

Unveiling of God no 214

Is our focus Correct

May 23, 2021

Brian Kocourek, Pastor

Last week we took for our text paragraph number pp. 10 where brother Branham said, “*Lord Jesus, Thy Word is Truth. And in this troublesome hour that we're living, nation against nation, pestilence, (pestilence is plagues) earthquakes in many places, men's hearts failing, fear, we see the handwriting on the wall. Now, that is in the natural realm, that all the world should see this. But now there is a spiritual realm also, and we see the great happenings, and we want to speak of them today.*”

And so we showed you there are two realms where men spend their time, either the natural realm which shall perish or the Spiritual Realm where God dwells. The eternal realm.

We also read in the same sermon pp. 72 **The Unveiling of God** “*See, that was so great till even the people said; they said when they seen Jehovah come down in this Pillar of Fire and begin to shake the earth, and the things He done, and the mountain on fire, and even if anybody tried to go to that mountain, perished... It was so great till even Moses feared the quake. Then if that time He shook just the mountain, this time He will shake heavens and earth. What about this glory? If that was veiled by a natural veil, this is veiled by a spiritual veil. So don't try to look at the natural; break into the Spirit and see where you're at, see what hour we're living in.*”

Now, this is the problem as I see it why people just do not understand this Message and what God is doing today in 2021.

Oh they can go back and look at 1933 to 1965 and talk about what God did do back then but what about now. If God is the I am, the he does not live in the past but the present tense, always. And therefore as brother Branham said, we must get our eyes off the natural realm and focus on the spiritual realm if we are to understand what God is doing right now in 2021.

Oh, people can look back to 60 plus years and say God sent a prophet, and they'll even acknowledge that God was with that prophet and backed the prophets words, which we call vindication, but since they're looking back they're missing the fact that although God took His prophet off the scene, yet God Himself has remained on the scene to complete what He promised to do at His Parousia, and most people miss that.

So we're looking at being focused on the spiritual realm, the realm of the Shout. It was not William Branham that descended with a Shout, it was God Himself that came down with a Shout, and His Prophet told us the Shout is the Message. So we need to focus on the Spiritual realm where God Himself came down and not focus on the vessel or natural veil God used to declare His presence with.

And as brother Branham pointed out in this Sermon *the Unveiling of God*, the people missed God in Moses day, because they focused on the natural veil God used, but failed to focus on the Spiritual realm where God dwells.

In **Matthew 6:22** Jesus said, “*The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*” He's speaking of our being *single focused*". Having the same mind and the same thoughts.

And if we become single focused like Jesus was single focused, then we will be full of light. On the other hand he said, **23** “*But if thine eye be evil,*” (that means if your focus becomes deviated from the Truth) “*thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*”

And did you know that the Son of God was so single focused on the will of God that He shut everything out that was not from the Father?

We find in **Isaiah 42:19** that the Scriptures teach us that the Son of God was blind to everything except God's Word. And he was deaf to everything but God's Voice.

KJV Isaiah 42:19 *Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?*

Rothetham Translation *Who is blind if not My servant? Or deaf like my messenger that I send? Who is blind like an intimate friend is blind, or blind like the servant of Yahweh?*

Jerusalem Bible *Who is so blind as My servant? So deaf as the Messenger that I send?*

In other words, it should read *Who in all the world is as blind as my Servant? Who is designed to be my Messenger of Truth. Who is so blind as My dedicated one, the "servant of the Lord"?*

So we see here that Jesus Christ was absolutely blind to anything that was contrary to God's Word, God's Will and God's purpose. In other words He was so singularly focused on what His Father said, he was blind and deaf to everything else.

