

## WHAT IS PERFECTION?

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**WE HAVE READ MUCH ABOUT BEING PERFECT AND ABOUT PERFECTION ITSELF, BUT VERY LITTLE ABOUT WHAT PERFECTION REALLY IS IN THE EYES OF GOD. THAT IS WHY I FEEL THAT WE SHOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT, SO I PRAY THAT GOD WILL HELP ME AS I GO INTO THE SUBJECT OF PERFECTION; AND ALLOW US TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT HE CALLS PERFECTION.**

This is a very familiar passage of scripture we are going to start with, but I have heard some negative reports as to what some people think it pertains to. These reports come from an element of people that are supposed to be believers in fellowship with us, so let us see what the scriptures say on the subject. Open your Bibles with me, to **Ephesians 4:7**. I am going to read it very slowly, because each one of these words have a specific thought attached that is of utmost importance to believers of this hour of time. **"But unto every one of us is given grace** (notice the word grace,) **according to the measure of the gift of Christ.** (That word, measure, is a very important word.) **Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things. And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."** If I had some glasses here, I could illustrate my point, but I do not, so I will try to illustrate by thought to portray it to you. When we receive the Holy Ghost, (Keep in mind.) you receive every potential of what the Holy Spirit is. One way to look at this, It is not the potential one receives that makes the difference when we receive the Spirit of God, it is the measure of it that you received that makes the difference one to another. How many catch the point? It is true, every one that has the Holy Spirit has the potential of the very same thing that the greatest man that ever lived has in him, but that does not mean that because we have the same potential, we each one are going to be equal to the other, because that is not determined by the potential that is in the Spirit we receive: It is determined by the measure of what we receive. It is not that someone was sitting somewhere saying, Well, let us give this person so much, and that one so much. No. It is God Himself that does the distributing. You can ask a lot of people in the church world, What is perfection? Their reply might be, Well as long as we get our doctrine straightened out, that is what perfection really is. My brothers and sisters, hear me; the final analysis of perfection goes far beyond the doctrines that are taught. The doctrines that we uphold and embrace are the framework around which our faith is built, but our faith determines how the life we live from that point is expressed in the realm of our fellowship one with another. This is why it is important that we understand the parable about the talents. We could say this, When God distributes His grace to some, as the parable brings out, some a hundred fold, some sixty, and some thirty fold, that tells me also, that God is not going to give less to a hundred fold Christian. He is not going to give a small measure to that person. He is going to give the measure according to whatever else this person has the capabilities of living up to. The talents, the measure, all these things have to work in cooperation with each other. It is God who does the distributing. With this in mind, we want to get to the main text. Since the title of my thought today is, "What is Perfection?" I ask you also, Is it something you see in one way? No. In another way, yes. It does not change your complexion, or the color of your hair, but it does have an awful lot to do with your inner being. Right there, is what the Lord is working on. Here is a definition of perfection, It is the process of bringing an object or thing to a required state, or likeness. In the sense of a person, obtaining the desired quality or the embodiment of attributes. We know this, It strictly has to be something that has an affect on the entire body of Christ. No one person can live the full potential of Jesus Himself. We are supposed to live Christlike in our daily life, but the total effect is determined by, and depends upon the measure of the grace of God that He has gave to us as individuals. We are to do our utmost to pray, and to ask God to have complete control of our inner being, but even then the outcome is still determined by how well are we able to yield our total makeup to the Spirit of God under all circumstances. Then when we look at this from the collective standpoint, (the entire body of Christ, which is the Church) the Church is eventually going to be a complete embodiment of all the characteristics of Jesus Christ. He was the embodiment of all the attributes of God and He imparted all that He was, into the Church. When we say all the attributes of Jesus Christ, it has nothing to do with how He combed His hair or the color of His eyes. It has nothing to do with any physical resemblance or anything like that, but only with the quality of the spiritual person that He was and the life He lived, doing only what pleased the Father. The way He lived, walked, and conducted Himself before the human race, is what He imparted to us the ability to conform to. Actually, His life and conduct was what our heavenly Father gave us as our example to look to and to measure ourselves by. Even though He was God's example for all of us, we are not expected to attain unto it instantly, but strive daily to grow into that image. We read one passage of scripture about Jesus and get one thought, but then we go read another one, written by another disciple about Him, and we can easily get another thought. Therefore our point is, Jesus, in His entire life lived

here on earth, lived in the manner God ordained to be the image all of us should look to for example ship. In our athletic minded world today, think how many young men want to be like famous football players, basketball players, or others of those who are the role models they look to. However that certain athlete conducts himself, whatever he does in playing the game especially, others will try their best to pattern their own lives after him, or her, which ever the case may be. The same is true for both male and female. In one sense of the word, that is what we are trying our best to do, to pattern after Jesus Christ. This perfection, when we can begin to realize what it is, is not something that one person obtains and the rest do not. Some will say, That don't apply to me. It does apply to you. Every person that is in the body of Christ, it applies to them. It matters not how smart you may be, this perfection absolutely applies to you also. When we begin to become set in our ways, and do not want to change our own mind about anything, and at the same time begin to look upon everyone else and think, They need to change this and change that, God might finally say to you, Why don't you stop acting like that? You act like everyone is supposed to change and be like you. Saints: Not everyone is supposed to be like you or me. Furthermore, if I am doing the best I know to do, and somewhere along the road I miss a point, I pray that God, (and I know that He will) bring it to my attention; so I will know I did that wrong, or I said that wrong. As for myself, I want to be sensitive enough to allow the grace of God to mold in me the kind of character Jesus portrayed for all of us. In all of this, we are eventually going to get to the most important thing, but you have to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit in order to do that. It is the baptism of the Holy Spirit that puts you in the body of Christ in the first place. Once you are in the body of Christ, then there is the potential for any attribute of Christ to manifest in you, but not that you are going to be this or that, because you are not the one that does the choosing: He does the choosing. He gives you the measure of grace, which is sufficient to start you on the way. The Church is to eventually become the embodiment of all that Jesus Christ is to humanity. My point is, you are going to watch how God begins to do this thing, because over the world there is every and all kinds of preachers preaching things that are not entirely according to a true revelation.

#### **ANOTHER TRAIL LEADING TO FALSE DOCTRINE**

I just received a package of books yesterday; and after I looked at those books, I wanted to sit down and cry. I just thought, In the 36 years since Bro. Branham's death, and after God having left the man's message here in this earth for our benefit, many of these supposed-to-be educated preachers, as well as other educated people in every nation, have turned the whole thing into an almost intolerable mess. The things they have said that Bro. Branham said, and the way they put it all together, just makes a right thinking person very ill. The kind of picture they build things into, especially in all these books, would give one very little hope. I noticed this also, An element of these pastors that get together and hold their meetings, have named their churches after certain things they find in Bro. Branham's messages. I thought to myself, This is so ridiculous. They are even writing songs today, using certain things they get from his sermons. What is so bad about that, is the interpretation they put on so many things they use. The really sad part is, You either agree with them or you are not in the message. (Their words, not mine) I have a letter here that I just received from a man in India. This man, at the beginning of his letter thanked me, saying, Bro. Jackson: I want to thank you for The Contender. He tells me what a certain man is now preaching in India, even after he had given this brother multiple numbers of Contenders. In his letter this man says to me, Bro. Jackson, it is the way you have presented it, that I can now see everything that Bro. Branham has said in a proper light. You have explained the purpose of God allowing the dual statements, and what it means. You have also given every major thing Bro. Branham taught, a place in the Bible, which we all know is essential to our proper growth. You have given me something to stand on. Saints: I am always thankful to God when we are able to help someone get free from the bondage of those who pervert Bro. Branham's messages. The same man who had given this man multiple copies of the Contender, is now preaching that the seventh seal was broken in 1963. Here is the revelation of it: It was how Jesus Christ came down in 1963 and embodied himself in the person of William Branham, to preach the other six seals. That false interpretation of a work of God is going all over India. I just thought to myself, How much worse does this picture have to get? I thought, How blind can supposed-to-be believers really be? The books I received yesterday, I just looked over them to get the jest of what they were like: They have picked out the things that others are preaching, which are all wrong, so they take another quote from Bro. Branham's message to rebuke that. On and on they go, with nothing that is going to help anyone. I read in there also that a certain preacher is claiming to be "riding that trail one more time," because he has taken over where William Branham left off and is fulfilling the third pull. There is no way in the world that man could have ever known William Branham. Others are saying they have the capstone ministry. I remember when Bro. Branham talked about the capstone. Another is referred to as the great leader and general over several churches. They go down the road of life with quotes, quotes, quotes. They are saying what the thunders are not. How is that going to help anyone, if they do not present a picture for people to look at? This all just a lot of confusing nonsense; which makes one wonder, Where in the name of common sense is it going to stop? The reality is, there is no place for perfection in any of it. It is just taking

advantage of an element of people they have been able to brainwash into one particular thought; and leading them blindly down a dead end road. That same bunch of people will turn right around and look down upon another element that does not believe like they do. I am not going to look down upon anyone else just because they do not believe like us. I have to say this, What we are, no matter how much truth we have, is all by the grace and mercy of God. God has given us an understanding of something that is real. If it were not for the grace of God that has been with us through these years, we would be scattered to the four winds of heaven after some of the carnal ideas we have been hit in the face with through those years, just whatever fit the fancy of those who desired to be something to be looked up to. God has men over the face of this earth, that desire to present a picture of truth, but it seems that Satan always runs ahead of what is right, presenting the perverted version to an element of people that are not established in the word and principles of God to be able to recognize the false when they hear it. It is a sad picture, but even that fulfills part of the word of God.

### **THE MARK OF A TRUE MINISTRY**

Well Saints, I now want to read the rest of this, dealing with what perfection involves, and then I am going to bring it back to how we must begin to look at ourselves, and how God deals with every individual believer that looks to Him. We hear of all these who are claiming to be preachers called of God, yet I never hear any of them mention anything that would vindicate their ministry. It is one thing to go everywhere claiming to know so much, but it is quite a different thing to have the Spirit of God vindicate your ministry. The apostle Paul did not have to shun the mention of what he was called of God to do, because God vindicated his ministry in every area he went into. When he wrote to the Corinthian Assembly he did not hesitate to speak of his calling, because the truth he preached was always vindicated. Where is this vindication of all these who are running the road in this hour of time, claiming to have such outstanding ministries? **(2 Tim 1:11) "Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."** Who could deny that? **(2 Cor 12:12) "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds."** I just thought to myself as I read the letter I just mentioned, Why do these "supposed-to-be great preachers" not come out with something that God will vindicate, if they are who they claim to be? According to the Bible, if a man claims to be an apostle, and another man claims to be a prophet, and another man claims to be a pastor or teacher or whatever, if they really are called of God to be that, sooner or later those individuals are all going to believe the same. They are not going to teach a bunch of nonsense. They are going to see each other as what God has called them to be; and they will have respect for the purpose of God in each ministry. On the other hand, as long as you have a bunch of individuals going down the road, each one doing and saying things his own way, he may claim to be this or that, but if somewhere down the road his teaching does not begin to link up with that of others and bring about a consistency that is working toward the same purpose, and bring it back to the Bible, rather than just present quotes, quotes, quotes, that ministry is inspired by the wrong spirit. God has not called anyone to do that. The scripture below, shows how God looks at things, and how those whom He calls will conduct themselves. **(Isa 52:7) "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! (Isa 52:8) Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion."** I know what the quotes are, but one thing is sure, Some of the quotes you cannot even find scripture for, because God just allowed the man to say those things to throw a bunch of carnal minds off the trail and cast them by the wayside. As we go on, let us read a little further in the scriptures. **(Eph. 4:12) "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (Eph 4:13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."** These five offices are not staffed with men coming down the road of life with haloes around their heads. They are ordinary men who have been saved by the grace of God. Every person that is going to be perfected in God's plan, is first a sinner saved by the grace of God. He might have been brought through different church systems. He may have even been brought right out of the world into this belief of truth. That does not matter: God knows who He is saving because He still runs things according to His predestinated plan and purpose. The first and most important, or number one thing is, God has to have a ministry. There can be a million people running over the world, screaming everything from who knows what, but within all that there is an element of men that know they have been called of God for a specific ministry. They have been filled with the Holy Spirit to start them down the road God had ordained them to walk in. God has dealt with them and schooled them by trials and tests, circumstances that many times would almost drive you insane, but in these instances worked to prepare chosen vessels to face opposition. When God is finished schooling His chosen vessels, somewhere, those individuals are going to be looking and asking, Where is that other part of this ministry? He cannot see just himself fulfilling the entire thing, because he sees in the scriptures, other men that are all working in harmony to obtain a purpose of God. Let me illustrate this like a mechanical object. Let us go to one of the Ford Motor Company's assembly plants

and observe the assembly process. No one person puts that vehicle together. Certain things within that makeup have been designed by certain artists. They know how a carburetor is to function, so they specialize in that. Others specialize on the transmission to be used. Every gear in it has to have a certain ratio. It has to work perfectly with all the others. If the wrong gear is put in somewhere, those vehicles are heading for a bad problem. They will not function according to specifications in the meanwhile. Everything has to function according to well prepared plans in order to reach its intended potential. When they put the motor in the frame, that frame was built to house the body of the car, they do not put just any old motor in it, and they do not put just any old transmission in it. Everything has to be designed for that particular type of car. That is why all those people on that assembly line are stationed at precise points, so they can install the proper part at the proper time. It is their job to recognize what is coming down the assembly line and work accordingly. They have a certain amount of time to put their part in there. They have been trained to do that particular job, so that is what they apply their mind and energy toward. That is why that assembly line hardly ever stops, and just keeps slowly moving along, because all are attending to their own job. The very minute something is put in the wrong place it sets the stage for a problem, and after awhile you have a back up. Having nothing but catastrophe ahead, requires a shut down. What went wrong? God is not going to start putting this final plan together until He has enough faithful men standing at their post of duty or calling; and He knows exactly who He has called and when they will be ready for service. It does not matter how many preachers are out here, or what we might say about them as individuals, Oh, but he is a nice man. Sure he is. To some young women he is handsome, and oh I love his voice. It is just his looks, more than the revelation he has, that causes some to be drawn to him. We have people everywhere, that live like that. They will follow the man and most of the time will hardly pay any attention to what he has to say, just because they like his person. They like the way he combs his hair, the way he speaks, or because of the fact that he is always so friendly, a good mixer in every situation. Is that how God expects us to make decisions that affect our spiritual well being? Definitely not! That kind of presentation does not give the true Church what she needs for her perfecting process. The men God calls to fill the ranks of this five fold ministry to the bride Church, will have to have an understanding of what the Church is to attain unto. They have to be able to see the Church the way God wants it to be. That does not come necessarily through college degrees and high education; even though an education like that could be helpful if used properly. The revelation such a ministry will have, definitely will not come to them through the avenue of sophisticated learning and coveted degrees. It is how God schools the mind of that spiritual man He has called, that enables him to fulfill one of these ministries. Sometimes his schooling is a long process. Sometimes he goes through a lot of knocks, bangs and heartaches. Many times it looks like everything he sets out to do is a failure. Many times God allows failures to come along our way to let us know that in the end, when we do reach that potential, the place where we are to function in the way He wants us to, we will know for sure that we are not putting the plan together: We are just blessed in being a vessel God is using as He allows us to express the things He has put in our lives. Therefore perfection is a gradual process, and definitely not something you get at an altar of prayer in one night. You could come up here and kneel down and say, Bro. Jackson, I want to be saved; and then get baptized, but that is not the qualification for the five fold ministry: That is just the beginning of your walk with God. From then on, the kind of Christian you are going to become depends upon your willingness to let God lead you and school you and cultivate in you something He can use. Too many people through years gone by, especially in the Methodist church system, just went in and sat down and decided they wanted to be a Christian. They did not know anything else other than that, and through all of that they only learn how to be a Methodist. That is all that is on their mind. You who continue on, are going to find out before this is all over, that it is not how good a Baptist, Methodist or whatever else you might have been, that makes the difference between church membership and true Christianity: It is how hungry you have been for the things of God, that really count. Did you just get baptized or sprinkled in the church system you are in? Now you want to be a good church member, you want to pay your tithes, be sociable, participate in all the church functions, but how much do you know about the plan of God? You can do all those things and still not be a Christian, and many or most of the time the things you hear preached in their pulpits have no revelation in them. I saw some of it on TV this morning. I thought, There are thousands in church today, and the singing can be ever so beautiful, but when that preacher gets up there, the way he brings his message, about all you can say when he is finished, Well he did mention Jesus as being the Savior, but he did not indulge in any plan, or what God's purpose is in your life is. He more or less turns it all into business; and big business men were sitting there just eating it all up. When we come back to the apostle Paul we read, Have you noticed in your calling, that not many wise men, not many noble men are called: It is the down to earth, humble, simple minded people that are most likely to take God at His word. They do not think of themselves as being anything so great. That does not mean a doctor cannot be saved, but he cannot bring that medical degree with him and expect God to give him any special privileges because of it. He has to come the same way as the man that picks up garbage on the street. This thing of perfection is a gradual process: It cannot be attained suddenly. I will say this, There never would have been an era of time in our lives wherein God would deal with us on the basis of perfection while we were still in the

