

Satan's Eden No. 280
More Questions From Around the World - Africa

September 27, 2026

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Let's bow our heads in prayer. Gracious Father. We're so thankful, Lord, to be here today. And we see that half the church is not here. I don't know if they're sick or... I know Brother Michal and Sister Halina are traveling. But Lord, we just pray that You'd be with them all and help us to enter into Your Word today. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen. You may be seated.

This will be **Satan's Eden No. 280**. And it's going to be **More Questions From Around the World**. And these are from African brothers.

Brother Freddy from DRC writes: We are greatly blessed by the various questions asked by the children. And I thank you for supplementing the answer regarding the location of the Garden of Eden in Egypt, in **Satan's Eden No.278**.

Thank you also for the profound explanation of **Hebrews 1:8**.

Please also explain this Scripture to me—the one Unitarians use to claim that Jesus is God: So, their favourite scripture, I think, is this one here. It says in

1 John 5:20 – *And we know that the “Son of God” has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ.*

1 John 5:21 – *He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols.*

I ask you to pray for me that I may truly become a wise, righteous person, so that I may see the manifestation of God's power in my life—

just as you have testified to this powerful manifestation in the lives of the Prophet Elijah, Elisha, William Branham, Martin, Columba, Brother Lee Vayle, and in yourself. God bless you.

And oh, yes, I forgot. I tried to write it down this morning. I forgot what it was. But I was reminded on a tape I listened to last night that I think I had listed 47 instances where I saw the supernatural of God. And actually, there was a 48th I forgot about. And I was going to

actually play the clip of the news article. They showed the plane on fire when we had a takeoff from Chicago. And Christina was sitting in the aisle seat, and Elizabeth was sitting next to her.

And in their window, you could see, all of a sudden, a big engine explosion, and you could see fire everywhere. This window, this window, and this window. ([Click Link Here](#)) And Christina reached over to me, and she grabbed my hand, and she goes, Dad, I never even thought about what it would be like to die. And I said, We're not going to die. The devil just doesn't want us to go to Brazil. So anyway, we landed.

The next morning, we were to take off again, but on a different plane. And they said the plane that we had landed with -that the complete left engine was gone. And the right engine was one inch from being gone as well. So, they had to dump all their fuel in Lake Michigan and then land. And so, we didn't know that till the morning they explained it to us.

And so, I just realized, the devil's going to do what he can to keep you from going where you're supposed to go. But to me, that was **God interceding**, because you should have seen or heard all the Hail Marys going up. I mean, it was crazy. But all the Brazilians are Catholic. And we were probably the only ones. But God saved that plane for us anyway.

So, the Oneness Pentecostals, they read this; they say He is a true God, and they think he's talking about Jesus Christ. Well, I'm going to explain this to you in detail.

He says, "I ask you to pray for me that I may truly become a wise, righteous person," etc.

Answer to Question No. 1. I've explained these verses before, in **The Benefits of the Son of God No. 10**, back on August 18, 2004. That is 22 years ago. And many of you in here weren't even born. Or some of you who were born, you were just young people. Maybe if you take 22 years off your age, you'll realize you were maybe 15-20 years old. So you weren't even into understanding things. You were just into living and expressing whatever. But many of you were too young to understand back then. So perhaps you didn't see them. So, I will do it again.

The first verse you used is **1 John 5:20** *And we know that the Son of God has come...* (Now, this term, "**Son of God**," refers to *Christ in the Church Ages*. It doesn't refer to Jesus Christ having come in the flesh 2000 years ago. He was Son of Man, all right.)

And Brother Branham, of course, said "**Son of God**," referring to *Christ in the Church Ages*. Son of man at the beginning, **Son of God** in the Church Ages. He returns as Son of man in this hour. Then, He is **Son of David**. Okay? That is according to our vindicated prophet. So,

we will dissect this verse according to the teaching of this age.

