

Perfect Faith #11

Real Love Creates Faith

September 13, 1987

Shall we pray? Heavenly Father, we know that a very wise person once said that liberty is costly, the price is eternal vigilance, and we know, Lord, that that's what Paul the apostle, Peter, and different ones, actually said, though in different words, to be vigilant, always careful...Abraham, careful to keep his eye upon the goal, upon the Word. And, Lord, we have the same admonition this morning, and so much so as Bro. Branham brought us the message, "Perfect Faith".

We pray, Father, that You will help us to be vigilant, as we've never been before. How often, Lord, You said through the apostle, John, the revelator, "You better watch out, because you can fall; you will fall. I've given you a chance; I've given you a space; you never took it."

Lord, at this end time we have the same thing devolved upon us; so, help us to be very, very serious in the study of this Word, and not just to know the Word by rote, to simply know It, Lord, because someone taught It. We pray It shall be very meaningful and become a part of our lives, whereby we experience the very Word, and we become that Word by the due process of the Holy Spirit coming forth from that Word that's launched in us, because we've put heed in It. We're careful to exalt It, careful to watch It, believe in It, know that It can work out in our lives.

So, Father, may we be serious this morning and yet full of great joy, knowing that we have Your answer, we have the answer to the devil, and we understand mysteries. We don't do it, Lord, or have it for the sake of just understanding or to be somebody, but because we are, we believe, the elect of God this morning, true believers.

May each heart, Lord, be under Your control. I cannot do it, but You can do it. We commend the service unto You in Jesus' Name. Amen.

You may be seated.

1. Now, this is "Perfect Faith #11", and in this message we are seeing several major projections develop on the subject of 'perfect faith'. Bro. Branham says a lot of things, and we're going to just review some of those things, because they seem so pertinent.

Number 1: Bro. Branham refers to his own vindicated ministry to show us we have come to the ultimate in faith revelation and faith manifestation. That's absolutely true, because when that which is perfect is come, which we believe It is, where Bro. Branham was asked the question, "What does it mean?"

He said, "Well," he said, "*What is perfect but the Word?*" Yes, "*What is perfect but the Word?*" How does he put that? "*What is perfect but God?*" And he said, "*God is the Word, and by His grace, we believe.*"

So, you notice he said, "*We believe. We have the perfect revelation of the Word for this Hour.*"

So, we have come to perfect revelation, and that perfect revelation is vindicated to be the perfect revelation because of the manifestation. So, we see faith revelation, we see faith manifestation, both of them at the same time, one dependent on the other for its proof.

2. Number 2: He transposes the operation of his faith, based upon vision, to us by stating his visions are hardly to be compared to the Bible and Its unfailing promises given to us. Now he brought that out by saying, *My visions are nothing compared to this Word, because my visions simply come from the Word on the basis as Malachi 4, Elijah, restoring. I will have visions, and they'll come to pass as vindication.* But, where is it coming from? It's coming from this Word.

So, there again we're looking at the part of the whole. Bro. Branham only brought the whole revelation for this hour, you see. But the whole lies here from Genesis to Revelation, much of which is absolutely fulfilled, will never be fulfilled again.

So, he's telling you: the part that he has vindicates and makes solid the part that we have. So, there's a transposition there, like he said, *"Take this Message for your healing."* So, you take this Message, how it came, as the basis for your faith: This is it! See?

3. Number 3: He gives us some rules of faith found in the Bible, using Abraham, Job, Peter, the woman with an issue of blood, and some others. All right.

Part A: Faith is real—authoritative, dynamic, and of a super power, or a superior power, to all laws of this world and the kingdoms of this world. So, we're looking that God has given us something in this end-time revelation, all the way through the Bible, proven that we are superior to any force, real or imagined, any authority, real or imagined. We are strictly above it on the grounds of being one with this Word.

Now our faith cannot take us beyond the legitimate. Like the Bible says, very carefully tells us in Romans and also in the Book of Corinthians, how that all law is of God, taxes are of God, authorities are of God, all of these things are of God, and anyone who fights and disobeys those is fighting the power of God.

So, what you're seeing here in my statement when I say, "Faith is real," it is not something that's simply assumed, something that's guessed at, something, some imaginary thing, but it is absolutely authoritative and dynamic, and a superior power, or power over all the laws of this world and the kingdoms of this world, where the Bible sets this faith in order, but not in our human thinking. You cannot use your faith for your human thinking, because faith is not a product of the mind. Faith is a product of the revealed Word. All right.

4. The B part, number B: The recipient of this faith must begin to deny his senses and reasoning. When you come against anything that's against the Bible, you deny your senses and your reasoning. He is blind to all contrary evidence; that's any evidence contrary to his faith. He's blind to it and deaf to all voices apart from the Word. Any other voice outside the Word just doesn't go. There's nothing in the world that has a thing to do with faith—not a thing. There's nothing out there. You've got to go to the Bible for faith. That's all there is to it. The Word alone with no other substance or substanting evidence can be taken.

C: He knows who he is, and his place in the Word. Now we went through a long dissertation on that. We know that we are believers; we know our place, and we understand this by the fact of understanding the Word.

D: He knows he has put away fear. We have not been given the spirit of fear, but of courage, love and a sound mind. You've got to know that, "I'm not a fearful person."

Remember, many persons came up, different ones came to God and said, "I'm a fearful person."

He said, "You're not fearful at all." See?

Bro. Branham said, *"Afraid?"* He said, *"No way."*

Now, you say, “Well, that’s prophets.”

Well, all right, then, you’re not called upon to stand in the prophetic office. You’re called upon to stand in your own office, and so you’re admirable in that respect. You have no fear; there’s no reason to fear.

E: He knows how to resist the devil. He does it by walking away. How? By using the Word of God. Actually, the devil will walk away from you. When Bro. Branham says to walk away, he means it in the sense of a term, you have nothing to do with it; you walk away from it. I have nothing to do with the devil. He’s got nothing in me, and I’ve got nothing in him. But, literally, you’ll notice, he does use the example where Jesus withstood the devil by the Word. So, you come to that understanding. Put them together.

F: He understands that the trial of his faith is not a denial, but is God’s way of developing character. The trial of our faith: We don’t get things the minute we ask, under most considerations, because, if we did, we’d be a bunch of spoiled, pampered kids, and you’d never know what it is to come under the rod and the discipline and the training of Almighty God.

So, he understands that the trial of his faith, which must come with every promise, in the proper order, the proper conditions, the proper pressure must come. It is not a denial, but God’s way of developing character. We read that in Romans 5, and we’ll see it again.

Then, on page 22, paragraph 126, he speaks of love and its part with faith. And in this section we will learn how to mature in love as we mature in faith. There’s a great thing there we’re going look at it and see what the Word of God says. All right.

5. Reading then, paragraph 126:

[126] *And faith and love are relatives because you can’t have faith unless you’ve got love, because your faith is in a God Who is the very essence of love. Faith and love work together.*

Now, that’s a legitimate statement that there’s no way in having faith without love, because you’re asking God to do something for you, and He’s the God of love, and so, therefore, faith is operative, the very principle of faith that God endorses and gives to you, which you operate, is because of love. And, remember; the servant is not greater than the lord; it’s enough that he be equal, as the same as his lord. So, the love principle comes in here. All right.

