

**Spoken Word no. 213**  
***“Absolutely Undefeatable”***  
Brian Kocourek, Pastor  
December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Opening Prayer...

Let's remain standing as we open our Bibles this morning to several Scriptures I would like to take for our text before we read from Brother Branham's sermon, The Spoken Word is the Original Seed.

**2 Corinthians 1: 7** *And our hope of you is **stedfast**, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.*

**1 Corinthians 15: 58** *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye **stedfast, unmoveable**, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

**1 John 5: 4** *For whatsoever is born of God **overcometh** the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our **faith**.* So as brother Branham preached, ***“Faith is the Victory.”***

**1 Corinthians 15: 57** *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

In the next few paragraphs from the Spoken word is the original Seed, brother Branham lays out a scenario of how God Himself could come on the scene, and because He was not part of their group or their organization, they would not let Him come in to minister to them. Then he gets shows how that is the same pressure that was laid on Jesus, to buckle down under the pressure and submit or be rejected. Then he brings us to the point he is trying to get us to see, that God will allow the pressure to come down upon all of His Seed to show what you are made of. And if you can't stand the pressure, then you are not His for every seed must come forth in the image of the original seed. And if the original Seed could stand the pressure then so shall all future seeds that come forth from that Original Seed. So let's go to reading now a few paragraphs to see what Brother Branham is telling us here.

**The Spoken word is the Original Seed pp. 102** *"Why, you can't come in here; you can't hold a revival. Give, let me see your ordination papers" a man filled with the Spirit of God, the real true God Word's, **God's Word made manifest among His ministry. Not one thing you can say against Him, immorally or anything. Who can accuse Him of it? Come to a denomination: "Why he ain't Oneness; he ain't Assembly; he's Trinity. He ain't Trinity; he's Assembly."** You poor bunch of illegitimates; shame on you. God on the outside; but what did John say, that last messenger down there before His coming? "He's able of these stones to rise children to Abraham. Don't you come saying, 'We belong to this and we belong to that.' **God can... these stones rise children to Abraham.**"*

103 All right, as we go on now... Oh, how I love this. Christ's bride, as same as Adam's bride and all the rest, mixed the seed and put Christ out for her denomination. She sure did it. She certainly did it. She refused God, to be her Husband, like Eve did, accepted Satan's death-lie weeds. In a results a dead, formal church has been born from her. Now, you lie--say that's a lie. Where's your Pentecostal? More formal than the Baptists are. Sure, you know what? **It looks like a bad picture right now, don't it?** But what did Joel say in **Joel 2:28, "But I will restore, saith the Lord."** this Laodicean age knocking on the door trying to get back the most pathetic picture in the Bible.

104 Uh-huh. As Adam found his wife impregnated with the seed of death of Satan's lie she had accepted, Joseph found his wife impregnated with the Seed of God, which the Word she had accepted. What's it all about? What am I trying to say? Now, to you people on the air, you people out in the car, to you people in the Tabernacle, do you see why I have stayed the way I've tried to stay right here and denounce that? It's not I got anything against them men, them women; I haven't one thing against them; but **I just can't go on that ground. I just can't do it, because it's wrong.**

105 How I got a Scripture here I'd like to take, on Jesus, on His temptation; when he tried to give Him, said, **"I'll give you all these kingdoms of the world. They're mine."** See? Same thing he come to Eve (See?) first by turning the bread, about eating and so forth. See? **"I do all this if you'll worship me, you just come join our group."** Jesus said, **"It's written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'"**