Methodist, the Baptist, the Presbyterian, the Pentecostal, or this or that kind of system. Yet there was a time in years gone by, before God ever sent a messenger to this Laodicean Age, that He saved people in all those systems. God knew, according to the authority of His Word, He was not going to come one day and take His Church out of that mess, because it was not that kind of church that the bride of Christ would be found in. The Apostolic Church born on the day of Pentecost, and revealed to us in the book of Acts, was not made up of an element of people who had their own ideas about what the Church should be like. It was not an element of people that had something to sell: It was an element of people who were hungry for something real from God. This perfecting quality is going to definitely be found in an element of people who love truth, and it will be climaxed with a move of the Spirit of God, but in order for it to come about there has to be men that have a vision of the body of Christ. They have to see the body as much as they see themselves in whatever part they feel God wants them to have in the process. They also have to see that there are other men in various places on the earth, that God has called for the same overall reason, and be willing to see eye to eye and work cooperatively with. Lord I know they are somewhere, and Lord, I am ready to do my part, but I just ask that you help me fulfill the ministry you have called me to. Such men as God has called to fill these offices, will always preach with the awareness, Lord, I know I cannot perfect your Church by myself, but I will do my best in whatever you give me to do; and I will not hold back in preaching truth. I know because of your written word, that you have these unique callings upon chosen men of this generation; And I know you are going to bring them through a lot of knocks, bangs, trials and tests as they go about their daily activities, but according to your word, **(Rom 8:28) "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose,"** so Lord, my confidence is in you. Yes saints, no matter what we think, unless we are led by Him, we are not doing Him a service. People get all taken up with many seemingly good works, and as far as humanity itself is concerned they can be very beneficial to human flesh, but many times those good works are just Satan's way of distracting you and getting you away from your true calling. I will say also, Many times a preacher that is really going to be used of God to be beneficial to the Church body collectively, will get started on something that seems like a good idea and all of a sudden it just seems like it all falls to pieces. Such a man can become discouraged and think, What is the use? but something keeps urging him, Go on, and in the proper time his efforts pay off. First, that man has to get to the place he will let none of these negative things that are thrown at him, keep him from pressing on. When we look at the apostles of old, and the other disciples as well, they could not live on the sensation of "Hallelujah" all the time. They were liable to wake up in the middle of the night with a knock on the door, and there stood soldiers ready to take the whole family to jail. I wonder how that would feel? I am thankful we have been born and raised in a country where we do not have to expect a thing like that every moment; at least not yet. With this in mind, that this ministry is for the perfecting of the saints, then be assured that God will first work on, and in the ministry, which literally means we have to expect the Spirit of God to work with the preacher, on the preacher, and in the preacher, before that preacher can fulfill his calling. As God does that, then we must realize it is what God does with the preacher, in the preacher, and about the preacher, that helps prepare him to fulfill this ministry which is going to accomplish this thing of reaching out and helping others of the body of Christ to reach this perfected point. Then, there is the edifying of the body of Christ, (For how long? Is there a time limit? No. Time is in God Himself. The scripture says,) **(Eph 4:13) "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."** Unity is a condition where everything works harmoniously. You see in the world today, what has gone on for the last thirty some years in the midst of the charismatic church world. They finally came to the conclusion, If you want the blessings of God in your life, you simply forget all about the doctrines of the scriptures, because they cause division among the people. That has been said by many of them through the years. They do not even preach doctrine in most of your charismatic assemblies. Some have gone so far as to say, We do not care how you are baptized: we will baptize you any way you want to be baptized. What a loose way to try and present the Word of God! How in the name of common sense can anyone expect unity to come out of an attitude like that? You cannot get by with anything like that in assembling an automobile engine: you cannot take just any old part and throw it into a position to work harmoniously with all the other parts. If you are going to say it does not matter what size piston it is, just as long as it is a piston, Well, just try that and see how far you get. The piston you try to fit in there might be three and one quarter, but the hole where you are trying to put it is only bored at two and seven eights. It simply will not fit. **"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, (working harmoniously) and of the knowledge of the Son of God."** That means we will stop saying, Jesus was God. No, He absolutely was NOT GOD: He was, and still is the Son of God. Others still want to say, No, He is the second person of the trinity. What trinity? You will not find anything like that in the Bible. What a picture some try to present! How can you put together anything that resembles unity when you have three different kinds of thought about the main object? Where there is a difference of belief or opinion, only one can be right. You could all be wrong, but one thing is sure, You cannot all be right. There is no perfection ever going to come out of a mess like that. When the scripture says, **"There is (Eph 4:5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (Eph 4:6) One God and Father of all, who is above all,**

**and through all, and in you all,"** that is exactly what it means: God is NOT three persons. The only person of the Godhead is Jesus and I will say again, He IS NOT God: He is the only begotten Son of God, endowed with all the attributes of His Father, that He be able to reveal the Father to those who are true believers of the word of God. God can only be seen through eyes of faith, as He is revealed by His only begotten Son Jesus, the Christ.

### **HOLDING TO A TRUE REVELATION**

I get many letters thanking me for the way we have explained the godhead. I get others saying, Bro. Jackson, I don't understand why you say that Jesus was a person. Then another says, I don't understand why you say God is not a person. I say that because He is a Spirit and not a person. He has no physical form that you can see. I know how the King James translation of the Bible words it, that causes a lot of people to believe God is a person, but I also know (John 1:18) says, **"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him."** Then you have (John 4:24) which says, **"God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth,"** and those two verses harmonize with all the other scriptures that let us know God the Creator is a sovereign Spirit; and not a person. The English word person, refers to an object you can see. If you will look in your dictionary, at the definition for person, It plainly states that a person is a living human being. Is that what you want the guardian of your soul to be, a living human being? I doubt that any of you would. Just think about what you have believed by tradition and see if it lines up with the testimony of the written scriptures. Right there in the scriptures, is where every revelation must originate. Revelation to us, is when the Spirit of God opens up that which has been hidden in His word for centuries of time. How many understand that? In the Hebrew and Aramaic, He is a being. He is a Spirit, and He is a Spirit you have never seen and cannot see. He has projected Himself through angelic beings or put Himself in a manifestation of a theophany body, which in every case is only temporary; and allowed that form to be seen, but that form was not, and is not God. It is not His eternal abode. When we say that God is a Spirit, and a being, it means He is the fountain of all life. If John said, No man has seen Him at any time, and that He which is in the bosom of the Father, ( Jesus) hath declared Him, or revealed Him, that is good enough for me. It took all those qualities that God bestowed upon Jesus, in order that they could become materialized and manifested in and through His corporal, physical body to demonstrate to man what God really is. Therefore as we go further in this, I will say, In this period of time that God will use to bring His Church to perfection, I do not like to leave the thought that I am saying it is going to boil down until you are not going to have millions on this planet. I do not think there is going to be multiplied thousands upon thousands of people in the Bride though, like you now hear out here in the denominational religious picture. I do not think the Bride will be literally thousands and thousands over the face of the earth. Nevertheless as we get back to the men of the five fold ministry, I am positive every man is going to be dealt with by the Spirit of God, so that certain things are going to be manifested in his ministry and through his life, which will display the power of God in the objective and purpose God wants to display. That is why the Bible says these signs shall follow them that believe. We know there are nine gifts of the Spirit: Paul taught this in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, chapters 12 and 13.** Then when you come to the fruit of the Spirit, there is also nine mentioned. A little bit of each one of them, we are going to measure up to. Not that we are going to be all that is incorporated in our potential, but we are going to have that certain capacity to measure up to all of this. We had something take place a few days back: when some e-mails came in about this subject: That is what started me looking at this picture and this situation as pertaining to the bride Church. I am going to take it slowly and say some things that will no doubt get next to some people. It will have to, because of the way things are. I want to say to the young people, Please listen carefully, how I say this. I want every young person in here, to know within their own heart just exactly where they stand with the Lord. I am not looking into your heart, to see if I think you have what you profess to have: You have to know that yourself. That has to be a finished experience in your life. That true experience is what puts you in the body of Christ. For too long, people have just assumed that the minute they received the Holy Ghost, bingo, now I can go. It does not work that way. It never has. It is sad many times, especially in real young people, the minute the Holy Ghost gets on them, they are drunk, slain on the floor, they are speaking in tongues and prophesying, but that is not perfection. It is a wonderful sensation and a wonderful experience, but does not qualify you for anything as far as a ministry. Listen carefully, how I say this. You might immediately get the idea, I am going to be something big. Do not be deceived, because you do not know at that point whether you will or will not. You do not know what you are going to be until after the Lord gets through dealing with you in your life. Many times you may say, Oh, I had a dream last night, and it was wonderful. Maybe you did have a dream that was of the Lord, but be careful: The enemy also gives dreams, as well as the fact we have certain dreams because of prior thoughts and experiences. Bro. Jackson: Surely you are not saying God would let something happen to me that is bad. I will just say, We have thousands of people over the earth today that think like that. You cannot talk to them; because they are so set in their own ideas. That is why I say, I am going to go slow. I want every young person under the sound of my voice to take heed to this: Whenever God starts a work in your life, I want you to be patient first of all, and in your patience cultivate

some wisdom and learn beyond any shadow of doubt, what God is doing in your life, before you start trying to do anything for Him. But Bro. Jackson, some have even seen angels, and they were talking to them. Brothers and Sisters: Did it ever occur to you that Jesus Christ Himself is the pattern and model for all of us? Isn't that what the Bible says? In **Isaiah 40:3-5**, speaking of the voice crying in the wilderness, how that in the day when that voice appears on the scene, He is to be the forerunner of the Jewish Messiah, And how this forerunner, (which was John the Baptist) will break the good news to the nation of Israel. As he appears on the scene, he will begin to say repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. God is getting ready to change the order of events. The multitude began to go out and hear him, but in the background was another man by the name of Jesus of Nazareth. There are a few people in the background that know He had an unusual birth. They knew who His father and mother were supposed to be. They grew up next to Him. They always saw Him as a good boy. That boy grew into manhood without ever performing any miracles, and without ever preaching a sermon. However in the temple that day, He confounded the wise men and the elders with what He knew. This tells me, that even though this young man growing up, knew who He was and what lay before Him, He waited for the proper time. He had a potential to fulfill, but there was a certain way He was going to make His introduction to the people. Nobody had to tell him when and how. When He was about thirty years of age, He was baptized by John in the river Jordan. Read the last verses of the **3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Matthew**; and see how Jesus makes His appearance. As He came walking down the bank into the river to meet John face to face, John looked up and said, Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. John was already the recognized voice. Imagine this multitude of people on the bank, hearing these two men talking face to face. You can read the words of those last two verses and know what was said. Finally Jesus said to John, Suffer it to be so, that we might fulfill all matters of righteousness. He, who was the voice, John, took Him (Jesus, the Christ) and baptized Him in the Jordan River. There was a crowd of people on the river bank watching and listening. As John lifts Him out of the water, a phenomena from heaven took place. Immediately heaven was opened unto Him. Here came the Holy Ghost in the image of a dove, coming down and resting upon Him, and a voice spake, "**This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.**" The multitude saw that. How do you know? Because it says in the **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> verses of Isaiah 40**, that as this voice would come on the scene preaching, that His glory shall be revealed and all eyes shall behold it. What a display of God's power for an element of Jews that had been stuck back in their religious ideas for so long. Here stood a man to announce a new dispensation. As Jesus stepped into the water, the public saw it. They heard what was said. That was the Son of God, born to be a model for you and me to pattern our lives after. It tells in the **3<sup>rd</sup> verse**, that immediately Jesus left this scene and went into the wilderness. I have been to that spot. The wilderness is probably eighteen miles from Jerusalem. It is rough, hilly country. There, Jesus submits Himself to a long period of fasting and prayer. When you read the **4<sup>th</sup> chapter**, immediately, after He who is the Son of God had gone to the river to be baptized in water, He who is to be the beginning of a new creation, the firstborn of every creature, He is now submitting to a time of testing, because the devil came right on the scene to put Him to the test when the fast had ended. Now listen carefully, I used to think God gave Him those visions. God did not give Him those visions. It was the devil that gave Him those visions. Satan came to Him, tempting Him. Why did He have to be tempted? He who was sinless, knew no sin, had no guile in Him, was perfect in every way, if He was to be a pattern and example for every one of us, He had to be tested by Satan and overcome his temptations by the written word of God. God wants us to know, if He is going to permit His own Son to be tempted by the devil, we should never think we are not going to be tempted and tested in some manner after receiving our Holy Ghost experience. The minute you grab this thing and want to run with it, to show the world what you have, you set yourself up to wind up in a brush pile somewhere, so ashamed of yourself you will never want to come out. That is the sad part of it, that too many people find out about after they wind up in a mess. You carry a Bible, so you should know about Satan's devices. How has this part been preached to you? Jesus was tempted on the merits of everything His life and ministry is going to be beneficial to the human race in. The first one, He is going to be a miracle worker. The devil knew He hungered, so he said to Him, If you be the Son of God, make these stones into bread. That is just like when the devil gets in our young minds, If you are a preacher, why don't you go preach? The devil said to Jesus, If you be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. Could He not have done it? He sure could have, but would that have been the will of the Father? No. Why? Because He did it for Himself, discounting the fact that His Father would supply all His needs. If He could take a little boy's lunch, five little hot dog buns, and two little fishes, and multiply that to feed above five thousand men and women, even to the point they could gather twelve baskets full left over, leaving them with more than they started with, I am convinced He could have made bread out of the stones. Jesus knew the Scriptures, so He answered, It is written thus and so. It behooves every one of us to know the Scriptures. If you do not know the Scriptures, knowing every detail about this message is not sufficient. You can know all the quotes, and even be able to quote them forward and backward, where it was said, what message it was said in, what book, paragraph and all, but if the word of God written in the Bible is not alive in you, you are still ignorant. You could quote the prophet forward and backward, but do you know what he meant when he was looking at that certain

thing? He did not come to give you another Bible. The denominational world was already out of the one they had. He came to take the things denominations had broken up and then put back together all wrong, and put them back in the Bible in their rightful place. That is the message: Get back to the Bible! God is going to judge you on the merits of that. When Jesus rebuked the devil, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, the devil had to realize, I can't argue with that. Nevertheless he then took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple (in a vision).. He did not take Him by the hand and walk up that mountain eighteen miles, then pick Him up and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple. Naturally it was in a vision, where all this took place. (The devil can give dreams and visions. Do not forget that. That is why it is so necessary for every true child of God to have a revelation of what is in the scriptures, so you can check those dreams and visions by the principles God applies in manifestations.) The devil is going to quote something to Jesus, but notice how he uses it. After he gets Him there, (He is in that devil's vision.) the devil whispers in His ear, **"If you be the Son of God, cast yourself down, for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."** You will find that in the **Psalms, chapter 91**. Jesus knew He was destined to die one day for the sins of the world, but He was not about to let the devil come along and cause Him to commit suicide just to show what He could do with the power of God that was in Him. The devil more or less said, You got me there. He then took Him up to a high mountain top and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them and said, If you will fall down and worship me, I will make you king over it all. (My words) Jesus knew that one day He would be King anyway, and that the devil was not to have any part in it, but the devil wanted Jesus to worship him. When the Lord rebuked him, the Bible says the devil left Him and angels came and ministered to Him. Now I want all of you to listen carefully, I do not think a dozen angels came running down the road to Him. He was in a very weak condition, (because he was human) and after Satan departed, He saw all these angels around Him, talking to Him. They touched Him. Do you know what that does? That calmed and strengthened His weakened being, eased that stomach hunger, took that depression out of His mind and enabled Him to go about His business. What a dirty devil! He was ready to take advantage of Jesus' weakened condition. The beauty of it, He knew how to overcome all of the attacks, by the Written Word of God. From that moment on, Jesus came out and began to bear witness back in Nazareth and so forth. I am using that to say this, When I look back through the years, where I have seen individuals blessed by the Spirit, and how the Holy Ghost would get on them, and how they would get so carried away in the Spirit they would get strange ideas about it, it made me want to examine every case by the word of God. Some of them could prophesy from now until Jesus comes. That is what they may feel like, but that is not God's way for you to express yourself. He has a purpose for every one of us, but He wants to direct us into it according to His time.