Brother Branham said in his sermon, **Does God Change His Mind 65-0427 P:53** *Now, Jesus said, just before the coming of the **Son of God**, or the second coming, that this age that we live through...He come as **Son of man**, a prophet, because that fulfills the Scripture.*

*Moses said, "The Lord, your God, shall raise up a prophet like unto me." **We all know that was Jesus**. Don't we? So, He had to come according to the Scripture, a prophet. He never called Himself the **Son of God**; He called Himself the Son of man.*

*But now He is, through the church age now, He's been **Son of God**. In the millennium, He'll be **Son of David**, setting on David's throne. But between this time, we find out by the Scriptures, He's to reveal Himself again as **Son of man**, a prophet.*

Okay, and I think I covered this for another Brother a few weeks ago. But just to show you what John is saying, because he says, "**The Son of God has come**." Well, remember, John lived in the first church age. Okay? Let's face it. John, Peter, they all deserted him. They didn't learn about God or get an understanding of God from Jesus. In those three years that they followed Jesus, they hardly knew. I mean, they denied Him. They ran. Peter denied Him three times.

Ok, so that was actually a question sent to me from Peru, South America. And I do not have space in this sermon. So one quote will have to do. But He came as **Son of man** at His first coming and **Son of God** during the Church ages. Then at the end, **Son of man** again. And finally, **Son of David** for the Millennium.

And John continues, "**...and has given us an understanding**." So, what understanding did the Son of God give us? That the one He spent His entire life declaring is, **1 John 5:21 – He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols**.

So, who is the True God? It wasn't Jesus Christ, the Son of God, being the true God. It was His Father, Jesus. Okay, His Father, God, **is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols**.

So, who is the True God? Is it Jesus, the Son of God, who gave us understanding of the True God? What other Scriptures say that God is the True God? Notice, this same Apostle John who wrote this Gospel, is not a different John. This is the same John who wrote **1 John 5**.

He wrote in **1 John 5:20-21**. He also wrote the **Gospel of John 17:3**, which says, *And this is life eternal* (so he's going to tell us who this Life Eternal is), *that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

So, Jesus, being sent, shows that He was not omniscient. It was God who was omniscient. And Jesus was subject. Okay?

And the Apostle Paul wrote: **1 Thessalonians 1:9** *For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;*

So, Paul called Him a true God. John calls Him a true God.

Then in **1 John 5:20**, He's not saying that Jesus Christ is the true God. He's talking about how Jesus Christ, the Son of God, gave us an understanding of the true God. All right?

So how could John write that God is the true God and sent Jesus Christ, so He had to be in subjection to God in order for God to send Him, and then turn around and call Jesus the True God? The Oneness don't think things through. They just take orders from the headquarters, okay? And then they all preach it.

Now, according to Paul, the messenger to the 1st age, when a man is filled with the Holy Ghost... (Remember, we never received this while Jesus was in flesh; the Son of Man was here.) The Holy Ghost came after. Before they had the Holy Ghost, they were still in fear.

And all ran and deserted him in Gethsemane. And Peter even denied Him. So, they didn't get understanding until the Holy Ghost (**the Son of God**) came.

So, Paul says in **1 Corinthians 2** that when we receive the Holy Ghost, we receive an *understanding of the things of God*, and we know all things. Even John says we have an unction from the Holy One; we have an anointing from the Holy One that we can understand all things. Okay?

Now, this is the evidence of receiving the Holy Ghost: When you understand your day and its message. Not that you can just quote it, because many people can parrot the Message quotes.

But the things of God are His Word. And you will understand the things of God by the Word. **1 Corinthians 2:9** *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man,* (And when it says the heart of man is talking about your understanding) *the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.* All right.

Our understanding, we didn't have any clue as to what God had prepared for us.

10 But God ***hath revealed*** them unto us by... (what?) ***His Spirit***. For ***The Spirit*** (and there is only one 'The Spirit', and that is God's own Spirit) ***searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God***.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? ***Even so*** (or in the same manner or way) ***the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God knows***.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but ***the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God***. (So, Paul tells us we receive the Holy Ghost, which is in ***Son of God*** form, that we might know and understand the things of God. That's the reason why God gives us His Holy Spirit.)