In His Sermon **Looking unto Jesus 64-0122 P:65** brother Branham explains to us "Many people have the wrong impression about a gift. A gift is not something that God gives you to go out and say, "Here, I'll go over here and pick out this, and I'll take that and I'll do this." That's not gifts. So many people think that, but they're wrongly impressed. A gift of God is just to know how to get yourself out of the way so God can use you; that's all a gift is. See? As long as you're in yourself...Didn't Jesus say, Himself "**The Son can do**..." Saint **John 5:19**, "**Verily, verily, I say unto you, the Son can do nothing in himself.**" He passed by that pool where all them cripples was, and healed one man with prostate trouble, or something (disease) retarded. He said, "**The Son can do nothing in Himself; but what He sees the Father doing, that doeth the Son likewise. It's not me,**" He said, "**that doeth the works; it's My Father that dwelleth in Me; He doeth the works.**"

God's provided way 64-0206E P:53 *What is a gift anyhow? Not to take something and use something, say, "I got a gift of healing. I go out and heal this one, heal that one." If I could, I'd certainly do it. Now, it's... But a gift... You misinterpret a gift. A gift is just get yourself out of the way, and let the Holy Spirit use you. See? That's a gift. That's what a minister is. He don't preach what he wants to preach. He just gets his self out of the way. It's a gift. An inspiration comes, and he speaks through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.*

Perseverant 64-0305 P:93 *A gift is getting yourself out of the way, so God can come in, see what He shows, what He does. A gift is not, "I got power to do this; I got power." Your power of a gift is get yourself out of the way. And the gift that God has give you, operates through that then (See?) after you're out of the way. See?*

So what I want to get across to all of us this morning is that we are to be single focused in this hour. Not watching the natural realm, but really focused in the Spiritual Realm which is the realm of God's Word for this Hour. And you cannot do that on your own, it comes through a gift of getting yourself out of the way. In other words, it is by grace that we are saved, and not through anything we can do. It is not you getting yourself out of the way. It is a gift of God to get yourself out of the way, and that gift is no more you doing it than the minister of God preaching a good sermon.

In fact Brother Branham said "**it's not the preacher who preaches, it's God preaching through the preacher.**" And that's where too many are making their mistake in this hour. They want to be a part of it so much that they say to God, "step aside and let me do it," and they fail right there.

What we need to learn is not to try to step aside, but ask God to kill us off that He might take over our control tower. Then and only then can you become single focused in the right realm, the spiritual realm, which is the realm of His Word made manifest.

But that is where the world has gone to since 1956 when it turned down God's **Parousia Presence** which is the Shout of **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**, where God Himself comes down with a **SHOUT**, which is a Message.

From his sermon **He Cares do you Care? 63-0721 P:81** *He also cared for His elected people in the days of the destruction of Egypt. They was down there in Egypt and become slaves. The days of Moses, He cared for the people. He sent them what? A prophet again. Is that right? And He separated His people from the unbelieving world, from the coming judgment of that day. **Did He do it?** He cared when Egypt had heaped their sins so high until God had to send judgment, because He'd already told Abraham, "**And I will deal with that nation.**" So instead of pouring out His wrath upon **all of them**, He sent His care to them. He sent His Comforter to them. He sent His Word to them. And He always sends His Word by His prophet, as He did in Noah's time. He did the same thing in the days of Noah. In the days of Moses, we find out He done the same thing. He sent them His prophet, and they separated themselves from unbelief. Now, **that's the kind that come out.** That's the kind that believed It. They believed Moses, that he was a, ... In the eyes of Pharaoh he was a fanatic, he was a magician, he was a hypocrite, he was something horrible. But to the people that was elected, that come out according to God's Word ("**I will bring them out.**"), he was a prophet to them. He was God's provided way. And he also... Notice, they believed him and escaped from the judgment of that day. They believed Moses.*

Now, notice it was not what the people did, it's what God did to spare them from the plagues, and judgments, and to deliver them and bring them into the promised land. Therefore it's not what we do or can do, but what God himself said **he will do.**