106 What is it? **Some of you preachers now, that's too scared to take your stand, afraid that they won't even let you come into the organization.** What else are you going to do then? They kick you out. I feel sorry for you. First thing, for your weakness. That's right. **Where's your faith in God?** They told me the same thing. Sure. I worked seventeen years, till God got me out and built me around this, and then I thought, **"Now, Satan you come now."** See where it's at. **When you really realize that God has revealed to you the Truth of the thing, there's nothing in the world's going to defeat you in it. That's all. You're absolutely undefeatable; not you, but God that's in you.** Not Christ, not the body, but the Word that was in Him. Not Mary, but the Word that was born from her. 107 Now, so man shall live what by? Not by his meal ticket, but by the Word of God: not by your organization that furnish you a place. **"Well, let me show your credentials. Are you in good standing? Got to check on it. Well, yes, you can stand rank about a hundred percent. Well, we can receive you for a few days for a revival, try you out and see what you'll do."** Who-o-o, my. **How can God ever work in a bunch like that?** Twice dead, plucked up by the roots, rooted, rotted and everything else. Oh, my, there's another one. 108 Oh, people, God bless you. Hear me. I can't believe nothing but God's Word, and I want It to be my life, everything that I am. I want you to do the same. Let your walks, your talks, your moves, everything you do, be in the Word of God. Let the mind of Christ come into you, and that'll impregnate you with the Word. If you don't, if you let the mind of the denomination come in, you'll be denominational impregnated. **If you let the mind of Christ come into you, He can't deny His own Word, 'cause He's God. You'll be impregnated with the Word and believe It.** I don't care if they put you out, kick you out, run you out, and every door is closed, **you'll go just the same. Amen.**

I do not think I can read any further this morning without commenting on some of the things we have just read here. Now, brother Branham is talking about a certain attitude that we must come to. You see, this is not church we are talking about. This is whether you have a revelation or not, because if you do not, I don't care how long you have hung around this Message, if this word is not revealed to you then just wait, something is going to bring you down. You got a bunch coming somewhere so just wait for it, for it will come.

He said, *Let your walks, your talks, your moves, everything you do, be in the Word of God. Let the mind of Christ come into you, and that'll impregnate you with the Word.*

Now, I like that because he's right, absolutely right. And he's talking about an absolute in your life in every way and in every direction that you turn. And when you have received the mind of Christ you will see as God sees, and you will speak as God speaks.

*Some of you preachers now, that's too scared to take your stand, afraid that they won't even let you come into the organization. What else are you going to do then? They kick you out. I feel sorry for you. First thing, for your weakness. That's right. **Where's your faith in God?** They told me the same thing. Sure. I worked seventeen years, till God got me out and built me around this, and then I thought, "Now, Satan you come now." See where it's at. When you really realize that God has revealed to you the Truth of the thing, there's nothing in the world's going to defeat you in it. That's all. You're absolutely undefeatable; not you, but God that's in you. Not Christ, not the body, but the Word that was in Him. Not Mary, but the Word that was born from her.*

*Testimony 63-1128M P:74 It's the absolute assurance that the same God, by the same nature, the same Pillar of Fire, the same Angel of God, the same Jesus yesterday, today, and forever has done the same things, by the same power, do the same thing. What a anchor of the soul, steadfast and sure.*

*Perseverance 63-0113E P:18 The word "perseverant" means to be, I think, according to Webster, "persistent--to be perseverant, persistent in making a goal." And every person on earth, or that's ever been on earth, that ever achieved anything that amounted to anything, had to be perseverant. You've got to be sure first what you've got your faith anchored in. Now, faith is just not a thing that's so easily floated around at some kind of what we would call it in a street expression, a hocus-pocus. **Faith can only have its right position when it's placed upon something that's steadfast.** If I told you to go out and put your hand on that tree and be healed, you could doubt that. So... Why? We have no background to anything. You'd only have my word. And if I told you that washing in a certain water out here in the valley would bring healing to you, it would depend on how much confidence you had in me. And faith cometh by hearing. Hearing what? The Word of God. Therefore, if this be the Word of God and It is, **what It teaches we can rest upon It. God cannot change.** God must forever remain God. His Word must be just as true in this age as it ever was in any age.*