So, we read **1 John 5:20** ***And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true,***

So, on the day of Pentecost, that is when they began to understand things. Before then, they just ran. They were in fear. They were hiding in the Upper Room. And then, on the day of Pentecost, they received the Holy Ghost. And all of a sudden, now they begin to understand what it's all about. All right.

And he says, even so, ***even in his Son Jesus Christ***. (Well, that '***even***' means in the same way as we are) ***in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life***.

(And John tells us how we are one with God. In) **John 17:20-23** (he says that we're in God. Let's just read it.) ***Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;***

21 ***That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.***

22 ***And the glory*** (the Doxa, the Opinions, the Values, the Judgments) ***which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:***

So, Jesus was one with God in the same word,

23 I in them, and thou in me, I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

This is the same we read in **John 14:20** *At that day* (Brother Branham said that's this day.) *ye shall know that I...* (Who's I? Remember who's speaking? Jesus is speaking. Right?)... *that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.*

Well, how can that happen? How can He be in us and we be in Him? And well, we're going to find out.

In that day you will know that I (the manifested Word) *am in my Father* (Who is the Word), *and you* (the manifested Word in your day) *are in me* (the manifested Word), *and I* (the Manifested Word) *am in you.*

So, in other words, that's how we can be in God. And as John says, *In that day you shall know that I am in the Father and the Father in me.* So, you see, it's the Word.

So, **1 John 5:20-21** is one of the Scriptures used by the Oneness people to try to justify their doctrine that **God and Jesus are the same, as your finger is one.** And a prophet of God, vindicated by God, said, That's not it. But if we read it one thought at a time and not rush through it, you will see that it runs in perfect continuity with the doctrine of Christ.

1 John 5:20 *And we know that the Son of God is come,* (notice, that's present tense. Not 'has come,' 'is come.' So we see here that he is speaking of the Son of God having come. And he's telling us there's something about this coming we should know. Then he says...)

and (this coming) *hath given us an understanding,* (John is telling us there is something that) **the Son of God** (Who is the Holy Ghost, did for us **by His coming**). And that is to give us understanding.)

(And the understanding was given for the purpose) *that we may know him that is true...* (so we must ask ourselves this question. Was the coming of the **Son of God** to give us an understanding of the Son of God, Himself? No. Why did he come then? He said he came to declare the Father. Did He come that we might know "**HIM THAT IS TRUE**," which is God? Yes. Because that's God. He came to declare God.)

And who do you think this One is that John is speaking of here? He said the **Son of God**. Both past tense, the man Jesus, and now present tense as the Holy Ghost, to give us an understanding.

So, he came that we might have understanding of "**HIM THAT IS TRUE**". Now remember, these men followed Jesus for three years of His ministry. During the three years, they learned a little bit. We can't take that away from them. But they didn't know, because they went into hiding. They had no clue that He was supposed to die.

Even when he said, **For this reason I came into the world**. They didn't understand it. But when they got the Holy Ghost, they did understand it

So, he came that we might have understanding of "**HIM THAT IS TRUE**". That's God. Now, scripture tells us that Jesus did not come to declare Himself. He came to declare the Father.

John 1:18 *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath **declared** [him].*

So, this tells us that by Jesus declaring God, this is the only way we can understand God or know Him, who is the only True God. Now, remember, this is the same John who wrote **1 John 5**. It's also the same one who wrote the **Gospel of John**. So, he doesn't say something opposite in **1 John 5**. It's the Word of God, so it can't make an error.

John 8:19 *Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, **Ye neither know me, nor my Father**: if ye had known me, ye should have **known** my Father also.*

John 8:54 *Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:*

55 Yet ye have not known him; (so they didn't **understand Him, that God was the only true God**.) So, something had to be done. I mean, listen, they had a record of going off into other gods, like BAAL, and different things like that.) **But I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you.**

(He is saying, "You say you know Him when you actually don't know him, making yourself a liar.) **But I know him, and keep his saying**. (So, he had to declare Who God is. And God backed up what He was declaring by vindication.)