Victory day 63-0421 P:52 *So had Israel forgotten. They'd become satisfied down in Egypt, and then become slaves. And now, here was Moses that went down within his own intellectual affair or, intellectual achievement, to try under a military force to bring out Israel, and failed to do it. But just a Word from God, on the backside of the desert boiled the whole thing up again. What happened to Moses? **He got his glasses focused.** God's only purpose wasn't to marry this beautiful Ethiopian colored girl back there, and to settle down, and have children, and raise his father-in-law's sheep. But his mission was to deliver the children of God out from under that bondage. That was his commission. That's what he was born for. And **each one of us is born for something.** **We just wasn't put here for nothing.** That mountain never happened out there just to be. That tree was put there for a purpose. **Everything's for a purpose.** It's got to serve. And **we are here for a purpose.** Maybe it's to testify to one person and get them saved. And out of that might come a preacher who'll send a million souls to Christ.*

Just ask yourself, "**why was I put here on earth at this juncture of time.**" "**Why did I light up when the Message struck my soul?**" "**Why do I long to die to self and let Christ Live His life through me?**" And the answer my friends isn't blowing in the Wind, like the song says, but the answer my Friends is in the Word of God.

We are born in this hour to become what God's Word said we would become, manifested sons of God, conformed to the image of the first born son. And this is the hour for the adoption of sons.

From his sermon **At Kadesh Barnea 56-0527 P:28** *Yes. They hadn't lost their covenant; they had lost their freedom. They were slaves but the covenant still lasted. And one day down there, when they were groaning and crying under the taskmasters of Egypt because they had become slaves...I want you to notice this beautiful picture. And this would be good for legalists. Listen. God never come down and said, "**Now, if you'll do certain things, if you'll do certain things.**" God's grace provided a savior, Moses. That's right. Not under any conditions was Moses brought, but by sovereign grace God sent Moses. Not only a savior, but **grace provided a deliverer**, without any law, without anything. **Just solemn grace of God, He sent down Moses to be a deliverer and a savior of the nation, to bring them out.***

Just stop and look at the full picture. It's not luck that you came into the Message. It's not luck that brought you under a Bible teacher like Br. Vayle? It's not luck that you now set together in heavenly

places feasting on the Manifested Word for the hour. It's pure and simply one thing, "*it is God, God, God who is working in you first to will and then to do His perfect Will.*"

Brother Branham said in his sermon **Hebrews Chapter 3 57-0901M P:13** *There's something about where you go, what church you go to, and what teacher teaches you. Do you know that? It's got something to it. Therefore, we ought to seek out the very best that we can find, so we're getting the best; not because it's sociable and so forth, but the real Bible teaching.*

That's not about me, that's about all of you, because for you to understand this Word I teach, and what Br. Branham taught and what Br. Vayle taught, is not about me, brother Vayle or br. Branham, but it's all about what the same God who showed his prophet is also showing you. Because if it wasn't "**God working in you to will and then to do,**" you would not understand anything I'm teaching. It would go right over your head, like it does so many. And Jesus said the very same thing. He said *it isn't the son*, no, he said, "**the son can do nothing of himself but what he sees the father do, that doeth the son likewise.**" And he said, "**my doctrine is not my own, but it is His that sent me.**" And he said, "**The Father speaketh, and the son speaks just what the Father commands him to say.**"

Look, in **Hebrews 5:8** we read, "*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience*"

John 5:17 "*My father worketh hitherto and I work*"

John 5:19 "*The son can only do what he sees the father do*"

John 5:30 "*The son can of Himself do nothing*"

John 8: 29 "*I do always those things that please him.*"

John 10:18 "*This commandment received I of my Father*"

John 10:25 "*the works I do in my Father's name*"

John 10:32 "*works I showed you from my Father*"

John 12:49 "*Father gave me commandment what to say and do*"

John 12:50 "*as my Father said to me so I speak*"

John 14:31 "*The Father gave me commandment*"

None of these show Jesus did what he wanted to do. He just surrendered Himself to the Father.