### **GOD HAS VARIOUS WAYS OF LEADING US**

We see in the **10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts**, where Peter, when he came to the household of Cornelius, was actually led by the Spirit, even against his own human nature and former teaching, because he did not want to get around Gentiles. He knew what the Law said about it, but he did not have a revelation at that time, of what God was about to do. Therefore when through a vision, the Lord spoke to him and said, Go and doubt not, I have sent these men, Peter just said, I am he whom ye seek, what is the cause? He was ready to go. God has the right to use a supernatural visitation to correct us and get us to do something He wants us to do. He has that right, but He does not always have to do it that way. He just wants us to be in a place spiritually, so He can lead us in whatever way He chooses. Peter did not know what was going to happen: It was all unfolded before him as he followed the leading of the Spirit. When he began to preach, he was as surprised as anyone when the Holy Ghost fell on those Gentiles and they began to speak in tongues and prophesy. It actually startled Peter. Practically the same thing happened at Ephesus, when Paul went there. Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed? They answered, We know not whether there be such a thing as the Holy Spirit. Then he asked, Unto what were you baptized? When they said, Unto John's baptism, Paul did not speak against that: he just simply took them a step further and baptized them in the Name of the Lord Jesus. Paul then laid his hands upon them and prayed for them; and when the Spirit fell upon all of them they began to speak in tongues and prophesy. I am using these instances just to illustrate a point: When they have received the Holy Ghost they received the potential of everything God was ever going to eventually manifest in their personal lives. There are only nine gifts, but we need to look at it in this light, Not everyone will be doing the same thing that Bro. Joe is anointed to do. God has each person marked with the potential, according to the measure He has purposed to use the person for. It is up to you and me to refrain from watching a TV program, when there are other more important things we need to be busy at. If we forget what the Scriptures says about certain things that pertain to being spiritual, then it means I am going to have to spend more time on my knees, studying the Scriptures and seeking to let God speak to my heart about what He has for me to do. God did not force Peter to go up to the housetop to pray, but when Peter felt the need to pray while he waited for the meal to be prepared, the Spirit of God was ready to give him what he needed for the job just ahead. He caused Peter to fall into a trance and gave him a

vision that changed his outlook on everything. God wants some quiet time in my life, to inform me and let me know how He wants to work in and through me. If I do not give Him that time, then I am liable to go down the road of life and hit a stone wall, so to speak. I am bringing all of this out, hoping I can make this clear enough to all of you, that we are not called of God just to drift along through life without any thought of how God is going to deal with us. If Jesus was tested, who is Raymond Jackson, that he should think he is not going to be tested. As I look back through the years I have to say, I have been slapped in the face with a lot of things: I thought, I will do this or do that and just went ahead with my plan. I did it one time or two times, but after a while something said, That is not right: you wait on the Lord first. The minute you take this thing and run with it, and you are not going to let anybody school you in any way, or even make a suggestion about anything, nine times out of ten you will wind up in a weed patch somewhere, wondering, Where did I go wrong? Through the years of my life, I have seen that happen to many people. Where did they go? Do they not want to be in the body of Christ? Because of the failures some encounter through personal zeal, others just choose to sit on the opposite side of the religious field and say, Just look at what goes on out there. They judge the whole of Christianity by the mistakes they have seen some make. Also, and I want to speak this very carefully, in this element of believers, some people begin to get the idea, Well I see in the book of Acts, where Peter quoted from the second chapter of Joel, that in the last days your sons and daughters shall prophesy, old men shall dream dreams, young men shall see visions, so you begin to major on dreams and visions. Please listen carefully: There are only nine gifts. Are you listening to me? Well, what is a dream or vision? It is a furtherance of the gift of wisdom or knowledge, no more, or no less. When some people think dreams or visions have to major above everything else, you are reading it wrong. That is the highest quality of what knowledge or wisdom could be. For instance, let me use an illustration: Somewhere in the night you have a terrifying dream, that you are on a highway approaching an intersection. As you get close to that intersection, all of a sudden out of the corner of your eye, here comes a car from the opposite direction headed right at you. Lord, he is going to hit me. But do you know what? As you are in that frame of fear because it looks like he is going to hit you, you wake up. So you lay the rest of the night thinking about it, I don't understand this. Maybe the next day you are as cautious as you can be, you watch every intersection. But about the time your mind becomes relaxed about four days later, as you approach an intersection, suddenly something says, Watch out! Just then you look up, here comes a car. Had that not come back to your mind, you would have been out there. But by the time that thought hit your mind, you slowed down, and there he went. You had that experience, and it was there long enough to give you an instinct or wisdom, or knowledge. You were able to avoid the most catastrophic wreck you could have had. God can do that. That is not a dream that has to be publicized around the world. However there may be an opportunity in the future when you may give it as a testimony of the grace and goodness of God. Just remember though, dreams and visions are a part of the workings of the Holy Spirit in your life, but if you think it takes a special anointing for that, forget it. I can say that, because I have had so many dreams in my lifetime I cannot remember them all. They have been fulfilled, but that does not make me anything special. The point is, I did not have to have a special anointing for any of them. Do you understand that? Many times, I would have two or three dreams over a period of months, and then go for three or four years and not have anything else. Just when I am not aware of anything going on, the devil brings up something and throws it in my face, usually when I am the least expecting anything like that. I go to bed with that on my mind and have a dream that helps me. It gives me enough in a pictorial sense, that I either know how to avoid it or how to work through it. I do not tell any of this to give you the idea that we all have to go down the road of life saying, O Lord, I need a dream, Lord, I need a vision. No saints, that is just part of the nine gifts, an extension the Lord uses with some. I hope you catch the point. A lot of you are very young and do not know what is up ahead for you, so, Please, get your mind fixed on the Spirit of God and let Him lead you into His Word. Get enough of it in your life that you live each day praying, Lord, lead me, direct me, help me not to stumble. Even when you are painting the house, you can still say, Lord, lead me. If you are carrying firewood from the woodshed you can still say, Lord, lead me. God sees the sincerity in your heart and responds accordingly. You might say, I have never spoken in tongues. You do not have to speak in tongues to be led of the Lord. You are going to see the day come, and probably very soon, that God will put to rest a lot of this foolishness that man has propagated in his efforts to be something great. He is going to put it to shame, as He reveals Himself to many. There are people that never will speak in tongues, but they can tell you a dream that is so precise in every detail you can hang it like a picture on the wall and look at it for years to come. I hope I have not given you a wrong picture of anything, because I have prayed through this week, Lord, I love these people, and through the years I have done my best to present myself in a right way among them, but if they are going to take the things I have taught and stood for trying to give them a groundwork of something solid, and cast it aside all of a sudden because one has a little vision or dream, or because an angel has come to one of them, what is it all coming to? I do not deny that angels are in the plan of God, but do not tell me you have to give way to a special anointing or calling, casting everything else aside to go running down the road proclaiming, I saw angels last night. What if you did? Are angels sent from God to tear down everything He has revealed from His word in the past forty

some years? Most of you know as well as I do, that God does not operate like that. Holy angels do not contradict the revealed word of God. The tract we printed years ago, "The Shaking of All Things," I believe it was called, back in the 1980's; I saw angels in that. They were not talking to me: they were talking among themselves, but I not only saw them, I saw them on a ladder from heaven to earth. I just watched the scene. I knew when I woke up from that dream, that we are going to enter that era of the shaking of all things. From that day on, you could begin to see political things in this world head into turmoil. When I see Paul on that ship, he stayed in the hole of that ship with all those sailors on the top deck, holding the ropes and sails, trying to keep the boat upright. Do you think Paul was down below watching TV? He was praying. He knew, if God did not do something, he was doomed with the rest of them. This old ship is going to be in the bottom of the water soon, unless God sees fit to save us. Somewhere in the night an angel came and said, "**Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.**" Paul came up and said to those men, Gentlemen, I want you to know, there stood by me an angel of the Lord whose servant I am. He said, There will not be one hair of your head perish, but we are all going to escape this thing. That is what angels do. When you see them, just to carry on a conversation with them, you are setting your frame of thinking in the wrong direction. How many understand? Look at Peter and John there in the book of Acts. They were put in jail and forbidden to preach in public in the name of Jesus. What changed their situation? Along toward daylight, an angel of the Lord came and touched Peter on the side, Get up and gird yourself. Peter and John got up and followed that angel. He took them right out the door. That was a need. It was not something they were going to spend the next forty years talking about. There is no doubt, that up the road somewhere there will come things we have not planned for. There will be things develop around your life that will begin to make you think, Lord, I don't know what all this is coming to, but help me Lord. Once you do know what you believe and what you are standing for, and you know why you are doing it, then you can say, It matters not what the devil says, I am going to stand for what I know is right. Then if necessity compels God to act on your behalf, it will not be to satisfy somebody's selfish motives so they can go down the road of life and brag about it. Young people, I will say this, Never allow yourselves to brag about anything. Let us just be grateful to the Lord for His grace. All that we are in this life, is because of the mercies of God. Every man that God has in His end time ministry is going to be schooled and tested. He is going to put in that man a sweet attitude, because in the motivation of that man's heart, he is going to see the body of Christ, and he is going to see the older ones and the young ones all alike as his heart reaches out to them to help them and lift them up. They are God's product. He has got to see it in that respect. He does not see himself as the greatest man that ever lived. He sees himself only as a part of a body that God is seeking to bring into unity and oneness of purpose. That body will reflect Jesus Christ. Those that have seen these angels, are all caught up in this phenomena, but I assure you, I find no scripture for anything like what is coming out of that. One is supposed to be able to transform himself from in the body to out of the body and back at will. There is such an experience: I do not question that, but such an experience is not for just any time you want it. That only happens when God has a purpose for such a thing.

### SCRIPTURAL EXPERIENCES

Open your Bibles to **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians**, and let us listen to Paul speak. He was a man subject to all kinds of experiences, visions, and such, but he did not elaborate on them to make himself into some big idol. The Corinthian church had been saying something about Paul, because they had evangelists that came along and bragged. When you read the latter verses of the **11<sup>th</sup> chapter**, you see all of that. Here in the **12<sup>th</sup> chapter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians**, we find this, (Verse 1) "**It is expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.** (He had multiples of them.) **I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago,** (Above means back before. I ran this through the chronology of Acts, and that takes him back to when he was at Antioch. You also see in Galatians, that he spent three years in Arabia. There, is where he wrestled with the Lord. He had been on the road to Damascus, where he was going to persecute Christians, arrest them, and have them killed. That is where God got hold of Paul. You know the experience he had there: He saw Jesus in a vision. Jesus spoke audibly to him. Here he is coming to the beginning of this, when he states, I knew a man,) **whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;** (So he had those out of the body experiences.) (Verse 4) **How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.**" That tells me he was a man that could sit all day and tell you about his experiences, but even though he mentioned some things, he did not elaborate on them, because he heard words, and saw things in paradise that was not even good to talk about. He knew a man beyond fourteen years ago, which was back in that era of time when he was seeking God with all his heart, to find out where this calling put on him, really fit in, because he was of the Sanhedrin Court. He was educated: we might say he was a doctor of divinity. After the Lord spoke to him like that, when he was on his road to Damascus to persecute the people that believed in the very One that spoke to him in a vision, he spent much time seeking the will of God for his life and ministry. You can easily see how the experience he had, could

confuse his mind. Then you can see why he went into Arabia: He had to get away from everything he had been schooled in. What he did then, was wrestle with the Lord. Not in resistance, but in the many things he did not understand. After those three years of time in Arabia, he came out of there a learned man in the grace and mercy of God. That is what his ministry majored on for the rest of his life: not on supernatural experiences. Our faith in God and in the provision climaxed at Calvary, comes from hearing the written Word of God expounded to us, just like it says in (Rom 10:17). **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** It has also been reported that some of the young ones have talked to angels. I grant you, an angel can talk to you, but I want to say something else, and I am not making fun, but rather trying to take this out of the imaginary state some people get themselves into. Angels of God do not come just to play with you. Also, when God sends an angel to speak it is usually very few words. Do you know what I have said? You know what I meant, do you not? Are we going to preach angels, when God has given no authority for it? How come it is suddenly necessary that we see angels? Why is it suddenly necessary that angels come and talk with us? Paul had something to say about that too. I am reading out of the Aramaic. I like this. In the **2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Colossians**, starting with the **16<sup>th</sup> verse**. I will read it from the Aramaic. **"Let no man therefore create a disturbance among you, about eating and drinking, or about the division of the feast days, the beginning of the month, and the day of the Sabbath:** (All that is pertaining to the Law. After the Church was born, here came that bunch of characters always trying to teach the Christians, If you don't do this, and don't do that, this or that and so on.) **These are shadows of things to come, but the main objective is Christ. Let no man by pretense of sincerity doom you so that you would worship angels, for he is bold about things he has not seen and foolishly he is proud of his intellectual powers. That very person does not uphold the Head, by whom the whole body is constructed, and stands with the joints and members and grows through the discipline of God."** I think Paul has said enough. All this talk about angels sounds good to people that are ignorant of what is really going on. That is why I have to say, I have not set by this week foolishly listening to this. Tonight, if the Lord is willing, we will bring in more on this very thing. I hope everybody understands what I am trying to get across to you. I believe the Holy Ghost is absolutely something every person needs, and when we receive that experience it can create such an excitement. When I first received it, I was laying on the floor in a high school auditorium. I thought, Oh, if I could just die like this, it would be wonderful. Every time I got to church, I wanted to lay on the floor and die. I really did. I thought that was the way to go to church, but after awhile you realize, you are not going anywhere laying on the floor, so you have to get up and reconsider the whole picture. After awhile it all begins to have a meaning and you get the correct picture. You begin to realize it is all by His grace. He wanted you to know, I am working with you, I am coming inside of you. Of course that so excites us, we can hardly contain ourselves. I am thankful, that in the end He wants us to recognize Him and let Him teach us. He knows best.

### **WHAT ABOUT DREAMS AND VISIONS?**

I want to deal with some things now that may get kind of personal with our own individual lives. I hope I can say what I want to say the right way. I do not ever want to say anything to hinder any person, any brother or sister, young or old, from missing his or her place in Christ, nor hinder them from receiving everything God would have for them. I am not going to explain what perfection is now, because I have already explained it. This message came about because of a condition that has developed, and it started about three weeks back, up in Canada. I want to say this very carefully to the brothers and sisters up there, because they are listening on the internet, and they may also get the video or cassette tapes of it. Bro. Bud had a dream along about the time I began to get word of this. When he told me the dream, it sounded so simple. I said, Bro. Bud, we may be getting ready to move right into that. Sure enough, as the days came and went, I could see us moving right into the very thing. I did not have the dream: Bro. Bud did. I have to say though, As we get further on down the road, and start living every day getting ready for the end time and the coming of the Lord, He is going to have His entire body active. Keep in mind, what the process of perfection is. It is bringing the body to a complete state of unity, where each and every member contributes something to the function and growth of the body. No one person is going to be the big chief. This whole thing is going to be where everybody, somewhere along the road, small or big, old or young, is going to have something from the Spirit of God to contribute. It will come about in such a simple way that you cannot help but recognize the grace of God. Naturally some things have been said in weeks gone by, and I am not going to mention names, but I know what I am talking about. Some people have been made to think there has to be a special anointing to bring on these dreams and visions, like it says in **Joel 2**. Let us turn to **Joel 2** and read the **28<sup>th</sup> verse**. **"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids."** This is worded like this to show you, that when this is brought about, God does not differentiate between young and old, nor your position in life, whether you are the head of a business or working with the street cleaning department. It does not necessarily mean you

have to be an old man to dream a dream or a young man to see a vision. It will work just the opposite way also. I can prove that by history. How would you do that, Bro. Jackson? Well back before the Reformation ever really made the break, back in the fourteenth century, there was a lot of persecution going on in Europe. There was a group of people that had pulled away from the Catholic Church and began to worship in separate places. The Catholic Church chased them into the mountains and hills of southern France and northern Spain. When I read the history of that era of time, they had not had anything preached to them; it was the way God led them, because necessity brought it about. That is why I say conditions and time, as we move into God's plan, will necessitate that God manifest some things. It is for your and my growth and progress in the Lord. It is not that you are ignorant of what is there. There is a real time for those things to be brought forth. God spoke to those people as they hid in caves, either in a dream or vision, because they were scattered families. To some, it came as prophecy. Nevertheless whether it was by prophecy, dreams or visions, they were able to keep ahead of their attackers. They wrote a chapter in history of the grace of God working on their behalf. I hope you understand, that God does not differentiate between your age or position. You do not have to be an old man to dream a dream. It can be vice versa. The way it is worded here, it does not matter whether it is young or old, son or daughter, maid, or a business man, the grace of God is right there to work. Many times we can have a dream, and it looks very real. I say this for the sake of young people. You may never have had a dream that you thought was spiritual, but all of a sudden you might have a strange dream. It creates thoughts in your mind, it looks like it could be a spiritual dream, and it looks like it is really something, but you should always be cautious, look at it, and study it. Do you see something that stands out, something that requires some action on your part? You might have a dream of a young man in a pulpit, and it looks like he is preaching. The reason I say this, it is things like this that cause people to go off the deep end. They do not seem to know where to settle down. Actually, if everyone who has a dream about someone else, would see it become reality, you would have so many preachers and others praying for people, there would be no place for it to be done. Somebody might walk up to a young boy, (Notice how I say this.) call him by name, and say, I don't think God is through with you. Well if you already know the Lord and you have known Him for some time, you ought to have reached a point that you have a head on your shoulders. You should know where you stand. I have to say this, because it is for your own preservation. If you start down this pathway of life seeking to live for the Lord, but in your ordinary growth you do not begin to have a fixed picture of what you see for yourself, there are a lot of young people that can say, I don't think God is through with you yet, because they have a certain likeness for you, and though it sounds good, on your part you need to take that with a grain of salt. You do not have to fall head over heels because of such a statement. Neither do you have to say, I don't believe that: Just say, Thank you. There is one thing sure, if God has His hand on a young man's life, He is not going to leave it up to everybody else to tell the young man when, where, what, how, and why: He will have His own way of dealing with His chosen vessels. How many know what I mean? You do not read in the Bible, that God left it up to some other human vessel, to do His calling. However some of those things will follow afterward as a confirmation, but the individual person has to have his own mind made up. It can be so confusing many times if people do not know what they are doing and why. Some things sound so good we can really get wound up and ready to go. We would like the whole world of youth to be saved and filled with the Holy Ghost, if we had the say so, but you certainly do not need ten thousand in the pulpit praying the devils off of people. I do not mean any harm and certainly do not mean to hurt anyone, but some things need to be said. How many accepted Christ on the day of Pentecost? Three thousand. They were told they would be filled with the Holy Ghost. A few days later there were five thousand more, so that made eight thousand in the church at Jerusalem. I believe every last one of them, somewhere along the line, received the Holy Spirit. They received the Holy Spirit, but I do not believe they were all doing what a lot of Gentiles think they were doing. They would still not be done telling all their experiences, if they were like a lot of people today. It is ridiculous to think that people can get so carried away. I am thankful for the grace of God and for the baptism of the Holy Ghost: It is a wonderful thing, that God looks upon us with such love and compassion, but you do not live every moment in that realm: You still have to deal with the realities of life. That is what causes a lot of young people to go down the road of life and wreck up, spiritually speaking. Too many people have the idea that the Holy Ghost gives them immunity to Satan's devices. No. He enables you to overcome, if you have your mind made up to do so, but He definitely does not keep Satan from putting you to the test. Some, when they do submit to some temptation in a moment of weakness are so ashamed of themselves, that nine times out of ten, even if they do come back to church, they just sit and never move, from that time on, simply because they think they have passed a point of no return. The new birth is a one time experience, because the Spirit of that new birth also seals you forever in the family of God. You may make mistakes, but that does not put you back in that lost condition you were in before your new birth experience. When you realize you have missed the mark, repenting and asking God's forgiveness restores you to fellowship with your heavenly Father: He knows when one truly repents. Sometimes it takes a while for everyone in the assembly to regain that confidence they once had in you. That is just another test that one must overcome. Not with a sour attitude, but with a genuine display of your determination to live for God. There is no

reason to let mistakes ruin your Christian experience and your true desire to walk with God. That is why proper instruction in the word of God is so necessary. Jesus was tempted and tested in every way anyone is today, so He could be our example of overcoming Satan's temptations with what is written in the Bible. It is important that we know what God's word says about every subject, so like Jesus, we can also say to Satan, It is written, Thus and So. Satan knows what is written in your Bible, but he never ceases to test believers, to see if we know, and to see if we are really serious about living for God. Yes, the Spirit of God in you, is you ability and authority to use the word of God just like Jesus did when He was tested. He became the pattern and example for all of us.