But, remember; when you talk of this, as Bro. Branham talks of it, as a basic knowledge contingent to faith, we recognize that God is also the Word. That’s right. And, because He is the Word ‘Logos’, which is God manifesting Himself according to what lies within Him, and His spoken Word that He gave us, which is the Rhema, this, then, the Rhema, is a love letter. That’s why people call the Bible ‘a love letter’, because it’s from Him Who is able to conceptualize Himself. See? The unseen, unsensed, unknown Spirit. But God can conceptualize Himself, which He started by bringing Himself into manifestation with nothing to see. There was a light came out of Him. And then, He began forming creation. So, that’s what I say, ‘God conceptualizing Himself’, God becoming, not Zoë, but a part of Zoë, on the grounds that He Himself came into manifestation, then began bringing all this out here into manifestation. So thus, in Him we live and move and have our very being. That’s why the word’s even used for eternal life and all. Okay.

6. So, God is also the Word. So therefore, the Rhema is a love letter, and the love of God to you and me then, will be a love of His Word, when It is correctly revealed. And the Word is also a part of our life so that whatever conduct we engage in, you could not dare to call that ‘love’ and know it is love, unless you had the Word to go by and a proper motivation within your heart, which is still love, because you can

say, “Well, hey, this is love, and I’m going to rebuke you in love,” and it’s nothing but a high-handed tactic to get something over somebody and just run them down.

Now, that’s a legal spirit that’s in a lot of churches. Now I trust that, if we ever get that up here, God will deal with me and see that it just goes off your back like water off a duck’s back, or there’d be some kind of correction, because that’s not the way the things are. When God speaks, and He speaks harshly, He speaks very strong; it is purposeful. Like He said, “We correct our children many times in anger and at our own disposition, because they irk us, but you cannot accuse God of that. You can never accuse God of flying off the handle. God does not fly off the handle. God does not make immature judgments. His judgments are perfect according to the Word of God.

7. So, you’ve got to begin to understand, as I’ve preached many a sermon on love, that we simply cannot love the way people in the world and the churches look at love. There’s no way!

Well, you say, “Well, I love this person; therefore, I wouldn’t dare.”

Well, it shows you’ve got no more love than a good nanny goat, because like Bro. Branham said: *Hey, this person is approaching a cataract, “Well, have a nice time!” And he’d go over the cataract, because you don’t want to raise your voice to cause a little problem,*” as it were, and they break the fellow’s equanimity, his peace, serenity—which is not true serenity; it’s stupidity. The deliberate closing of the eye, the winking... You can’t do that. So, we’ve got to kind of watch this thing of love here as we’ve got into it on different occasions. All right.

8. Then, if faith is Word-based, which It is Word-based, because he said, “*Faith and love work together,*” and faith is Word-based, we know it is: “faith cometh by hearing,” can there be a love of God apart from it? Can you have a love of God apart from the Word? Now I’m going to prove this to you as we get down the line. I hope I can do it before we get out of church this morning because, you see, I’m taking my time on purpose—we have to.

To love the Word above all else is loving God. Revealed Word is revealed God. As Bro. Branham said, “*The Word interpreted,*” or revealed, “*is the manifestation of the name of God.*” That’s a tricky statement, but it’s nonetheless true. See? All right.

Faith toward God because we love Him, that’s true, and faith for others because we love them, and faith because we love His commandments: that’s what we’re looking at. We’re looking at this whole picture of love here. All right.

Faith and love are relatives, because you can’t have faith, unless you’ve got love. Do you think for one minute that you’d have the love of God in your heart, or faith, without that love? You can’t do it, because, you see, it’s by the same Holy Spirit. His very essence is love.

9. So, we’re looking at a love scene here, and that’s interesting to look at because the fact of love—love never will ever work evil; love will never, ever go against truth; love will never, ever go against a person for the sake of going against somebody. Love will always benefit the donee; it will benefit the doner. See? If God never gave His love, He would never be benefited. So, you see, it works that way. Okay.

We keep going. Now he’s going to illustrate some things here.

[127] Here, *just like a young couple. You take a young man and a young woman; they fall in love with one another. And, as they go along and begin to know one another more, their hearts just begin to beat as one. They’re not husband and wife yet, but their love binds them together, and they have confidence in one another. Now, if they really love one another, really love, and you know that this girl loves you, and she knows that you love her, you’ve got*

confidence (faith in one another), if you got faith in one another; if you didn't, you'd better not marry. See? Okay.

We see here, then, Bro. Branham speaking here, that love gives the power to overcome by faith. It gives you that power right in there, because, you see, I don't believe there's anybody that... I don't say there couldn't be, but I just don't believe there's anybody, any couple that ever got married, that each person didn't know the other person had faults. See? There are faults there. As long as you're human, there are problems. The very fact that a woman is a woman, and a man is a man; that's a problem right there. It is. That's a fact. There's a problem right there. There's meant to be. But, you see, if a person loves, then putting the faith there, and faith is what begins to move those mountains, you begin to have a marriage that is truly a great marriage, see. All right.

10. Now Bro. Branham uses the illustration of lovers coming to be, or becoming, husband and wife, and that's extra appropriate at this time and for this hour, because there's a bride and groom illustration going on where Bro. Branham said, *We are married to the matchless Son of God, and the Bride is the perfect Bride, the wife, and He has nothing against her, freely justified. She never did it at all.*

So, using this thought of the husband and wife coming together is very, very good. Yet we ask the question, "What about love of a parent?" See? Now we speak a great deal of mother love. The Bible does talk a little bit of mother love, but It talks actually more about the father pitying the children, and the father having that attribute in a superior way.

Now I suppose that goes back to the Garden of Eden, where God said to Adam, "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and cleave unto his wife." And the father and mother of Adam was God. So, when Bro. Branham presents the thought here of husband and wife, I don't want anybody to get away from the thinking that God is not a parent as well as He is a husband, because we know that parental love is a love that many times binds the parents together when a lot of love has already been lost. It's the children that do it. So, we're seeing here that God is not disregarding all love. He's actually including it, but in this hour it is more Bride and Groom than any other time.

11. Now also, we might look over here, though there's not too much said of God ever loving us. You know, if you start looking at Scripture, you're going to find that God demands a lot of love from us, and there's not a tremendous amount of love—the love of God set forth as though God delineated upon it, but you can see, if God started Adam and Eve off the way He started them off, in a perfect setting with everything under their control, He sure must have loved them beyond what would be human expectation for anybody to be loved to turn the kingdom over to them.

So, in other words, everything was so propitious for man to know God in His love, that it isn't sensible to even begin to wonder if God is Love. Well, any sensible person would say, "No." You've got to understand that even by nature that God is Love. We see a lot of quirky things out there, you know, cyclones, hurricanes, and things, but basically, when you look at nature in its highest form, it's a fantastic thing. Okay.

12. Then in Malachi 1, you notice in here:

- (1) The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.
- (2) I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us?