*Revelation chapter 5 pt 1 bruised serpent 61-0611 P:41 Now, we find out then that a seal means that it is a finished thing with God; it's already settled. And every believer was sealed with this promise from the very beginning, because before the foundation of the*

*world we were predestinated unto the adoption of sons, before the world ever began. Oh, what a hope; that makes us rest steadfast and sure, a anchor to the soul that's not tossed about here and there but anchored in Christ, a hope that's sure. "Predestinated us before the foundation of the world, to the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ." Oh, how wonderful. I love that finished work with God.*

When you can go to **Romans 8** and *know all things are working together for your good* because *God has ordained that you be conformed to the image of His first born son*, and so He who called you , justified you, and He who justified you, hath already sanctified you, and he would has sanctified you has already past tense Glorified you. So what are you afraid of?

When you read **Romans 8**, and **Ephesians 1**, and **Galatians 4**, you can't help to have confidence that He that began the good work in you shall also perform it. And when you read those chapters of scripture you can't help to see that your entire destiny has already been planned out for you right up to your adoption as sons, and your being conformed to the Image of the first born son. So what are you scared about? God has already before the foundations of the world, laid out your entire life, not only the one you are going through now, but the eternal Life in the new Jerusalem He has already made possible for you by the shedding of the blood of His eldest Son, in order that the Life that was in Him could be released back upon you.

Let's just take a moment this morning to again read this wonderful promise from God to us in Romans 8 and let's just read it very slow so we can savor what God has in store for each of us.

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

Notice, who are the sons of God? Those who are led by the Spirit of God. So what led you here? If it was God then it shows you are sons of God because God is the one doing the leading.

Then he tells us if we are being led by the Spirit of God, we ought to know we are sons of God, and of course this is exactly what Jesus said in John 1:12, as many as were of such a nature as to receive him, to them gave he the ability to become what they were ordained to become, sons of God. And not that we have the power to become what we are not, but as Seed of God, sons of God He has given us the power, the ability to make a right decision, and to do what we are ordained to do, to become sons of God, who are born not by our own will, nor by the will of our own flesh, nor of any power we have, but we are born of God, by the spirit of God, period. Then if we are born of God, why be afraid of what lays down the road for you.

*15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

This is not the time to be wondering, or fearful about what is down the road, but this is the time to be in anticipation for all the wonderful predestined will of God, your father towards you to come to pass. Now, the world is fearful, but I'm not and you shouldn't be.



We have too many promises from God, our Father concerning us at this end-time, and blessed promises, so what in the world are you worried about? Notice then Paul says,

*16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:* Not your spirit bearing witness with God's spirit, but His Spirit, God himself has come down to bear witness that you, your spirit is an offspring from His great spirit.

Look, this same apostle Paul told us how we would know that we are God's sons. And in 1 Corinthians 2 Paul tells us that it takes God's own Spirit to search the deep things of God. A man's spirit can't understand the things of God, but God's spirit searches the deep things of God. And the only way that you can know the things of God is for God's own spirit to be in you. So if you find in yourself a hungering to know the deeper things of God, it is because you have God's Spirit in your that is doing the desiring for you, because you are sons or daughters of God. Jesus said, *he that hungers and thirsts for right-wise-ness shall be filled*. Filled with what?, Filled with God's Spirit. You see what I'm saying?

Now, **1 Corinthians 2:7** *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:* Then what is it all about? It's for you. This Message, God coming down with a Shout, a Message, it's all for you, for your glory, so that you might receive His glory, his opinion, his values, his judgments. And it's not for everybody. Because the Apostle Paul goes on to say,

*8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:* You see, it is for us. The reason we can see it and others can't is because it's for us and not for them. And the only way you can see it is if you are seeing what God sees, and hearing what God hears.

*“for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.* Now, he said, The Spirit. He did not say a spirit or even your spirit, but The spirit and there is only One The Spirit and that is the Spirit of God. God-Life. And if the God-life that was in Jesus be in you it will also quicken your mortal body. And a mortal body is one that is capable of dying. So that means he is talking about this body that we are in right now being quickened to the secret things of God, His glory, His opinions, His values, his judgments.

