

# Christ is the Mystery no. 15

*“Bound by Fear or set Free by Love” part 2*

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Let's open our Bibles this morning to...

**Romans 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

Now, notice Paul is talking about sons of God. Not children here, sons. We know that the apostle Paul told us that when we are born again, or born into the family we are children of God. Then after the new birth or the baptism of the holy spirit, we receive the earnest of our inheritance, which is the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is then that we are endued with what Paul calls “the Spirit of Adoption” as we will see in the next verse. And he speaks of them that have received this spirit of adoption “sons” and he speaks of sons as having not received a spirit of fear, but a spirit that will identify with their heavenly Father.

Now, there is a series or events in the lives of the believer where he begins as a child of God, then grows into a son, and finally into an heir, or joint heir with Christ.

Now as a child he still has fear; he cries when he's hungry because he doesn't understand the hunger pains. He cries when he's thirsty, because he doesn't understand thirst, and how to get a drink for himself. He cries when his diapers are dirty, because he doesn't know how to change himself. You see he is still at the place of lacking understanding and therefore has no confidence in his own leading abilities to eat and drink and clean his diaper. He is strictly a dependent child, dependent upon others to feed him and give him drink, and change his diapers, and shelter him, etc. But when that child begins to grow he enters into a condition where he takes on knowledge of how to get food, how to get drink, how to use a toilet, and as he grows in wisdom, he also realized there are others in the family beside himself. That is when he begins to go from a child and enter into son-hood.

As I have said before, the most self centered people are little children, because when they are hungry it is all about them, when they thirst it is all about them, when they mess their own pants it is all about them, and they do not know what patience is, they want what they want, and they want it now.

That's the child in the family, and the child of God. Very self centered, very me-first. But as that child begins to grow, the little girl sees mother tending to baby and they step in to help with baby, with preparing the family meals, helping in the kitchen and in the laundry and in the house. The young boy goes outside with dad and begins to work with him doing chores around the yard, cleaning outside, fixing and repairing things that the family needs.

**1 Corinthians 13:9** Paul said, *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a*

*glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

Now, at this stage they are entering into son-ship, and as brother Branham said, “*where Pentecost went wrong is that they thought just being born into the family was it, that was enough. But He said you must be the right kind of a son if you are to receive inheritance.*”

From **Hear ye Him 57-0807 P:14** Brother Branham said, “*Now, when a son was born into the family, he was a son at birth. And there's where you Pentecostal people jumped the fence. You thought that when you were born again that settled it. That only was the beginning. That's right. You are a son, surely, when you're born. But when this son was born, he wasn't heir of all things yet. He had to go through the testings and trials to find out if he was the right type of son to fall heir to all things. And listen, God's Word said, that every son that cometh to God must first be tried and chastened, child-trained, before he could be adopted into the family.*”

And in his sermon **Blasphemous names 62-1104M P:57** You've heard me preach "Hear Ye Him," that sermon about a year ago, that become so popular, "Hear Ye Him." The placing of a son in **Ephesians 1:5** also: "*God has predestinated us unto adoption of sons.*" See, a family... *When a son is born into it, it's a son then. But that son had tutors to raise it. And if that son never did come to be the right kind of a son, he never become heir. But if he was the right son, and the son that would obey his father, then that son was adopted or placed positionally. He become heir of what the father had.*

**Hear ye Him 57-0322 P:43** *We're children of God, but we're losing our inheritance by our conduct, the things that we do, and the things that we permit to be done, and the way that we live and act and so forth. We're living millions of miles below our privilege. And then someone can see the work of God being done, and Dr. So-and-so, Dr. Jones says it's this, and the other doctor says it's this; and we believe it instead of looking into the Word. The Word verifies what's sheep-food. It comes out of the Word.*

And if that isn't the way the churches have become. Instead of looking at what God's word says about it, they look at what our church says about it, and right there they die.

**Hear ye Him 57-0519A P:20** *Some of we ministers, we should be ashamed of ourselves, as we keep our congregation way below their privileges. The whole Christian church today is living thousands of miles below their God-given privilege, because of just so half asleep, dismal like... Take the promise; believe it. God said so; that settles it forever. No matter how long it takes to materialize, Time doesn't mean nothing to God. It's His Word that we take and we believe. Abraham waited twenty-five years for that child to come. But it arrived. Certainly. We believe it, because God said so.*

Now, as he said, we live so far below our privilege as sons and daughters of God. When we ought to be the mighty church of God we go around instead with our tail between our legs like a whipped pup.