See? Now God says, "I've loved you." And the people say, "Well, wherein is the love of God?" And you notice it's the elective love, the same as election holds in choosing a Bride. And Bro. Branham preached a message, one of his last messages, "Choosing a Bride", and at that time, in California, God

came on the scene, and Bro. Branham, completely beside himself, predicted the complete destruction of that whole coast was coming upon the earth.

So, you see, now, what does He say? Well, He said, “Look, can you doubt me that I love you? I loved Jacob, and I hated Esau.” Then anybody in this Message says, “Well, I just wonder about the love of God.”

You see, you put yourself, and I put myself, right here with back-slidden, degenerate Israel in this hour, because the love of God has been proven to us where the prophet could stand and say that God, in this mighty ministry of His, that Bro. Branham was showing to us, was literally currying favor with us. Why didn’t He just hit us with a club? Now, He didn’t say, “I tell you what I’m going to do: I’m sure going to make you, you know, really smarten up about my love and all. What I’m going to do, I’m going to save you during the flood, but you, and your seven more, are going to be riding on logs doing it.”

Wouldn’t it be great floating forty days and nights on the mountains tops, swirling water on logs? But that’s not much love. Well, you ain’t even going to get wet, kid. See? Look at the love of God. See, these are the things we must understand when Bro. Branham says this from the Scripture, like he said, *Look, what I’m saying is nothing compared to what’s in here. It’s saying the same thing, but you know there’s much more here. Then my visions and all, nothing compared to what’s in here.*

So, we can take what he says and go back to the Word, which we’re supposed to do, and we can say, “Say, that’s one hundred percent right.”

How in the world can anybody say that faith can really work apart from love? It can’t do it. There’s got to be an understanding of love in there, the same as there is faith. See? Okay.

13. Now, notice he says here in 128:

[128] *Notice, you got to have faith. And you separate them, (That’s one from the other. That’s the boy and the girl.) and put one in extreme south and one in extreme north, there’s still that love beats one for another, no matter where they’re at. They’re just as true to one another as they can be, because they love one another. And, if you love the Lord, not just try to dodge hell now...not just trying to dodge hell, but you love the Lord, then you have faith in God; see, if you love Him. All right.*

Now, let a little thought there. He says, “*If they’re separated...she’s at the North Pole, and he’s at the South Pole,*” or visa versa, there’s something in there that is electric. Now I’m going to tell you something: If you read the last Reader’s Digest science page, you’re going to find when the stars die, that nova dies, sub-atomic particles, called ‘nutrinos’ leave the dying star, and they speed right through the earth. In other words, they have no affinity or proclivity to hang onto any substance. They just don’t mix.

And that’s the way love is. It doesn’t mix. It goes right to the children of God, just like this man and this woman. The earth can separate them, but you realize the earth, the rock, the solid, molten lava does not stop these from going through.

And I think of all the... For years I have preached—I visualized—Christ, our Head, God, in the middle of the Bride, as I say, in my conceptualization of this. I can’t explain it to you, but for a while it was very real to me, how that the Bride was not divided. She wasn’t in many places. She was in one place somehow. This gives you a little idea of how it is.

So, there’s something in our hearts moving out to the Bride everywhere she is. There’s nothing can stop it. There’s a conceptualization there: We’re one; we’re just one. Put God, if you want, in the middle of the earth, put Him anywhere you want. It doesn’t matter. There It is, in us, and amongst us. Fabulous

as you think what science is discovering for us every day. I like science for what they're doing. They just prove us a hundred percent right, which is more than we're doing for them. Well, I always said, that's great. All right.

14. [128] *...If you love the Lord, not just trying to dodge hell, but you love the Lord, then you have faith in God; see, you love Him. Okay.*

Let's go to the Book of Romans and just look at this a little bit according to some Scripture that I believe fits the occasion here, Bro. Branham telling us it's true. Romans 5:6:

- (6) For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
- (7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.
- (8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- (9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
- (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, (Now that's love, see? Love your enemies.) much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
- (11) And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the (reconciliation).

15. I won't read anymore than that; but, let me start now and go back and read the first five verses:

- (1) Therefore being justified (having been justified) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- (2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- (3) And not only so, we rejoice in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh (endurance);
- (4) And (endurance, maturity of character, maturity or character and this same maturity of character induces this) hope,
- (5) And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us.

Now, It tells you here that the Holy Ghost is shed abroad in our hearts, and the love in the Holy Ghost is shed abroad in there, too. Then It tells you how it was done: because God loved us and gave the Son, which, in turn, the washing of the Blood allows the Spirit of God to come into our souls. And there this love is. So, we have a little portion of God, and in Him is everything in the little miniscule form that is in the great form, you know. So, all right.

16. Let's go to 129. He's still talking of this couple:

- [129] *Like a young girl...just happened here in Louisville, not long ago. This woman had been a Christian for many years, and she fell in love with a man*

who had been a Christian maybe only a couple of years. They loved and had confidence in one another, and they got married. And she said to the man one day, "Hubby, it must be hard on you; you're just a young Christian. You've had to much to go through..." (He was drinking, whatever.) And she said, "You've had so much to go through with, and I know you're bound to be tempted awfully hard." And said, "I want you to know one thing now. Now, if you happen to fall, if you happen to fall into temptation and are overcome, don't stay away from home; you come on back. You come right here, 'cause I'm going to be right here waiting for you, and I'm going to help you pray through again until you get the victory. I'm going to stay with you, because when I married you, I married you because I loved you. And no matter what you are, I still love you."

[130] *A few days after that, he was eating his lunch with the fellows down in the boiler room, and he was telling them about it, and he said, "How could a man ever do anything wrong when somebody loves you like that?" See?*

Now, this is not a trick situation, and this is not psychological. This is a fact that is to be faced by the people who claim to be born again with the love of God shed abroad in their hearts, and they are true believers. This is something to be faced. Now I know that it's too often we're looking at too many things as illustrations, and we say with a head knowledge, just a little cursory knowledge, "Hey, that's fine. It is so." But it is not truly so in our beings, in what you might call the magnified intensity that we ought to have at this point of the hour in which we live.

17. Now:

[131] *There you are, said Bro. Branham. How could you trespass that confidence? See? That's the truth.*

Now, here's what we're looking at: Has God today openly evidenced or commended Himself or His love to us? Now, see, we admire this woman. We say, "Now, that's right." And we take an illustration and say, "That's good, because that's the way God has set it up." All right.

Now, looking in this hour, in the light of the rottenness, let's just take a look at ourselves. Why not? I could be away for a month and come back and preach ten more sermons; so, it's okay, you know, to take our time.

- (14) Unto the messenger of the church of the Laodiceans (which is in Laodicea) write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;
- (15) I know your works, (You're a bunch of lukewarm people that I can't stomach.) (And I can't stomach you:)
- (17) Because you say, I am rich, and increased in goods, and need nothing; and (you don't know) that (that's not only not true), you're wretched, (you're) miserable, (you're) poor, (you're) blind, (you're) naked. (You're a mess.)

And a man, catching a woman in that condition, if he's a man at all, just spit on her, might as well spit in her face and walk out. He said, "You're slimy, scurvy, scummy."