Now, in getting back to **1 John 5:20** *And we know that the Son of God is come, and* (His coming) ***hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true.***

Now see, when you read it slowly like that, you realize that he's not talking about Jesus being the one Who is true, but God is the one Who is true.

(So, we see that the coming of the Son of God was to give us an understanding of the One **True God**, and notice as John continues). *And we are in Him that is true, even* (the word even means in the same manner or in the same way, even as we are) *in his Son Jesus Christ*. So, it's very plain, but you got to read it slower. You can't just read it like a book.

This (One that is True) *is the true God and eternal life*. Now, that is how you are to read that verse of Scripture.

It speaks of the coming of the Son of God to make manifest or declare the Father to us in such a way that we might know and understand the Father we never have known and understood prior to this coming. And they never understood Him until the Holy Ghost, Who is the (**Son of God**), came down.

Now, Brother Branham taught us that God interprets His Word by bringing it to pass. Therefore, it takes manifestation of the Word to bring to us full understanding of that Word. It takes the manifested Word, which was the Son, to make known to us the Word, which is God.

So, we see His coming in flesh has brought to us an understanding of Who God, our Father, is. For without seeing the Son of God, showing subjection to the Father in all things, we would not truly understand Who the Father is.

Now remember, even though he explained it in parables and everything else, they didn't understand it until the Holy Ghost came, you see? So, he declared God, and they couldn't figure it out. And now, when they got the Holy Ghost, they said, Oh, now I know what he's talking about, okay?

And we would not understand our role that we must play as sons, and thus we would not understand "**Him that is True**, the only God." You see, unless the Son of God came and gave us the Holy Spirit to give us an understanding of our role.

So this morning we will examine this understanding that we have been given concerning our relationship with the One Who IS True, Who is God our Father.

Now, although the Son of God came to give us understanding, Paul told us that now we see through a glass darkly, but at the Parousia we shall see face to face, which is Presence to Presence. He said, “**Now we know in part, then shall we know even as we are known.**”

Now, we find in **1 Peter 1:13** that speaks of the Unveiling of Christ. That it is a time of a certain grace upon the church.

1 Peter 1:13 *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

And we also find in **1 Corinthians 1** Paul speaking of this same thing.

1 Corinthians 1:4 *I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; 5 That in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, (That's Logos) and in all knowledge; (which is Ginosko – experiential knowledge) 6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:*

7 *So that ye come behind in no gift; (which is an endowment) waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless (completely justified) in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

9 *God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

10 *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing (and how can you do that without having the same mind), and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

(How is this possible? By receiving the Doxa of God, His opinions, His values, and His Judgments. That is) **John 17:20-22.** *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

*22 And the **glory** (The Doxa) which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:* (That is how we can all speak the same thing. We have the mind of Christ, which is the Doxa of God.)

I John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

They do not have the same mind of Christ that you have. Therefore, they can never be one with you. God has given over their *mind to be one with the beast*, as it says in: **Revelation 17:13**

*I John 2:20 But ye have an unction (you have an anointing) from the Holy One (you have the **Holy Ghost**), and ye know all things.* (So, this anointing of the Holy Ghost gives us **an understanding of the things of God**, as Paul said in **1 Corinthians 2**. They didn't have it before the Holy Ghost came.)

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not (echoes not) the Father: (because remember God said, this is my Son,) but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath (echoes) the Father also.

24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. 26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

27 But the **anointing** which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as **the same anointing** teacheth you of all things, and is **truth**, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming (*Parousia – Presence*). **29** If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of him.

Now God, through Paul, calls this in, **Ephesians 1:18** **The eyes of your understanding** (Some translations say the eyes of your heart, but the King James says,) **The eyes of your understanding** being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
So see, God gives you the Holy Ghost for understanding.