**Thy house 61-0808 P:33** *As I said the other day, when we're born of the Spirit of God, God isn't weak in one place and strong in another. If you've got a little shadow of God in you, just the littlest speck of God, then you've got all power. You got enough power in*

*you to make a world and go out and live in it. But of course, that power is controlled by faith. If it wasn't, we'd all have us a world out there, living in it. But if you're a son of God or a daughter of God, you've got the power of God in you. See?*

And from his sermon, **Ever present water 61-0723M P:70** brother Branham said, *if you had enough of God in you, till It was just barely a shadow, that's enough power to make a new earth. That's enough power to make a new moon and a new system. It's God, and it's strong. And right now in every believer in here has Life Eternal, which is God's Spirit in you; enough power that'll raise up the dead, that'll heal the sick, that'll set orbits in conditions. But It's controlled by a law, that Spirit that's in you. You are sons and daughters of God. That same Spirit that you've got in you, will raise yourself up at the day of the resurrection.*

And not only that, but Paul said, **Romans 8:11** *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.* And quicken means to make alive. Alive to what? Alive to the Word of God for the hour in which you live. Alive to the power of God to make His word a reality to you and in you.

So if He that raised up Jesus lives in You then whose living in You? It is the same spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead. Right? And that means He is living in you and you are already raised from death unto life. But you have to die first or you can't be raised up.

As brother Branham said, said in **Christ is the mystery 63-0728 P:120** *“Look, Christ in you makes Him the center of Life of the revelation. See? Christ's Life in you makes Him the center of the revelation. Christ in the Bible, makes the Bible a complete revelation of Christ. Christ in you makes you the complete revelation of the whole thing. See, what God's trying to do? What is the new birth then? You say, "Well, Brother Branham, what is the new birth?" It is the revelation of Jesus Christ personally to you. Amen. See? Not you joined a church, you shook a hand; you done something different; you said a creed; you promised to live by a code of rules; but Christ, the Bible... He is the Word that was revealed to you. And no matter what anybody says, what takes place, it's Christ. Pastor, priest, whatever it might be... It's Christ in you.*

**Broken Cisterns 65-0123 P:33** *What it is, it's got to be a fellowship, and not a fellowship of some creed. But a fellowship in Christ by the power of His resurrection, that's the thing that brings Life. It brings birth. And before birth can come, we realize there has to be death before birth. And a birth is a mess; I don't care what kind of a birth it is. If it's in a pig pen, or wherever it is, it's a mess. And so is the new birth, it makes you do things that ordinarily you wouldn't think you would do. But when you're ready to die to yourself, then you're born again, a new creature in Christ Jesus, then things open up and life becomes a new sight to you, because you've accepted the Person of Jesus Christ, and not some theory or some creed. Or even to the written Word, It's got to be quickened by the Holy Spirit. No matter how much theology you've got, it's laying there dead. I could have a handful of wheat; until it gets into the process to where it can be quickened, the wheat will never live. And you can have a doctor's degree, Ph., LL., whatever you wish to; but until the Holy Spirit comes upon that and quickens it to you,*

*as a personal experience with God, then the wheat does no good. Your learning is in vain.*

From his sermon, **Water of separation 55-0121 P:10** brother Branham said, *You've got to absolutely accept the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. And not only that, but you've got to die yourself. You've got to die to every thought of the flesh so that you can receive the mind of Christ and walk from henceforth, not of your own, but of His mind: the mind of Christ in you. That's the only way you can stay alive. That's the only way I can stay alive. That's all I live by, is by the Holy Spirit.*

**The Way back 62-1123 P:41** *It takes death to produce life. You've got to die to your own thinking. You've got to die to your own theology. You've got to die to your own self, to your own human ways. You've got to be regenerated, a new creature, a new creation. Before you can be that... You can't be two at the same time; you got to die to one in order to be born in the other. It brings a mess, and it causes a mess too. But you're got new life. What difference does it make? You got to do it.*