18. Now, what's He say?

- (18) (I'm going to tell you something:) I counsel you to come to me, buy gold tried in the fire...you (will) be rich, white raiment, you may be

clothed, the shame of your nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, (I'll have it for you, you can have it, too.)

(19) (Now,) as many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous, and repent.

In other words you change your mind and begin to get my mind concerning the situation that you're scurvy and scummy, you're low-grade, you're a downgrade. And I said the other day that I've never seen a sheep that couldn't do anything a goat did, and a whole lot worse. So, we've nothing to be proud of.

(20) Behold, I stand at the door and knock. (We even booted Him out.)

Now, with what God has done, could there be anybody in his right mind in this Message disbelieve in the love of God or believe that God would ever reject you, no matter what you did? In other words, we're preaching grace, not blind, eternal security. We don't believe in that. We believe in true eternal security. In other words you have been secured, but you're still not out of the flesh, and you're a bit weak. You've got to grow. You'll see that all of this we're speaking of is a growth. Okay.

19. Can we then deny the love of God in this hour? What must we do? We must spend our time more and more thinking and pondering, visualizing, and wondering over it: the amazing grace.

I remember a fellow one day, preacher, one day said to another person in the bondage of smoking.

The person said, "Well, I can't quit."

"Well," he said, "couldn't you quit for the sake of Jesus Christ?"

How many people think of things like that? Couldn't you just quit what you're doing for the sake of Jesus Christ?

Oh, well, you see, there's nothing to see, my brother/sister. Is God so small in our thinking, that we simply cannot do certain things? We can't quit our grouching and every other cotton-picking mess we're into, for His sake. A man that cannot keep himself virtuous from women, and visa versa, you know, for the sake of the person they're married to... Now that's not legalism.

You say, "Well, my husband will throw me out," or,

"My wife will sure pour hot water in my ear."

"Oh, yes, yes. I can see the divorce case, and I can see my broke property, and I can see all my wages, like..."

Oh, shut up! That hasn't got a thing to do with it. That's a legalist concept.

"Or I might get caught"

Now you might get AIDS. That ought to make you stop anyway, but that's still not it.

20. How could you do it to somebody? How could you? If you're a child of God, you can see this; if you're not a true child of God, you can only see when you're born again or, if you had some philosophy drilled into you, "You can do it, it's okay," like The Way bunch did. Oh, God.

They tried to pull that when I was in the Baptist church over yonder. They got in B. G. Lenard a Latter Rainer—wine, women, song, anything... "Well, the flesh profits nothing, if you're in the Spirit."

I said, "You pull that around here, I'll have you thrown out that door. You better have somebody there to catch you on the first bounce. You'll have several bounces."

I had the same thing in Canada. Preacher down there had believed in free love—soul mating, they called them. I saw some of them messing around. I said, “I’m going to tell you: if I’m running a house of prostitution, (although I called it a little different than that) I said, “I’ll hang a red light out in front and charge for it.” We were upstairs. “In the meantime, you going to find yourself kicked downstairs.”

Legalism hasn’t got a thing to do with it. You can only be at rest, if you think highly, subjectively, in the right area. How can I do that to somebody? “Love worketh no ill to the neighbor.” And the same love in the church restores people that fall. It doesn’t throw them out on their ear. It is willing to talk things over and get things right. Of course, there could come a day when the person kept on doing it, they must be then dealt with in another manner.

21. Let’s read further:

[132] *And when we were sinners, alienated, without God; in the world, in that muck of mud, as I talked about this morning, God came to us!” God sought you; you never sought God. And that’s true. Did Adam seek God? The answer is, “No.” He ran. The Bible says, “No man can come to me except the Father draw him first.” That’s absolutely right. And God came down in that muck, what you were, pretty mucky, and sought you out and brought you out!*

He’s talking now that seed down there, which you really are. “*That ought to create a perfect love,*” providing you know what the transaction entailed. Now, if it’s just a thought off the top of your head about the Blood, and a thought off the top of your head about God’s grace to fill with the Holy Ghost, those are just, you know, like the old churches: “Come on, you’re sprinkled as a baby. Now you belong to the great church, hallelujah!” Then you’re confirmed, “hallelujah!” You got a bar mitzva, “hallelujah!” You’re just interested...

You’re just a bunch of dogs. There’s nothing there. Now, if you’ve got that, you’re all right, you know. This means nothing. But, if there’s really something in there, you know, then there’s going to be a response. How can you know? It tells you that. Now we read what we are in Rev 3:14-17 or 18. We don’t need to cover that again.

22. Now Bro. Branham said:

[132] *...Look what you were, look what you are now. From, look at the mess you are, to the spotless, virgin Bride that didn’t do it at all. Well, then, man, should I start all over, then, with this gamut of sin that I’ve been in? What did that? Somebody that loved you! Can’t you have faith in what He’s promised you, then? Real genuine love will create a confidence in his Word.*

Now, that sounds very good. I hope today I can get to show you how this works. I don’t know if we’ll get there, because I just don’t feel like moving very fast. Lazy this morning. Genuine love; real genuine love. Now, watch his language. I like it. You know, the ad says, “Genuine, simulated pearl,” “Genuine, simulated diamonds.” I like this. This is a rebuff to that kind of hogwash. I got that word out. Where’s Mandy? She likes my ‘hogwash’.

[132] *Real genuine love* (Well, there’s a phoney love; there’s a pseudo love, a hypocritical love.) *will create (Real genuine love, not our pseudo diamonds or imitation.) will create a confidence in his Word.* Sure will. All right. That gives a rest of faith he’s talking about. All right.

Paragraph 133:

[133] *He caught me when I was nothing. I'm still nothing, but I'm in his hands.* Now, that's exactly right.

Let's go to Romans 9, just take a look at that: Rom 9:21-23

- (21) Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?
- (22) *What* if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: (They fitted themselves, by the way.)
- (23) That he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory. (He did the fitting there.)

23. All right. He said:

[133] ... *I was nothing...He caught me and loved me when I was unlovable. He loved you when you were unlovable, but He changed you. Just like the colored sister who said, that time in her testimony, "I'm not what I ought to be; I'm not what I want to be, but I'm not what I used to be." She knew she came from somewhere, something happened. That's the way it is. If God, when I was an alien from Him, so loved me till He stooped down to get me and pick me up, and give me confidence that He wants to use me; He's got a purpose in doing it. He saw something in me. He saw something in you. He had a reason to save you. Look at the people that are unsaved today. Look at the millions He could have taken besides you, but He took you. Amen! No one can take your place. Amen! You're in God's economy. Say "Amen" to that, too. No one can do it. That's His Love to you.* All right.

Now this great faith that we have, which is working by love... And he just keeps building and talking about it. And you'll notice... Maybe there's a little... Well, I don't have to go back to paragraph 130 to read that again. We'll just come on down here and go into this thought here: He said, "*He stooped down to get me and pick me up, and that gives me confidence.*" Now actually, that's the keynote of the proof of God's love in Malachi. They were beefing and grouching—end time, last book of the Bible. And they were saying, "Where have you loved us?"