*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, but the Spirit of God knows.*

Now, I hope you are getting this. He says if you hear and understand it is because you have been quickened to it, because it is actually God's own Spirit, God's own life that is now living in you that is able to hear and understand.

That is why the apostle Paul could say in **1 Corinthians 15: 58** *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

And that is why the Apostle John could say in **1 John 5: 4** *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

And what is Faith but something that has been revealed to you. And this Revelation can only come from God. as Jesus said to peter, “Blessed are you Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood has not revealed to you that I am the Son of God, but my Father has revealed this to you and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall never prevail against it. Then you talk about being steadfast, immoveable, and absolutely undefeatable. How can we be anything other than what Jesus Christ was to satan when satan brought to him all the temptations that he did, yet Jesus kept coming back to the Word because we was the Word.

Next, the Apostle Paul continues telling us that it is because we have received God’s own Life, His own Spirit that we are over-comers, and unbeatable. *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 he tells us here the sole purpose of our receiving the Spirit of God is so that we will know the things which are freely given to us from God. You see, that is the same thing Paul told us earlier that it takes The Spirit of God to understand the things of God. And John tells us in **1 John 2:20** *You have an anointing from the Holy One, and ye know all things. 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.* And then he says in **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.* So we see it takes **The Spirit** of God which is the anointing upon you to teach you the things freely given to you from God. **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. 29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.*

And now in getting back to **1 Corinthians 2:13** the apostle Paul continues, *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.*

So you see what Paul is saying here is the same thing that John is saying over in 1 John 2. That it takes having The Spirit of God abiding in you in order for you to come to an understanding of the Hidden wisdom of God. Hidden, not from you who have His Spirit, but hidden from those who don’t. That ought to make you feel a bit special this morning, to know that God has hidden His wisdom from the world but has revealed it to babes, children, His children such as will learn.

*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.*

Notice the strong words the apostle Paul is using here. He says it is impossible for anyone who does not have the Spirit of God in him to know the things that you have been given to know.

*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?* And now here is the key, the Apostle Paul says, *“**But we have the mind of Christ.**”*

Now, in getting back to **Romans 8:17** *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Now, this being glorified together was translated from the Greek words, “**sundoxazo**,” which was translated from Two Greek words, sun meaning to be united with, and **doxazo** which means: **to manifest**. So he is saying that if we are to be heir with Christ, then it is because we shall also manifest the same opinion, the same values, and the same judgments as he also manifests. Now, remember, if God is the Word, and Jesus was the manifested Word then we as sons also must become manifested Word as well if we are to be joint heirs with him.

*18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the “glory:” which shall be revealed in us.*

So we see that the Glory of God, the opinions the values and the judgments of God are to be revealed in us. Now, what does that mean revealed IN us. Well, the word **reveal** means it was hidden but one day becomes unveiled, or manifested. The word revealed was translated from the Greek word **apokalupto** and it means to take off the cover. So that which has been hidden is revealed in us. So God has kept his wisdom hidden from age to age but has chosen us to un bottle it in. That ought to get you excited.

Then the Apostle Paul says, *19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for **this manifestation**, or this revealing, or this uncovering, or this making known **the sons of God**.*

Now, listen, the whole creation has been waiting for this moment. Could it be possible that when Adam fell, the whole creation has really missed the relationship it had with a true genuine son of God, and has been waiting for the return of the true Sons of God to bring it back into the order that it had before Adam fell? Is that what Paul is saying here?