**You must be born again 61-1231M P:51** *Now, the approach to this birth, there is approach to it. And to approach this birth, you have to go through a process, just like anything that lives. Anything that lives again has got to die first. And you cannot keep your same spirit. You cannot keep your same habits. You cannot keep your same thoughts. You got to die. You've got to die like He died. You got to die on His altar, like Abel did with his lamb. You got to die with your Lamb. You got to die, die to your own thinking to be born to His thinking. Let the mind that was in Christ be in you. You got to think His thoughts. And now, brother, sister, let me say this as intelligent as I know how to say it. How can you think His thoughts and deny His Word, and yet claim you're born again? Just ask yourself that question. How can you do it? You can't. If you're born again, you got His thoughts. If the mind of Christ is in you, then you are a new creature. The Bible teaches that. And if any brother would like to, where you find that creature, look that word "creature" up in the--the Lexicon, and you'll find out that the word "creature" there is interpreted or translated, "a new creation," because you are a one creation, a human being born in sexual desire here on earth, and now you're a new creation born by Spirit. Your own thoughts are dead. They're so dead until they're crystal like the brass serpent, or like He died when the heavens and earth and everything witnessed He was dead.*

**Why 62-0622E P:41** *You Say, "Well, other people do this." Well, you're not like the other people. You are dead, and your life is hid in God through Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit. See, you didn't try the toxin. It's just because the people don't want to try it. Now, you've got to die. You've got to rot. That's the trouble of people, instead going up to the altar and get some kind of sensation, jump up, and shake hands with the preacher, go out and get some kind of a dogma or creed and recite it, and say, "I belong to So-and-so. I belong to So-and-so." "Are you a Christian?" "I'm So-and-so." A Christian is to be Christ-like. Christ-like is to believe the Word. If you don't believe the Word, then he can't be Christ-like. How can you say you're a Christian and deny half of the Word? If*

*the Holy Spirit wrote the Word, the Holy Spirit confirms the Word. And the Holy Spirit is the Word. And **the Word abiding in you brings God's promises to every believer.***

**Sirs we would see Jesus 61-1224 P:83** *A real disciples says, "You've got to die." "How do I know when I'm dead?" When you recognize all this Word to be the Truth, then the Word begins to live in you. "Well," you say, "but our church teaches..." I don't care what your church teaches; it's what the Bible says.*

**Questions and answers COD 54-0103E P:71** *You've got to repent and die daily to live in Jesus Christ. So every day, every day, **you've got to die every day to live in Christ Jesus.***

**Greater than Solomon is here 62-0628 P:21** *If you want to be a Christian, you be born again. **Die to yourself**, and start from the bottom and come forth. ... .. **I believe that you've got to die so dead till you're no more yourself.** That's all. And then, be borned again new, a new creature in Christ, built from the very bottom of your soul all the way through, a real born again Christian. Then the Holy Spirit knows what kind of load to put in you.*

**Uncertain sound 61-0315 P:39** *The word "church," means "the called out, the separated." And **two people can't live in you the same time.** You've got to die out to the things of the world to serve God. You can't love God and mammon at the same time. And as long as the love of the world is in the believer's heart, **he crowds out and deprives himself from the privileges that God's give him.** God don't want you to be underprivileged. He wants you to have every privilege that He died for. Every privilege He gave the church, He wants you to enjoy it; it's yours.*

**Questions and answers COD 59-1223 P:83** *you've got to die and be born. And you cannot have birth without crucifixion. You can't have resurrection; you must be crucified to the things of the world in order to be resurrected in Christ.*

**Water of separation 55-0121 P:27** *As long as you have your own thoughts, your own ways, **your ways are contrary to God's ways.** And you cannot be right and think your own thoughts, for **you've got to die to your own thoughts.** Do you know that? Your thoughts, as long as you look at it, you look at it materially; you say, "Oh, well, that can't happen. It's just not reasonable. It's not sensible to even think such a thing." As long as you do that, then you'll stay in your same condition. [Blank spot on tape. Ed.] **You get to a place where you cannot think your ways, but come into Christ and think His way of thinking. Take His words. Then things begin to shape different. For you are dead and your life is hid in God through Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, that walk not after the flesh (what the flesh says), but walk after the Spirit.***

**Romans 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. **15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.***

Now, Paul said this spirit of fear is not from God. He said the spirit God gives us is one which identifies with the Father.

