

Christ is the Mystery no. 8

“What is a normal Christian Life?”

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Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed pp. 43 *Love one another above everything. Love one another. Don't... No matter what the devil tries to say... Now, you're all one great, big, sweet group now, but remember my warning. See? Satan won't let that stay that way. No, sir. He'll shoot everything, if he has to bring somebody in to make his target. He'll bring some critic or unbeliever in, set him down, and cause him to fellowship with you under the quietness and things. Then he will shoot that guy with some kind of poison stuff, and he'll start through the church with it. Don't you take sides with it. Don't you have nothing to do with anything else.”*

Now, notice that we are warned by God's prophet to stick with what he taught us, because there will be men who are ordained to come into this message with poison, and brother Branham called these men “*critics*” and “*unbeliever*”.

The Apostle Peter also warned us this would happen. In **2 Peter 2:1** we read, *But there were false prophets also among the people, even so there shall be* (That's future tense) *false teachers among you, who privily* (that means not openly but in a subtle manner, they) *shall bring in damnable heresies,* (so the question is bring into where?) *even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.* (Now, this word pernicious, brother Vayle told us years ago this word “*pernicious*” means “*bloodless*”. So they will turn down the blood in turning down the one that bought them. Notice that what these men do is bring the way of Truth into disrepute. In other words they become a stain on the true revelation of Jesus Christ which is the doctrine of Christ, and they bring a reproach against those who stand for the Truth and are identified with the Messenger of Truth, but because they have come in along side of the truth and preach their heresy, they bring the rest of us who are doing all we can do to stand for the truth, but by association, the entire Message is looked down upon and the reputation of God's Servant William Branham is brought into question.)

3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned (or made up) words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Now, I like the **Wuest Translation** which puts it this way, **2 Peter 2:1** *But as there arose false prophets also among the people, even as also among you there shall be false teachers who will be of such a nature as to bring alongside of true doctrine destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who purchased them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.* So there will be men right in the Message who are going to deny the son of God, because it was his blood that paid your debt. *2 And many shall follow their licentious conduct to its consumation;* (Now, this word licentious means Having no regard for accepted rules or standards. In other words there is no normal to these guys,

every thing to them is extreme. And you see it everywhere today. It began in the 60's with X rated movies. X for extreme filth. And today it has gone to sport in X-sport. Everything has to be extreme. Can't the people see that those things are driven by spirits? And then in religion, through Pentecostalism you see extremes everywhere.) *2 And many shall follow their **EXTREME conduct to its consumation; on account of whom the way of truth will be reviled.*** Well what is the way of Truth? It's this Message, and what is considered a normal Christian walk. Peter is warning us that these men will come into the Message and give a wrong understanding of the Word of God and the people will be caught up into what these men say as evil interpreters of the Word of Truth.

3 And in the sphere of covetousness with fabricated words they will exploit you, from whom: for whom from ancient times their judgment has not been idle.

So they are here brothers and sisters, and they are in this Message to poison as many as will drink their cup.

Now, in his sermon **The Masterpiece 64-0705 168** brother Branham said, *“At the harvest time the Seed is back to its original condition, and must have all of the Word in order to be the Seed. Now, you can't have a half of seed; it won't grow. See? It's got to be the whole Seed. It's got to not manifest, say, "I believe in baptism of the Holy Ghost. Hallelujah. I believe speaking in tongues." That's just part of the Seed. Uh-huh. But now, there's added to that (Hallelujah. See?) the Life, not the gifts, the Life of the gifts. See? See what I mean? We're at the end time, brethren. Stalk, tassel, husk is dead and dried now. There's only one thing that has to happen to that, it's to be gathered in the World Council of Churches for its burning.*

So no matter what a man teaches, if the life is not there, then I would be very careful, my brothers and sisters, who and what you are listening to. You've got people saying, the word, the word, the word, and yet just look at their lives and you have to ask yourself, what Word do they believe? The reason Brother Branham was so believable is because he lived what he preached. When your life doesn't reflect what you preach everyone has a right to disbelieve what you are preaching.

