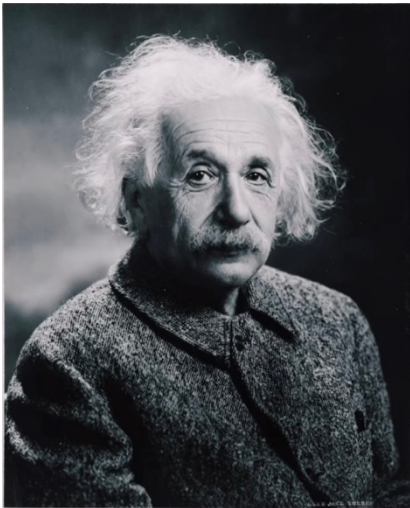


***Returning to the Authentic Gospel
Restoring Our Faith – Living in God's Power
2 Corinthians 4:7-12***

→ ***The Roosevelt Letter***

On October 11, 1939

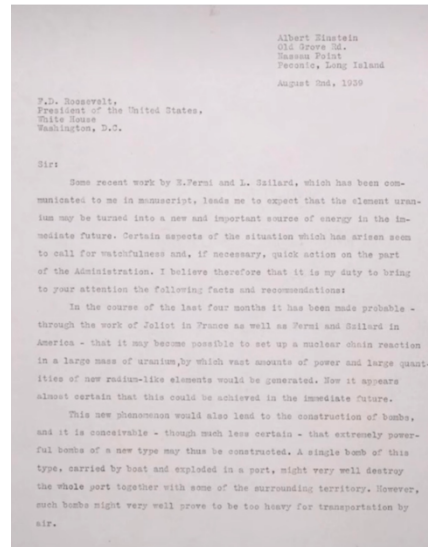
→ ***Pic of Einstein***



→ ***Pic of Roosevelt***



→ ***Pic of Letter***



ONE THING

Only by REFUSING our STRENGTH and CHOOSING His SPIRIT do we live in God's power.

1. Our EXPERIENCE of God's Power comes through WEAKNESS

2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV) — But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Treasure – That which is of exceptional value and kept safe—'treasure, wealth, riches.'

What is "THIS TREASURE" we have?

2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV) — For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Last week we looked at this verse...

The first recorded words of God in creation...

Genesis 1:3 (ESV) — And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

The first recorded works of God in unleashing His new creation...

John 1:4–5 (ESV) — In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Colossians 1:13 (ESV) — He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son

Ephesians 5:8 (ESV) — For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Every believer carries the illumination of God's power in their heart giving us supernatural knowledge of God in Christ Jesus!

1 John 2:20 (ESV) — But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

But this Divine Illumination is housed in a CLAY POT!

The Clay Jars were everyday, throw away vessels in those days...

They were inexpensive and everyone had them...

Paul is using this metaphor in a brilliant way...

After the fall in Genesis 3, the Lord told Adam that he had come from the dust and to the dust he would return...

Even though we have become NEW CREATIONS in Christ, we still live in CLAY POTS!

1. Our EXPERIENCE of God's Power comes through WEAKNESS

2. Our EXERCISE of God's Power comes through BROKENNESS

2 Corinthians 4:8–9 (ESV) — We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

We are given FOUR paradoxes we experience as we exercise God's Power...

Afflicted → Not Crushed

Afflicted – To experience trouble or hardship

Crushed – To be in serious circumstances, with the implication of no escape or way out

Perplexed → Not Despairing

Perplexed – To be in perplexity, with the implication of serious anxiety—'to be at a loss, to be uncertain, to be anxious, to be in doubt

Despairing – To be in extreme despair, implying both anxiety and fear—'to be in utter despair

Persecuted → Not Forsaken

Persecuted – To systematically organize a program to oppress and harass people

Forsaken – To desert or forsake a person and thus leave that individual uncared for

Struck down → Not Destroyed

Struck down – To cause someone to suffer considerable pain or injury – 'to hurt badly, to cause to suffer considerably.'

Destroyed – To destroy or to cause the destruction of persons, objects, or institutions – 'to ruin, to destroy, destruction.'

1. Our EXPERIENCE of God's Power comes through WEAKNESS

2. Our EXERCISE of God's Power comes through BROKENNESS

3. Our EXAMPLE of God's Power is seen in JESUS

2 Corinthians 4:10–11 (ESV) — always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

The Cross proceeds the empty tomb!

Luke 9:23 (ESV) — And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Carrying our cross is not about the “burdens in life”, but about a daily death to self!

Galatians 2:20 (ESV) — I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Watchman Nee...

“The Lord is not so concerned with the clay pot as He is with the treasure within.”

Watchman Nee

1. Our EXPERIENCE of God's Power comes through WEAKNESS

2. Our EXERCISE of God's Power comes through BROKENNESS

3. Our EXAMPLE of God's Power is seen in JESUS

4. Our EXPRESSION of God's Power is enjoyed by OTHERS

2 Corinthians 4:12 (ESV) — So death is at work in us, but life in you.

We become a conduit of God's power in the life of others as we surrender our lives to the purposes of God.

John 12:24–26 (ESV) — Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

**Returning to the Authentic Gospel
Restoring Our Faith – Living in God's Power
2 Corinthians 4:7-12**

Only by _____ our _____ and _____

His _____ do we live in God's power.

1. Our _____ of God's Power comes through

2. Our _____ of God's Power comes through

3. Our _____ of God's Power is seen in

4. Our _____ of God's Power is enjoyed by