### **A PERSONAL TESTIMONY**

As the Spirit of God began to lead my wife and me into this message under Bro. Branham's teaching, I will never forget some of those first experiences. I had never had a spiritual dream, but I did tell my testimony many times, how God led us into contact with Bro. Branham. When I first started taking my wife to church there, that is where I saw black and white all sitting together and enjoying themselves. The first time I ever saw Bro. Branham pray for anybody, it was a black lady. She was sitting across the aisle from me. She got up with a walking cane and went down the aisle. Many others went down also. When Bro. Branham started praying for this lady, he did not have a microphone on, so I could not understand the words he spoke, but I could see her throw her hands in the air and start shouting. He said, You are healed. That woman turned around and back down the aisle she came, skipping, and she was not using her walking cane. She came down the aisle and stopped right in front of me and said, Praise the Lord! I am going home and tell my friends. Out the door she went. Just coming out of a cold Methodist Church, that did something for me. I had never seen anything like that before. You know Saints, that was so real to me: She was a black person in a white church; and that was new to me. One night later on, I saw myself in a dream. I had never had a dream like it before. I heard a terrible noise in the air. I went to the kitchen door and looked out. Here came a huge airplane, down low, getting ready to make a paratroop drop. The side door came open, out came an object in a parachute. It came down right in front of my house. There was a vacant lot in front of my house, and when it hit the end of that lot, it was a little cabin. Hanging on that cabin was a few of the belongings like you would see sometimes in the old country side, a wash tub and a few of those things. The door opened and out came a black family, a man, his wife, and two little children. I heard the man say to his wife, Honey, we're home. About that time the plane made a circle and came back again. The same picture was displayed before me. The door opened and out came another object. When it hit the ground at the other end of the lot, it was another cabin. When the door opened, it was a white family. I heard the man say to his wife, Honey, we're home. The black and white stood on that same lot. I knew that was my introduction to the environment, spiritually, that I was to be introduced to, if I kept going to that man's church. I came to know a lot of those older black people that attended there. They had been coming there several years. In those years, we did not have church order. I am talking about the later part of 1952 and into 1953 and through there. When we first started going, we could go in and sit down and before very long someone would get out of their seats and come over, shake our hand and say, Brother, sister it is good to see you, where are you from? They talked to you back then. They were glad to meet you and glad to have you there. I thought to myself, I have never been in a church like this. That was the beginning of me knowing what a spiritual dream could be like. I have also had a lot of other dreams that were not spiritual. From that time on, the grace of God began to slowly cultivate certain things in my life. I cannot tell you how many times in those early days, I heard Bro. Branham say, When God gets His Church back where it is supposed to be, there will be every gift in it. I could show you the book, and exactly where he said it, yet we have those today that say gifts are not to be used. They are! That is why the message was brought; to set the record straight and get us lined up with the scriptures. Let me show you something. We have thousands over the earth who follow Bro. Branham by quotes, quotes, quotes. They have gone no further in 37 years. Let me take you now, to the first advent of Christ. That spirit of Elijah was sent first. On who? John the Baptist. Right? Was he the one and only? No, he came preaching, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. A short time later, Jesus came on the scene. We brought that in earlier; how John baptized Him. That fulfilled scripture. When Jesus came out of the wilderness after fasting forty days and started preaching, the multitude that had followed John was now prepared spiritually to recognize the man John came to introduce. That is why they began to leave John and go to Jesus. Some of the old faithful disciples of John said to him one day, Master, behold, He whom thou baptized, has more disciples following Him than you. What did John say? Did he say, That dirty hypocrite got my people? No, he said nothing like that: He said, He must increase and I must decrease. For three and one half years after His Baptism, Jesus called His disciples, chose His apostles and laid down in the gospels everything they were to know. This was their schooling. Then, as He came toward the end of His ministry He said, It is necessary that I go away; for if I go not away the Comforter cannot come, but if I go away, I will pray the Father, and He will send you another Comforter, and when He comes, He will lead you into all truth, (the Holy Ghost) and He will show you things to come. He will bring to your remembrance, all things whatsoever I have told you. Saints I will ask you a simple question, after I set the scene. When the disciples saw

Jesus hanging on the cross, momentarily they were shocked, they were stunned. Our great teacher is gone. Then when He rose from the dead, He was manifested to them over a certain number of days. Finally the hour came, He did leave, and the Holy Ghost came back. Here is the question, Where do you think you would be today, if the disciples of that hour had done just like the following of Bro. Branham has done in this hour? In other words, I see no reason to look for any further revelation: Bro. Branham has told us all there is to tell. If the disciples of Jesus had taken that attitude, That whole thing would have died out in that one generation. You know it would have. When they went into that upper room and the Holy Ghost experience came upon them, they came out of there and into the streets, endued with this power, because this power was to take the place of what John had forerun and what Jesus had brought to them, leaving them as the instruments that was going to begin to form this great body of Christ. The Holy Ghost was to call to their remembrance all that Jesus had been teaching them. **(John 14:26)** **"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."** As long as those apostles were alive, by the authority that God had invested in them, they were able to teach and say things, and the Church was protected and kept secure. After they began to be martyred, and in other ways leave the scene, the younger generation that began to take the reins, little by little allowed the messengers of Satan to slowly slip in their version of what was taught. This is how it is when a new generation begins to come on and fill the gaps where older ones have been, there always seems to be those minds that will use this thing for self glory. That is why many times the apostle Paul was writing letters to the various churches rebuking them for teachings that had crept in, warning them, trying to tell them the error of such things. The Church definitely had a battle, a real struggle during that first century of Christendom, going into the next century. Down through almost two thousand years of time, the Church gradually strayed away from the basic teachings of the Bible, as taught by the apostles of Jesus. That is why it became necessary again for God to repeat what He did at the first advent. That is why **Malachi 4** says, He sent that spirit of Elijah again. To do what? To turn the hearts of the children back to the fathers. Thousands today, are sitting in the middle of the road with quotes. He turned me back to the father. No, he did not, because you sit there afraid to say what Matthew said. You only say what Bro. Branham said. How many understand what I am saying? To me, William Branham confirmed what Matthew said. He confirmed what Paul said, what Peter, James, and John said, and showed how our denominational systems have stretched and strayed away. Here the Methodists preach sanctification, but here is the Baptist with eternal security. Let me say this, the Baptist have one of the greatest foundational teachings there is, but they need to take the sanctification part to go with it, then they would really have something. Then they need to come along with the Pentecostal experience and put that with the other, and now they are really growing. What I am saying is, God was not going to come and pick a church with their denominational teachings and call them the bride of Christ. I remember one time, going to a Methodist hymn singing. A Baptist preacher stood on the outside of the door and I over heard him saying something to a Baptist sister, (They were coming to this hymn singing, and they were secretly talking about the Methodist people.) And she asked him the question, Do you really think they are saved like they claim they are? This is a Baptist preacher talking to one of his own members, but I just happened to overhear it. I thought to myself, Why did you come to the hymn singing, if you thought this was a bunch of devils out here singing? Each denomination, thinking they were right, could not see how anyone believing differently could possibly be saved. That is the way it used to be years ago: the Baptists were afraid of the Methodists, the Methodists were afraid of the Church of Christ, and on and on. How could God come for a church messed up like that. This man (Bro. Branham) came, and he was the only man this side of the Reformation, that took everything in the Bible, from the Pentecostals, the Methodists, the Baptists, the Nazarenes, the Pilgrim Holiness, all of them, and showed how the original doctrine they were each founded upon, all belonged in the same body. It was not the man, but when God dealt with him, he enabled him to put it all back in the Bible. That is when he said, Get back to the Word. A few did, but the rest, No, they have to go to the quotes, page such and such. I know what was said in those messages they hang on to: I sat there and heard them with my own ears. The difference is, what he said on page so and so, showed me where to go in here (the Bible). It was the Catholic Church that tried to destroy the Bible. They burned them in piles. Our denominational systems only preached parts of it. That is why you could go to a Methodist church and they will only teach about this part that pertains to their doctrine. The Baptist church is the same way. When you talk about the original Church that was in the book of Acts, every doctrine the apostles wrote about was in all these gospels and was upheld by the early Church. Do not bother to tell me any of them wrote something that should never have been written. I have to say, I thank God for that little man that led us back into the Bible. I grant you, I heard a lot of dual statements in his messages, especially when it came to the seventy weeks of Daniel and some other things, but I also heard when he laid down the various subjects by the Bible.

#### **GOD ALLOWED DUAL STATEMENTS IN THIS END TIME**

God allowed Brother Branham to say many things in the course of his ministry that were just for tares to grab hold

of and run with. The first time I heard him say there is only three and one half years left of the seventieth week of Daniel, I had never even studied it. However one time when he was down at our place rabbit hunting, he brought up the subject. He said, Bro. Junie, there is only three and one half years left, so I just accepted that verbatim as the prophet said it. Over a period of months later on though, God put it upon my heart to make a study on the subject. I took a little fast and prayed about it and God led me in the study. I have the same historical book that he was getting some of his data out of. I have one just like it at home. I took that and looked at it and studied it. I began to take all the histories that are related to that B.C. period of time, and when I got finished with my study I said to myself, There has to be seven years left, but since Bro. Branham is God's messenger and prophet, I will never say anything. I never would have said anything either, but when we came to the month of October, 1962, Bro. Branham took a whole week to preach on the seventieth week of Daniel. I still have the original messages. Do you know what he ended up saying? There was a chart on the wall. It showed seven years left. I will never forget him saying, as he went out to the car that morning, and his wife Mede, said, Bill, they are not getting it. He said to her, They have to get it, because we are too close. There was seven years left. Then when he preached the Seals, he made the statement again, that there is only three and one half years left to Israel; and even though I knew what I had learned, that statement threw almost everyone off balance. There was a question asked, Did you make a mistake? He answered, You just misunderstood me. Had I never studied the history of that period, what the Jews went through to constitute that, I would never have argued with anyone about it, but I have always said, You are not poking anything down my throat, without me first investigating and find out for myself, what it really points to. That is why, in two places in the book of Revelation, it plainly tells you, showing the reviving of this world beast, **(Rev 11:2) "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. (Rev 13:5) And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months."** That means when he will literally exercise himself in the capacity of the antichrist. However that does not mean that is what it is going to look like when he first introduces the week to Israel, because **Daniel 9:27**, plainly says, And He shall confirm the covenant with many, that means many nations, for a period of one week, which is seven years, even though that is not specified in the covenant of peace. Sure, that first three and one half years, which is allotted to the two prophets that will come upon the scene in Israel, is sometimes disregarded by a lot of those who want to hold to the **3 1/2** years, but that in no way gets that time out of the picture. That is verified in the book of Revelation. I am saying these things to keep the record straight; and I am not saying them to be harsh, or mean. When I see the dilemma over the face of this earth today, just because people have taken quotes and quotes, and sat in the middle of the road, saying, The prophet said there is going to be a revival, I have an obligation, as well as a great desire, to give people another chance to accept the truth. I have to ask, What kind of revival are they expecting? It has already been over thirty six years since Bro. Branham was killed in that terrible automobile accident. You who sit around waiting for him to come back and have a great revival are drying up and dying, just like the Methodist Church did years ago. You just have a bunch of quotes in your head, which can never accomplish one thing in the way of spiritual growth in your life, if you continue to hold on to this special resurrection of the prophet. I will say it once again, and I pray that some of you will hear me: That is not going to happen!!! Brother Branham will be resurrected when the rest of the bride saints are resurrected and NOT BEFORE. I will never forget, just after Bro. Branham's death, the man that edited his Church Ages book stood in the Branham pulpit and said, God will no longer save anybody because Jesus is off the mercy seat. He will no longer speak in dreams and visions and such. I thought, My, my, you are so wrong: He has already showed me too much in a dream now and then, for me to fall for a statement like that; and I am grateful to God for it. We have not left this world yet; and many souls have been saved since that time. Just think of all the young people in your assemblies that have experienced the saving grace of God in the last thirty six years. I say these things with as much kindness and respect as I can, without compromising the truth that God had revealed in the years since the prophet's death. If the Church had been perfected prior to 1965, she would not still be here. I pray you everyone know what I mean by that.

### **GOD STILL GIVES DREAMS AND VISIONS**

I have had many dreams since the death of Bro. Branham, but there are some dreams you may have in life, that you do not tell, at least not right away, because the time is not right to tell them. Therefore not every dream that might be given to you, is to be told at the time you have it. You may not really understand what it is pointing to yourself. There may be something about it, that lets you know it is really pointing to something, but you do not know where it will be applicable, so you just hold it. Back in 1957, my wife and I went to Cuba, in the month of December, on a missionary trip. Up until that time I had not had many spiritual dreams, but in a dream one night, I saw myself back home, walking into a funeral home. As I walked in, I thought, Who is dead? I walked over to the casket, there was a little obituary card, so I read it. It told who the person was. It told when she died, where she would be buried, and that the officiating minister will be Rev. Raymond Jackson. Here I was in Cuba at that time. That was Sis. Edith

Wright, the daughter of George Wright of Depauw. She had been confined to a wheelchair most of her life. She had polio. We became acquainted with the family in the years before. In 1957, I thought that was an impossibility, because Bro. Branham was very attached to that family, so that dream was never told. I did not forget it: I just held it. Then, in December 1964, Bro. Branham was living in the west, but I always thought he would be the one to preach the funeral, when the time came. It was about twelve o'clock at night, the phone rang; and Sis. Wright said, Bro. Jackson, I just wanted to call and let you know Sis. Edith passed away. It was her request that you preach her funeral. Bro. Branham had already moved to Arizona. He was in a meeting, and they could not get hold of him, to tell him. I said, Alright Sister, I will be there. It was exactly seven years to the very month, from the time I had that dream until it was fulfilled, so what good would it have done for me to go down the road saying, I am going to preach Sis. Edith's funeral when she passes on. What good would it have done anyone? I just kept it to myself. After I received the phone call and came back to bed, I said to my wife, Honey, that dream is seven years old to the month; and now it is being fulfilled. Saints, do you understand what I am trying to get across to you? I could not deny God, because I know He knows all things. My point is, God is still giving dreams and visions, so some dreams you have could very well be spiritual, but no matter how real they are to you, it may be, that you should not tell them the minute you have them, because they may not be pertaining to that period of time at all. You just carry them in your heart and wait upon the Lord. I am saying these things, because many times people get very excited in telling something they dream, not realizing the lack of wisdom in doing so. Some of these things God reveals in a dream or vision, are not for everybody to know about. I do not say that to be smart or arrogant, but to try to get everybody in a rightful way of thinking. There are times God can deal with people in a dream, and that dream will come to pass exactly, but somewhere along the way the person, or persons that have the dreams, if they are not looking at the plan of God and understanding what is going on, and they do not take it seriously, they can turn right around and have another dream that will tear that one all to pieces. I am going to give an illustration. Do you remember when Bro. Branham was going to preach the Seals, that there were seven people that had dreams, seven dreams? How many know about that? All of them lived around the Tabernacle area, except me. The one man was my friend at one time, very close. His name was Estil Beeler. He is dead now. My wife and I met him and his wife in those early years of fellowship at the Tabernacle. He baptized both of us in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the little creek down by our home. We were very attracted to him and his wife in those days: they were nice people to fellowship with. Over a period of time though, he began to develop some attitudes about some things that really troubled me. In my own spirit I felt it was not right for him to act like that, nor think like that, but I thought, I will not say anything. It so happened, that he had a dream; one of the seven I just mentioned. He saw Bro. Branham out on a round up, on one side of a river. As he came to one place on the other side of the river, Bro. Branham called out to him, Bro. Beeler, try to turn the herd the other way, to keep them from following the stream. I do not remember all that the dream had in it, but a short time later that same man had a another dream: He saw a church house with the word Ichabod, written over it. Do you know what he thought? He, from that day on, thought every church had "Ichabod" written over it; and the glory of God was no longer in there. Regardless of where he went from then on, he did not ever want to preach in a church house any more: he just wanted to preach in the home of those who would invite him. Some of the things he began to teach, would even be a shame and reproach for me to mention in the pulpit. One of his teachings was, because he thought he got a revelation on it, that a man and his wife were no longer to live intimately together. There was a man and his wife, well known in the Tabernacle, that he caused to separate: She left her husband. I know these things to be true. He did all of that because of a dream, so I am saying to you, It is not a matter of God not being in a dream: It is a matter that requires every saint that has a dream, to look at the dream, to determine how it fits in with whatever has been preceding it. That man I just mentioned, went all over the country preaching. At one time he got on a revelation, where he was able to be in the resurrection one day, and back in his mortal flesh the next day, yet he had lost one hand, but never did get that hand back. Imagine a preacher sitting in front of you, preaching that he had the power to project himself into the resurrection, and he is still minus a hand. That lets me know there is something twisted up in the mind of any person that acts like that. Many times that man would come around here during service time, putting tracts on the car windows, which contained some of the twisted ideas of his. He would never come inside to worship with us: No, "Ichabod" was written over the door. The poor man died with a terrible stroke. He did not even have a Christian funeral: he was cremated. That is as unchristian as it can be. How many know what I am talking about? I say these things to let you know, Yes, it is wonderful to be anointed of God in some of these things, but we have got to learn something as we go along. We have to cultivate an attitude that honors the principles of our Creator: If we do not reach a place where we are stable, and where we have an understanding of what we are doing and why, as long as everything we are doing is for personal prestige or recognition, somewhere up ahead we are going to get caught in a trap Satan has set. When God anoints a person to manifest any of these gifts, what does it tell us in the Ephesian letter, that it is for? He does it so that as the body begins to collectively come together in the state of perfection and unity, each member contributes his or her spiritual portion to the edifying and growth, as well as the

learning of the entire body. Again it says, according to the measure of the gift of Christ. All the potential is there in the Holy Spirit, to prophesy, to have a message in tongues, to dream, and all such, but that is going to be exercised, based upon the merits of the measure of the grace of God. Read that in the Ephesian letter. The time is coming, that in the whole world wide Church of the living God, He will cultivate His attributes in them, but He has to start with a ministry first. If the ministry does not know what they are called to do in the end time, and why they are doing it, it can turn out to be a personal thing, not a ministry that has a proper vision for the people. Far too many preachers in the past, have gone down the road of life strictly for personal prestige and personal gain. You are going to see more than one of them end up in a terrible wreck, spiritually speaking. If they do not have a vision and a feeling for the people of God, so they can come down on their level, then they cannot contribute anything to the body of Christ. God will let them run the road for so long, and then after awhile, they will wind up in a wreck somewhere. That is why we have seen a lot of people go the way they have in the past number of years.