Hebrews Chapter 7 part 1 57-0915E P:89 *Your nature proves what you are. Your life shows, reflects what you are.”*

From his Message **Influence 63-1130B P:13** brother Branham said, *“And then we never know just what we're doing, or what influence and what we're doing is having upon others. The Bible said, "**We are written epistles, read of all men.**" That is, your life reads so loud to the public, until your testimony, if it's contrary to your life, is without any effect. It's what you are inside of you that people read: not so much what you say, but what you are. See? You can pin something on somebody, say, "This is bad, and so forth," but your life being different from what they say, your testimony of your life is louder than the testimony that someone could say something about you. See? So just keep that on mind, that we're bringing influences every day, and **the life that you live proves what's on the inside of you.** You cannot change that. It reflects. **Every person reflects, outside, what he is inside.** And if we take the testimony of being Christians, I think that that is one of the most solemn things that a man or a woman, boy or girl, could do, would... When he*

takes on the Name of Christ, that he's going to be a representative of Christ, **you should watch every move you make**, because somebody's watching you. And, in this, it reflects what's God has done for you, inside of you.

Influence 63-0112 P:13 *You know, there's so many of us, and most all of us influence somebody by the things that we do, and the way we live, and the things we say. We influence somebody. Somebody is watching your life. And then, when we profess to be Christians, what type of life should we live if somebody is watching us? And your life that you live will reflect an influence on somebody that might be their eternal destination will rest upon the way that you live and the things that you do, for they watch you.*

So what I have been trying to get across to the brethren around the world for the past seven years is that it is not just what you claim that you believe that proves you are son of God seed, but it is the very Life that is reflecting from you that proves whose seed you are. And when brothers treat others with total lack of respect, you have to wonder what kind of seed would do that. Because The apostle Paul taught us in **Galatians 4:29** *But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.* Now, he that is born after the flesh is the carnal believer. The believer that is living for self. They are the ones who would persecute Thos who live for Christ.

Now, if you are born of the spirit, then you are also led of the spirit. And if you are led of The Spirit, then the one who is doing the leading is The Spirit, God Himself. The Apostle Paul told us what sets sons of God different from others. He said in **Romans 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* So who leads you? Because whoever is leading you, shows whose son you are? Son of the flesh or son of God.

Brother Branham said in his sermon, **Seed of discrepancy 65-0118 P:29** *“And if Jesus predicted this age to end up in the greatest discrepancy that ever was, the Laodicea church age, lukewarm, that put Him out of the church, how can it be anything else but that discrepancy”*. And for a person to say, “if you come here preaching that garbage I will throw you out that door without opening it” that shows that they have put Christ out of the Church, and not in too friendly of a manner. So brother Branham continues saying,

Now, this is where I am trying to get us to, right here. From his sermon, **It becometh us to fulfill 61-1001M P:36** *And did you notice the phrase before that said:... “thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness”*. In other words, **“It must be fulfilled. All the Word that God has spoken, It must be fulfilled.” God cannot say anything without having it fulfilled. When He has spoken It, it is a finished work. It's already finished when God speaks It. God never speaks until He's ready for it to be; and, when He speaks, it's just as well as already happened. Now, if that wouldn't give us a basis to put our faith on this morning. When God speaks a Word, it's already finished. And what about His promises that He's given to us? Everything that He has said, it's already a finished work. So therefore, when we receive His Word into our heart, it's already done, it's completed.**

Now, notice, he is telling us that if there is a Word that God spoken, then that Word must be manifested. And if You are that Word spoken, then you will not be able to do anything but manifest that Spoken Word. So if God promised us in **Ephesians 1:3-5** *“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and without blame** in His Presence,: 5 And then in love He has predestinated us unto the **adoption of children** by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,* then if he promised it, he must manifest it, and has began the process to finish what he began. And if He promised us in Romans 8:29-30 *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.*

Then he must also manifest this Promise as well. He said, **All the Word that God has spoken, It must be fulfilled.** **God cannot say anything without having it fulfilled.**

So if sons of God are led by the Spirit of God, then what is God leading us to? To the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, to be conformed to the image of the first born son. Then if these are promises to the believers, why are we not looking for their fulfillment? Either ***God is in you working to will and to do or he is not.*** If we have the promise. ***He which began the good work in you will fulfill it,*** then either God is working in you to fulfill His promise or he is not in you at all.

