, our speech, our thought. And so today, that's the challenge. Because at this moment whatever I do, if I feed, pour into my child's bank account, my little boy runs back and gives me a hug. When I put my hand

on my little buddy's head and say "Hey buddy, I love you so much and I give him a hug and 10 minutes later, I see him in the house and he's running to get the skate board or something, I hear a "eearr" his feet actually squeak and he stops and he turns and he runs up to me and says, "oh dad, I just love you and you know what he just did? He just filled up my bank account. Filling up his didn't cost me anything. But filling up his generated within him the desire to fill mine up. When you give love to people, it doesn't cost you anything, when you care for them it doesn't cost you anything. When you give them Christ, it doesn't cost you anything, but the payback is GREAT! That's what this is all about! It costs nothing to give Christ, but the gain is everything, not just here, not just in generations to come, my desire for my great-great-great-great-great grandchildren is that they serve Christ radically and that they're satisfied in their lives because they know the king of glory. Now if they are rich and they drive a nice car, if they live in a protected neighborhood, great! Praise God, but my number 1 desire is that they know Christ perfectly. That's what I want to pass down and that's our pay-off folks because it's going to go down the line. We're going to pay into the future somewhere and it's by what we do, what we say and it costs nothing to give Jesus to people and to give them love. Every moment, your life is going to affect this world and the next. For every action there is a what? A reaction. It's just the law. For every action, there is a reaction. So trust me, right here and now today when we walk out of here, what you say and what you do, the reaction that you commit, there's a reaction somewhere. Both in the heavenlies and on this earth. Every word will generate a result and every thought, every single thought, you want to talk how micro-managing you can do all of this, every action creates reaction. Every thought you have is going to generate a future action. A

future action is going to be shaped by the thought you have right now. Now this thought right now may not do it but its going to go into a little bin and enough of those thoughts are going to create an action. And every one of those actions going to create a result on this earth and in heaven. Are we going to be those who cause others to stumble? Or are we going to be those cause others to run for Christ. It all has to do with how we are investing in others. Because if you invest in them, it comes back to you. Years ago in parliament there was a woman who hated this guy, it was Torrey-issue - A conservative and they were always going back and forth, back and forth, back and forth, insulting each other and stuff. So one day she thought she had the end insult for him. So she yells across, "Sir, if I was your wife I'd put poison in your tea." He looked at her and says, "Madam, if you were my wife, I'd drink it!" (laughter) I'm going to tell you that's not a relationship where they're pouring into each other's bank accounts, ok? (laughter) That's a relationship where they are draining each other's bank accounts. Constantly draining it. And today, think about it as your life full of drains or is your life full of filling? Are you filling others? Or are you draining them? Are you whining and complaining or rejoicing and praising? Because it all comes down to not only is the short term but the long term. In the gas station, if you stop at the gas station of the Lord for such a short time this morning, yesterday morning, but you just barely keeping your account open? I remember when I was a kid, just to keep \$25.00, when Maria and I were first married, \$25.00 minimum to keep a bank account, to keep your checking account open. To keep our checking account with \$25.00 minimum, that was a struggle for us. The bank officer would call us later and say, "You know you only have \$7.00 in your account and we're going to have to close it down. "Oh no, no, we're going to get the