And He said, "Let me tell you of my love. My love is in election, "Esau have I hated; Jacob have I love." And that's the very thing that Bro. Branham is bringing out here. If you and I ever doubt God's love, we are commanded of God to think on this: Who understood the prophet? Who knows the things of God? They are not revealed to anybody but the Bride. Now, that's a proof of God right there. If you've got no more proof than that, that is sufficient. See? That's sufficient, right there, to make you know that God loves you, and loves you sufficiently. See? He wants to use you; wanted to use Bro. Branham. All right.

24. Bro. Branham's ministry proved to him that God loved him. See? Time and time he would have quit. He wanted to go to Alaska. God would never let him do it. And God will never let us go either. And you might as well recognize it. And you know something? Love is all the more wonderful when you realize that God will not let you go when you yourself are so full of despair that you want to go. That God will not allow you to finish the work that He wants to have done in you... There's no way.

[133] ...*He's got a purpose in doing what He's doing. He saw something in me; saw something in you. He has a reason to save you. Look at the people that are unsaved today. Millions, and many of them are wonderful, wonderful people.*

And you look around and say, “Well, why didn’t God save that person instead of me?” Well, God was not looking at human qualities. God was looking at seed. He could have taken someone else besides you, just like Bro. Branham said that *Esau was a better man than Jacob. He looked after his mother and dad; he tried to be a good boy to his parents.* He was a mighty fine boy in those respects.

Then think of Iraneus. Iraneus said, “God, being a Savior, it was necessary to predestinate a sinner in order to give Himself reason and purpose of being.” There had to be someone to save. And so, that’s where God put us. So, we are a part of the economy of Almighty God Himself. Okay.

25. [134] *Then, won’t your love reach right back to Him?* Okay?

2 Corinthians 5:14, I think it is:

(14) For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

(15) And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

In other words, you know the marriage act, the marriage life... It’s a living for each other. She lives for him; he lives for her—the existence. So, God lives for us in His love; we live for Him in our love. Our love reaches back. And then, he says:

[134] ...*There’s a love affair there. No matter what the situation is, its circumstances are governed by this love that creates faith:* Now, watch again: *No matter what the situation is*, or whatever arises in our lives, the *circumstances* of all things that come to us are *governed by this love that creates faith*. In other words, gives you the faith to go on, and say, “Well, God loves me. Nobody else does, but God does.” So, the *circumstances are governed by this love that creates faith: that God loves you and you love God, and you love one another, and that brings the faith. All right. Then it can’t keep from bringing out exactly what God promised He would do.*

Now God’s love must not be spurned. Most love affairs of great quality do not start as love at first sight, although it could happen once in a while. That’s happened, but it’s not the case. See? Loving is a growth from good to better to best. As the old person wrote to the older woman, he said concerning marriage, he said, “At their age,” he said that, “the best was yet to come.” And all through the ages we’ve heard the love of God, we’ve talked about the love of God, and this is the greatest display, whether the people want to believe it or not. And they’ll always turn and say, “Well, that’s not much of a display.” Well, if that’s what God’s heart calls for, that’s what our heart calls for, and we think it’s the greatest.

26. [135] *Now, watch! Perfect faith is pure, just as pure as love. See?*

Okay. There’s something over here in Dt 7:6-9. I want to read It to you.

(6) For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth. (The same thing: you and me—Bride.)

(7) The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because you were more in number than any people; (but) you *were* the fewest of all people: (You better begin to understand that.)

(8) But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath that he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of (bondage) (Babylon), from the hand of Pharaoh (The pope, and all the trouble down there.)

(9) Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, (The faithful God.) which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations. (So, God's love never fails, and therefore, notice how the Word's in there: You can't separate God, the Word, and love. You can't do it.)

[135] *...Perfect faith is pure, just as pure as love, see. Now, when you love somebody, page 24, you love your husband or love your wife... Now, there's no need of anybody telling you you don't love, because you do love, and you know that you do love. See?*

[136] *Now, if I'd ask you, "How can you prove it?"*

[137] *"Oh, I prove it by the way I live to him. I'm a true, honest wife." "I'm a loyal, honest husband, that proves to me that I love my wife;" or "I love my husband."*

Now, all right. What you're looking at there is the ethical and moral precepts of union are understood and accepted in faith as real and binding from both sides when you marry. You accept those as a covenant, and so, therefore, you're based upon a word, "Yes, I will do this, positively." Now, what is the strength behind it? The strength behind it is love. So therefore, love takes a word, and the people believe the word. You see what we're looking at?

27. Now I went through, I told you different times, (You've got it on tapes.) where I went to see Bro. Branham one time, because he was preaching at that time 'the evidence of the baptism was love'. And I couldn't see it myself, because I believed in something else. But I finally came to the place where I said to myself, "Look, I can't prove anything, and I don't know that he can at this point, but I do know one thing: that he's more right than I am, so I'll take his evidence.

So, before I got to that point, we had talked and talked and talked. Finally, he drove the car in the garage, pulled the door down, and said, "Lee, nobody can see us here. We'll talk."

So, we talked and talked and talked and talked. Finally, after the longest time, (And he talked about love.) I said, "Bro. Branham," I said, "look, you're not telling me one thing I don't know. I've preached this for years. I still am not satisfied. There's something in me that doesn't recognize. There's something wrong somewhere with my understanding."

Well, he said, "*Lee, do you mind if I ask you one more question?*"

I said, "Bill, you ask any question. I care less. I'd like a settlement here."

He said, "*Have you ever done anything that you wouldn't do, except for the Lord?*"

I said, "Yeah."

He said, "*That is love.*"

See? So you want to maybe check yourselves and say, "Why?"

Now there are times that you get miffed, maybe, husband and wife, with kids and all. But then, when the chips are down, do you give in, softening up. The others are softening up. But there's a not necessarily giving in, in the moral issue. There's a giving in in the fact that you were hard about it, and you go and see the thing is done right.

28. Like I told Bailey in South Africa... He's a Presbyterian. He's dead many, many years now, and a very marvelous person—one person who made a tremendous effect on my life by preaching one sermon. It's all I ever heard from him, but the illustration I'll never forget.

And he was on the mission field, and he was the kind of the honcho, the head honcho there, responsible to the superintendent. And things weren't going too well. The people were deprived of finances and things. The mission board at home had not done, perhaps, as they should have done. So, one night he wrote a long letter, very nice letter, delineated everything wrong, and told them where they were wrong.

Oh, about a week or two later, like a hand shook him in bed, he woke up, and a Voice said, "Bailey." It said, "I've somewhat against you."

Well, he knew it was the Lord speaking; so, he said, "Lord, what is it?"

"Well," He said, "that letter you wrote to the mission board in New York."

"Well," he said, "Lord, I had to write that letter. Everything I said was true."

He said, "I did not say it was not true. It was not **what** you said, it was **how** you said it. Now, get up and rewrite the letter and apologize."

And he did.

Well, he went on a mission as a supervisor. He had to go look at all the outposts and do everything he could to help the field. So, each place he went he found things wrong, and he told them what was wrong, and he went home.