And if you have the genuine Holy Spirit in you, then he is bringing to pass His Word in you, or He is not the genuine Holy Spirit in you. Brother Branham said from his sermon, **Seed of Discrepancy 65-0118 P:29** *The genuine Holy Spirit only brings to Life the Word that It is. It won't bring a creed to Life; It can't, because It's nothing of the creed. It is the Life of the Word of God, for It is God. See? And It quicken that Body.*

So what do we believe God's Presence is here for? To put on a show? Or to bring His Word, His promises to pass. Brother Branham said in his sermon,

We would see Jesus 57-0226 P:32 *We should be the happiest people on all the earth. Because that **He Who gave us the promise of Eternal Life is alive and with us tonight to confirm that promise.** What a wonderful thing.*

Presence of God unrecognized 64-0618 P:1 *If He is present, then, why, everything is settled. **He made the Word. He is here to confirm It. He proves that He'll confirm It.** "He is just the same yesterday, today, and forever."*

Influence 64-0315 P:98 *Lord Jesus, the man that could say that your Presence isn't here there would be something mentally wrong, just like a man who would refuse to accept the sunlight. Somebody tell him the sun's shining, and he'd run down in the basement, and shut the door and say, "I just refuse to believe it. I refuse to believe it." For we'd know, Lord, that something mentally was wrong with the man. And so does a man that would shut up his bowels of compassion, and the life of the Word of Jesus Christ being made manifest, would say, "I don't believe it." **There's something spiritually wrong with the man.** So we know that You're here, Father. Without a doubt we believe it. We see Your footprints; we see Your marks; we see Your Word.*

Now, we have read some very remarkable quotes from God's prophet this morning, and he's telling us that in order for there to be a seed that can come to Life, it must be a complete seed. You can not have half a seed and expect that seed to produce anything. And you can not expect half a seed to live and manifest what it is, because it is not a whole seed, it is only half a seed, therefore, when we think of the promises of God, they are complete promises to us as they are complete Word.

Jesus said in **John 6:63** *It is **The Spirit that quickens** (that means to make alive); **the flesh profits nothing: the Words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.***

So we see Jesus tells us His Word is Life, and the apostle Paul called it the **Word of Life** in his epistle to the Philippians, and John called it the **Word of Life** in **1 John 1**,

Perseverance 62-0218 P:86 *You've got to get the living Word in you to have the living God in you, because the Word here is God when It's made flesh in you, made Spirit and Life in you. When It goes into your flesh and your faith, and **becomes Life**, then **you are a living example**. You're an epistle of God, read of all men.*

Confirmation of the commission 62-0122 P:37 35 *Jesus gave the verification that it would be all right, because **these signs would follow the believers**. That's one thing. The Holy Spirit looked down through the stream of time and seen that **man would pervert His Word** and cause this, that, and the other. So **He made it so clear and so positive that there's no way at all of getting around it**. He said, "**These signs shall follow them that believe**." Now, we know that to be true. 36 A unbeliever can carry these denominational credentials, but that isn't what makes him a sent man from God. They walk around here with all kinds of books under their arms around through the country, and this Jehovah's this, and So-and-so, and all this, the other, but that doesn't make it so. No, sir. Jesus said, "**You test them by the Word**." That's right. The Word: "**These signs shall follow...**" "**Do you believe in power of God?**" "Oh, our church teaches that the..." "Our church," that has nothing to do with it. **It's what God's Word says**. See? "**Heavens and earth will pass away but My Word shall not pass away**." **The living Word spoke by a living God must be in a living being**. And how can a man or a woman that claims that they have the baptism of the Holy Spirit deny what God said in His Word? Because it's the very Holy Spirit that wrote the Word is the very Holy Spirit that's speaking through the person. That's right. It's got to be.*

Thyatirean church age 60-1208 P:13 *So He was the Word; **He's the living Word; and the living Word comes into us and then It does the same effect on us**. See, same... 'Cause It's the same Word. See? It's the same thing among us. That's the way.*

And we read where brother Branham said if it is spoken by God, then that seed must manifest or it wasn't spoken by God.