But Fear is a four letter word and God hates it. There is far too much fear among the people in this Message and it ought not to be even numbered among us.

Because we also read in **8:28** That *“we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* Therefore if All things are to work together for our Good, then how can we abide in fear?

You know that a 22 year old girl that was shot in the face by that murderer in Aurora Colorado last week, but did you know the shot gun blast that hit her face, four beads hit her body, but one bead went through her nose and passed right through her brain without even hardly touching the brain itself. When the doctors examined her they found that she was born with a passage in her brain that was just large enough for that bead to pass right through without it even touching or doing any damage to her brain. The doctor called it a brain defect, I call it a predestined act of God. Because if God had not predestined her to be born with that passage through her brain at that exact location in her brain, that shotgun blast that hit her, would have done great damage. But it didn't, it just passed right through her without effect. Now just think of it. Her head was at the exact angle to receive that bullet to go up through her nose and pass through her brain without even touching it and without leaving any scar tissue and without lodging in her brain and killing her. The exact size, the exact angle, the exact timing, every thing exact and perfect, and we sit here in fear of what some man might say about us? Get a hold of your self.

Now, if God can do that for that little girl who is not even a believer in this wonderful Omega Revelation of Jesus Christ, what can he do for you and me?

Therefore we had better *“know that all things are working together for our good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate...*

And this little girl had a predestined path for a predestined bullet to pass through her without doing damage to her. That reminds me of George Washington and how the Indians laid in wait to shoot him, and several Indians did shoot him, but the bullets passed through his coat and not one of them touched his body.

Now, we serve a mighty big God brothers and sisters, and for little men to try and use fear as a tool to control people, to get people to fear them, I just don't get it. God Himself doesn't even use fear to force you to love Him, and obey Him? The Bible says, *“We love him, because He first loved us!!”*

That's **1 John 4:19**. That's what my Bible teaches. And I hope when you read your Bible you read the same thing. But the problem we have is that too many people do not know how to read their Bibles. Brothers this Bible is God's Words in print. And I don't care what any man will tell you, My Bible, God's Word says, *God said, 'Let every man's word be a lie and Mine be true.'* Paul said, *'Though an Angel from heaven come with anything else but what's here, let it be accursed.'*

Listen to these words from Brother Branham in the **Church Age Book Chapter 2 - The Patmos Vision P:70** *"Don't fear, John. Don't fear, little flock. All that I am, you are heir to. All my power is yours. My omnipotence is yours as I stand in your midst. I have not come to bring fear and failure, but love and courage and ability. All power is given unto Me and it is yours to use. You speak the Word and I will perform it. That is My covenant and it can never fail."* Now, that's **John 14:12** and **13**, Jesus said of the believer, *Whosoever ever believes in Me, the things I do shall you do also because I go to my father,* and listen to how he said those things would get done in verse **13** *and whatsoever you ask the father in my name that I will do.*

And listen to this quote brother Peter Gatchell sent me the other day. Brother Branham said in his sermon, **The Unity Of One God In The One Church 58-1221E** *God sets on the throne of your heart in His control room, controlling your emotions, and controlling your powers, controlling your conceptions, and making you one with Him in fellowship and in love. And God fills you with love. He fills you with power. He fills you with the Spirit. He fills you with His own Divine Nature, and He changes your carnal nature into His Nature. Then, in this, you become a new creation in Christ.*

Now, too many men think they are a new creation in Christ because they can quote the Message, or because they claim to believe the Message. Listen, Brother Branham, vindicated prophet of God said, you've got to die to yourself in order to be born again.