*20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, **which have the firstfruits of The Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.***

There you are. The whole creation is waiting for the comeback kid. Waiting for the sons of God to take the position that was meant for them before Adam messed up by listening to Eve, and not His Father. You think your heart is sick when you think of the good old days when women dressed modestly, and men were actually real men, and not caught up into politics, and stuff like they are now. I remember the days when you could bring your gun to school to show the class, and we started the school day in prayer and in the pledge of allegiance under God. But even still, the whole creation remembers when and longs for those days when Adam walked with God in the cool of the evening and talked with Him, and everything was healthy and there was no sickness, no disease, not killing, and no sexual promiscuity. It was a time of innocence like no other time since. And the whole creation, along with you are I are waiting for that time again. And it can not happen until we receive the adoption, to wit the redemption of our body.

*24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why would he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

And now this is the key, if we truly believe it then we are willing to wait for it. Live die, sink or drown, we are willing to wait for it because God promised it will come.

*26 Likewise **The Spirit** also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but **The Spirit** itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searches the hearts* (and who searches the thoughts and intents of the hearts? The Word of God does.) *And he* (God) *that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit,* (In other words, God knows His own Mind and those who would have His mind) *because He maketh intercession for the saints according to The will of God.*

Now, here is where we are coming to this morning, *28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* Now, how can you not be steadfast and un-moveable, and abounding in the Lord when you know that everything is working together for the good for you?

**Hebrews 6: 19** *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*

Now back to **Romans 8:29** *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Now, listen here, the Apostle Paul tells us that we were predestinated to be conformed to the image of the first born son. So with a promise like that how could you not be steadfast and un-movable in your stand with this Word.

And then he said, *30 Moreover whom He* (God) *did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them He* (God) *also glorified.* That means you are ordained to have the glory of God manifest itself in and through you. Now, look, with these promises, what do you care what people will say. What can they promise you that they can keep? But God keeps all His promises. And with promises like these how can you be anything other than un-moveable and unshakeable and absolutely unbeatable. And that is what the Apostle Paul says next.

*31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?* You say Paul with him? Yes, if we are joint heir with Christ, then all things we share with Christ. What more could you ask for?

*33 Who shall lay **any thing** to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall **tribulation**, or **distress**, or **persecution**, or **famine**, or **nakedness**, or **peril**, or **sword**? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*



*37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him that loved us.*

And if we are more than conquerors, then what are we? We are absolutely un-beatable, and un-moveable. The sons and daughters of Almighty God is what we are.

*38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Manifested sons of God 60-0518 P:73** *God by His election grace called you. God by His election grace sanctified you. God by His election grace and His power baptized you and put you into this land of rest. **They which have entered into this rest has ceased from their going astray. They ceased from their works** like God did from His. They have joy unspeakable and full of glory. The Tree of Life is blooming in them. They have long-suffering, gentle, goodness, patience, faith, meekness, gentleness, and so forth. The Tree of Life is blooming in them because their hope is anchored in Christ Jesus, the witness of the Holy Ghost bearing record with signs and wonders following the believers. "These signs shall follow them that believe." As they go along, they heal the sick; they cast out devils; they speak with tongues; they see visions. They... And **they walk with God; they talk with God.** No devil can move them; **they're steadfast, looking for Eternal Life.** Forgetting those things that are in the past, they press towards the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus. There they are. There you are. That's that church.*

**He careth for you 60-0301 P:11** *Oh, let me persuade you, in Christ's Name. You precious people here, put all your hopes on Him, for He's the only foundation. For there's coming a shaking. Democracy's shook to pieces. Kingdoms is shook to pieces. Nations is shook to pieces. We're at the end of all things. **"But we receive a Kingdom that cannot be moved; steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the mercies of God."** Oh, I love that. I'm so glad tonight to be a Christian. I don't know what I would do if I wasn't a Christian. I'd probably be a suicide case if I wasn't a Christian. For knowing and seeing these things, and then with the gift that the Lord has given me to foresee and understand what He will let me do, just let me see it... I know it's just across the horizon yonder. See? See it coming as close as it is, then it makes me scream with all that's in me. Oh, flee the wrath that is to come.*