money, we'll get the money. "Ok, ok, you better get over here." We had to fight to....do we do that? Do we keep a \$25.00 minimum? Ok, Lord, I love you ok, alright and we keep going. Well at least you're doing that, let me encourage you. You're doing that. That's your butterfly moment? But we need to turn it into a bigger butterfly. Because we need to start filling accounts, in your thoughts and in your speech. What we say, what we do. Judges Chapter 2, if you want to scribble this note down on the side, we don't have the time or the place to put all of these but we'll just scribble to the side, Judges Chapter 2 verses 6 through 10. It's the story about fathers who came to the place in Israel, they became so selfish that they stopped passing out the legacy of who God was to their children. Now listen carefully. They stopped telling their kids about God, how wonderful He was and the wonderful miracles He had done. Do you know what happened to their children? Those, that generation? They were taken into captivity. The nation was destroyed. Our culture today, if we don't give it Christ and remind it of the legacy we have been given to in this country, then our families who is Jesus Christ. And the legacy stops, the nation ends. If the legacy stops your future generations have an end. If they don't have Christ, they don't have a future, and that's all there is to it. And we will close down as a culture. Let me just ask you something. Do you love the future generations, do you love others enough to minister and care for them. Even if you don't get that feed-back from them? Now let me give you a challenging question, I gave you an example about little Gideon. I gave him a hug and I pray over him in the mornings, I pray over him in the evenings, blessings upon him and then when he runs up and hugs me during the day and says, "Dad, I love you." I love to see my kids when they hug on me, Gideon and Rachel will hug me, 17 years of age and not ashamed in front of their friends

and they give me a hug. And they say, “Dad, I just love you, you’re the greatest dad in the world. You know, you can have \$20 bucks, (laughter) but I’m just kidding you, Rachel, I love you, just kidding you. But I mean, I love those moments, they do fill me back up. Do we also love enough when we do pour out love, that if we don’t get a payback that we will continue to pour out love? Now that is love. I remember years ago my dad, I sat at his feet, my little feet sticking straight out in a chair listening to him teach systematic theology 24 hours a day, 15 classes a week and I grew up in that world. And my dad invested in me and poured into me and poured into me the word and then he went to be with the Lord before I met Christ. Now if there’s anyway the Lord can open you know the reality of what’s happened here personally on earth, my dad would be looking down and seeing me and saying, “I knew it would kick in.” (laughter) I knew it would finally kick in. But he loved me enough that he kept giving me Christ. He wouldn’t even see the come back. Now that’s the next level of love. That’s the next level of maturity that we have to be at. Even for the prodigal’s son, and the prodigal daughters that we continue pray for them even if we don’t see the immediate return because I’m going to tell you, in heaven there is an immediate return. And in heaven there is a treasure being stored up for your faithfulness before God. And on this earth, in the spiritual realm, the Spirit of God is working on those things in which you pray about. But we don’t always get immediate result. You know, years ago there was a father who had a billion dollars that he was given. Once a year his son would come and he would give him a chunk of the inheritance. He noticed after a while that his son wouldn’t visit him anymore except for that once a year to pick up his check. So the father reconstructed the way he was going to be giving out the bits and pieces of his inheritance to his son.

He made it instead of once a year, he gave a chunk a day. For him to give that year's inheritance, he had to come every single day just to get one three hundred sixty fifth of it. And you know what he found, his son came to visit him more often. And sometimes as we, and you know the reason I encourage you in prayer and in righteous living and in godly living, daily speaking those things which glorify God is because if all it took was once a year, how often would we be godly and how often would we be righteous, if what? Once a year and I'm going to tell you the daily bread and the daily ministering is what I'm calling you to and bringing you to be encouraged on is because folks, God is giving us daily bread and sometimes he can only trust us with one day at a time because he knows that you would kind of slack off but He is telling you. "Do you want to have daily blessing? Have daily prayer." You want to be filled daily? Be willing to fast from the flesh daily. Do you want to be cared for by others, care for others. By the power of God daily. Daily. Daily. Don't say, "what am I going to do with my life today, I'm challenging you, what am I going to do with TODAY. How will it be different than yesterday? Pete Spencer has to say everyday, how is it going to be different than yesterday? Not the same old, same old. But hopefully different. I think about a woman who ministered to recently to younger woman who had been molested and abused as a child. She had grown up and was 20 or 30 years old and kind of hidden it and not dealt with it. She was angry constantly, furious constantly. This woman kept ministering to her and saw that there was pain there and finally the damn burst forth and this girl shared what had happened to her as a child. And this woman ministered to her and she had to go through literally night after night this girl calling at 2am or 3am in the morning, weeping not being able to sleep, having nightmares not being able to control it and this woman