Hebrews 10:16 *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, **I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds** (minds, minds) **will I write them;*** (God's doing it all. Remember, He's *working in you to will and to do*. All right. I need to speak slower.)

Hebrews 8:10 *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

Is it because the believer is more intelligent than the unbeliever, that God does this? Is it because we are so much better than the rest? See, a lot of people think they are. “*Well, I got the message. I'm better.*” No, you're not. You're a human. Okay. I don't think it has anything to do with us, but it has all to do with God's choice, for his Word says in

1 Corinthians 4:7 *"Who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it not?"*

Well, I got this great revelation and blah, blah, blah. So, I'm greater than you. No, you're not. It's just that you've been given a great revelation. All right.

Then, it is God Himself who makes the elect to differ from the non-elect. How is it that we might understand while others try that they might, and never seem to come to any

knowledge of the truth? It doesn't matter to them. They just don't care. But you do. Why? The Holy Ghost.

Without understanding the Godhood of God, we will never understand His Sovereignty, and without understanding His Godhood we will never understand Who God is. Who He is and why He does what He does.

Our conception then of God becomes base, and like people, they got tattoos all over that. Big pictures of Jesus on their arms and everything. You think the apostles would have big tattoos on their arms of Jesus? I mean, give me a break. These people are satanic, and yet they're worshiping whom they think is Jesus. Some 6-foot, 200-pound fullback. He [Jesus] was a small man, okay?

Our conception then of God becomes base, and only one that is made up in the minds of men. He becomes the God of our imagination. Notice that the carnal man can never understand God. He can't understand God. He can talk about Him, but he'll never understand Him.

I Corinthians 2:11 *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even **so the things of God knoweth no man**, (no man, no man) **but the Spirit of God knows**.* (And let's read verse)

14 *But the natural man* (the carnal man without the Holy Ghost) *receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: **neither can he know them***, (it is impossible) *because they are spiritually discerned*. (They are not filled with the Holy Spirit.)

15 *But he that is spiritual* (he that is filled with the Spirit. That's what spiritual means. Means spirit-filled) *judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man*.

So, the carnal man will not even come to the Light, which means he will not come to **gain understanding**, but rather he flees from the light, as we read in

John 3:19 *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone that doeth evil **hates** the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

So, they're always going to talk about, I love Jesus, and I love God and I love the Holy Ghost. You know, all three, and they don't even know what they're talking about. It's like a little Child. I remember Dave Osmek saying that he was...

Well, even Sarah, I remember when Sarah, she sang, about Elijah. Remember Cherry Oven? And I forget how the song goes, but anyway, do you remember that? Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. Yeah, she'd say, Swing Low, Sweet Cherry Oven. Because she was just a little girl. Dave Osmek told me he walked down the middle of a church in the aisles when he was six years old, and he was singing. Old MacDonald had a farm. He didn't know. He's just worshiping in song. Okay? That's just the way children do. All right,

So, *there is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* It is God's way or the highway. Basically,

Proverbs 16:9 *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps. You see, we don't even understand God's ways or his thoughts. Therefore, how could we ever, on our own, choose the way that would be pleasing to Him.*

(That's why we read in **1 Corinthians 2** that we need God's own Spirit in us if we are to understand His Word.) **10** *But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: For The Spirit* (that's God's Spirit) *searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.* (He's the one who shows you Scriptures. He's the one who shows you quotes.)

Mark 4:11 *And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:*

12 *That seeing they may see and not perceive; and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.*

Matthew 13:11 *He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.* (So that is what Jesus said.)

(And so, when we see John making this same statement made in) **1 John 5:20** *"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true."* (We must read it the way it is written. So, we must read it like this, that the Son of God is come to declare the only True God. Because who is this one that is true?)