A few nights later, the same hand shook him awake out of bed. He sat up. The Voice said, "Bailey, I've got somewhat against you!"

"What is it this time, Lord?"

"Well," He said, "when you went on the mission field and you told all those missionaries, the people, their faults."

He said, "But I was right in doing it."

He said, "Yes, what you said was right, but how you said it was wrong. Now, go back and apologize."

And, you know, that was in the days when you didn't have nice roads and nice motorcars, and you didn't have the jungle under control. This was a long time ago now. This was, I suppose, sixty some years ago. Things have just boomed, you know. Ever since 1945 things have boomed, but previous to that, you didn't have too much booming. And so, it was pretty rough.

So, he went there, he apologized to each one of them, set everything in order, and within a couple weeks revival broke out. God gave them a real overflowing of souls, and what have you. Yes, God uses Presbyterians, when they're born again. And there are some born-again people. Like Bro. Branham said, "*Foolish virgin come out of that.*"

29. So, you see, what you're looking at here is the very truth that Bro. Branham is setting here, that there is a love in our hearts, and it doesn't mean we're going to be perfect with it at all times. But here's the thing: When you do use it, you will be perfect. Faith will operate, and you'll find how much you gained by it.

Now today, again, we notice and mention that God has proven His love to us and that from both sides, and we do know, since we've received the Word, that we do love the Lord.

[138] *And when you've got pure, unadulterated faith, like your love is to your companion, then you prove it by the way you act. You aren't complaining anymore; you know it's done. Just walk along. No matter what things look like, what anybody else says, you know what's happened. You know that it's finished; just as well as you know you love your husband. See, love and faith have to go together. They're kinfolk; they love. Love produces faith.*

Now this testimony here, "You say you aren't complaining anymore." In other words you take for granted. You're sure that the thing is going to be done, because the Word has been given.

30. That's a lot like over here in James 1, where he's speaking concerning the person that knows the stability of a sound mind—a made up mind. He says:

(5) If any (man) lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (See? You can ask for anything.)

(6) But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.

Now, that's the point I brought out one time, which is very true. We ought to school ourselves not to ask God for anything, unless we're prepared to go through the trials of getting it and standing still. Like Spurgeon said, "My job is to believe God for the impossible and leave the results up to Him." And that's the way everybody should pray for anybody else. You really set your heart.

(6) But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

(7) Let not that man think that he shall receive any thing (from God).

Now, that's the statement right there that we must look at and, brother/sister, take It, because, if we don't, we will never mature in real, dynamic faith. You just can't do it. Why? Because you get a habit; you get a habit. We should come to the place, "I will not ask God for anything, unless I am prepared right down the line to believe for it." That means my life, my conduct toward people, things in my heart; get them out, everything else. See? That's how it is. Okay.

This is what we saw in Romans 5; we already read It, and, as we should abhor and hate unfaithfulness in our spouses, even so, should we be very, very anxious to please God and not ever let Him down, and utter some prayer we're not willing to see through. Because, remember; God is willing to see it through. What about us? All right.

31. Romans 13, beginning at verse 8:

(8) Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

(9) For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, (Well, how could you if you loved your wife, or husband?) Thou shalt not kill, (How could you if you

love your enemies?) Not steal, (Why should you diminish somebody?) Don't bear false witness, (Why lie about anybody?) Don't covet; (Why should you covet? That means wanting somebody else's.) If *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

- (10) Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: (It's like the 1 Corinthians 13.) therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

What law? The law of God. Not, "Thou shalt not do," "Thou shalt not do," Thou shalt not do," but the spirit of life is the law of God, and the fulfillment of it is in this respect: love will do what this can't do, see, like love wouldn't want to do this. Like Bro. Branham said, "*Old people grit their teeth, say, 'Wouldn't I like to do to that person, but you know, I'm a Christian.'*" He said, "*That's no Christian. That's legalism, or you wouldn't want to do it in the first place.*"

32. Now, that doesn't mean you back away from righteous judgments of God. You can't hold yourself and say, "Well, I don't want to see judgment hit this world." The Bible says, when you see it coming, "Lift up your head and rejoice. Your redemption draweth nigh." You know, brother/sister, you see what I'm saying? Everything is Word-oriented, or forget it. Forget it! Your eating, your drinking, your uprising, your down sitting, your sleeping, awakening: Everything is Word-oriented, or forget it. Absolutely. You understand what I'm saying this morning? Logos and Rhema. You can't get apart from the Word of God in love.

Now His love is different from ours, because the Laodicea is screaming, "Love! Love! Love! Love!" Love Him and boot Him out? Ha! Fap! What did He ever do? The same One, they say, that they do love, the same One's supposed to be so gracious, so kind, so healing, so kind, so merciful, "Boot Him out!" Knocking at the door, trying to get in. "Aw, get away from here!"

Ha! Wouldn't know God if they met Him in their porridge. And they don't know God, because they need to know the Word or the God of the Word. They don't know love and the God of love. Remember, there is a love of God, which is fine. And God can love everybody. But there is God, Who 'is' Love. That's different again. Now, one springs from the other, and you can receive the love of God. You bet you can. But, do you have the God of love in you? There's a difference.

33. Now we bend toward the Lord, but we're not schooling ourselves. I want to get to that schooling as I go along, if I can.

- (10) Love worketh no ill to his neighbor...

How far do I want to read? I forget...down to 14. Okay, I'll read down to 14:

- (10) ...Love is the fulfilling of the law. (What fulfilling? I'm going to read It over here.)

[Romans 8:]

- (1) *There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus,*
- (2) *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

There can be nothing but life in this Christ, when we recognize on the precept of love: Where did you do wrong? Where did you sin against God? Against anybody?

Oh, boy, that sweet Spirit come into the church; O God, help us to get there. This is the one cry that I see above every other cry in the world. See? Amen. Okay, see?

[138] ...*Love and faith have to go together. They're kinfolk, they love. Love produces faith.*

See? Confidence is there in both people. You know, God's got confidence in us, and we've got confidence in God. Why? Because He put it in us. All right.

[139] *When Satan tempts us, we are to resist him in a perfect faith in a perfect Word, like Jesus did. The Word of God is perfect. We're to have perfect faith in this perfect word, and resist Satan.* Okay. All right. Perfect faith has come. Sure. Bro. Branham said it has. Perfect revelation. Okay.

34. Let's go to Ephesians 4. I wrote that down here for some reason, so I trust it's a good one. It's always good, regardless anyway. Ephesians 4:27.

(27) Neither give place to the devil.

It tells you right there: We give no place. In other words, anti-Word is anti-Christ. Pro-Word is pro-Christ. Anti-Christ is Satan in his first and last form of trickery, from the Garden of Eden till now. He had her deny the revelation of the hour. He didn't say there's no God; he just had her change the Word,

So, now we've got a Word to go on that gives us great confidence that that love is there, everything is there. Now, let me learn how to work it out and to keep moving. The Perfect is come.

Now, watch it: As I see this, we can grow into it. Let's keep moving.