From his sermon **Jubilee year 54-1003E P:23** "*every seven years, it was the law of God, that there was a jubilee year. And when this jubilee year come by, then the priest rode the land, sounding the trumpet, and every slave that had been bought with a price and become a servant, was given the privilege to be made free, go back home again, back to his loved ones. He was redeemed back by grace. He didn't have to pay anything. His loved ones didn't have to pay anything. It was an act of God.*

I just wish people would read God's Word more, so they might know and understand it better. We have brothers who are so tied to the natural realm that "**God could be working in them to will and to do**" and they think, I wish I could see **John 14:12** in my own life. My, my brothers and sisters, look at the Scriptures I just read about the Son of God, the things he did were all based on his focus of the Spiritual realm, and not the physical realm. You just need to die to self, and your own understanding of what **John 14:12** is, and realize the very first thing is that God opened the eyes of your understanding. Let me read them again, and I want to ask you to examine each and see what the son did that was supernatural? And if you say all of these things show he is a son, yet nothing on its own merit proves Himself, but rather proves God and His Word. So that was his focus and that should be yours. Then whatever God does, you become just a witness to what He's doing.

Hebrews 5:8 *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience.* Is that passive faith or active faith?

John 5:17 *My father worketh hitherto and I work.* What comes first, the passive faith to see what God is doing? Right? Yes, and that is entirely by Grace, because it is totally unmerited on your part, and His. You had nothing to do with it. God predestined you to it.

Romans 8:26 *Likewise The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities:* (that's grace) *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 searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 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. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Then active faith is just stepping into what you see God doing. Then it's not you doing, but what God is working in you to do, you're just acting out a role.

In **John 5:19** Jesus said, "*The son can only do what he sees the father do first*". Then who did the works?

In **John 5:30** Jesus said, "*The son can of Himself do nothing.*" Then who did the works?

In **John 8: 29** Jesus said, "*I do always those things that please him.*" Then he only did what pleased the Father, and not for his own pleasure.

And in fact Jesus also said in **John 10:18** "*This commandment received I of my Father.*"

And in **John 10:25** Jesus said, "*the works I do in my Father's name.*"

And in **John 10:32** Jesus said, "*works I showed you are from my Father.*"

And in fact not only what he did, but what he said, for he said in **John 12:49** "*The Father gave me commandment what to say and do.*" So God was working in him also to will and then to do. And so not only what he did but what he said, that is also a work of Christ. So do you quote what the Father said? Then you are doing what Jesus did. That's **John 14:12**

For Jesus also said in **John 12:50** "*as my Father said to me so I speak.*" So he just echoed what the Father said to Him, and that is what He also said, or simply echoed.

For the Father is always the source of the acting, and speaking and working. That is **John 14:31** "*The Father gave me commandment.*"

1 John 5:10 *He that believeth in the Son of God hath (echoes) the witness in himself:*

And remember you cannot believe in the Son of God unless you are in Him believing, and He is in you believing.

Then John goes on to say, "*he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.* Therefore, verse **12** *He that hath (Echoes) the Son hath (echoes) life; and he that hath (echoes) not the Son of God hath (echoes) not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, (which is His Word) he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

You talk about unmerited grace, that is so beautiful to know, that "*He which began the good work in us will complete it.*" And that "*he that made the promise is here to confirm it.*" That's what our prophet taught us.

And from his sermon **Victory day 63-0421 P:62** brother Branham said, "*Like they say today... I know; I heard a minister awhile ago read Acts 2:38. But he missed out. Then He said, "And Peter said that they must be baptized and then, then they would receive the Holy Ghost," failed to read the rest of it. Why? See, organizations fought the very thing. Now, you get the idea? See, why do you do that? What makes you bypass those things? If the Bible says that, read It right down the way It says it, and say the same*

thing the Bible says. **That's when you've got your focus back right.** See? Come back to what the Word says. Now, we find out that, You get your, **You're out of focus there.**

Now, in this next quote brother Branham uses an illustration to show you how you can get your focus off and what it will do to your vision in the natural and then he types it with the spiritual realm as well.