Jesus himself said in **John 17:3** *And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

And this is the true God. And this is the same John in John 17, who wrote **1 John 5:20**

In the Old Testament, it speaks of God as **the only True God**. And He will have no other Gods. ***I am the Lord; have no others.***

Jeremiah 10:10 *But the LORD is the True God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: (as it is Written,) at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.*

2 Chronicles 15:3 *Now for a long season Israel hath been without the True God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.*

(And Paul calls Him **the True God** in) **1 Thessalonians 1:9** *For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and True God;*

Paul warns us not to read the Word without understanding what we are reading.

1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

19 *For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*

21 *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, (They took His word and they couldn't figure Him out. Okay?) it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:*

*23 But we preach Christ crucified, **unto the Jews a stumblingblock**, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*

Now, why would he call **the preaching of the gospel to the Jews, It's a stumbling block**? Because, you see, the Jews were quoting the same Scriptures that Jesus was quoting, but they couldn't see the manifestation of it. And it was a stumbling block because then they could interpret their own interpretation and say, well, our denomination says this, and the Pharisees say this, and the Herodians say this, and the Herodians say, well, we can live anyway. And the Pharisees know we've got to work exactly like this. And so, neither one of them understood when God was standing there in flesh, indwelling His Son and performing and manifesting to them, and they didn't get it. **So, it's a stumbling block.**

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

*28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 **That no flesh should glory in his presence.***

30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Now, getting back to **Matthew 13:13** *Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.*

So, they're looking at the word, and they're hearing the word, and they don't understand it. All right?

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

So, you can quote Brother Branham all day long. You can quote the Scriptures all day long. But if you don't even understand what you're quoting, it's going to go off into Two Souls and Seven Thunders and all these other doctrines that are floating around.

15 *For this people's heart is waxed gross,* (Now, remember the heart always refers to their **understanding**. Therefore, if their heart has waxed gross, it means **their understanding has hardened**, or thickened, or crystallized.

And they cannot learn anything more than what they already know, like Lot's wife, who also crystallized and stopped right in her footsteps and could go no further.

And when you stop learning, you become stupid. I know people don't like the word stupid. I'm going to tell you what it means.

And that is exactly what the Greek definition says.¹⁾ *to make thick, to make fat, fatten; metaph. to make stupid (to render the soul **dull** or **callous**)*. In other words, they just don't get it. So, when a person just doesn't get it, they are stupid. That's what you say. *"Don't be so stupid!"*

You can explain it to them over and over and over again and they just don't get it. They're stupid. They're thick. Why? Because they can't get past what they learned yesterday. They're not willing to learn something today.

And Jesus continues by saying, ***and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed*** (they close them. Therefore, this ignorance is a willful ignorance); ***lest at any time they should see with their eyes,***

Now listen, the eyes represent the prophets, and they have shut their eyes to the prophets, okay? In other words, when the prophet says something, they don't take it back to the scripture to learn. They just... I don't get it. *"I can listen to a tape every day"*. And you know it's not going to do you any good unless you got the Holy Ghost.

and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. (Why? Because you got the Holy Ghost.)

17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them. (It wasn't their time.)

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and **the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.** (The Spirit of the Almighty is the Holy Ghost. It gives you understanding.)

Mark 4:1 And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine, **3** Hearken; Behold, there went out a Sower to sow: **4** And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: **6** But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. **8** And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

9 And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, (understand) let him hear (understand). **10** And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all [these] things are done in parables:

12 That seeing they may see and not perceive; and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

13 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? 14 The Sower soweth the word.

15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves. (In other words, they hear the message. But because they have no root, they have no scripture to back up what they're hearing. They think it says something that it doesn't say. That's what he's saying.)

And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. (What becomes unfruitful? The Word.)

20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as #1) hear the word, and #2) receive the word, and #3) bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

#1) So therefore, you **Must hear it**, and that means you must understand it.

#2) They receive the Word. That's **Paradechomai** and means to acknowledge as one's own. This word is made up of two words: **para** meaning beside, with, or near, and the word **dechomai**, which means - receive -- accept -- take up as your own...