**Questions and Answers COD 64-0830M P:120 354.** *Do your children have to have an experience to have the Holy Spirit? If they see the end-time Message, do they have the Holy Spirit? Every one must have an experience. Your children cannot go in on no other way but the same way you do. See? They've got to be born again. There's no grandchildren in the Kingdom of God ; they're all children. They must have it, **must have an experience with God to go in,** just the same as you. Now, I hope I can get this.*

**Be not afraid 63-0607 P:72** *Brother, that ain't Bible doctrine. Paul found a bunch of good thoroughbred Baptists up there, and he said, "**Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?**" Not when you believed, but after you believed have you received the Holy Ghost. It's a personal experience that comes. And when that great unchangeable God sent His message down, it never changes. Amen.*

**From that time 62-0713 P:44** *You see them wonders of God. Some people would do that. And just because of theology, some church creed or something, you'll walk away and shun God to keep from receiving the Holy Ghost. You see people down at the altar praying, see them women get up, and men, and their faces washed with tears, and screaming, and walking up and down the building, some of your friends on the outside laughing. You say, "If that's new birth, I don't want nothing to do with it. Our church believes in new birth, and we just put our name on the book." You're afraid of It. Let me tell you this. **I don't care what kind of a birth it is; it's a mess.** If it's in a pigpen, or in a hospital room pink decorated, it's a mess. And **the new birth is nothing less, but it takes that to bring Life. You've got to die in order to be borned again. It's true.***

**Letting off the pressure 62-0518 P:67** Now, you can't come through some creed or something like that. **You've got to die and come to it.** You got to walk into it, and **die to yourself, and raise anew.** And then every word of God becomes a reality...Could you imagine a man having the baptism of the Holy Spirit, that wrote the Bible, and then say, **"The days of miracles is past"**? Could you imagine a man, no matter how deep he is in theology, or what-more, deny the very Word of the Bible, that the Holy Ghost wrote, and say the Holy Ghost is in him?

**If God be with us 61-1231E P:109** You said, "I was baptized in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." That ain't fully obeying. See? You say, "I joined the church." That's not obeying. See? "I repeat the Apostles' Creed." That still isn't obeying It. "Oh, brother, I quit my lying and stealing. I don't do anything mean." That still ain't obeying. **It's got to be a birth. There's got to be something happen. You've got to die, and Something be born in you.**

**Luke 24:49** And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but **tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.**

Is that not what Jesus told them to do? He told them to tarry, that means to wait until... wait until when? NO! Wait until What!!! Wait **until ye be endued with power from on high.** Could you image them saying, well, we've waited long enough, we've waited nine whole days, certainly we must have it by now... I guess we got it? But He said until!!! And that is the problem with the people today, they are not willing to wait until....

Until what? Until you are endued with power from on high. So where is that being preached in our pulpits? I am asking the question because it deserves to be asked. Most churches teach the evidence of being Holy Spirit born is that you believe the doctrine of that church. But that is not what our prophet taught, He taught us if you have the spirit of Christ you will live like Christ, talk like Christ, act like Christ and do the works of Christ, because you have the mind of Christ. And brother Branham said, ...

**Hear ye Him 62-0711 P:25** And now, before you can be filled with the Holy Spirit, you've got to die to yourself first, in order to be born again.

**Having conferences 60-0608 P:33** you can no more clean yourself from sin by joining churches and taking creeds, then a leopard could lick his own spots of him. No, sir. The more he licks them, the brighter they get. **You've got to die to yourself, your own thoughts. Give up, and let the Holy Spirit cover you with His Presence and His power.**

**Great warrior David 55-0118 P:39** When God can ever get the Church together again in one accord so He can endue it with power from on high... Power what? **To believe His Word, to make it come to pass.**

**Go tell my disciples 53-0405S P:75** And till a man is equipped by the Holy Spirit, not by education, not by theology, not by church membership... Amen. been to Jerusalem and filled with the baptism of the Holy Ghost, **he's unqualified for the pulpit, that's right, as a missionary or anything else.**

**Return and Jubilee 62-1122 P:68** *What kind of an inheritance did He leave?" "Wait ye, in the city of Jerusalem until you're **endued with power from on high.**" That's the inheritance. Not, "Go, join this one, and go join that one, go join this one." Wait till the power comes from on high. "How long?" **Until.** "One day? Two days?" Wait until. Don't take some little emotion, some little flusteration; **wait there until you are dead and buried and born again anew in Christ Jesus, and every pulsation of your life beats out Jesus Christ, so you can see the life of Christ reflected right in your living, the way you go. Yes, sir, till you can find that power like they had back there in the beginning...***

**From the beginning it wasn't so 59-1125 P:42** *They was commissioned not to leave Jerusalem until they was endued with power from on high. **No man has the right to preach the Gospel until he's been filled with the Holy Ghost.** Jesus wouldn't let the disciples preach the Gospel until first they received the Holy Ghost.*