### **HOW WE SHOULD LOOK AT CERTAIN THINGS**

The books I mentioned earlier, that were sent to me, were not published in this country. They have men's names in them from Canada, Europe, South Africa, the Caribbean, and West Indies, all preachers. As I read over the quotes and things taken from the messages of Bro. Branham, some of the things they put together were very beautiful, but as they tried to deal with certain things they thought were errors, concerning the message, they would use certain scriptures to prove their point, and they were going all around what the thunders were not, but never did they come to one point of saying what they thought the thunders would be. I have to say, It is too late in the day for you and me to sit here in the middle of the road, after thirty six years, not knowing where we are. That man brought a message; and that is all God required of him. If we do not begin to have a little spiritual insight, especially as to what those seven thunders are pointing to, and what that ministry will pertain to, it could well be, that we are no further along than the Methodists. I say that with respect, knowing there are people on both sides of just about every truth that has ever been taught. As I read one quote in those books, here is a man from Europe somewhere, a well known man among the people, and he has taken this certain dream a man had about Bro. Branham riding that white horse, (By the way, I do not want anybody trying to tell me they know what the dream is: you only know it as you read it off the Spoken Word book, but I have the man's own typed words, as he expressed his dream. Where did I get this? His son gave it to me.) I will say, a lot has been taken completely out of context and greatly magnified. This man in these books, is supposed to be riding this trail one more time, finishing up the third pull according to their interpretation. As I have said before, That third pull was something God was dealing with Bro. Branham on. If for some reason or other it was never fulfilled the way some people think it ought to have been, then I have to say, Leave it alone. Why do I say that? Because these very characters that want to deify Bro. Branham and worship him, created circumstances where God was compelled to take the man off the scene. One man called me, Bro. Jackson, Don't you believe Bro. Branham is still going to fulfill the third pull? I said, No. Why not? It was people like you that messed it up in the first place. I said, just look at Moses, how God was forced to deal with him. When God spoke to Moses in the wilderness, God explicitly told him, I want you to go down to Egypt and tell them that "I am" has sent you. He gave him a sign. Tell Pharaoh to let my people go, because I am going to take them to a land of milk and honey. Now what was Moses' thought? I ask you to show me in the Bible, where Moses ever thought, I will only take them so far, and then God will do something else. He left Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, spent forty years in the wilderness, always assuming the day would be, when they would cross over into that promised land. Those last few months changed things: One day, the rock did not give forth water as it had been doing. The people ran out of water and came to Moses grumbling and complaining. How many know what Moses did? By this time, after forty years, that man was vexed. I told the man on the telephone, Remember, Moses was vexed, putting up with that bunch of bellyachers all that time, so when he prayed the Lord said, Speak to the rock. He had already smote it according to the word of the Lord, but Moses was so vexed, he went out and stood before that crowd and said, You bunch of rebels come here! He drew back and hit that rock, and called them rebels. Well, it brought forth water, but that very act and attitude changed the entire picture. We have a lot of people that think God cannot change something He has started. You could say He changed His mind, if you did not have a revelation of His foreknowledge, when it comes to something like the situation with Moses. I want everybody in here to know, after Bro. Branham had that tent vision, he was rabbit hunting with me one day. This was before he ever spoke about it very much. That morning, while we were rabbit hunting, it started raining. We came up to the edge of the woods and sat down on a log under a tree. He told me that vision he had. He said, Bro. Junie, I believe one of these days God is going to give me a tent, and I am going to be able to go out and set up my meetings, and that I will have a manager to go into the city and acquire the facilities of a ball park or something, and I can stay two or three weeks, even a month if I want to, without having to be obligated to anybody. Just watch what began to happen a little later: When he began to tell from the pulpit this tent vision, do you know what soon developed? Before very long, here they came, I am going to be a truck driver for him. I am going to be a tent manager. It wasn't long then, that among

that same group of men, they were saying, He is the Messiah, he is the Word; and so on. They began to push that idea. If those people were to get around that tent, what do you think they would do to the crowd that came to the meetings? They cannot keep their mouth from rattling what they believe. Then, when Bro. Branham went to California, and from there to Canada to have a meeting, when he got there what did he run into? It was already there among a bunch of the people, William Branham is our Messiah. They were making medallions and passing them out. I said to the man on the telephone, It was this kind of foolishness that would have defiled the whole spiritual realm. It was not Bro. Branham personally; it was that bunch that gathered around him everywhere he went. With Moses, it was a personal attitude, but in this case, it was how people wanted to deify, pollute and corrupt the spiritual structure of things that could have been. I will never forget the time when Bro. Branham had left on that circle of meetings, how all of a sudden I got a telephone call one night, and the person said, Bro. Jackson, I want you to know that Bro. Branham is going to be at the Tabernacle in the morning. He has a very important message to bring. This is when he preached "The Bruised Serpent." When that man came to the platform that morning, he looked like he had cried all night long. He felt so bad. He was so sad, because, out of this family of big shots that wanted to be a big "It," this had started, and he said, I would rather go out as a quitter than as an antichrist. I have to say this, I am not angry as I bring this message, but I am disgusted at what I see men all over the face of this earth writing. They have corrupted the plan of God. They talk about a Church in unity, but they are going to put together something that has no more spirituality about it than a dog chasing a rabbit. That man stood there trembling and cried. Many of them sat in his driveway that afternoon and apologized. Bro. Branham came back that night, and because of a dream he had, where he had shot that snake and it crawled off into the weeds, and thinking that eventually it would die, but Bro. Branham was not dead six months, until that same category began to revive that same spirit again. In that same category of people today, he is still their lord. In fact, one of them stood up in the face of other men and threatened them with his fist and said, I will have you know that William Branham is the Lord. That man was going to be a tent manager for him. Like I said, I am not angry, but Christianity is not built on that kind of stuff. There have been a lot of people who have tried to build it that way though; and just made a mess for someone else to clean up. That is why I say, All these things that pertain to dreams and visions, can be very beautiful, and they are wonderful, because they are a part of the glorious plan of God, but there are some people that God may use a time or two to show them something, then they just go crazy. They go off down the road and make a wreck of themselves and it hurts other people. What I am trying to say, Let us be thankful for what God has done and let us be thankful for what He is going to do, but between now and then, let us pray and say, Lord, give us a spiritual mind, to know how to look at things and conduct ourselves in a proper way. I am grateful for my brothers and sisters, and I believe that God can use anyone, a young person or an older one, just any time it suits His purpose, but anyone who is given such a privilege ought to determine to conduct themselves in a way that they would not be a stumbling block to another. Back in the year 1914, before WW1, there had been a revival in the country of Armenia. There were some Christian people over there, that God had already warned through prophecy, to be aware that certain things were going to come into their country. If I remember the story right, the little boy was about twelve to fourteen years of age. Demas Shekarian told this testimony. He was one of the Full Gospel Businessmen. He told how the Spirit of God came on this young boy; and for how long he remained just like he was in a trance. At times he drew maps, and was not even aware of what he was doing. At times he wrote, but when God lifted that anointing from him, it was never said that he wrote anything else. Through all this though, those people were shown, that when this comes to pass and you see certain things develop within the country, then prepare to leave and make your way through Europe. Go to the western coast of Europe. That is in Armenia, close to Afghanistan, where there is all this conflict right now. So these families, one by one, began to leave. In the prophecy it said, You will go to the new world, and you will arrive on the east coast. In the process of time though, you will make you way across that country to the west coast. I heard Demas Shekarian talk about this in Alabama. They did just that. It was not long until they were all in the new world. Do you know what? They were the people that were in Azusa Street when the Holy Ghost fell. That is how God uses the gifts of the Spirit in people, when circumstances arise, but that does not make the instruments He uses, any greater than anyone else in the body of Christ. If God can work like that, do not tell me He does not know what He is doing. I am saying therefore, Let us be grateful to the Lord, but please do not get ourselves in a hurry and run ahead of God. Let us say, Lord, help us. Let us be sure not to make a mess out of something that is so beautiful. His Church is going to be a beautiful people, so endowed with the Holy Ghost, living and walking in unity, and upholding the very image and likeness of Christ. We can look back and know, it is all because of a man and his message, that we are able to have this outlook. People have desecrated, polluted and trodden under foot the beautiful revelation of the word of God, but we can say Thank God, it turned our hearts back to the faith of the apostolic fathers. We were not turned to William Branham: He simply pointed us in the right direction and said, Get back to what Peter said, Paul said, and those early apostles. I hope you understand what I mean. I thank God for the man. I learned some things from him, that I will not let anyone take away from me. I do have to say though, He was not my Messiah and he is not my Lord. He was not the Word;

and he is not coming back to finish up his ministry. He told me all about the Lord, and all about the Word of God; and for that, I am deeply grateful. My life is committed to the defense of a true revelation of the Word of God. I do pray that I have not said anything in this message that is confusing to anyone. The life and ministry of William Branham turned me away from man's traditions and back to the Bible. This is the only Word of God we have.

**WE ARE STILL ON THE MESSAGE, "WHAT IS PERFECTION?" THERE COULD BE MANY DEFINITIONS GIVEN FOR IT, BUT I WILL SAY AGAIN, IT IS THE PROCESS OF BRINGING AN OBJECT OR THING TO A REQUIRED STATE, OR LIKENESS. IN THE SENSE OF A PERSON, OBTAINING THE DESIRED QUALITY OR THE EMBODIMENT OF ATTRIBUTES. WE DO KNOW THIS, AS PERTAINING TO THE BRIDE OF CHRIST IT STRICTLY HAS TO BE SOMETHING THAT HAS AN AFFECT ON THE ENTIRE BODY OF CHRIST. THE CHURCH IN UNITY, AS SHE OBTAINS MORE AND MORE OF THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULNESS OF CHRIST, (AS PAUL EXPRESSED IN EPHESIANS 4:13) ALL THAT JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF WAS BEGINS TO BE EXPRESSED THROUGH THAT ONE BODY. NATURALLY WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE BODY OF CHRIST WE ARE REFERRING TO THE BODY OF TRUE BELIEVERS, AND NOT TO JUST ANY AND EVERYTHING THAT CLAIMS TO BE OF THE BODY OF CHRIST. THE LARGER PERCENTAGE OF PROFESSING CHRISTIANS ARE STILL HOLDING ON TO THEIR THREE PERSON GODHEAD AND THERE IS NO WAY THOSE WHO DO NOT REALLY KNOW WHETHER GOD IS ONE OR THREE CAN EVER COME INTO SCRIPTURAL PERFECTION . YOU NEED NOT EVEN ASK IF THEY CAN BE OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, BECAUSE THOSE WHO ARE, ALREADY KNOW GOD IS ONE SOVEREIGN SPIRIT; AND THAT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON JESUS, WAS AND IS THE ONLY PERSON OF THE GODHEAD. THE QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ASKED IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE WEIGHED UPON MY MIND UNTIL I FEEL LED TO PREACH THIS PARTICULAR MESSAGE ON PERFECTION. I BELIEVE WE CAN ANSWER MOST OR ALL OF THOSE QUESTIONS IN THIS ONE MESSAGE.**

When you see something that has been designed to function in unity, that is composed of more than one part, that points you to perfection. It can be expressed in animals as well as human beings. It is easy to see one particular animal doing what he knows to do, but for an example, let us look at a team of horses. You are breaking a team of horses to work together, and maybe they both initially had a very wild and ambitious spirit, wanting to break loose and each one go its own way, but sooner or later they have to be made to knuckle down and work in harmony. That is not always easy to obtain, but it is obtainable. I remember, when I was a young boy growing up we had a neighbor that logged. He would either use horses or mules because he logged out in the hills. At that time there were individuals that had caterpillar tractors, but a tractor was very expensive compared to income back then. A little too expensive for a man to buy for the logging business. This man bought a team of horses from somewhere in Kentucky. One was a male, the other a female, but both of the same breed. The man that he bought them from had worked the horses so hard, he had pulled the female horse blind. This log man bought them both. I am only using this as an illustration. It did not matter how thick the brush was, he could drive them down into the woods to a log, turn them around and hook on. The male horse had good sight: the female was a little larger than the male, about 150 pounds heavier, but blind. I think often about those animals. He could start them with that log, right up through the brush and know they would go where he wanted them to go. The mare was always a half step ahead of the male, but that male horse used his head against her neck to guide her. The man would drop the lines on the ground and turn them loose. The male horse knew where the log yard was, so away they would go. They were two big Belgians. When you turned them loose, you could hear leather squeaking and brush popping as they headed for the log yard. That male horse would put his head against the neck of that female horse, and I never heard of them ever straddling a tree. That male horse would guide her one way or the other, right back to the yard. That is what you call working together. That means each one knows his or her part. When they can work together in harmony, they get something done, but not when each one is wanting to do their own thing, their own way, at any time they want to: That only brings confusion. Those animals were so well trained, that when he would move from one job to another one, all he had to do was put two short racks on the side of the log truck and drive them up on it, still in the harness. They would stand there with their heads over the cab, looking around, like they enjoyed the trip down the road. They never acted up in any way. It seemed like they knew what they were doing and why they were there, like, Well, we are going somewhere else to work. It was like they enjoyed what they were doing. That man loved those horses and I believe you can see why. I never saw or even heard of him abusing an animal. He just seemed to have a way of talking to them, that caused them to do exactly what they were expected to do. If we can learn to be like those two horses, each one knowing his or her part, there is nothing that can hold us back. You remember what I preached last

Sunday, so today, I want to indulge in this part in this manner, knowing young people are looking for an era of excitement. It is an exciting thing to be brought into an anointing and to be used of God, but let me say this, There is a proper place in the whole family of God for young people to function, but please do not ever allow yourself to think that young people, regardless of how hungry they may be for the things of God, are going to be allowed to set the front line agenda for whatever God does to bring His Church to its final state of perfection. The world of religion today is doing everything it possibly can, trying to hold on to young people, but an awful lot of what they are doing is just not according to God's way of dealing with people. Back in the late 1950's and 1960's, there was a young man that was supposed to have been converted by the grace of God, whose name was Nicki Cruz, out of the street gangs of New York City. There was an article printed and titled, "Nicki Cruz and the Switchblade Knife." Denominational churches were booking him right and left. It looked like from one viewpoint, that was the kind of ministry it would take to get the job done, and I could not help but think, That might be attractive to the denominational world, because it is appealing to young people. It was exciting, but time has passed and now you do not hear any more about him. It was just like a strong wind blowing: it had an affect, but that is not the thing that is going to put God's Church together. God never used that kind of men in beginning, no matter how professional they may have been with the sword, to start the Church: He used men that had a head on their shoulders; men that had been able to survive the corruption of society and had reached a certain stage in life where they could be counted on. As I say these things, I realize we are all waiting for the hour to come, when there will be a certain kind of move of God. Therefore I say, Young people, do not just sit here thinking you are not in God's plan; you are; and I am going to prove it to you by scriptures. I must also say to you though, Do not think that some day there is going to be something hit a whole camp of young people, and here you go down Broadway, healing everybody you come in contact with. Get that out of your mind first of all. It never worked that way in the days of the apostles, and it has not been like that since then, so it is not going to end up like that. I do not know why some people, when they get under the anointing, think the whole world is going to repent and get right with God and all be healed. Did it ever occur to you, that the scripture says, As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God?

(Rom 8:14) **"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."** That means sons as well as daughters, both. It should not take a truck load of dynamite exploding, to make some people wake up and realize it is time to be led by the Spirit of God. We have to have a head on our shoulders, to know when God has spoken to us, and in what manner, and for what purpose.