Now, that brings us to the real focus of our thinking today and that is this. If you are the seed of God that was predestined to be in this hour, then what kind of a life will you have. You see, this is the hour that there are many extremes. And in this Message it is filled with extremes. But what it boils down to is not your theology, or your creeds and dogma, but what is your life reflecting?

Br. Branham said if we have the same Life that was in Jesus it will live itself out in us the same as it lived in him, doing the same things, saying the same things, or it isn't the same life.

I was browsing the internet the other night just looking at other ministries in this Message, or at least who claim to be in this message and when I listened to one of them, after about ten minutes, I felt a real spirit of confusion, a real spirit of insanity, and I had to shut it off, because I thought if I listen to this kind of speculating preaching, I am going to lose my own sanity.

The man was preaching things that are so bizarre and non-normal to Scripture, that I could only shake my head and feel pity for those people who think they are getting some kind of special Word from God when it is so off the Word that I felt very uncomfortable listening to it.

The man was talking about the new name that is written in the little white stone in the book of Revelations. And he claims the new name is his name. And of course this man claims that an angel came to him, and told him many things our Prophet never taught. And he also claims that William Branham appeared to him and gave him his commission to take the people to the Third coming. Yes, this man believes the second coming has already taken place and we are waiting for the third coming now.

Now, a vindicated prophet taught us in many sermons, but I will just name one. *Spoken word original seed 62-0318E P:15 There's three comings of Christ. He came once to redeem His Bride. He comes the next in the rapture to catch away His Bride. He comes again in the millennium with His Bride. Everything is in three. Threes is a perfect number.*

And this same prophet of God told us to say only what's on those tapes. From his sermon, **Trying to do God a service 65-0718M P:94** *This was Moses speaking to Israel after he had been a-vindicated by God by a Pillar of Fire and knowed he was proven to be God's servant to lead them out. And before they went into the land, before they entered, Moses said, "Now, the words that I have spoken to you, I call heaven and earth to witness against you. If you add one thing to it or take one word from it, you'll not stay in the land where the Lord God gives you." So say I in the Name of Jesus Christ. Don't you add one thing. Don't take--put your own ideas in. You just say what is said on those tapes. You just do exactly what the Lord God has commanded to do. Don't add to It.*

But will they listen? No they won't.

Brother Branham said in **Church Age Book Chapter 4 - The Smyrnaean Church Age P:140** *In every age we have exactly the same pattern. That is why the light comes through some God-given messenger in a certain area, and then from that messenger there spreads the light through the ministry of others who have been faithfully taught. But of course all those who go out don't always learn how necessary it is to speak ONLY what the messenger has spoken. (Remember, Paul warned the people to say only what he said, **I Corinthians 14:37**, "If any man think himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the **COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD**. What? came the Word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?"*

They add here, or take away there, and soon the message is no longer pure, and the revival dies down. How careful we must be to hear ONE voice, for the Spirit has but one voice which is the voice of God. Paul warned them to say what he said, even as Peter did likewise. He warned them that EVEN HE (PAUL) could not change one word of what he had given by revelation. Oh, how important it is to hear the voice of God by way of His messengers, and then say what has been given them to say to the churches.

A brother in Brazil who translates Br. Branham's and Br. Vayle's sermons and some of my own, wrote to me last week and mentioned a discussion he had with a certain brother after he wrote something I preached on this certain website. What happened is this brother quoted something I said in my Doctrine of Christ series. What he wrote on this website from my sermon was... "So what Life are you echoing today? What words are you echoing today? Because what you echo today will be played back at the white throne judgment. Then if all our words are the Words of our Father, God, then won't it be a wonderful experience at the White throne judgment? Won't it be wonderful for our Father God, and all the saints, and all the angels to hear our Father's words being repeated back at that time as our Life is reviewed before all to see? Then what will your echo be? Will it be His own Words being spoken from your mouth? Or will it be worldly echoes, worldly songs of lust and sin? Will we all hear songs of praises at that day? Or will we hear country song lyrics when your life is played back for everyone to hear?"