So, in other words, when this message was brought by the prophet, it becomes your message, not the prophet's message any longer. It is to him, but it now becomes yours. All right.

Showing possession. **1)** to take with the hand **2)** to take up, receive **2b)** to receive or grant access to, a visitor, not to refuse intercourse or friendship; to receive hospitality; to receive into one's family to bring up or educate

2c) of the thing offered in speaking, teaching, instructing; to receive favorably, give ear to, embrace, make one's own, approve, not to reject **2d)** to receive. i.e. to take upon one's self, sustain, bear, endure **3)** to receive, get, to learn. In other words, it becomes yours, possession.

John 8:37 *I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. 38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.*

39 *They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. (You know every seed after his kind,) 40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. (And they understood the scripture. Every seed! And they say, Oh, wait a minute.)*

41 *Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; (That's serpent seed.) we have one Father, even God.*

42 *Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 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, (Didn't Cain kill his brother?) 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.*

So, when you share this word with somebody and they reject it, just dust your feet and go somewhere else, because they're not of God.

Here we see three characteristics of the natural man, or the man who has not been born again. These three characteristics are found in every man who is not born again.

And they are... **#1)** *He cannot receive the things of God. #2)* Because *the things of God are foolishness to him. #3)* Because *he just cannot understand them.*

Okay, so it's foolish to him because he just cannot understand. All right? It's like if you're talking to a little child that's from, say, Germany, and he's just talking German as fluently as an adult, and you think he's just maybe talking baby talk because you don't understand it. That's foolishness. And yet it's because you think it's foolish because you don't understand. But if his parents who speak German are there, they say, No, the child is actually saying some very important things.

Psalms 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

*5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD **knoweth** the way (That Greek word way is Derek and means the course of Life) of the righteous: but the way (the course of Life) of the ungodly shall perish.*

(Knoweth = yada' 1b1) to be made known, be/become known, be revealed to make oneself known: to be perceived, to be instructed, to cause to know to make oneself known, reveal oneself...

Therefore, we see that the Lord actively works in the Life of the righteous, to make sure that the righteous understands the True Revelation and disclosure of God.

It's God working in you to will and then to do.

In other words, God purposes in His heart to make sure that His children know Him. Now that sounds like a real dad, doesn't it?

But with the ungodly, it is not so. (Notice what is said about the ungodly...) but the way (the course of Life) of the ungodly shall perish ('abad = be lost, strayed to give up as lost)

16 Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord (When what shall turn to the Lord? Notice he is speaking about the heart, which is the understanding, then what happens?) **the veil shall be taken away** (The blindness shall be taken away...)

I Corinthians 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, (and Brother Branham said, **we have today, by God's grace, a perfect interpretation of the word,**) **then that which is in part shall be done away.** (And there is no one perfect but God... Then this speaks of when He, God, comes...)

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, (why did I understand like 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 (Face to face? That word is personal presence. Therefore, there is coming a time when I will see Him, Presence to Presence.), **now I know in part; but then...**

(When? At that time that He is personally here,) **then shall I know even as also I am known.** (**Know = epiginosko.** That word means that you have an experiential knowledge.)

It means to become thoroughly acquainted with, to know thoroughly; to know accurately, know well... to recognize; by sight, hearing, of certain signs, to perceive who a person is...then will I understand...

And in closing we will just read you some scriptures.

Isaiah 28:8 For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.

9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? That's the message! them that are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts.

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. (Why? Because they didn't understand.)

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Because what are they doing when they go backward? They're going back to what they already knew. The Word comes, it's true, it's revealed. It's fresh kill, fresh manna. And they say, well, but I was taught this, and I was taught that.

(Because the knowledge of ourselves comes from the knowledge we receive in Knowing God. In) **Colossians 3:4** *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

(This tells us that when Christ manifests in His true character, we shall do the same. Again, we see the same thing in) **1 John 3:1-2** *Therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.*

The world can never know itself because it can never know Him. If you do not see the correct understanding of the Godhead, you will never really know who you are. You can't know who you are.