### **GOD HAS HIS WAYS**

Go with me to the **book of Acts**. We are going to let the scriptures speak to us. Perfection is going to be a work of the Spirit of God, brought about in our lives in such ways it will not be something you see coming down the road. It will be accomplished within a time factor. It will be brought about by world conditions, things that necessitate the Spirit of God to work with individuals to bring about and set in motion His plan and purpose. In the book of **Acts** we read how God led certain ones, (and this is after the apostle Paul had come back out of Arabia) and we find in another place, where Paul had spent about three years in Arabia. He did not go to college to try to learn how to be led by the Spirit of God. No seminary can teach that. He just got away from society, alone with God; and the Spirit of God led him through HIS Word, opening up the revelation of things that had been hidden to mankind previously. There in the Arabian Desert, is where he fasted and prayed, because that conversion, the experience he had on the road to Damascus, shook him emotionally all to pieces. He was bent on going to Damascus to arrest a bunch of those Jews he considered to be heretics, and take them back to Jerusalem where he could bring them through the Sanhedrin Court and eventually get rid of them. He thought he was doing the right thing, up to the point when he had the experience on the road to Damascus. The anointing presence of the Lord knocked him off his horse. Do not think he was walking from Jerusalem to Damascus. If he was not riding a camel, he was riding a horse. When that light struck him, he collapsed. The Spirit of the Lord spoke to him. He was smitten blind. He went on into the city with the help of those with him. There, a Christian man by the name of Ananias, whom the Lord had spoken to saying, Go out into the street called Straight, and go to a certain man's house and enter and you will find there a man by the name of Saul of Tarsus: He is praying. Well you know the story. From that time on, according to his own testimony in the area of Antioch, he went off into Arabia. He wrestled with this thing that had taken place in his life; and out of there he came, with a revelation God had given him for his hour. He did not run up an down the streets from assembly to assembly, asking, Can I preach for you this morning, can I do this or that? He went right into Antioch and sat down. He was sitting there listening, just waiting upon the Lord. We will begin reading in **verse 1, of Acts 13**. **"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. (3) And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."** This was the beginning of God leading this man. I have

heard people say, people that have come out of denominational church systems, when you begin to give the requirements for a man in the ministry, that if a man has absolutely been a drunken sot, and has caused families to be broken up, has ran around with other men's wives, that is a bad example for a man to try to be a minister in the bride of Christ, What about Paul? look at all the people he had killed. We have to remember, Paul did not have any of them killed because they robbed a bank. It was for a religious cause, and he thought he was fulfilling what the Torah required by having them stoned to death. He treated them like heretics. Can we say though, that Paul, in his social life, was a rough neck, a trouble maker and carouser that ran after women? We all know better, so just leave that as it is. There were at Antioch, certain prophets and teachers. Let me say this, In the end time Church, there is going to be certain prophets also. They are not going to come down the road in Cadillacs with a big plaque on the side of the car to draw attention: They will just be dedicated and genuine fellows who are committed to serving the Lord, but men who have been used in this function earlier to prove their ability to function in this capacity. What about teachers? we cannot be without them. Notice who the Lord chose, and how He chose them. Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, (the great teacher) and Saul, were fasting and praying, and the Holy Ghost said, (Now this was not somebody suddenly one night in a service, walking over to Paul or Barnabas, I just feel led to tell you thus and so. It could be like that, but that is not the primary means the Lord uses for this sort of thing. The Spirit spoke, Separate me these two.) **"Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."** That means some person in that assembly had been anointed for this occasion. That person had absolutely spoke out audibly, publicly, Separate me Barnabas and Saul. How many can see that? This was not a committee running some program in the church. This was a sovereign act of God, because the hour of necessity had arrived. Paul had sat here long enough, patiently waiting until he knew the will of God for his life. Here is the other important ingredient in the entire thing, **"And when they had fasted and prayed,** (This means there were certain individuals in that congregation that were gifted. Before they will do anything further, and I am not saying they went on a forty day fast, or a ten day fast, but undoubtedly they had decided, We are going to fast a meal tomorrow and gather with these men, because we want to commit them to the work of the Lord.) **and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."** You can see here, that the Holy Ghost did set in motion the beginning of a man's ministry. He is the man that we are going to read about today, because this man, in my view and feelings, knew exactly what perfection would be once it is accomplished. He is the one that wrote the Epistle to the Ephesian assembly. What we are focusing on here, is the beginning of Paul's own ministry. All these scriptures we will read today, speak of what Paul had learned, how the Holy Spirit has taught him and brought him from time to time and place to place, to be able to minister to people and show them the necessity of depending upon the Holy Ghost to really know what the Lord would have them do. Let us now go to the **16<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Acts.** This is where Paul and Silas are on their second missionary journey. The **6<sup>th</sup> verse** says, **"Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia,** (Notice what the Holy Ghost has said.) **and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia."** Somewhere the Holy Spirit has spoken to, or through one of them, concerning this trip. They were not left at their own will. They had purposed to go to a certain place, but then the Holy Ghost constrained them. We are living in a day when people seem to be so anxious to do something, especially out in the denominational realm, that they do not want to wait upon the Lord. Bro. Branham had to put up with that kind of thing, like, many times he would say to a brother when invited to come, If the Lord speaks to me I will be there. He would always wait on that. Many times though, the one he had said that to, would not take it in the way Bro. Branham meant it, and later on he would receive a call, Well you said you were coming, but you never did. That was because they would not wait on God to bring it about. This made him a man publicly spoken about, because the denominational world ran by programs and time was limited. On and on they go like that. They set an agenda, and they are ready to spend a lot of money to set it in motion, but they are not willing to wait upon the Lord for direction. It looks like it should have good results from the standpoint of numbers. That looks sweet to the denominational world, but in the eyes of God it is all the manipulation of the ingenuity of human beings. It has no inspiration from the Spirit of God whatsoever. That is why, when we read the Bible in its entirety, and with sincerity, we cannot possibly see the Bride coming out of all this mixture that has been put together by the instrumentality of educated men, and many times by men using political means to maneuver and brings things into certain situations. Well let me get back to Paul and Silas. They were forbidden to preach the word in Asia. **"After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not."** You can see by this, that those men were sensitive to the Spirit of God. They no doubt got up one morning with a feeling that affected their mental thinking, and as they meditated concerning this feeling, they began to hear, Stay out of there, do not waste your time going there. They had good intentions, thinking they would go over there and preach the gospel to those people, because they had already been that way once before: not Silas, but Barnabas was with Paul the other time. They came with good intentions, but here the Holy Spirit is constraining them. You could actually say, He is propelling them. God has His ways of moving us in a certain direction, if we are committed to His leading. Let me sat this, We are looking for a perfect Church, and we know it is coming, but we certainly realize it

has not materialized yet, but believe me, it is not going to be twenty five years off, because we are moving rapidly toward it. God is going to create necessities, and in the proper time factor He will move on various ones: therefore we have got to learn between now until then, that if something like this begins to happen to us, we are not ready to run down Broadway yelling, Come here and watch God work. Go somewhere and sit down and be ready to do what the Holy Spirit tells you to do. It is just a simple matter of being willing to wait on the Lord. The Spirit suffered them not, would not allow them to go where they had planned to go. **"And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night;** (This could have been one of those night visions like Daniel had, but it is more like a dream, a dynamic dream no doubt, because of the way they explain it.) **There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored** (put in motion a new route) **to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them."** With directions like that, they knew they would not have to hunt for a place to preach when they got there, because the Spirit of God that spoke to them to go, had already set the stage for their ministry when they arrived there.

### **SPEAKING FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE**

Paul and Barnabas set forth on their journey, and you can read in the book of Acts what followed. That was the beginning of what took place at Philippi, the first conversions in eastern Europe. Let us just watch and learn, as we see how the Holy Spirit leads this man Paul. That is why, when I read the letter written to the Ephesian Assembly, (written to them by Paul) which was the model church in that first age of the Pentecostal Church we will say, or the outreach of Christianity, I see a man, that by his own experiences with the Holy Spirit, was very qualified to speak. It was not always through Paul, that the Spirit would speak, because we read where He was speaking to others also. Speaking to others and through others that he met, others that had the Holy Ghost, Paul found his entire life being directed by the Spirit of God. That brings us to the **20<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts**. Paul is now on his journey back, out of this big trip he has taken. Many churches had been established. We are going to start here in the **20<sup>th</sup> verse**, when He was on his way back to Jerusalem. He has been away from there a long time. He was still a Jew and had much affection for the Jewish people at Jerusalem. Being away from there that long caused him to cultivate a hunger, or great desire to see them. He is testifying to the elders of Ephesus. (**20<sup>th</sup> verse**), **"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.** (Now watch what he says.) **And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit** (Why did he say, I go bound in the spirit? Why did he not just say, I go, but I just don't feel good about it. Watch what he says. I go bound in the spirit...) **unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save** (or except) **that the Holy Ghost** (What is this Holy Ghost? That is the Spirit of God. He convicts us of sin, He is what draws us to the plan of salvation, He is what we have to depend on to direct us so that we can be taught what He wants us to know. Notice, Save, or except, that the Holy Ghost...) **witnesseth in every city."** Don't think Paul was walking down Broadway and somebody walks up to him and speaks. He was on his way to Jerusalem, but I see him working his way back through these little congregations that he has established in months gone by. He is going from place to place giving his testimony and seeing how they are functioning and progressing. It goes to show, that somewhere the people in these groups have received the Holy Ghost. He no sooner gets there, somebody stands up and prophesies, or gives a message in tongues and interprets, My servant Paul, stay out of Jerusalem, wicked men are going to bind you and you are going to suffer many things. I am using those words to dramatize the situation. Why do I say that? Because the Holy Ghost witnesseth, speaks concerning his future. Why is this? It lets us know God was concerned about his future and what he has done in the past. He did not say, This is an idea of my own: He could say the Holy Ghost has assuredly spoken that bonds and afflictions, troubles are ahead. **"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself."** So we can see, here is a man that can teach people how to be led by the Spirit of God, and from among those same people, here is the Holy Spirit telling him what to beware of, but we also see a man with his own mind made up. Let us move over to the **21<sup>st</sup> chapter**. He has come to another place. He is on his way to Jerusalem. Starting with the **4<sup>th</sup> verse** we read this, **"And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: (Notice) who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem."** These people that tell him that are not politicians and people from the mayor's office. They are Holy Ghost filled Christians. Somewhere the Holy Ghost has inspired one or two of them to stand up and speak something. I have to say, Many times this is where a dream or vision can come in. It is like I said last Sunday, When you start preaching old men and young men seeing dreams and visions, and think that is going to be a great big move of just that, you are headed for a fall. You do not read it in the Bible that way. Look how it is dramatized in the book of Acts. That is only a furtherance of the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge. They do not have to come by a dream or vision. I can say this, Knowledge can come like that also: I have had it happen to me. I am not ashamed of it, but I am not running up and down Broadway broadcasting it either. I have become very concerned about certain things that are going on. I have prayed about it,

I have tried to read and find a solution. I have asked God to give me a dream or something. No dream came, but God has a way of taking your mind and putting a thought in there. You do not read it somewhere else, it is how God plants a thought in your own mind, like, Don't do it, stay away from it, avoid it. You can carry that in your mind for days. You look for every avenue you can, hoping to get around it, but it will not leave you. You do not cook it up yourself. It is something that God put in there; and it stays there until the thing is reconciled. If we obey it, then many times God can continue to speak to us in that same manner. It is when we are not sensitive enough to some of these things, that we miss what God is doing with us, and when I say that, it does not mean you should go around telling everybody, Oh I have a thought in my mind, I don't know whether I should do it or not. Carry it in your heart. Why tell the world about it? That is always wrong. By the time you get through hearing everybody else's advice, I promise you, your mind will be so cluttered up, you will forget about that particular thought. Some things are for you just to keep to yourself: you do not tell anyone. If you can do that, then God can trust you to be a person He can lead in that way. There can come the hour then, when He will not lead you that way: He will give you a dream or vision that will let you know in a split second, Stay away from it, or go do this. As we get back to our scripture, notice **"Who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem."** This is another group of people, and the Holy Spirit is saying the same thing. How much more shall this man be talked to? Well they left there, so we go to the **6<sup>th</sup> verse** which says, **"And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again. And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day. And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.** (He was one of the deacons at Jerusalem. You find that in the early part of Acts. He is now living in the area of Caesarea. They were going to stay all night there, in his house. Now young people, listen to this.) **And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy."** I say to you young people, This is something that tells you that young people do have a place in the plan of God. It may be in a house, it may be in the local assembly, but it is not getting in a car and going from here to New York, then to Los Angeles prophesying along the way. Forget it, if you start that, you just as well come home. You can see a lot of country, but you will not see much of God working in your life. It would look good to do it that way, but remember, God has young people out there also, just as He has young people anywhere you could go, that He could use the same way. He might want to use them, instead of you. Why would He need you to go from here to there? I hope you understand what I am talking about. We are talking about a Church knowing how to function in the plan of God. Those daughters of Philip that prophesied, I do not see them in their twenties: I see them in their teens. I am convinced, that as Paul sat there in that house, he could not help but feel thankful that he could be associated with people that could be used by the Holy Ghost like those young girls were. He had to be proud of it, because they not only could prophesy, they knew how to prophesy and when, because God had dealt with their young lives. God is looking for that kind of obedience in His Church.

#### **MAN'S WAY V/S GOD'S WAY**

As we leave the setting concerning Phillips daughters, we will now go to **verses 10 and 11**, where we see another man of God come into the picture. They were still in the same area, and still staying at Phillips house, so notice what comes next. **"And as we tarried there many days,** (Paul liked to stay with Philip, because he was good company, and he enjoyed the environment. It was spiritual all the way around.) **there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.** (This allows us to see that they had prophets also, that came into their gatherings. It mentions the name of one, Agabus. He was not an old man, but he was not a teenager either, because you see him mentioned in the earlier part of **Acts**. He had evidently heard through spiritual sources of communication, that this great man Paul, the man that had been among the Gentiles for many months now, was on his way back to Jerusalem. Agabus evidently has had a vision, and in the vision he had seen certain things that he, as a person, must do. So he leaves and go to Caesarea where Paul was stopping.) **And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle,** (meaning his cloak) **and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle,** (Now take this and go backward, back to all the places Paul had been testifying. Paul, stay out of Jerusalem, bonds and afflictions awaiteth thee. Everywhere he went that was what he was hearing. What was wrong with that man? He has been preaching to others about how to be led by the Spirit, but here he is refusing to listen to what the Spirit is saying, but he later pays a great price for it. He pays so much for it, that something in a letter he has written to the Romans, while he was at Corinth prior to this, never was fulfilled. What he wrote to the Romans, you can read it yourselves. To the Romans Paul wrote, I purpose to come unto you as I pass by into Spain. That is what he said. He had the future all planned out. He was telling the Roman Christians, I purpose to come to you as I pass through, on my way to Spain. That letter had already been written, but here, the Holy Spirit is saying, Don't go to Jerusalem, don't go to Jerusalem.) **and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him**

(begged him) **not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.**" Then when he did get to Jerusalem and they saw who he was, the crowd rushed on him and was ready to kill him. They brought him before the centurion. They had to separate him. Read the account as he was imprisoned there for a few days. That city of Jerusalem was in an uproar. They even planned how they were going to entrap him, take him from the soldiers and kill him. You can read how his nephew was told to go tell him what the Jews were planning to do. My point in this is, This was a man that knew exactly how to be led by the Spirit of God. We can see when he first comes into the area, Don't go here, don't go there, and he didn't. Then, there was the vision of Macedonia, and he went over there, and God honored it. After months and months of establishing his work over there, he had been away from Jerusalem a long time and had a great desire to see his brethren there, so he decided to go back. That was just his own personal desire. He was not led of the Spirit to go back to Jerusalem at that time. He would have been better off, to have stayed out of Jerusalem, because, from that time forward, what he saw in Jerusalem did not amount to a dime's worth of anything; and added nothing to his ministry. Just think, the Holy Spirit was working ahead of him, because we see that when he gets to this place the Holy Spirit speaks, Stay out of Jerusalem, stay out of Jerusalem, but because of his great desire to see the saints at Jerusalem he goes on anyhow. We see in other instances how Paul was a man that really believed in being led by the Spirit, but in this case he just exercised his own human will. Take the rest of that story and see what happened to him: He never did get to go to Spain, but he did eventually wind up in Rome, as a prisoner. While in Rome as a prisoner, he wrote his epistles to Timothy. Let us go to **1st Timothy, verse 17<sup>th</sup> of the 1st chapter**. Listen to this, **"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."** Paul was a prisoner, but he was writing to Timothy, in 65 A.D. These are among Paul's last writings. As for Timothy, wherever he was, he has been communicating with Paul. **"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy."** Paul was not at Timothy's place, he was a prisoner in Rome, writing to Timothy somewhere else. In that long period there had been communication between them. Paul sees the necessity to write to Timothy in this manner. **"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee,** (This lets me know Timothy has communicated something that certain things in the Spirit has been said by someone, somewhere.) **which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck."** I have to say today, and I do not say it arrogantly, but if you could read some of the things I have received, you would better understand why I say some things. I received five booklets recently, all about an element of Branham followers through the Caribbean, concerning areas of South America, portions of Africa, Canada, New York City, and some from Europe. The things that are being said, taking things of Bro. Branham's messages and using them completely out of context and twisted the thought to suit their own ideas, bring nothing but reproach upon what our brother stood for. There are some of the most rotten supposed-to-be revelations of how God is supposed to put His Church together, based on what they have gotten. Then some within the element get to the place they realize how dangerous it has become, so they are trying to correct the whole rotten mess and what they are doing is not helping anything. All they are doing is taking a quote to correct quotes and another quote to correct more quotes. They are going in a circle. They are reading about the man, they are talking about the man, they are trying to preach the man, but they are going in circles, all because they are void of revelation that only the Spirit of God can give. Why? Because they did not hear from that man what I heard. The man I heard put me back in the Bible. I say that with firmness, and with genuine sincerity. It is a shame the way that man's image has been dragged under the feet of carnal minded, educated people that are trying to make a name for themselves with their pretentiousness. Yet out of all this rotten mess, here and there God has got to be able to weed out and select a little nucleus of people, young people as well as older ones, stalwart, with a head on their shoulders, knowing how to listen to the Spirit of God. It is a shame, what a mess has been made out of such a precious truth. They talk about God perfecting His Church, but first they have got to have the pyramid revelation. I have a book that I cherish very much, and I will challenge any man who tries to promote any such teachings. The book I have is the history of the pyramids, compiled and written by archaeologists of England and France. Keep in mind saints, they did a lot more exploratory work in the pyramids than any American archaeologist ever thought of doing. Therefore I say to you, There is no pyramid revelation to be revealed to anyone. That is a hoax Satan has filled the mind of some with. Well why did Bro. Branham talk about it? Bro. Branham was a typeologist. How many know what a typeologist is? He used natural subjects to illustrate and bring out certain points of what he was teaching. In that, he would use certain scriptures to feed into it. The Church is not going to wind up as a pyramid. I can assure you of that. It is not even going to look like a pyramid. It is not going to be put together like a pyramid. However if you take the illustration he used to type this, when the Bride is perfected, the writers here tell you that the finished stone was polished and decorated on the outside, and they weighed hundreds of pounds each, but they were so precisely put together, you could hardly see where one stopped and the other began. That is perfection in the natural. Let us go to **1st Timothy 4**. I like the simplicity with which Paul wrote to this young man. You could see in the apostle Paul, he was not sitting