1 John 5:12 tells us, He that echoes the Son echoes life; and he that echoes not the Son of God echoes not life.

In other words our life in Christ becomes an echo of the Father's Words for everyone to hear. For the Son of God echoes forth the Words of the Father and when we echo His Words we are echoing the Words of Life. And did you know that the Son of God was so single focused that He shut out everything that was not from the Father?

But here is the reply this minister gave to this brother. "as we speak about the revelation of Jesus Christ our Lord and declare the Word to a new generation, I do not read where we are to be an echo. I have not found where God called anyone to be an echo. He has called us to be a voice. God, let us be **the Voice** to this age is our sincere desire."

Then this Brother who quoted me replied "we have no word itself. Our voice has to repeat the words of God as the Son of God did."

And this minister replied, "The Voice is the resurrection. If that were true, if I had no word itself, no resurrection, then I would be of all men most miserable. I will be praying for you brother. I have the word and I am the Word, the Voice by the grace of God."

Well, it seems to me that the Apostle Paul said in the book of Galatians that people were not holding to what he had taught and in **Galatians 1:6** he said, "I marvel, (That means, I'm astonished, and not only astonished, I'm beside myself) *that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ, and you are removed from His Gospel (His Message) unto another Gospel (a totally different Message): 7 Which is really not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that*

which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. 11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Now, let me read this from **The Message Translation 6-9** Here Paul says, *“I can't believe your fickleness—I can't believe how easily you have turned traitor to him who called you by the grace of Christ by embracing a variant message! And it's not a minor variation, you know; it is completely other, an alien message, a no-message, a lie about God. Those who are provoking this agitation among you are turning the Message of Christ on its head. Let me be blunt: If one of us—even if an angel from heaven!—were to preach something other than what we preached originally, let him be cursed. I said it once; I'll say it again: If anyone, regardless of reputation or credentials, preaches something other than what you received originally, let him be cursed. 10-12 Do you think I speak this strongly in order to manipulate crowds? Or curry favor with God? Or get popular applause? If my goal was popularity, I wouldn't bother being Christ's slave. Know this—I am most emphatic here, friends—this great Message I delivered to you is not mere human optimism. I didn't receive it through the traditions, and I wasn't taught it in some school. I got it straight from God, received the Message directly from Jesus Christ.*

Now, you might wonder why I bring these things up, and it is because I want to get to a certain point this morning about what is real and normal when it comes to the Message of the hour vs what is not real and what is not normal.

Now, brothers and sisters, just because I've been speaking a lot about the Love and the Life that is in this Word, that doesn't mean for one minute that we have deviated away from the doctrine of Christ for one second. No, not for one iota would I ever think of turning away from the doctrine of Christ. “He that hath the doctrine of Christ hath God. It is my life and it is my meat. It sustains me daily. But we must have a balance when it comes to this Message, and outside the Doctrine of Christ you can not have a balance. Outside the Doctrine of Christ there is nothing that is normal out there.

In this Message, or among those churches that hang the shingle of Malachi 4, there are ministers out there who do not even believe that Jesus in his corporality, (that is in his body), is making intercession for our confession. They actually teach that the body of Jesus went back to gases after He ascended up on high and led captivity captive. Then you have this other minister teaching that the Bride does not echo God's Word because the Bride is the Word.

Yet we have the words of Jesus Himself telling us that he only repeated what God told him to say. ***John 12:49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.***

Now, what this minister was teaching certainly is not what Jesus was teaching. Jesus taught that He only echoed what God said. And we are taught to do the same.

So when you have so many different versions of the Message out there, it behooves us to say it like the tapes say it, and not to add our own thoughts to it, but to say it as He said it. That means we are to just echo what has already been said.

That is why I have a problem with anyone who will not tell it like the prophet told it. When you choose another voice above the voice of a vindicated prophet for this hour, you had better be careful. There was only one vindicated in this hour, and that was William Miriam Branham. Period. And the best we can do is show what he said by taking what he said right to the Scriptures so you can have a good Bible foundation for what the prophet of God taught us.

