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

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

**Taught by Pastor/Teacher Ed Rish**

**From Sunday, May 19, 2013**

**Pursue that which builds up one another**

In our last session one of the topics that we hit on had to do with the correct learning and application of the Word of GOD. The correct application of GOD’s Word has a direct connection to our current series. One of the doctrines we discussed to make this point was the doctrine of separation. The purpose of separation is to get away from people who are hindering your spiritual growth. However there are times when believers separate for the wrong reasons. For example, separating from a person or a group of people because you don’t like them is a wrong application, and wrong application leads to a wrong action. The result will be wrong consequences. This shows us the importance of making correct applications.

Another area where believers make wrong applications has to do with freedom. Paul tells us in Galatians 5 that it was for freedom that CHRIST set us free. Following that thought there are believers who think they’re free to do anything they want. Wrong application! Believers have been set free to live the spiritual life. In the passage we’ve been studying, believers were using their freedom to violate the norms and standards of other believers. When this happens, it creates stumbling blocks and hindrances. These things not only affect the spiritual growth of others, they also create a situation that might cause another believer to sin. So what we have is a situation where a wrong application leads to a wrong action. What’s the result? Wrong consequences. When the Word of GOD is not correctly applied, something wrong will result.

I’d like to touch on the importance of the learning part of learning and application. Often times you’ll hear the phrase Word of GOD resident in the soul. That begins with learning. Recently we discussed the word, fullness, which refers to that which fills the soul. That begins with learning as well. As believers learn, or hear the Word of GOD communicated, filling the soul with that which has spiritual value, we call it *THE GOOD*. GOD the HOLY SPIRIT converts the Word of GOD in the souls of believers to *THE GOOD. THE GOOD* is every good quality and virtue that is transferred to the souls of believers as they take in the Word of GOD. *THE GOOD* consists of the fruit of the Spirit that appears in ***Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;*** As believers present their bodies, souls, and spirits to GOD they’re being filled with the 9-fold fruit. They are being filled with power as well. Paul called it being strengthened in the inner man. And they are being filled with the love of GOD. GOD the HOLY SPIRIT sheds abroad the love of GOD in the souls of believers. All of that has to do with the word, fullness.

As believers take in the Word of GOD, they are being filled with a measure of an absolute standard. The standard is CHRIST, but it begins with learning. As believers present their bodies, souls, and spirits to GOD they’re being filled with the power to love GOD. They’re learning reverence and respect for GOD, and at the same time they’re learning to hate evil. As believers learn the Word of GOD they’re learning right conduct, they’re learning to have faith in GOD, they’re acquiring confidence in GOD, and confidence in GOD translates over to courage in the face of adversity. And as believers learn the Word of GOD they’re learning how to deal with suffering. All of this begins with learning.

The key to mastering any skill is practicing the skill. Practice involves doing something over and over until it can be done well. The learning process is no different. Part of learning involves hearing information over and over. Learning involves repetition. Doctrines have to be repeated for a number of reasons and forgetting is one of them. Repetition is a guard against forgetting. Another reason for repetition is because in most local churches you have new believers and advanced believers. There are times when new believers are learning doctrine that advanced believers already heard. Also, there are times when people just aren’t listening for various reasons. You can always learn something new from hearing doctrines repeated. That’s because it’s GOD the HOLY SPIRIT at work within believers and with the power of the HOLY SPIRIT, the potential to learn is unlimited. In fact, believers are going to be learning about the fantastic things of GOD throughout eternity. So when it comes to learning, never underestimate the power of GOD the HOLY SPIRIT to teach you something.

THE LEARNING PROCESS CAN BE DESTROYED. Believers can destroy their capacity to learn when they approach the learning process with a negative attitude. When any believer approaches the learning process with an attitude of arrogance, he’s not going to learn. Believers who have an attitude against the pastor aren’t going to learn. The LORD JESUS CHRIST spoke the truth constantly but the Pharisees never learned a thing from Him.

Our current series in Romans deals with righteousness. As believers place their faith in the Word of GOD each day, they are being made righteous in their condition. The LORD said through Moses, I put before you life and death. Choose life. What does it mean to choose life? It means, love The LORD your GOD, walk in His ways, obey His commands, and hold fast to Him. This doesn’t come naturally; it calls for learning and giving GOD the HOLY SPIRIT an opportunity to make the appropriate changes in the soul. In order to love GOD, obey His commands and walk in His ways, believers have to come to know GOD, and know His commands and ways. And it’s the Spirit who converts that knowledge into what we call *THE GOOD.*

As royal ambassadors we are lights to the world and while we’re here on earth we represent The LORD JESUS CHRIST. If our words or actions intentionally lead other believers astray, we run the risk of facing the consequences. To pursue that which builds up one another means to press hard after or to go after with an earnest desire those things which build up one another. Love is one of the qualities or virtues believers are filled with as they learn the Word of GOD. This falls under the category *THE GOOD*. Love is *THE GOOD* of the highest quality. Genuine love is not selfish or arrogant in any way and desires the best for others. If you desire to live the spiritual life, pursue unconditional, sacrificial love.