was praying with her. Until they came to this place where the girl poured out and they went into the scriptures and prayed to God and He broke the chains of her childhood abuse. Broke those chains on her life and liberated her. But I want to tell you something neat that happened. All the chains on the gates of hell were being battered by this woman's prayer with this young lady and the chains were rattling that were trying to hold on to this girl. She knows Christ as Lord and Savior but she was wrestling with these issues. I want to tell you something neat. As the chains were being broken, not only was hell being affected but because this woman who was ministering to her faithfully on the phone, weeping with her at 3am in the morning and the same time in heaven the glorious crowns of this woman faithful in ministry were growing. You see there's kind of a balance counter-balance thing here. You're going to find as Satan loses territory, God gets it. And as Satan loses power, God's people begin to gain power. Because he is trying to steal that from us. There was a time in Israel's history where David conquered another king, took his crown in victory and then began to use that in regal ceremonies. In other words what was once the devil's property becomes God's now. And I'm going to tell you if you share and care for others, not only will you see that ok, I ministered to this lady for 3 months... Now this is another way you can phrase it I ministered to this lady for three months and not only did she have a messed up childhood and finally by ME praying for her and ME ministering to her, I saw that God changed her. And that can really happen in ministry, come on admit it. You know what I mean? It's like ohhhh, ohhh you're so lucky to have me.. (laughs) So what was really what was going on is that we can simply say, "You know by simply being a vessel for God, I saw Satan not only lose, I saw God win. But on top of that, I will one day be rewarded and even today my

blessing by simply being an obedient servant. One of the things that still fascinate me, I still marvel at the fact that I just get to stand here and preach the Bible and it's so obvious. I show up and there's a book and open it up and it talks back to you practically. The Spirit of God just... and I share and at the end of services I still get to say, "You know if you don't know Christ, know him now, meet Him in this prayer. And we see 150 people at Easter and the week after 40 people that met Christ and I'm still amazed and think, I don't believe I get to do this! I'm still like in amazement because all I'm doing is I'm preaching what's already there, I'm not inventing anything. If I had a cure for cancer ok, then I'd take a couple of snapshots, but I have to tell you the truth. I'm simply sharing what's clearly there. It's not me, but you know what? One day I believe that God will bless me and reward me for what He really did through me. And that's the incredible thing, but no matter how much I give away Jesus it doesn't cost me anything. It cost HIM EVERYTHING! What does it cost me to tell you about Jesus? To share the word of God with you? A few hours of study and prayer. How is that a loss? How can I lose by giving Jesus away, that's God's income? He says I gave my Son, give Him away, give Him away, give Him away, give Him away. As we give Him away, the world changes and as it changes it blesses us back. It's a win-win situation. never be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ and when we have prayer, let's pray properly. Let's pray properly. Think of prayer as if it were a walk-talkie. If you're in a battle mode, it's a walkie-talkie to the general in battle. Or maybe it's a phone call to the one you love. But if I can just encourage you about one thing don't be flippant for one thing it's not a cell phone call to the maid. God's not the maid. He's the one who made us. And our prayers should be humble to him as a king of our army. Or as the one that we love. And in that

we'll have power, literally see change around us. Change around us. I think about a little boy who wrote this letter. They had written little letters to God in their classrooms in school and one of the children wrote:

Dear God,

I pray before every meal but it still doesn't work. My mom still makes me eat all my vegetables. (laughter) Yeah, that's funny. He's probably wanting the Lord to change the vegetables into something good. And I think about that and I think to myself, isn't this strange while praying seldom ask for change of character but we ask for change of circumstance. And you know what God is doing? God is letting us have challenges so when we have victory in Him in the challenges, we get blessed. We get rewarded. Many years ago a man by the name of George Mueller, all of you have heard of his name. And by the way go ahead and fill in number three, but let me just share this with you. There are some wonderful verses there that deal with long term and short term consequences. My actions are investments with short and long term consequences. And all those show that there are consequences and there are blessings and there are levels of blessing for what we do and what we don't do. And George Mueller had an orphanage in Ashley Downs in England. And George Mueller continued taking children off the street while people said, you have to stop taking kids off the street, that are orphans but you don't have the money to feed them. He says, how can I leave them here? These children are being taken into prostitution, into slaves and put into workshops/sweatshops. They have no parents, parents were abandoning children all over at this time. And he said I can not turn away God's children, so he kept bringing them in, bringing them into this orphanage. And there was no huge funding organization behind him and he simply cared for these

children. Well one day, he went ahead and started putting up plates and the little cups on the tables in the hall where the children ate. And one of them looked at him and said, where's the food? And George Mueller said, Well God will provide it. Now at that time, the reality was, there was not a single thing, not a crumb in the pantry. There was not a single thing for him to give these children. In the 19th Century this is what poverty is rampant anyway and there is no money that was just being given to him and he had nothing. Yet he still laid out the table in belief that God would bless and feed these children. And I think this was an act of faith in actually setting the table. Anyway he got together and he prayed with the children and he said, Dear Father, thank you now for what thou art going to give us to eat. And at that moment he said that they heard a "knock knock" at the door. Well he opened the door and when he opened it there was a fellow standing there and the fellow said, you know what? I couldn't sleep last night and I got up a 2 o'clock in the morning and I said, something's wrong, I've got to do something and I felt motivated to go down to my bakery and just to bake up 100 loaves of bread. I have no idea why I just baked them, and all of the sudden after I baked them I thought you I'll bet Mueller could use some of these. Do you need any bread? Mueller said bring them on in and so he carted in all of these loaves of bread and they were put on the table for the children. He said we're about to finish our prayers, and he says, Lord I want to thank you for all that your going to give us for breakfast and we know that's its directly from your hands. And right as he was saying those words, "crash!" They heard this crash and banging. So he went back and opened the front door, and there was this huge cart. It was an enormous milk cart which had been coming from the farm and it was going to be distributed milk and all the big metal containers had toppled off the cart

because the cart's wheel completely snapped and broken in two. And the cart was just lying there all busted up on the pavement. Well there was no Triple A you couldn't call Triple A back then (laugh). Well, good grief this milk is all going to go bad. He turned to George Mueller and said listen do you know anybody who needs any milk because this milk is going to go bad and I'm not going to be able to get this out of here for a day and when a day is gone it will be lost. George Mueller says "yes" I know how to use it, he says bring it all in here. And they carted in all that milk. And those children drank that milk, they were fed and they were taken care of. I look at those miraculous stories and the point is that God answers prayer. Well I'm going to tell you that not only did He answer that prayer that day, God had been answering George Mueller's prayer because George Mueller who went five or six times a day to God in prayer. He steadfastly prayed daily and thanked God daily. Even in his impoverished condition he was wealthy beyond means. All because he had a relationship with the God of the universe. And you know what George Mueller's legacy has passed on. Children who came from that orphanage who helped change the world and an eternity of treasures are being stored up. He was a wealthy man his whole life even though at times he didn't have a dime. Do you know why? Because he was a man who lived before the throne of grace. He was a man who traveled to the invisible and he was a man like here because of his faith had influenced the invisible, the invisible world and his rewards, the invisible world of the souls of children who met Christ through his ministry and future generations. And today I want to give you a challenge. Don't just think about what are you going to do with your life today, what are you going to do with it today? What will you do it with today, how will you invest it? Because I'm going to tell you, there's a payoff coming somewhere soon, in

my prayer time right before we came out here. One of the brothers said last week, he buried a co-worker that he had just been talking to who was telling him about his plans to retire in a year, and he's gone. You know if you think about your life, who knows, it may just be today. What are you going to do with it? How are you going to invest it? What you do with what you got has everything to do with what you'll end up eternally. What kind of inheritance will we leave? Amen?