From his sermon **Look away to Jesus 63-1229E P:73** he said, "Here not long ago, I had a pair of field glasses. I was trying to watch some antelope, or an antelope over in the field, and my son was trying to show me. He's quite a bit younger. So he said, "Take those glasses, daddy, there stands an antelope right out there." I said, "I can see him with my natural eye." He said, "Take these glasses." When I looked I seen about ten antelopes; but the glasses were out of focus. And when I went to focus them in, all ten of them become one. And **if you'll focus your mind to God's Word**, the three will be **One**. See? But your ecclesiastical glasses get out of focus when you try to make Him three. He's One. See?



And then you have people who will try to see through the looking glass and still have the cover on it like George Bush did. Those are people who won't open their Bible but try to tell you what's inside without even looking to see if they're right or not.

Again from his sermon **Look 63-0428 P:49** brother Branham said, "That's what the church ought to do today. Look to the one thing, **the Voice, the Word of God** that speaks to us. Churches and peoples can speak any way, but **look to the voice**. What are we looking at? **He looked to the voice that spoke to him.** **He called everything contrary to that voice as though it wasn't.** And yet materially, it was as far out of focus with the world as Noah's time was. It was just as far out of

focus. Because why? Noah's time they couldn't prove there was rain up there. But Noah knew that if God said so, **He was able to put rain up there.** Abraham knew that his body was as good as dead. But he considered not his own body. He considered not the deadness of Sarah's womb. A young girl... He'd married his half-sister, lived with her all these years. And now she is ninety years old, and he's a hundred years old. But he didn't even think about that. **That didn't even come in his mind.** Why? **He had focused all the unbelief out.** Oh, glory.

Again from **Victory day 63-0421 P:36** Brother Branham said, "Now, in that... You see? Now, now, like our Pentecostal groups; it's the grass root of that. See? What they do, they get the focus... Well, now here... Here's a woman can preach like a lightning. Well, that's no doubt at all, absolutely. I've heard some women preachers could preach, that men couldn't even stand in their shadow in doing it. But **that doesn't have one thing to do with what's righteous (See?) doesn't have one...** Paul said, "**If one speaks in tongues and there be no interpreter, then let him hold his peace.**" He said, "I can't hold my peace." But the Bible said you can. See? So that's it. See? **It must be done in order, placed in order, put in its place, and there remain ever in its place.** See, there **you get out of focus.** That causes hard feelings, greed, and so forth. **Instead of focusing ourselves back with the Word, we focus ourselves out, ...**

Look 63-0428 P:66 You hear such things today. "There's a great healer coming to town and they're, we'll all go over and get healed." Now, when you think that way, you've certainly got your camera out of focus. Yes, sir. **Focus it down to Jesus and Him only. Look to Him and you'll see what God's purpose is.**

In other words get your eyes off the vessel.

Again from his sermon **Victory day 63-0421 P:63** he said, "Now, Abraham had had his focus right, because God said, "**I'm going to make you a father of nations,**" when he was seventy-five years old and Sarah sixty-five. And **he believed God.** He... What'd he do? **He put his focus on what THUS SAITH THE LORD was.** Yes, sir. And he walked right straight with that, what **THUS SAITH THE LORD** was. Day

after day he walked; year after year he walked, confessing anything contrary to that wasn't right. No, sir. it had to be that way. God said so. I imagine some of his enemies walking around say, "Father of nations, how many children do you have now?" "Don't make any difference how many I have now; I'm a father of nations; that's all." "How do you know?" "**God said so. That settles it.** That's just all there is to it. **God said it, and that settles it.**" So along went Abraham. And he finally come to that very... Then, see, being so loyal; more loyal, more testings. See?

Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus said, **19** Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: **20** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

And that's the key, "**where your treasure is there your heart will be also,**" because watch what Jesus says next, **Matthew 6: 22** The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. **23** But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! **24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Now, Jesus is speaking of our **FOCUS**. And if our **FOCUS** is single-minded, if we **FOCUS** on **ONE** thing and that **ONE** thing Only, then our light, or our understanding, will be great. We'll know the reasons why things happen the way they do, because we know that He has all things under His control and He is working all things together for the Good of those who are The Called and Who love Him.

1 Corinthians 1:9-10 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 **speaking the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions** among you; but that ye be **perfectly joined together in the same mind** and in the same judgment.

Now, earlier we read from **Matthew 6:19-22** And we saw the importance of keeping our focus right and on the right things. But let's see what happens when we don't.

Matthew 6:22-23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

If you claim to believe the Message of the Hour and yet you have a wrong understanding of what that Message is, you're in worse shape than if you admitted you had no clue. Notice it warns us that just having a single-mindedness in our outlook is not necessarily good. **Our focus must be a right focus.** Jesus was talking about treasure. **Laying up treasure in heaven**, not being focused here on earth. As we read last week where brother Branham said people focus on the natural realm, the symptoms, and the but they should be focusing on the Spiritual realm which is what God said about it instead.

Too much of our thoughts are focused wrong because we are focusing on the things of the natural realm and the natural veil instead of **Who** is using that veil.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. **24** He that loveth me **not** keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. **25** These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. **26** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

And I believe that this is what we all truly want deep down in our souls. "**As the heart panteth after the water brook, so panteth my soul after Thee Oh, Lord.**"

Jesus hung on the cross and his last words were "**I thirst**". Why? The Roman Guard thought he thirsted for water, but it was not water but God's Spirit He thirsted for. Remember, he said, "**My God My God why**

hast thou forsaken me.” So certainly He was thirsting for God’s Spirit to refresh him. But God's Presence had left Him in Gethsemane and He longed for and thirsted after God's Divine Presence, the atmosphere of God's Presence.

Jesus said in **John 15:4, 15:7,** and **15:10** *“If ye abide in me and My Word abides in you, then ask what you will and it shall be given to you.”* Why? Because then it is no longer you asking but His Word is asking through you. *“If ye abide in me and My Word abides in you.”* You see, then it is not you asking but His Word in you that is asking. That is when your focus is right.

In **Matthew 5:13** ¶*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

Notice, He told them that they are *the salt of the earth*, and then told them, *“however, if the salt loses its savour, what good will it be?”* We found the Greek word that *savour* was translated from a word which means *insipid, Lacking flavor or zest* or in other words, *Lacking excitement, stimulation, or interest; they had become dull, and the light they were to reflect had become dull in them.* Because He went on to say in the next verse, **14** *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Now this bushel basket Jesus referred to here that was hiding the light was the very life and blessings that God had given the people.

In the Scriptures we find **35** times that the word *basket* is used and in all of them we find that it refers to *the benefits or blessings from God*, and also referred to *their life*.

We find the apostle Paul’s life was saved when he escaped from Jerusalem being let down over the walls in a *basket*. Baby Moses was saved from death at the hands of pharaoh’s soldiers when he was floated to safety in a *basket*. Jesus showed forth the power of God and the blessings from God when he took a little fish and several loaves from a *basket* and blessed them, and multiplied them, and after everyone had enough to eat there were **12 baskets** left over.

In the Book of Two Laws, **Deuteronomy** God told the children of Israel that when they entered into the land of promise, they were to take from the blessings of the land and place them in a *basket* and offer them up to the Lord.

In the blessings and cursing God promised the people in **Deuteronomy 28** they would be either blessed or cursed in their *basket* depending on their attitude towards His Word.