[140] *Now, let's hurry as quick as we can.*

[141] *By his faith in his Word we (He conquers).* Now, listen; "by his faith we, due to Him in us, "greater is He that's in us than we ourselves." So, we can't do it, but He will. *We can conquer anything;* "not by might or power, but by my Spirit," and to get God willing and doing of His Own good pleasure, *death, hell, and the grave.* Now he throws them in for a purpose, because we're hitting that now. *We can conquer anything: death, hell, and the grave. We know that God is God;* proven that, yes sir. We know that. It's been proven in this day. *That perfect faith in God's perfect Word.* We've got perfect faith in God's perfect Word. The perfect revelation is here; we believe it; God has manifested this is God. Others said it wasn't. See? All right.

He conquered everything that He came in contact with. Bro. Branham, the same way: power over life and death—proved the whole thing. *Death could not even stand in His Presence. Sickness could not stand in His Presence.* That's Jesus the Christ. *Flowing from Him were rivers of virtue, going out constantly, virtue going from his garment. These people, lying in the shadows, just put their finger on his garment, and were healed. See? When that woman did that, then everybody wanted to touch his garment, because they saw that there was virtue going from Him constantly, flowed like rivers.* Bro. Branham, the same thing. See? *There He was, walking, walking in a world with perfect faith, because He was the Word.* Other men have done the same thing, but not like Bro. Branham. This is Bro. Branham's testimony; he's telling us right here. See?

35. Okay. Now, paragraph 142:

[142] *And now, “If ye abide in me,” that’s ‘A’ part; ‘B’ part: through Him, now abiding in Him and through Him, He brought the Word to you; “and my Words abide in you,” then walk in the same way: virtue flowing from you, the rivers of God’s fountains of blessing just flowing out to the people.*

Now Bro. Branham said, “My thoughts are all God’s thoughts.” Nothing but Word; what God wanted. You and I can follow in those footsteps, too; because, remember; we’re sticking to the Word. We give the Word preeminence. We say, “This is it. I’m stuck with It and not moving from It.” Then He takes that Word and works through it, so you become the kind of Christian that you want to be and the blessing of God flowing through you. Now, not just praying for the sick and healing and casting out devils and all those things—but a man of influence, a woman of influence, is shown here on a different power level than before, living a triumphant life. See what I mean?

[142] *...And you’re not bluffing it, you’re not imagining it. It’s actually taking place, and you see it. If you’re just imagining it, it won’t do any good; but if it’s really there, it really happens.*

Now extend this to us—not great, prophetic members with gifts, but lives fully conscious of Him and our love and our faith moved daily, as true Christians. Bro. Branham said that *his ministry was the same as Christ*, one with Christ. We, in our own, are ambassadors the same way. So, we want to start rising to the privilege that God gave us.

[143] *Now, notice! See, by it, when he stood and He said, “If you destroy this body, this temple, I’ll raise it up again in three days.” Why? He was completely satisfied that He’d do that, you see, because the Scripture said that He would do it (the Messiah): “I’ll not leave his soul in hell, neither will I suffer my Holy One to see corruption.” A prophet, to whom the Word of God comes, had said this would happen, and Jesus knew that He was that person, to whom it would happen. It was spoken of him. All right.*

36. Remember, Bro. Branham said concerning himself, *“The first are last; the last are first.”* So, he told you flat he’s going to be back. He said, *“When I’m dead, I’m going, but I’ll be back.”* He’ll be the first one back. He said, *“I’m going to ride this trail one more time.”*

What does that mean? I don’t know, but whatever it is, he’s either done it, or he’s going to do it. Why? Because the words of a prophet can’t fail. Now I don’t know how to explain them, except I’ve always understood that the prophet explained them. And, if the prophet didn’t explain them, I’m going to sit back, until he does explain them. So, I don’t know how the trail is ridden once more. Was that said in the first person, like David said, “My hands and my feet were wounded”? Or is it in the third person? Bro. Branham said it concerning himself, or first person, whichever way you want to put it. Was it the Holy Ghost to him, like in David, or was the Holy Ghost in him referring simply to Himself? I don’t know.

What about that vision? Well, it’s a composite. Don’t ask me. Will it come to pass? If it hasn’t, it’s got to come to pass, because you believe ‘all’ the prophets, what all have said. So, you just believe it. Don’t let yourself give way to folly by taking sides on things, but don’t give way to take it to believe it, then don’t make issue. Just the only issue maybe, say, “Well, he said it. Whatever it is, is going to come to pass.” If it hasn’t come, it will come. I don’t believe it’s really come to pass, as far as I actually know. I believe part of the composite came to pass. I’m pretty convinced of that, but that last part there, there’s something in there in the Resurrection. I like that; that’s good. Why shouldn’t it be?

Do you think God’s going to bring a band of angels back here? Hogwash! They don’t get resurrection. He’s going to bring a bunch of people back here. We get our start right here, with the dead that are risen. We get very chummy, very happy; we learn who made it and what all these things, and that

thing, and then, when we're thoroughly satisfied, He takes us up where, then, Christ can get all the attention—the incarnation. So, you know what I mean. It's all there for us. See?

37. [144] *And Jesus, Himself, said, "The prayer of faith shall save the sick," for "They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."*

Now, in other words, what Bro. Branham said is a dedication of faith from Christ to us. What we saw in Christ's ministry and in Bro. Branham's ministry is dedicated to us in our own sphere. See? We know this in the Scripture part here has been spoken of us, not just to us. See? That's what Christ understood... William Branham—spoken of, but spoken to. I'll prove it. He said, "A virgin shall bear a child." Okay. "This is my beloved Son." See? "Elijah shall restore." You are Elijah. So, there you are.

And we, in turn, know we're believers. So, this is spoken of us and to us. So, we should go ahead doing it, not trying to make some big deal out of it, but doing it. See? A commitment.

[144] *...You must have that perfect confidence that when hands are laid on me, I shall recover, because He said so. It's a commitment. Now, how do I believe it? Just believe it. When the chips are down, still believe it. You get worse, still believe it.*

[145] *He said, "You destroy this body, and I'll raise it up," because He knew He was the Messiah. "I'll not suffer my Holy One to see corruption"; He knew He was the Holy One. "Neither will I leave his soul in hell"; He didn't. He knew He'd do it. He had confidence that He was there to conquer both death and hell. So, he said, "Destroy it, if you wish to, and I'll raise it back again in three days." Oh, my! "I have power to lay my life down; I have power to take it again;; He knew who He was.*

38. Now, according to the Message we are identified in this Message so thoroughly that we can identify with Christ in this same area. We know who we are; we know what's going to happen. If we don't die, we'll be changed. If we do die, we'll get changed anyway. We're identified.

That's like Paul said, "I've been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I live, but Christ lives in me. And the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved and gave himself for me."

And he's telling you flat: "Look, I've learned to get myself out of the way. It cost me a lot of headache and heartache as a man. It took me a while to learn that His way was the best way, and what He does for me is far beyond what anybody could do for myself, so I've literally crucified myself to the world, what the world does. Yet I am living, and, let me tell you flat: I couldn't be this way except the injection of His life gives me the strength for my life. And there we are. Christ and I are one."