2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, (when He shall Phaneroo,) we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Notice the little things Jesus kept doing to help these two come to an understanding. Everything He did was with the purpose in mind to show them the light of what had just taken place in their day. And He took everything to the Word, and by the Word revealed the day and its condition.

32 *And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us **the scriptures**?* (Look at the reaction of these men. Their hearts begin to burn within them, and when this began to burn up inside it isn't long before you want to go and tell others what has happened.)

33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, 34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

35 And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread. (Notice the first reaction was to go and share this wonderful thing with others.)

42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took it and did eat before them.

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, He showed them the scripture and then the manifestation which God interprets His Word by bringing it to pass.

How did He do it? He gave them the Holy Ghost. Now, by this time they had known Him and followed Him for 3-1/2 years. And yet they still had not their eyes opened to what was happening in their day.

46 And He said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things. 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: (What is the promise of the Father? The Holy Ghost.) *but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. 51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them and carried up into heaven.

52 And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: 53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Now, with this in mind, then what ought our attitude be towards others who are struggling to understand?

Get them to the place where they can receive the Holy Ghost. When you can show them how the Word is manifested. Because you can just give them the Word out of here all day long, and they don't understand it. But when you show them, Hey, this took place like these 86 signs and events of His Parousia. This took place in 1944, this took place in 1933, this took place in 1965. Whatever.

When you can show them that the Word is manifested, they can receive the Holy Ghost. What happened on the day of Pentecost? They received the Holy Ghost. Right? What did they do? They went outside and started telling everybody in different languages.

Now, with this in mind, what ought our attitude be towards others who are struggling to understand? Jesus never just wrote them off. But he went after them, not with a whip. That was for the unbelievers who hated the Light.

What Jesus did was to give them example after example of resurrection presence, resurrection evidence, showing resurrection life. Remember, the Word manifested is the understanding of God. It's how God interprets His Word.

From the **Book of Exodus 1 55-1005 P:8** Brother Branham said, *Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, **he cannot understand the Kingdom of heaven.**"*

There's no way of understanding it until you are born again, and then God reveals Himself to you, and then you know that you've passed from death unto Life, because no man can call Jesus the Christ, only by the Holy Spirit. See?

The only way that you'll ever know that Jesus is the Christ, is when the Holy Spirit personally witnesses to you that He is the resurrected Lord Jesus. No matter what He would do, what kind of signs, what kind of miracles, you'll never know it until you have a personal experience with God.

You say, "Well, I believe it because the Bible said so." Well, that's good. The Bible, it's true. It knows it. "Well, the preacher said so." Perhaps he knows it.

"Mother said so." She knows it. But what do you know about it? You'll never know it until it's revealed to you individually by the Holy Spirit. And then, by accepting it, you become a new creature in Christ Jesus, born a second time.

(So, Apostle Paul continues) **13** *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

14 *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

15 *But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16* *For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

(Now, let's continue with) **1 John 5:21** *That we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ.*

John 17:20. *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

21. *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

22. *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one*

So, begin to look at the Word of God and see the Values, the Opinions, and the Judgments. And actually not just see them in text form, but see them as in written epistle form. When you begin to look like people looked at the life of William Branham, and they actually saw Jesus Christ. Okay? And the Word became materialized to them. Then they grasped, and they were born again. And they came fully into the message.

But other people have heard it for years. It's just... They listen to a tape. They do this and that. They're never born again because they're just thinking it's for somebody else. And they never see that God is actually dealing with them, personally. And they never get anything. So, receive the Holy Spirit. Receive the materialized Word made plain in your day.

Let's just bow our heads in prayer. *Gracious Father, we're thankful for Your Word. And we ask You, Lord, to help us to yield to Your Word and to understand it in the day and the hour*

*in which we live. For Your prophet said that “all the New Testament speaks of this hour”.
[Shalom 64-0119 pp 92] In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen. Amen.*