**Oneness of unity 58-0128 P:45** *A witness has to know something. A witness has to have an experience. And you cannot be a witness of Christ until the Holy Ghost has baptized you.*

**God's provided way 53-0613 P:60 Acts 1:8.** *"But you shall receive the Holy Ghost after this the... You shall receive power after this, the Holy Ghost has come upon you. You'll be witnesses of Me in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and Connersville, Indiana, and the uttermost parts of the earth." What? After you become a deacon? No. After you get out of the seminary? No. After you become a preacher? No. "After you have received the Holy Ghost, you shall be My witnesses with power throughout the entire world." Every God called witness must be endued with power from on high before he can be a witness. A witness has to know something, see something, know what he's talking about.*

**Mary's belief 59-0409 P:20** *When Jesus told them to wait in the city of Jerusalem until they was endued with power from on high, that Word fell on their ears. They was in the temple continually praising God day and night. **What was they doing? Watering that promise.** And all of a sudden there came a sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind and it filled all the house where they were setting. The Word was being watered. And **It took life and started growing.***

**Faith 58-0315 P:25** *In the days of our Lord, before He left the earth, in **Luke 24:49** He said, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until you're endued with power from on high."*

Now, this word endue means to put on like you would put on a garment. But this says you will put on power, *dunamis*, miracle working power. You will put it on, like a garment, because it is an anointing upon you.

**Acts 1:8** says, *"You shall receive power after the Holy Ghost has come upon you."* And let's notice. There was a bunch of little cowardly people, one hundred and twenty in a upper room, and they had the doors locked because they were afraid of the threats of the Jews. And then all of a sudden, there came a sound from heaven like as a mighty rushing wind and filled all the house where they were setting. Oh, they were afraid a few minutes before that, but here they were all out into the street magnifying and glorifying God.

*They'd had an experience that had set them a-fire that could burn the whole world in that day. They had an experience. That's what we need. Experience accompanies faith.*

*29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate... to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Wednesday night we spoke on the subject *Bound by Fear but set free by Love*. We took our text from Ephesians 1 tells us that after we receive the spirit of adoption, God wants to make known to us our inheritance and the power that comes with it.

**Church Age Book Chapter 2 - The Patmos Vision P:70** *"Don't fear, John. Don't fear, little flock. All that I am, you are heir to. All my power is yours. My omnipotence is yours as I stand in your midst. I have not come to bring fear and failure, but love and courage and ability. All power is given unto Me and it is yours to use. You speak the Word and I will perform it. That is My covenant and it can never fail."*

**God testifying of His gifts 52-0713E P:49** *So don't fear; fear is of the devil. Everything Jesus would say, "Fear not, fear not," constantly, "fear not, fear not." Is that right? Always, "Fear not." Now, God don't want you to fear; He wants you to believe.*

**John 9:1** *And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. 4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. 6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, 7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. 8 The neighbors therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? 9 Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. 10 Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? 11 He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to*

*the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. 12 Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not. 13 They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. 14 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. 15 Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. 16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. 17 They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. 18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. 19 And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? How then doth he now see? 20 His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: 21 But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. 22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.*

Now, let's stop here for a moment and look at what has just taken place. Here we see two parents that were not even permitted to enjoy the miracle that God had just performed on their son who had been blind his entire life, and suddenly can see for the first time. What caused this fear that was placed upon these parents? Stupid Jealousy by those religious leaders that were jealous of what Jesus was doing and saying. And what did they do as a result of this jealousy? They used the power of the pulpit to hold down the people, and keep them from seeking further light. They held down the people by causing them to fear being expelled from the church for seeking out greater truth than what they wanted them to know and understanding.

And isn't that same devil still controlling the churches today? Claiming to believe the Prophet of the hour and yet forbidding the people they shepherd to examine the Doctrine that William Branham taught concerning the Presence of Christ and the relationship between the Father and His Son because it isn't endorsed in their camp.

Now, I like the guts that this young man showed to these Christ Rejecting Pharisees. He wasn't going to down play what had just taken place in his life for nothing. Let's read it.