So what is the normal Christian life? Most people would say, well it would have to be the Sermon on the Mount but has such a life as that ever been lived upon the earth? Well we can say it was lived, but only in the Son of God Himself. But we do have a Bible teaching on what a normal Christian life is, and it was given to us by the Apostle Paul in

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Here we are told the normal Christian life replies, *It is “no longer I, but Christ that is living in me”*. Here Paul is not stating something special or peculiar, this is not an extreme statement, But rather Paul is presenting God’s promise to us for what He has given to us as His standard for a normal Christian life. And the normal Christian Life can be summarized in these words. *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I am living; yet it is no longer me that is living, but Christ is now living my life for me: and the life which I am now living in this flesh, I am living by the Revelation of the Son of God,”*

And let’s face it, God has made it quite clear throughout His Word that He has given us only one answer to every human need that we have, and that answer is His Son, Jesus Christ. In every dealings that we have with God, He promised to *work all things together for our good* by taking us out of the way and *substituting Christ in our place*.

- 1) So the two emblems we must consider is first of all the Cross of Christ. The Son of God died instead of us for our forgiveness:
- 2) And two the Blood of Christ, because the Life is in the Blood. Therefore, Christ lives our lives for us instead of us trying to live a life of victory ourselves. For He is our victory.

John 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

Deuteronomy 12:23 for the blood is the life;

Leviticus 17:14 the blood of it is for the life thereof: ...for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof:

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

And it is interesting that we were commanded by God not to eat the blood itself for it would be eating the life of the flesh. So that tells us the blood is not for us, but what is in the blood is for us. But the blood being our atonement was for God.

Notice God commanded the children of Israel to place the blood on the outside of the house on the door posts and lintel, so that he said, “*when I see the blood I will pass over you*”. The blood was not placed where the children of Israel could see it, but where God could see it. We must keep this in mind when we apply the blood of Christ to our very lives. That is why when you apply the token, the persons you apply it for many times are not even aware that it has been applied. But Israel was commanded to place the blood on the lintel and the doorposts of their house on the outside of the house, so God could see it when He passed through..

So we can see there are two substitutions in the normal Christian Life. The Cross and the Blood.

- 1) Jesus was our substitute on the Cross and it was he who secured our forgiveness.
- 2) And His Life through His blood substitutes for our Life within us, thus securing for us our victory.

Understanding these two substitutions will help us tremendously in our normal Christian walk and will save us from much confusion if we keep constantly before us the fact that God answers all our questions with only one answer, namely, by showing us more of His Son. In fact that is what the entire ministry of the Five Fold is supposed to be all about. And that is what the Spirit of Adoption is all about, Knowing Christ in the power of His resurrection.

The Apostle Paul taught us in **Ephesians 4:11** *And he (God) gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting (maturing) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of **The faith**, and of **the knowledge of the Son of God**, unto a perfect man, (unto a mature man) unto the portion of the character of the fulfilling of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may **grow up** into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

Therefore it is the knowledge of the son of God that brings us this maturity and stability in our character. Knowing the power of the cross helps us to know how to die to self.

Colossians 3:3 *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

Colossians 2:20 *Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,*

Galatians 5:24 *And they that are Christ's have **crucified the flesh** with the affections and lusts.*

Romans 6:6 *Knowing this, that our old man is **crucified** with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

And if we shared in His crucifixion and died with him, then we also share in His resurrection. And so the Power of the cross allows us to die to self, and the power of His blood releases back His Life in us to live a life of victory.

Colossians 2:12 *Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

Then knowing our resurrection has already begun by His Life coming into our being and living our lives for us, His quickening power in our mortal being, we can have confidence and live a victorious life.