somewhere as a big chief, saying, Now Timothy you want to watch all these that prophesy, there is a lot of fanaticism there, you never know which one is right or wrong. Did he talk like that? He did not. In the **4<sup>th</sup> chapter** and **13<sup>th</sup> verse** it says, **"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."** This is just plain common sense. Timothy, you know what God said that day, when you were in that assembly and the pastor of that church stood up, you might have been sitting there, not knowing what to do. The presbyter here, meant one in charge, or pastor. Paul is trying to tell Timothy, Perk up, have a little courage. **"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting** (Which means the spiritual increase you have attained. People see three years later you are greater spiritually than you were three years before. Profiting here does not mean material things, it is in spiritual progress. That thy profiting...) **may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."** That is just plain good old common sense, for old and young. Now let us go to **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy**. This epistle was written in 66 A.D. There had been communication between the first epistle and this one. The apostle Paul is saying in the **2<sup>nd</sup> verse of chapter 1**, **"To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.** (That explains the godhead in simplicity, God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. We know God the Father is not a person, He is a being, a sovereign Spirit. Let me explain. You people that have written, Bro. Jackson, that is confusing when you say God is not a person. The English word, person, pertains to something that is an object. God is not an object, because He has never been seen. How can you say He is an object then? He is invisible. He is a substance, He is a being, but He is not a being that has a form or a shape. He does not exist in things like that. These things that looks like shapes, are usually how God has worked through theophany forms to convey to the earthly recipient a message of some kind.) **I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; (This is Paul's testimony to Timothy.) Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.** (He was trying to encourage him through his genetic inheritance, that he has every potential working in his behalf.) **Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."** This tells me that Paul, one more time, is trying to tell Timothy to take courage, look at your calling, look at your potential, your ability, and cultivate it, because in so doing you will actually be living and showing yourself to be an example of that faith that I have reminded you that your grandmother and mother had. As I have said all these things, I have tried to give people the impression that the Bride of Christ is going to come together uniquely, just the way God wants it. Once He starts putting it together, do not ever think there will be trucks with signs and tents, and crowds, going down the road, Come and see. We are not going to put on a big display that will shake the world. You cannot shake the world, and realize at the same time the Spirit of God is already withdrawing from the world. As long as the Spirit of God was dealing with the society of America, the **September 11<sup>th</sup>** episode never would have happened: It is only when the overall society of America has sold themselves out to the devil, that it leaves you and me, the minority, living in a country in the shape this one is in. We can pray for it, but you are not going to change it. Look at the church world. Look at these TV evangelists. For the last thirty years I have heard them saying the greatest revival is going to be a world shaking thing just ahead. The only thing that is going to shake this world is what God does to the Middle East. I believe He is going to turn that thing around one day soon and create a condition in the Middle East that is suddenly going to begin to make men realize, especially politicians, that they have only committed themselves to a situation they do not really understand. Keep in mind, this Islamic spirit did not start out in Iraq nor Afghanistan: it started in Saudi Arabia. It come out of there into Egypt. That is why, when you read the prophecies in the right order, Israel will absolutely sweep into Egypt and make her swing through Saudi Arabia. Then, is when she heads for Iraq and the Euphrates. I realize there are people watching this over the internet that may not understand my hillbilly language, but I am saying this, Regardless of where you are or what your attitude is, I have seen so much of this Islamic bragging, and how all over the world this Islamic spirit has risen to begin a Jihad, I have no patience with it. Those who are under the spell of that spirit think it is time for them to take over the reins of the whole world. They believe it is a command from Allah. They have just set something in motion that God is going to finish. Those under that Islamic spirit have slaughtered millions in the Middle Ages, and they have boasted of their achievements, twisted the Bible to make it read like Mohammad is the great star, but there is an element of people in this world that are not accepting this lie from Satan. God is going to prove to you one day that it was not Ishmael that He accepted the offer of sacrifice from, it was Isaac, him and his seed after him. That is how it is; and that is how it is going to remain, Isaac, not Ishmael. That is why I say, Church of the Living God, God is going to take us out of here before very long, after He gets our head's on right, our attitudes settled, and our eyes open so we can see the scriptures. Then we can look at what Bro. Branham said, and why he said it, and know he was using it as a means to illustrate something that you did not

necessarily have a type or picture of in the scriptures. I do not see how people with the right attitude and motive could ever read it any other way. I remember when he would talk about the pyramid. Let me say this to whoever hears my voice in this message, When you refuse to allow William Branham to be a man, and to see things like a man would see them, and to speak like a man would speak, then you refuse to allow him to communicate with other men in matters like that, and you give him a place he never wanted. He was not God, but he was God's prophet messenger to this age. If the Elijah of old could say, Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have done this, tore down your altar and everything, and I am the only one left alive and they are after me, why would you look upon Bro. Branham the way some of you do? Here Elijah sits in a cave: He was expressing the kind of man he was. But the voice of God said, Elijah, I still have seven thousand men that have not bowed their knees to Baal: you just don't see them. Poor Elijah, running for his life. He was a man, not God. This little man you have made your god was a man too, yet he was God's prophet. That is what you need to see. When you refuse to allow that little man to speak certain human expressions in illustrating his thought, you are missing the whole point. To him it was easy to use certain illustrative types to try to get a point across to people, because many of them did not know a bit more of what he meant than anything in the world otherwise. I have to say, That is a shame. Some people need to ask God, Help me Lord, to know how to read his messages, and also your Word.

### **WE ABSOLUTELY MUST READ IT RIGHT!**

Let us open our Bible to the writings to the **Ephesians**. Since we are dealing with what perfection is, what better place could we read than in Paul's writings to the assembly at Ephesus? This is the writings of the apostle Paul to a what we know was a model church of that age. That is what we are all striving for, that God will bring us back to that same kind of picture in our belief toward God and our performance that goes with that belief. I am going to start in the **14<sup>th</sup>** verse of the **4<sup>th</sup>** chapter of **Ephesians**. **"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that (Listen to this,) which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."** The Church is made up of living human beings saved by the Grace of God. We were all born into this world with a mind to make decisions and to learn. Many times we feel like, Well I should be allowed to believe what I want to believe: I don't see anything wrong with me believing what I want to believe. That may sound good in one way, but suppose I went to the bank to pay off a debt and they tell me I owe them a thousand dollars. But let us just say that I take out a one dollar bill and say, Now sir, here is a dollar: I don't see why it cannot be equal to a thousand dollars. I am only using that as an illustration, because that is how a lot of people treat the word of God. We have got to realize everything has a value, no matter what we relate it to. If you are on a journey by yourself and you are not responsible for anything else, then travel at any speed you want to, but if you leave home with a certain objective in mind and that is a certain geographical spot, then you have to know you cannot bring that spot to you: You must journey to that spot. It is a fixed point. That is exactly what we are looking at in the Bible, God's fixed point. The reason I am going into this message this way, is not to do away with anything Bro. Branham said. On the internet, whoever hears my voice, I do not care where you live in this world, this man I referred to was a man of God. He was the man that used many types to illustrate spiritual points. He had every right to do that. Look at the illustration I used this morning about the man that owned the team of horses, what does that have to do with the Bible? I did not use that example to replace anything in the Bible: I used it to bring out how these two creatures worked together in total unity, just like the true Church of the living God is required to do. I cannot tell you how many times I went to the woods with that man and watched that team of horses pull those logs out of the woods, one being blind, but depending upon the other one that could see, to be the leader. That blind horse depended totally upon the other horse to guide it. Never did I see those horses split, one going to one side of a tree and the other to the other side. They were always in harmony, working together. That is the only reason I used that illustration. It just emphasizes what we have got to have in the body of Christ, that same kind of attitude. Otherwise we will continue on down the road, tossed about by every wind of doctrine, thinking to ourselves, Well I don't see anything wrong with what that brother said: it sounded good to me. We are no longer in denominationalism, where every person has their own opinion about every scripture and its application. We are at the end of a reformation period, where God is reconstructing and setting our thinking straight. He is not only restoring truth, but in so doing, there is a proper application when applied to us for our individual benefit. We have got to learn that, lest we miss the entire picture of God's ultimate plan for His redeemed family. With this in mind, let me say to you young people, I do not want to bring anything to you that is just plain boring, so I am reading only what I feel I should read to bring out the point of the message. I realize after thirty some years beyond that man's departure, that there are yet many people out there, still of the great controversy, because they are expecting that man to raise up from the dead to complete a ministry they think was incomplete. They are expecting him to finish up this entire thing and present the

perfected bride to the Lord when He comes for His Church. His message was for that purpose, but that does not mean he has to be here in person in order for it to accomplish that: God has other men who will minister to the bride for her final stage of perfection. Listen to me, all of you! That man is not going to rise to finish up anything beyond what he has finished already, no more than Moses arose to finish up his journey to the promised land. I can say that, and I know it is true, but do you think everybody is going to believe me? No. They call me a black bird. They can call me anything they want to, but I happened to know this man, know what he believed and what he taught; and I know why God allowed him to say certain things along the way, as he went about in his calling. I do not think that in itself gave me any authority. Whatever authority I have concerning the word of God, came from the Spirit of revelation that God Himself imparted to me. I do not depend upon someone else to come and tell me what God wants me to preach. He has always dealt with me in those matters; and not always the same way.

### **TESTIMONY OF FACT**

I have eaten in Bro. Branham's home and he has eaten in our home. We went to his home one time and he was in the kitchen washing dishes. I say these things to let you know he was a human being. He was washing the dishes while his wife was in the bedroom fixing her hair. When we came into the house, he told my wife to go on back to the bedroom where his wife was, that she was in there fixing her hair. Here he was, washing dishes, something a lot of supposed-to-be believers of his message would never think of doing, afraid it would affect their manhood, so I just picked up a dish towel and started drying the dishes. I don't think that hurt my hands, and I don't think it hurt me as a human being. I tell these things because there are a lot of characters around the world that think I don't know anything. Well I had sense enough to listen to the man and try to search out what he said that would put me in the Bible. That is what he was sent to do, to turn us back to the faith of the fathers. William Branham was not the father, (and I do thank God for giving me the grace to know that) but he pointed to what the fathers had written (and I thank God also for allowing me to see that). I am what I am by the grace of God; and anyone else that is a true voice for God in this hour would have to say the same thing. We are not trying to minister to the bride of Christ strictly by our own wisdom.

### **USING VARIOUS ILLUSTRATIONS**

By the grace of God, Bro. Branham did his very best, trying to show us how to embrace that which the apostolic fathers had written; and how to allow our faith to be restored back to what theirs was. Many times he used illustrations and types, which in no way changed the meaning of the scriptures he was dealing with. However there are those individual characters that take the types and make the gospel out of them. That is why there are some today, and literally throughout this whole world, who are thinking there has to be a ministry that will be like the capstone that went on top of the great pyramid, and that working through this ministry, is how the Lord is going to finish up the perfection of the Church. There is no such thing as a capstone ministry. It is not scriptural. Bro. Branham used that as a type, because it was to point to perfection, how unique it was. The builders of those pyramids did not bring just any kind of rock: Each one was designed to fit exactly in the place where it was positioned. It was strategically designed and sculptured just for that particular place. I have heard him say many times, If you have a dollar bill, take it out of your pocket and look at it a minute. That is the seal of the United States government, a picture of a pyramid. The capstone is separated from the main body with an all seeing eye in it. How many times I heard him say, We know the great pyramid was never completed, it is waiting for the capstone to come down. I believed all of that. I sat there when he said it. I do not think the man just told a lie. He just did not know any more than that, and he used it as a type. Since then, there have been men that used it as the gospel. They take all these quotes and put them together for just that purpose. Young people, please keep in mind, We absolutely have to have a head on our shoulders, and be strong enough that we are willing to investigate. Investigate what I say, if you do not believe it. I admonish you, go search for it. I challenge you, disprove it if you can. I can say that because I keep my mouth shut until know what I am talking about. In this little booklet, there is an element of people, thousands of them this world over, that are holding to the promise that Bro. Branham has got to come back from the dead to continue his ministry. In here, is the testimony of two particular men. One is the man, that on the day of his funeral, challenged me as we were coming out of a restaurant, going across to the parking lot. I was with some other brothers and this man yelled to me from across the parking lot, Bro. Jackson, are you with us? I asked, what do you mean? He said, He will rise again. I said, He will rise in the resurrection. He yelled back, No, he has got to rise before then. These characters are key individuals of this false doctrine that is promoted around the world. They are the reason people are sitting today in the shadows of time, waiting for Bro. Branham to come back from the dead to ride this trail one more time. I know where all of that started, because the man that brought that dream to him from the state of Oregon, his own son gave me his father's dream. I have it, word for word, so I do not have to take it from the Spoken Word book. I do not intend to print it. What would be the purpose? We have people that sit in the shadows, just reaching out for a quote to hold on to. They apply every quote to their own understanding, saying, But the

prophet said it! I am saying this to anyone who has an ear to hear, He was God's man for the hour, he brought us back to truth right from the Bible, but God willed that the man would say certain things right from his own human thinking, that would side track those who always follow the man instead of the God that man stood for. This was absolutely to test people. How stupid can we be, and how careless can we become with the word of God? I realize there are people in other nations listening to me, that may be wondering about what I am saying, but I assure you, I have the proof of everything I am telling you. I have the history for my remarks about the pyramid; and I have the word of God for my other remarks. While this book is printed in the United States, the information that is contained in it, did not originate here. The last time we were in Egypt, we had a group with us, that went into this great pyramid, Cheops, the largest of all of them, and covers acres. We were taken there and allowed to go into it, all the way up along an incline corridor to the king's burial chamber. Inside there, you could not help but feel you were in the largest tomb ever built on God's planet earth. Why men would go to such extreme measures to build such a monster I ask, For what reason? What is the purpose? It was known up until a few centuries ago, as one of the wonders of the world. As I said earlier, When we came from there, down into Cairo to the Museum of Antiquity, this question was in my mind about the cap stone, because according to some, that pyramid was supposed to have never been completed. That is when I asked the guide, Was this pyramid ever fully completed? He said, Yes sir! That was enough for me. I realized I could not find the answer in the Bible. I would have to find that answer somewhere else in written history. Therefore I want to say this to everyone, and God be my judge, I never went to libraries or bookstores, looking for a book about the pyramids. I said, I will keep my mouth shut, and some day I will find something that will give me my answer. A brother in Scandinavia bought this book and gave it to me. To him, it was just a book of history, but when I got it and began to explore the contents of the pages, I said, It has my answer. Please believe me though, I am not going at this just trying to tear down what Bro. Branham said, and I pray you will try to understand my point. I am determined to tear down that thought about a Pyramid ministry though, so I say to you everyone, You do not need to think any longer that there is going to be a great ministry rise on the scene that is going to put the capstone on that pyramid. I will say again, That is only a type, just like I used the horses. Keep in mind, that horses have a nature of their own. Anyone that has ever worked around animals knows that to be a fact. Not every team of animals, whether mules or horses, will work in harmony with each other. I have driven them hitched to a cultivator, plowing corn and so forth, and one horse would go down the row, minding his own business, doing his part of the pulling, but the other wants to just tag along, always reaching out, trying to get a bite of corn. In that case you have to probe him along, in order to keep him up with the other one. Do you understand what I mean by that illustration? That is like a lot of people in congregations: they are just tagging along. They are with the crowd, but they sure are not pulling their part of the load. Sometimes animals can get so set to a routine, if you try to get them to go beyond the routine, get ready for a challenge. When my dad was going with my mother, he did not have a Model T Ford to drive: He had a little horse. Mother lived three miles from where my dad lived. He drove the horse and buggy to see my mother. When he got ready to come home, he got the horse out of the barn and put him to the buggy, and started him home. The horse knew the way home. I heard my dad say many times, he would just curl up in the seat and go to sleep. Three miles up through the country they went. He never had to worry even when he had to cross the creek. The horse knew the way home. Dad would wake up when the horse came into the barn lot and the buggy would stop. Try that with your car and see what wakes you up. Do you know what I am using that illustration for? You could depend upon that animal to do what he had been in the habit of doing, but that same horse played a trick on a man one time. My Dad lived where there were a lot of cousins in the same area. One of them had been staying with my Dad, helping them with the work in the summertime. They got to talking about an ice cream supper across the country from there, so some of them decided they would go. Dad's cousin said, I would like to go, but I don't have any clean clothes with me. My Dad said, Jump on that horse, he will take you home in a hurry. He got up on him and that horse went down the same road Dad had been riding him on before, and when he got on the straightway he turned him loose. Here that horse was, going at a dead run, but the guy that thought the horse was going to take him home, did not realize Dad had always rode him to a friend's house down that road. When the horse got there, he turned right in and dad's cousin went sliding on his belly, on down the road. You can picture that in your mind. Did he look like he was going to an ice cream supper? It was not because the animal had a head of his own, he had just been used to turning right there, and did it from habit. I say that as an illustration, because we can get used to doing so many things just by habit, that it is difficult many times to go beyond that routine. I hope you understand why I use these things. I am trying to show you how the true ministry to the body of Christ will conduct themselves; and how they will encourage everyone else to do likewise.