You've got the same thing right today. All right.

39. [146] *You're a Christian. You have a right to any redemptive blessing that Jesus died to give you. It's yours! It's already paid for, you just have to believe it. Not imagine it; but believe it, and know that it's yours, and you can possess it. Oh, that's the conquering faith: to know! See? All right.*

There's more identification there. "Not imagine it." In other words, no sensations. You believe it. Now he's raising our sights to this project of faith that is laid out before us. In other words he's literally quoting Rom 8:32, which we quoted other times. I could just quote It by memory, I think.

- (32) *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all (Shed His Blood, died upon the cross, was raised again.) shall he not with him*

also freely give us all the things? (the Scripture says are ours through that purchase—everything.)

Now, that's the thing, and you can say, "Yes, bless God, that's true. I might not get every promise in that book that's coming to me, but I know out there, there are people getting promises that I don't get, because they're not looking to it. I'm getting something they're not looking to, so amongst us, we know there isn't one promise that God hasn't fulfilled and is not fulfilling. But, hey, let's cut it a little thicker. Let's not go for tissue paper slices of God's Word; let's go for big chunks, because believe me, he threw the book at us this last time. The challenge is there, and as long as you have that little bit in your heart that knows that you want to glorify God, you're not going to get knocked down, taking glory to yourself. Remember, God hit Bro. Branham a little hard, and He said, "You made a side show," but I tell you He had to say, "Moses, you glorified yourself before the people, instead of me." Moses died for it.

Now, none of us are going to get that big, but I'll tell you something: When you're small, you get stupid pretty fast. It's the funniest thing in the world. You give somebody a dollar or two, you know, it's, well, you know how it is. I don't even want to talk about it. People just go wing-ding. All right.

40. I haven't got enough time to go into these next things. I want to read a whole section here, and then, I want to take you into a principle of exactly how this love grows. And, as far as I know, there is no place in Scripture I can tell you different; nothing from Bro. Branham I can tell you different. I just don't know how I'm going to do it, except take you to the Scripture and show you what the Bible says, and we're going to have to be happy with it and work on it, and that's all. Like, hey, if the doctor told me, "Now, look, there's only..." Like he told Bro. Joe, "Hey, man, you better have no more chicken, no more meat, no more fish, no more this or that," and he said, "You do what I tell you, and even then, you'll be like the 'one hosh shay': suddenly gone."

We're believing for something different. Do you know something? God can put in... I know where God put in new kidneys, where God put in new lungs. I know Bro. Branham tells of the baby, the bowels on the outside just went right back in. Look at....

You talk to Brian Kocourek, how that baby, his sister's baby, I guess, was, even before pregnancy, she had a very bad case, and afterwards, the baby delivered. They're both a couple of Catholics, which is fine, you know, for them. And the girl said, "Well, I think we better go and have the priest dedicate it," and he said, "No way," he said, the priest had nothing to do with this. It was Brian's prayer. We're going to have Brian dedicate it."

41. So, you know, God does things: God heals. God does many things. I tell you what: You get in the place where you can let God talk to you, even though sometimes it's very hard to get still where God can be. I want to tell you: God does speak, I know it, I'm telling you as a friend this morning. Maybe because I have a little unique ministry, a little gift, it isn't the Voice that speaks. It might as well be a voice, though, or letters in front of me, but I know when He says something, and it's never failed, and it's not going to fail. See?

Now, I look for healing. I look for health. I look for every way I look for health. And I can say honestly, if it weren't for the people of God here praying, and my friends all around the country praying, I wouldn't be here this morning. I tell you, frankly, I wouldn't be able to take it. You don't get sleep. Maybe you get a bit of sleep, you're lying there in pain, knowing that you're full of pain, and yet I can get up and feel good. By the time I get up, the pain's all gone. Now I can take that, but I'd sooner not take it. I'd sooner be healed, but, if that's part of the cross, that's part of the cross. That's what I'm trying to preach to you this morning: There's a little bit of a cross for all of you. You might have to bear a little more, give a little more, do a little more, fall down a little more, melt a little more, bend a little more, all of these things. I can tell you...

You say, "Well, I don't think I'll do it."

I'm going to tell you something: Somebody else will do it.

42. And, what about judgment day? Do you believe you're in the White Throne right now? You don't really believe it. You're only kidding me. You say you do, but do you? I know that I don't really, but I really do. I know it, but I don't know it. I'll be honest. I can tell you one thing: I know it this far, brother/sister. We are there. It was revealed to me.

Revelation is a mighty serious thing. We should all be walking closer to the Lord this morning, much more careful—really should. See? It's not just now; hey, we know we're in this Word. Right. That's the big thing we stand for here. I admit it. There's no use kidding ourselves. We stand on it. We believe with all our hearts. We'll be witnesses in that day; we're witnesses right now. The White Throne is right here, as far as the prophet's concerned, when he stood here. That's one sentence we'll read in this very message, in his prayer. Right in this message we'll read it, "Perfect Faith." White Throne, no escaping it, See?

Is there something else we can bring as a testimony, not just witness to the Word, in a sense. We believe It, and we do, and that's wonderful. Mind you, that's marvelous. That's the starting point, but are there other ways? And, if there are, let's get busy. And you know how you do it. Self-effacing is the way. Bro. Branham said, "*Learn to get out of the way.*" Humble pie; best pie in the world. Graham wafers? No, it's a bunch of rusty, old nails ground up in the pie crust. Little sweetening? Yeah.

43. Oh, Lord bless you. Love Him this morning? I trust you love the Lord. I hope you got some good out of the service. If many can get back Wednesday, you come back. If you don't, get the tape. I'm sure by Wednesday I can cover what I can show you, and show you a growth. Now it's not going to be just apple pie easy. It's right in line with this. It's going to be a little difficult.

You know I'm lazy, but I need to do it myself—go back thirty some years, when I was thirty-eight, no, yeah, more than that, more than thirty years, and I'd not turned thirty-eight—oh, before that, thirty-four about, almost forty solid years, I said, "I've got to do it. I can't turn back." I'm glad I didn't. It wasn't half bad. [Laughs] When you have the baby, beautiful little baby, "Man! Nothing to it; love another dozen just like him, but I kind of hate to go through that."

Let's rise.

Gracious heavenly Father, we want to thank and praise You again for Your kindness to us. We know, Lord, we're learning. We only trust, Father, that we'll put our learning into practice, and practice, Lord, into high gear, more going forward than ever before, bearing the load, bearing the yoke, whatever is necessary.

Father, some... We have done it over the years. We look back, and we know, Lord, we didn't do anything. Even the prophet felt that way, and literally, Lord, You used him to shake nations. Father, help us to learn to get out of the way with the joy of the Lord is our strength. His love is our confidence, moving into the realm of faith. That's it, Lord. That's a hundred percent how it is. We know, Lord, by Your grace, we said it right.

Now, Father, somehow bring our minds and our mouths and our hearts and our bodies right in line with Your Holy Spirit and Word in us to move right down the road the way you want us to go. And unto Thee shall be the glory, because, Lord, it will be, and it's the only way it can be, the honor and glory that's Yours.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.