In **1 Peter 1:7** we are told at the end-time, we are to be tested concerning the revelation that is give to us, but we are also ordained to pass that test, So our faith is to be tested yet we are ordained to pass that test. Therefore, the very purpose of the test is to show approval, and that ought to tell you that the test in itself and the very fact that you are being tested ought to show you that you have been ordained to pass the test. We do not give a college entrance exam to first graders, nor second graders, nor third, fourth, fifth etc, but we give the college entrance exam to those who we think will pas the test. We do not test to disprove as non-acceptable, but we test to prove they are acceptable. Otherwise we would make product tests so difficult that they would never be acceptable, and then what purpose would that serve. Therefore what we see with God is that there is a certain un-movable-ness He is desiring from those that serve him. And so we find the Apostle Paul telling us that we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, and that presentation speaks of taking a stand.

It means to stand immovable, firm like a rock, ready and prepared. And in this sense it refers to being of a steadfast mind; no hesitation on our part, and we do not waiver because we know what we are presenting and we know to Whom we are presenting. We are Immovable, we are bold and fearless in our stand, and in our offering to God our very lives, we take our stand, for we know where we stand in Christ.

The Apostle Paul told us *“when we have done all we can do to stand, then we need only make our stand”*. And in Romans 12 he says, **Romans 12: 1-2.** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

So when he said that we must present our bodies as a living sacrifice, he was saying the same thing. Notice the word Paul chose to use in **presenting** our bodies was Greek word **paristemi**, which is made up from two words, the prefix **para** meaning: *beside or near, or along with*, and the root word **histemi** which means: *to establish, to set or place in a balance, or to cause to make a stand*. In the use of this word as to make a stand, the Greek dictionary shed some further light as to the meaning of Paul's use of this particular root word. For when it speaks of taking a stand, it means *to stand immovable, firm like a rock, ready and prepared*. And in this sense it refers to being of a *steadfast mind; one who does not hesitate, and does not waiver*. One who knows just what you are presenting. Not "wishy- washy" in your coming to God, but immovable, bold and fearless, for you know where you stand in Christ.

In the Book of James we read **JAMES 1:2** *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. 5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man [is] unstable in all his ways.*

Notice how the Apostle James was saying the same thing here. He tells us that we can't even expect to receive anything from God if we don't come in faith, believing that we will receive what we ask for. He tells us that a man that is uncertain and can't make up his mind will not receive anything from the Lord. So immovable Faith is an essential part of our relationship to God. And that comes by knowing who He is and understanding that He does not change.

In **HEBREWS 11:6** we read, *But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God): for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

So our faith must be **diligent and unwavering**., un-moveable, unstoppable, and absolutely undefeatable. Not hot one day and cold the next, but as Abrahams was.

For he is the father of our Faith, and since every seed must bring forth after its kind or nature so must our be as Abraham's faith which we see in **ROMANS 4:20** *He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;*

In **I KINGS 17:1** we see Elijah take a stand and then be tested in his stand for God and His Word. *"And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, [As] the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. 2 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that [is] before Jordan. 4 And it shall be, [that] thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.(Now this word commanded does not mean that God spoke to the ravens in an audible voice and told them in a language they understood to do this thing. But rather it means that God ordained for them to do it. Therefore God had put it in their very nature to do this thing for Elijah.) 5 So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that [is] before Jordan. 6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. 7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land."*

Now, don't think that Elijah was not himself being tested in his faith here, For as long as he had water to drink and the raven's kept bringing the flesh and bread, he was ok, and that they had to do, because it was in their very nature to do, for God created them that way. Now, I want you to notice here that it was not the creatures which God foreordained with that certain nature that failed here but it was the Brook Cherith that failed, due to the very curse that Elijah himself had called forth in order to punish Israel and their king for worshipping contrary to the Laws of God.