***24.** Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. 25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. 26 Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? 27 He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? 28 Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. 29 We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. 30 The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine*

*eyes. 31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. 32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. 33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. 34 They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.*

Oh, how that devil doesn't like to be given back scripture. He hates to be taught. He hates to be shown up by the Word of God. But I love this man's attitude. He saw what had just happened to his parents and how they were coward into avoiding talking about this great thing that had happened to their son. And I will bet that his righteous indignation flared up at watching his parents being put on the spot and watching them in a way deny this greatest thing that had happened in their family since he was born. So he spoke up to these religious leaders and let them know that he wasn't going to be coward by their sharp tongues like his parents had just been treated. And he took out the Sword of the Word and let them have it to the point that they gnashed their teeth and kicked him out of the church. They excommunicated him for disagreeing with the pastor, so to speak.

Now, I would like to know where in the Bible a man can be put out of the church for disagreeing with the Pastor or the church elders. There is a certain thing called church order and there is a way of dealing with someone that sows doubt. But for a person to say I disagree, then he ought to be given an opportunity via the Word of God to show the pastor where he is wrong.

**8-0927 Why we are not a Denomination V-11 N-7 16** *People come here to the church, and this becomes their home church, if they wish to come as long as they live. 17 And they can come here and disagree with everything that we preach. That's perfectly all right. You still, as long as you are a Christian, you've got fellowship and a hand out just the same as the rest of them. See? If I said I believe in baptizing by immersing by water, and you believed in sprinkling, and stayed right on it, we'd still be just the same as we was if we both agreed. We might not be able to see eye to eye alike, but as long as you are a Christian brother or sister, you're perfectly welcome (See?), everybody.*

So if brother Branham was open enough to accept people in his church who disagreed with everything he taught, then who are we to do others wise? I am not saying that we should invite a bunch of unbelievers to the church to fill it. That would be ridiculous, but any person that would come and sit is either eventually going to have their eyes open or they will not stay for very long, because what they are hearing will eventually either cause them to come in or go out. But he is not even talking about the other person here, he's talking about our own attitude being in check with the Holy Spirit's nature of a dove.

**Jesus Christ same 61-0516A P:73** *Remember, search the Scriptures. Bring your papers and take down the Scriptures that I quote. If they're not right, you're solemnly obligated to come to me and show... I don't want to be wrong. But I'm not wrong as long as the Scripture says it's so and God confirms it. A man can say anything he wants to; that's a man. But when God speaks, dare anybody to doubt it? It's eternal separation from His Presence forever. So we just leave it up to God, not ourselves to determine who is who.*

Now in getting back to our story in verse **35** we read, *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? 36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? 37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. 38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. 39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. 40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? 41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.*

And let's face it, the seed of the serpent do not want the truth to be taught. Because in **John 8:37** Jesus told the Christ Rejecting religious leaders, *"The reason you can not hear the truth of the Word is because there is no place for the Word of God in them."* And then in verse **43** Jesus said, **43** *Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. 45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. 46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? 47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.*

There's another story I like concerning this attitude and I read it in a book entitled, "THE DEVIL IN THE CHURCH AND HS SNARES LAID TO DESTROY OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS copyright 1902. The article was called "*Enough Scripture to Poison a Parish*". And the story goes like this.

A little girl, being asked by a priest to attend his religious instruction, refused, saying it was against her father's wishes. The priest said she should obey him, not her father. "*Oh, sir, we are taught in the Bible, 'honor Thy Father and thy Mother.'*" "You have no business to read the Bible," said the priest. "*But sir, our Savior said, 'Search the Scriptures'*" (**John 5:39**) "That was only to the Jews, and not to children, and you don't understand it," said the priest in reply.

"*But, sir, Paul said to Timothy, 'From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures,'*" (**2 Tim 3:15**) "Oh" Said the priest, "*Timothy was being trained to be a bishop and taught by the authorities of the church.*" "*oh, no, sir,*" said the child, "*he was taught by his mother and grandmother.*" On this the priest turned her away, saying "*she knew enough of the Bible to poison a parish.*"

And so we see where that spirit comes from that would try to control the people through fear rather than through teaching them the truth of the Scriptures, and letting them make up their own minds concerning the Scriptures.