### **THE LEADINGS AND CALLINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD**

I am a human being, but I can see in the family of God, that there has got to be harmony, and we have to get to where we work together, because we all have the same vision. It is not that we are all going to do the same thing, but each one of us has to understand, that what little bit we do know, we can contribute that to some benefit in the

body. Even though we are in the habit of doing certain things a certain way, we need to be subject to the leading of the Holy Spirit, because He may have something else He wants us to do also. When we receive the Holy Ghost, we receive the potential for everything that is in that Spirit, all nine gifts and so forth. In the Holy Ghost, you not only have the nine gifts, but also all the callings of the ministry. That does not mean we everyone have the same calling, but we each have the potential already in us for whatever God anoints us to do or be. We have the Spirit dwelling in us that incorporates every bit of it, but we become responsible for just whatever measure was activated us. It is all by the same Spirit, but it is the measure of the grace of God that He has given to us, that depends on what I am and what I am not. With that in mind, let us talk some more about the pyramid and what history says about it. I am turning in my book here, to where it says it was never finished, but it was finished. I want to prove that to you from what this says right here in this other book. This book was compiled by many historians, both B.C. and A.D., so listen to what it says.

### **READING FROM HISTORY**

*"Herodotus, (a Greek,) who saw the pyramid about 440 B.C., by which time it was as ancient to him, (think of it then) as his period is to us, says that each of the structure's four perfectly triangular faces was still covered with a mantle of highly polished limestone, (Watch the perfection) the joints so fine they could scarcely be seen. (That was 440 years before Christ those masonry craftsmen chiseled those stones so perfectly?) Diodorus Siculus, the Greek historian, who lived soon after the time of Christ, described the Great Pyramid's twenty two acres of polished casing stones, as being complete and without the least decay. (That is 80 A.D.)*

*"The Roman naturalist, Pliny, gives the report of natives gamboling (meaning running, playing) up the polished sides, to the delight of the Roman tourists."*

*"Stradbo reports that this small opening (which was the entrance) gave way unto a narrow passage less than four feet by four, which descended three hundred and seventy four feet into a damp vermin infested pit dug from the live bedrock, a hundred and fifty feet below the base of the Pyramid. That this pit was visited in Roman times was deduced from initials supposedly written with smoking torches, on the rough ceiling by wealthy Greek and Roman tourists."*

Saints: This absolutely was a place people came from all over the world to tour the interior of this pyramid. I read this part to show you it was complete. They are writing about it, about how it is so perfect. We now follow this into the A.D. period. This points us now, even up to 400 A.D., this was one of the biggest tourist attractions in the entire old world. Well when Christianity came on the scene the entire thinking was adverse. Christianity (those leaders) took a holy attitude, that all these ancient, pagan places were areas of idolatry, and that Christians ought not go there: and to go there is to lean idolatry. Therefore in the fourth century, the so called Christian church had these places closed. I have read what happened to people that went contrary to their dogmatic attitude. Keep in mind, in those days Alexandria Egypt was a city built by Alexander the Great. It was a great city of education and art. It was a place known to have four hundred theaters, where plays, acts, music and all kinds of displays of things were seen. It was there, that people sent their children to get an education in that hour of time. It gives the name of this certain man that had a beautiful daughter. She helped him in his instructions with the students. When this religious system was going to do away with all this nonsense, this man was taken, and his daughter. She was stripped naked, and with oyster shells, she was scraped until she died. The man was killed. Much of the information back then, in the A.D. period, had been recorded in the libraries of Egypt, concerning all of this, but the libraries have since been stripped of literature, volumes of history were burned and so forth. For four hundred years, this pyramid remained closed. No one that survived that even remembered where the entrance was. Then it was out of Saudi Arabia, the homeland of that Islamic religion today, the religion they publish as being so peaceful and co-existent, that Mohammad the Great came. He entered Egypt with his great army. He murdered the Christians, tore down the church houses, or turned many of them into mosques and prayer places for that religion. By the time he saw this pyramid, the knowledge of the entrance to it was gone. It tells right here, that he looked and searched, so we have to keep in mind that all the written records had been destroyed before then, and there was nothing he could go to for that information, so what did he do? He and some of his men, with chisels, began to dig. After they got inside the thing, they made certain turns and finally came into a big passage way. Naturally when they went down, they finally came to this great stone. How simple it hung, just like a hinge, and they could push it out. It had been shut for four hundred years. From that time on, his men worked hard. They tore up some of the interior part. We will pick up a reading here.

*"For another four centuries, the great pile lay undisturbed on the desert's edge, its outer casing virtually intact, (This was after Mohammad the Great has done what he did.) its geometric shadows lengthening and shortening with the revolution of each year. An Arab historian who saw the pyramid in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, compared it to a great*

*female breast rising from the bosom of Egypt. He remarked that it was still perfect, except for its entrance carved in it by Al Mamun. Subsequently, a series of earthquakes demolished large parts of northern Egypt and the descendants of Al Mamun's workers wreaked their revenge on the treasureless Pyramid by stripping it (Now here comes the dismantling.) of its precious limestone casing. (That is why you see it as it is today.) to rebuild their new capital city El Kaherah, the Victorious. In the course of several generations they managed to remove the entire twenty two acres of one hundred inch thick covering of the Pyramid, (If you take one hundred inches on this side and one hundred inches on this side, and you come to the peak, it is impossible for the capstone to remain on it. Common sense would tell you, a hundred inches here and a hundred inches here, and you bring it to the top you are minus a lot of area.) and even built two bridges especially to drag the heavier stones across the river on camel trains to Cairo for the construction of a series of mosques and palaces."*

We have been there and seen it. I do not think I should have to read any more, to prove that at one time the pyramid was complete and correct. It was perfect in that way. It was in the admiration of the world. It had an unsurpassed beauty. I do not think it is necessary that I say any more along that line. Some say, But who built the thing? Who built the pyramid? It was built before the great flood. It says that in history. Tradition in here, has it that men after men, even Jewish writers have added their ideas. It is even in here, how the Hebrews had the feeling that it is possibly the embodiment of many of the things that Enoch of old had compiled. Of course you are going to have a hard time convincing me that Enoch was a man that worshiped the stars. First, you will only find that in the Genesis record. Who wrote Genesis? Moses. He wrote the first five books of the Bible. What did Paul say about Moses in the book of Hebrews? He said Moses was a man learned in all the ways of the Egyptians. Right? He was raised in an Egyptian palace. He was schooled by the Egyptian instructors, so he was a learned man. God chose him to lead the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage and through this forty years of wilderness wandering, God spoke various things to him. Moses did not write from traditional hand-me-down stories. He wrote as God dictated it to him. You will find nowhere in the writings of Genesis, that Moses ever mentioned a thing about the pyramids, yet that very man was raised within sight of the pyramids. Do not take away from Moses the opportunity and right not to say anything about them. I am of the feeling, since Moses was dictated to by God to write certain things, that if the pyramids had any specific spiritual nature about them, God would have had Moses write about them. We know he wrote about everything else that went on in Egypt, including the things he suffered. Yet when we begin to see that the pyramids were built before the flood, I can see exactly what was going on, that not only before the flood was there overall immorality, violence, but there was another class of people that had science, mathematics, education and all that as their goal. The pyramids are the monuments of their achievements. Why did I say that? Because, when you read of the full picture, you find that it is the compiling of some of the most perfect mathematical measurements known to mankind of that hour. They compared it, and they even figured the circumference around the earth from its measurements. For this reason, we cannot say it is just a pile of rock put there for no reason. Not only was it the tomb for a pharaoh, it was designed by professional men. Yes, they studied the stars, and they got a lot of knowledge from the stars. That is where they began to learn about making their calendars. Until men began to learn that, they did not know how to relate time. That is why we can say, These are memorials to the knowledge they had achieved. This, being the last one, it plainly tells me here, it was built probably three hundred years before the flood. It mentions a flood. The Bible says He will not destroy the world by water any more, but by fire. I want to use that era before the flood, how all the technological learning was embodied in that pyramid, yet all the knowledge perished with those people. Men probe its surface, and its measurements. They have never been able to fathom what caused it to be built in the fashion it was. But now, look at America tonight, violence everywhere, mothers killing their babies and disposing of them in such horrible ways. Before the sun rises in the morning, there will be more babies die, or left homeless by other violence. Look at the same time, just before the fires will engulf this planet, and the wrath of God shakes it, how we have put scientists' toys on Mars. Enoch did not put it there. How many know what I am talking about? We are going to go down in history with some scientific long haired men, all they have is rocks on the moon, how far it is to Jupiter. We put men on the moon twice, we left a flag up there, footprints, and a few other relics. I have to say, The men who designed this trip, did not have God on their minds at all: they only had science and technology in their head. There it is, that which is our embodiment. So while one category of men build this stuff, we are trying our best to build something for God. I have to say, We are at the threshold of the end.

*"The famous traveler, Ibn-Batuta, writing 730 years after the Hegira, says that Hermes Trismegistos, the Hebrew Enoch, having ascertained from the appearance of the stars that the deluge would take place, built the pyramids to contain books of science and knowledge and other matters worth preserving from oblivion and ruin. As to the actual dates of the construction of the Great Pyramid, apart from the statement that it was built three hundred years before the flood, the legends add little. Egyptologists, who worked out the Fourth Dynasty must have reigned between 2720 and 2560 B.C. (Which puts it before the flood) believe the Great Pyramid was commenced in 2644, and that it took from thirty to fifty six years to complete its construction."*

## **WHY DID MOSES NOT MENTION THE PYRAMIDS?**

With this kind of information available, I would have to ask, Why did Moses not write about the pyramids? It was not important, because it had no spiritual significance. If it had any spiritual significance, he would have at least written about that part. God was telling him what to write, and just look how unique he writes the story about Enoch, when he was born and all. He gave the whole genealogy from Adam on down, the seventh from Adam, how he walked with God. Why say all that, then not give him credit for such a thing, if there had been any benefit in doing so? Personally, I cannot see that man Enoch walking with God the way he did, and at the same time worrying with building a pyramid. He left this revelation, when he began to see the wickedness, the corruption and perversion become so prevalent, then he said by naming his son, When Methuselah is gone, then it will come. What will come? Judgment. Why did he not talk about the pyramid? It had no spiritual significance: no more than our flag on the moon. That is all you can say about that. I hope you understand my point. I am as worried about that flag on the moon, as that play toy on Mars, that toy that came up against a rock and could not go any further, and as far as I know, it is still parked there. Give these long haired scientists millions of dollars, and they sure like to play. There is not enough space for them down here, so they have to play in space. I ask you, Is any of that going to contribute anything to the spiritual welfare of mankind? Not one bit. On the other hand God, in a very simple manner, and out of this one and only book, is painting a picture of something very beneficial in our hearts. While they go ahead and play with their knowledge and science and technology, one of these days God is going to put a little group of people together here on earth, that will leave a testimony of what it is all about. It is right to say, We are going to be the ones that are going to say, Your world is ready to be destroyed right in front of your eyes. As for the great pyramid, I have tried my best to show you what is available to know about it, that it was built before the flood, that it is not known for sure who was responsible for building it, and that it is of no spiritual benefit to anyone to know who built it. Having said that, I will now take you to the part on how the currency comes into the picture. Right here in the book, it shows a picture of it, what we have on our dollar bill. It says here, that this picture, is the reverse of the seal of the United States of America.

*"According to Manly P. Hall, an expert on Masonic lore, not only were many of the founders of the U.S. government Masons, but they received aid from a secret body existing in Europe, which helped them to establish the United States for a peculiar and particular purpose, known only to the initiated few. The Great Seal, says Hall, was the signature of this exalted body, and the unfinished pyramid on its reversed side is a springboard setting forth symbolically the task to the accomplishment of which the U.S. government was dedicated from the day of its inception. The eagle was apparently intended to represent a phoenix, or symbol of the immortality of the human soul. Great currency has been given to the pyramid and phoenix symbols by placing them upon a one dollar bill."*

## **FALSE PREDICTIONS**

The article I have been reading from history, goes on and tells how the Masonic order wrote a lot of literature in order to compile this information into their belief, and that there had literally been a gospel written in this pyramid. I have read some of it. The George Wright family had a book about the gospel written in the pyramid. It tells in that book how this particular order measures this, and measures this, but they also determine that from standing in the great corridor, looking down toward the main entrance, every six thousand years there would be a certain star that you could see at night. They said according to that, the end of the world should come at that particular time. Do you know what happened? It came that time, and never happened. My point in saying that is this, If men back then could presume that certain things that were built could have certain meanings, and they begin to indulge in the measurements and calculations, which caused them to write a lot of things for the future, why did they not come to pass? Because they were the works and predictions of natural man. By this measurement they calculate something, by another measurement they calculate something else, but when they bring about some kind of finished end, and then it does not happen, that blows the whole thing all to pieces. That being as it is, I do not think I should have to spend any more time reading to you about the pyramid. It is still there. Not only did it exist before the flood, it is going to be in the Millennium also. It covers many acres. It casts its shadow across the desert floor. It is not the oldest one though: There is another one in Egypt known to be five thousand and some odd years old. In fact, it is so old, a long time ago they found the entrance to it. They went into it, but they saw that the stones were so weak and crumbled, getting so soft, they filled the entrance full of sand and closed it to keep explorers out, because they were afraid that at any time, there could be an earthquake and cause something to crumble and fall. Now it is just a memorial of a bygone era. I hope I have said enough to prove to you that this one was complete, but that it was dismantled and the polished stone used for something else, and who used it and why. This proves how they used the eye and the capstone, by saying such and such. When Bro. Branham used it as a type, I can see a very beautiful picture. When mathematicians in our century of time have measurements of it, these measurements are so accurate and precise, they

determine certain angles, the fluctuation of the bodies of stars in heaven, so you have to understand there was something unique, scientific wise, about this thing. Why though, should we busy our mind trying to learn spirituality from it? It is not a memorial of spirituality: it is a memorial of man's technology. As I said, It is just like our little play toy on Mars. That little piece of metal can stay parked against that rock for the next million years and it will not affect the fulfillment of the word of God one bit. Just think of it, God is going to put a Church together by giving revelation of His word to those who hunger for His truth and man's wisdom will not have one thing to do in it. Some believe it is going to be because of a group of preachers called the capstone ministry, so they can be heard to say, I am in the capstone ministry. Well Praise God, I am not in any such man made mess. I would rather be driving a team of mules, hauling hay out of the field, than to be so deceived. Be careful, what you grab hold of, trying to get a revelation out of it. We are living in the greatest intellectual era the human race has ever lived in. They have no place down here to embody all their scientific technology, so they park some of it out in space somewhere, that being the wide open frontier for them. They are saying today, that it is the open frontier, so let us go. They are even planning to put people on the moon, to live there. I heard the other morning that they have found a place on the back side of Mars, where there is ice. They believe it is possible there was life there at one time. These intellectual giants have to have something to play with, so they have to build memorials to what they have achieved. The sad part is, none of what they give attention to is about God. I do thank God for what He has taught us: otherwise we might be looking to some of their foolishness. We have enough to deal with as it is, but I assure you there is no capstone ministry coming down the road with new revelations: Revelation will come from the same kind of ministry that Paul talked about. But how do we know it will work now days? It is the only thing that is going to work, but it is evident that it is the very thing they do not want. They don't know how to get in it. They would rather have some super to hang to. I hope you understand what I am talking about. You get to the place where you believe in somebody and you trust somebody. Never do I want to be guilty of saying anything to mar the image of the man that God used to put us back in the scriptures; and beyond that, I could not care less what those people running here and there trying to be something special think of me. I am about as afraid of them with their threats, as I am of a mouse running across my toe. Let me read some of this to you.

*"The Bride is awaiting the resurrection of Bro. Branham, who will come forth in his new ministry, the third pull, and the seven thunders, for the rapture of the church and to give a last witness to lost souls.* (Now it goes into an explanation of how we should look at this resurrection. I will not repeat the names here, but I think some of you, if you listen carefully, will know who they are talking about. That man that asked me the day of the funeral, Are you with us? I said, He will come forth in the day of the resurrection. How many know who that man was? Here is what went on between two of those important characters, who are looked upon by that certain element of today, as great men because they knew the prophet. Quoting from a certain book, and I will not mention the man's name, he writes...) *Bro. Branham had spoken highly of him and said that if you wanted to know what he believed, just ask Bro. So and So.* (I am leaving the name out.) *He stands as a beacon to Bro. Branham's message, shedding light from the scriptures.* (Now we go to this other man.) *It was midnight when I arrived at this man's room. I got him out of bed. I implored him, help me to understand. "I am just like you," he answered, "I don't understand either."* *He went over the visions, including the tent vision. He said, Unless God has cut the work short, he has got to rise."* Brothers and sisters, thirty six years have passed since Bro. Branham left the scene, and there has been many people during this time who have heard this message, but they have been sitting in the road with quotes, waiting and preaching. They cannot believe anything in the Bible: Therefore they cannot see anything in the Bible that God is yet going to fulfill. It has to be their way or no way at all. I heard the man (Bro. Branham) when he was telling me how to get into the Bible. Therefore when he said, Get back to the book, he was talking about this book, (the Bible), not this, (the book of quotes). I will do always do my best to defend the man and his message to this age, and also to expose those who have perverted his message. I am thankful for God's word of truth, and that He allows me to see what truth is. That is why I do not fall for any of their foolishness. May God help all of us to keep our eyes focused on Him, (God) and His message that He reveals to us in His time. Amen.