So here we see Elijah obeying God's Word and staying in this place, hiding out there and being nourished through this God ordained drought. But what was going on in his mind. We read that it came to pass that after a while the brook dried up, and surely Elijah knew why the brook dried up, because it was out of his very own mouth that God's curse came forth that spoke of no rain coming until he called for it. And surely he also knew that God had said to him, that when he called for rain, it would rain, and so we see how that Elijah must have been tested himself to simply speak the word and the rain would come. But just as Jesus was so tempted by Satan when he was in the desert fasting, so too Elijah must have been tempted to speak those words for rain, and thus he would have water for his parched lips to drink.

The scripture gives no time reference to let us know how long Elijah was without water, but it must have been a long period of time and he was thoroughly tested himself as to his own faith in the Word of the Lord which he had been given by God to give out.

So we see that God always watches patiently to see what we are made of, and to He tests us to see where we are in our faith.

*8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongs to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.* Again we see that God had told Elijah that He had commanded someone to sustain him, and this time it is a widow woman. Again we find that it is the same Hebrew word that was used of the ravens, and it means simply that God ordained for the nature of this person to be such that they just had to help this man Elijah.

*10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.* Now, I do not believe this was a well watered Elijah barking out a command to this woman, and she just stopped everything and obeyed his every command., but rather here was a man who had been obedient to God and stayed at a dried up brook until God told him to move on. I can imagine his lips must have been cracked with dryness, and his countenance must have been withered and peaked, and one look at this man and the woman must have seen someone in worse shape than she was in, and so being a woman full of compassion, she must have forgotten her own trials for the moment and saw that this man was in worse shape than even she. And so she responded to his cry for help with going for the water to help this poor soul.

*11 And as she was going to fetch [it], he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.* Now, watch what he said to her, because his words brought her back to reality, and to her own condition.

*12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go [and] do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring [it] unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. 14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day [that] the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat [many] days. 16 [And] the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.*

In the book of **HEBREWS 12:5** we read, *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

Even Jesus learned obedience by the things that he suffered. That's **Hebrews 5:8**



Now, in getting back to our story, we pick up at verse **17** *And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. 18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?*

Now, this really put Elijah on the spot. Here was a woman who freely gave of her own last morsel to this man, and now it appears that God has rewarded her with more suffering. But never forget those immortal words spoken in **Romans 8:28** *And we know* (And we Know, Faith is a condition of the mind, And We know, and we are aware, and we are certain, and we are immovable in our belief ) *that all things work together for good to them that love God*, (Now, watch how he qualifies this love for God,) to them who are the called according to [his] purpose. (*Yes, to them that are the Called*. Not just to them that are called, because many are called but few are chosen. But *to them that are the called*.) Now, Elijah's own faith is once again challenged, but notice how he takes the challenge, He goes straight to God, boldly into the Presence of God, to make his petition known.

*19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed 20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? 21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, (notice the parallel here, for on the third day Jesus arose.) and Elijah cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. 22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. 24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou [art] a man of God, [and] that the word of the LORD in thy mouth [is] truth.*

This woman recognized vindication, and she understood by the vindication that what she had gone through was just to prove her own faith. Now in reflecting back upon this story we see in the Bible, it is not just placed in there to give us a warm fuzzy feeling, but rather, God has placed these stories in His Word to show us that He demands that our faith be unwavering. Here we saw how that God used Elijah to put the woman's faith to the test. It was a time when no rain had fallen for the space of many months, and the crops had failed and the waters had dried up, and yet God was keeping Elijah fed by using the ravens to bring him sandwiches of meat and bread. Then God calls him to go to the Widow's home and put her faith to the test. Now it would have seemed like that the test would have been over when she gave the first of the cakes to Elijah, But no, a far greater test was ordained for her and Elijah together, and yet God knew they would pass the test, for he ordained this woman and he ordained Elijah.

And we are told in the Book of Acts that *as many as were ordained to Life, believed*. That's not being wishy-washy, that means they were real believers in what God promised them. And so they took a stand and were un-moveable and unshakeable in their stand.

Let us bow our heads in prayer.