The Apostle Paul said in **2 Corinthians 4:1** *Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 But if*

*our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

I like the way the **Weymouth** translation puts this: *1 Therefore, being engaged in this service, and being mindful of the mercy which has been shown us, we are not cowards. 2 Nay, we have renounced the secrecy which marks a feeling of shame. We practice no cunning tricks, nor do we adulterate God's Message. But by a full clear statement of truth, we strive to commend ourselves in the presence of God to every human conscience.*

And the **Wuest** translation says, *"we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not ordering the manner of our lives in the sphere of craftiness, nor even adulterating the Word of God by an admixture of error, but by means of an open declaration of the truth commending ourselves to every variety of the conscience on men in the sight of God."*

The problem we have today, even among us in this Message, is that the people in the churches do not judge others by what kind of Life they are living before God, but rather they are judged by whether or not they are loyal to the **"powers that be"** in their church.

From his sermon, "**Thinking Man's Filter**" **65-0822E P:32** Brother Branham said, *"No, she isn't a thinking woman. If she was thinking she'd know the church isn't going to judge her at the last day. **The church is judging her now by her membership, her loyalty to the circles that she belongs to and the societies. They're judging her now by that. But God's going to judge her at the last day. So she isn't thinking.**"*

From **Proving His Word 64-0816 P:85** brother Branham said, *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." What? How does he live? "By, well, if you'll just take some of God's Word, he'll live?" Now, that wasn't what He said. Did you notice "e-v-e-r-y- every Word"? How does he live?... "Well, he, belongs to church; he believes everything but That?" He's still dead. Do you get it? "He can only live by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the high priest? the bishop? the cardinal? the pastor?" **God! Every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. How do we know it's God's Word? He says so, then He proves It. He proves His Word. Notice. Then if that be so, your confession will not make you live. Your church membership will not make you live.***

So when any religious leader tells you that *"you've got to believe what they say just because they say so, and after all they are a five fold minister so you've got to believe them."* Let me tell you that, that is so childish and shallow that it's thinner than the broth made out of a chicken that starved to death. You don't have to believe so just because your pastor tells you to believe something. You believe it because God's Word says so.

And so any ministry that used fear to control you is not of God. We are promised by God Himself that He has not given us a spirit of fear but a sound mind.

**2 Timothy 1: 7** *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.* Therefore if you fear man more than you fear God, then you haven't got what God said he would give you.

In **1 John 4:18** we read, *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath a penalty. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. And the penalty of fear is that when you fear, you begin to freeze, and you stop moving forward with God, and what God is bringing you into.*

Fear is a dangerous tool of the devil, because it has a penalty. When a person is afraid they become bound by those fears. We read in **1 John 4**. That *perfect or mature Love will cast out fear because fear has a penalty*, it has to do with your freezing and crystallizing in your thinking. You see, in the Bible we read where Joseph was engaged to marry Mary, but when he found her to be pregnant, even though she told him how it happened, that God Himself overshadowed her, yet his fear stopped him, and he was privately mindful to put her away. In other words the penalty of fear caused him to stop the plans that he had to marry her. Joseph feared that Mary had not been faithful, and because of that fear he made plans to stop the marriage.

So God sent His Angel to Joseph, and told him, "*fear not*" to take Mary as His Wife. What had fear done to Joseph? It caused him to doubt that God wanted him to marry Mary. And it caused him to stop moving forward with the plan of God for his life.

**Luke 21: 25-27 25** *And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.*

Notice the Scriptures tells us that men will see things that will bring on perplexity which is doubt and anxiety feeling they will have no way of escape, and then what follows? Fear, then fear follows shortly thereafter. In **1 Kings 18:21** *Elijah said to the people, how halt ye between two opinions? How long will you be lame and stopped in your forward movement? Amplified Version How long will you be halt and limp between two opinions? NIV: How long will you waver between two opinions? NAS How long will you hesitate between these two opinions?* So you see that fear will cause great damage in your walk with God because it causes you to stop your moving forward with him. And you know, according to **1 John 7**: "*if you walk in the Light and He is in the Light, you not only have fellowship with one another but the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses you from all your sin*". As long as you are walking in the light, your sins are covered and you are having fellowship with the One Who is in the Light. And you will if you let your fears take control of you. Therefore, any ministry that puts the people into a state of fear is not from God.