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.*

Colossians 3:1 *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

Therefore in his sermon, **Countdown 62-0909M P:9** brother Branham said, *So I, in these thirty--going on thirty-two years of ministry, I have tried to stay true to the Word. I don't know of one thing I've ever had to alter on, because I just read it out of the Bible, said just what the Bible said, and let it go like that. And so I haven't had to take back or rearrange, because I just said it the way that the Bible says it. And I find out, if God has spoken anything, then we must go with that Word in order to make It be fulfilled. ...and then he said, *So we want to remember; you've got to stay on the Word, just stay right with the Word. And where the Word leads, you go right with the Word, then It'll bring you out all right. I'm sure.**

Way back the 62-1123 P:38 *That's the way to return back to normal Christian health. The church is sick. It's puny; it's anemia. It's got malignancy, and there's no earthly cure for it. Education won't do it. We've tried it. Denomination won't do it. We've tried it. You'll only make it worse. There's only one way back, and that's **through the Blood of Jesus Christ**, inoculation. Come back to Christ. Come back to the Holy Spirit. Come back to Life Eternal again. That's the way we would get back.*

And if the church ever really understood the importance of the blood of Christ, and the cross of Christ they would recognize themselves dead and their lives hid in Christ Jesus.

Reconciliation through fellowship 56-0120 P:49 *Recognizing yourself dead, recognizing you're an alien, only, "Not my church, or what I've done, or what I will do, or what a good fellow I've been, what I am in my community," but "what I am, I am a sinner, and no good. And I recognize God's Son to be my propitiation for my sin, and I've accepted it." Then God, by the Holy Ghost, takes you into fellowship with Him, and then you talk with the Father again, like father Adam did in the beginning.*

Fellowship through reconciliation 55-0605 P:49 *But when a man correctly one time comes in and lays his hands upon the head, by faith of the Lord Jesus Christ, and confesses his sins, then the Blood of Jesus Christ... The Life that was in that was God Himself. And that man, the life that returns to that man after he has confessed his sins*

*and accepted Christ, he's brought into a relationship with Christ by the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and there's no more desire in his heart to sin. Amen. That's the reason Hebrews 10 said, "For the worshipper once purged has no more conscience of sin." There you have fellowship. The things of the world is dead. **You don't recognize it no more. You reckon yourself dead, and your life is hid in God through Christ,** sealed by the Holy Spirit. And then you're looking to the heavenly things. Used to be, you couldn't hardly set in church ten minutes. But when you really got the Holy Spirit, you can set in church day and night, for there's something in you feeding. The trouble today people has worldly spirits. They go to church.*

Fellowship through reconciliation 55-0605 P:25 *What we need today is some good strict Bible preaching, teaching, back to the old hewing lines **the shed blood**. God laid out the world the map for the human family to come home, and it was through **reconciliation of the Blood**. He's never changed from that day to this. Some say, "I belong to the Methodists. I belong to the Pentecostal. I belong to this." That doesn't mean a that much to God. You got to be born again. **You got to come and recognize the Blood of Jesus Christ was shed for you, and you're dead to yourself and to the things of the world, and born anew in Christ Jesus,** by the washing and renewing by the blood. Amen. Pretty straight, but brother, it's the truth.*

Letting off the pressure 62-0518 P:57 *When we recognize He was our substitutionary death. When we realize it's not our righteousness but His, and when we accept Him as a personal Saviour, then **we go to the grave with Him in baptism, and we die with Him**. If you don't, you shouldn't be buried. So when you're dead and confess your sins, and call yourself a sinner, and ask for mercy, and are buried with Christ in baptism, we are also risen with Him in the resurrection. And now being raised from sin, being raised from the dead in the likeness of his resurrection, **we are raised up from the life of sin, and setting with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,** filled with the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of Eternal Life that we are already raised up from the dead. Our souls are alive tonight with Christ, because sin is beneath us and we've raised from there, which is the earnest of our resurrection. Amen.*

Lamb and the dove 57-0325 P:10 *Don't try to be nothing that you are not. Just be yourself. And then, if you want to be a Christian, just ask Christ. **He will take your old nature out, put a new nature in; then you don't have to impersonate anything; it's just your normal life that you're living**. And as long as you got malice, envy, strife, all these things of the world, then you know **Christ isn't in there**. The Bible said, "If you love the world, or the things of the world, the love of God's not even in you." See, 'cause **the Life of God isn't in you. The Life is in there, it just produces itself; it just lives its way out.***

Let us pray...