So we see the importance of what Jesus is telling the people in these symbol. He said *“you are the Light of the world,”* you are the lamps to the world to show them the way, but *“if you get too involved in your life and the blessings I’ve given you, and lose your focus on where those blessing come from, you will become of no use to me, nor to the world that you are to be reflecting my light to.”*

Look how brother Branham turned down wealth in order to keep **his focus on Christ**. Yet we find so many today building kingdoms for themselves at the expense of other churches that were little to begin with. So many little churches have struggled and have just folded because big churches went after their sheep. That’s exactly what David had done and God cursed him for it, and he reaped very difficult times for what he did. And so we must take into consideration the *basket* of plenty that represents us before God and make sure our lamps are trimmed and burning, lest we end up as the rest of Laodicea who look to their riches and their increases and because they were blessed with so much, they soon forgot where it all came from and thus the very blessings from God turned out to be their curse. Why? Because they looked to the gifts instead of the Giver of those Gifts. Their focus was wrong.

We will read again from **Matthew 6:22** *The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*

Now the word **single** that Jesus used here was translated from a Greek word meaning *literally to be un-braided, or un-twined with others.*

In other words, He is telling us *if thy eye is singularly focused, then your light will be great*, and then he says... **23** *But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness.* And the Greek word for **evil** is **poneros** which means *full of labors and annoyances.*

In other words, so **full of distractions**, that there is no focus. Your focus becomes blurred by a lot of distractions just like a lot of noise can muffle out what you may need to hear.

That's why I believe the election of **2020** and all the hoopla leading up to it, got the Bride out of focus and instead of focusing on the spiritual realm, she focused on the election. And God had to get us back in focus.

When there are **a lot of voices**, it's hard to hear clearly **the one you should be hearing**. When you are in a room filled with people talking, you can hardly hear yourself speak. And if you can't hardly hear yourself talk, how much worse is it to hear the one you are talking to. You've all heard the expression, *"it's so noisy in here I can't even hear myself think."*

And if your life is so full of activities, and you're running here and running there, how can you even hear that still small voice of God trying to talk to you and have fellowship with you? Jesus said, *"If a trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who can prepare for the battle?"*

And if you can't even hear yourself think, then how are you going to hear **the voice of God** in the midst of all those distractions in your life? So many want to be like brother Branham and have the relationship he had with God, but how many do what he did? How many of you **get up early in the morning and go out from the house just to get alone with God**? How long are you willing to sit in quietness just to wait on an answer from God?

Listen to this quote from the message **Hear His Voice 58-1005M** *"But there's so many voices today that takes the voice of the Lord away from us. There's the voice of pleasure. So many people are listening to that, where they can go and have a good time. And many of them are professing to be Christians. Some kind of an old rock-and-roll coming up, they just can't listen to what God... They say, "Well, I'm a Christian, I read a verse in the Bible today. Yeah, 'Jesus wept.'" That's it, go ahead. But then, to really get down and pray, they got to many other things to do. There's so many voices in the world, so many things to attract our attention from God."*

I believe our biggest problem we have is the economy has been too good, and we really need to pray that God would take away the distractions that have pulled us in every which way. **What we need is a great depression. Laodicea is rich and increased with good** but is also **decreased** with God. They are **blind to Him**. But when the great depression comes, we'll be caught up to be with him, so **the way up is down**. That's why we need it?

Voice of God 63-0120M 25 *And today, one reason that the church is in the condition that it's in, is because there is so many voices, so many other voices to attract the church from the Voice of God, till it's very doubtful that many would hear the Voice of God though It spoke right in their midst. They perhaps wouldn't even understand it, because it would be a foreign thing to them. They have got themselves so much centered on the voices of the day. 27 And if we notice in our Scripture reading, that the Voice of God was foreign to them. And it's become that way again today, that the Voice of God... There is so many other voices. And then if God promised He would give us that, and if other voices are contrary to the Voice of God, then it must be the voice of our enemy to confuse us, that we would not understand the Voice of God when it spoke.*

Now, he's not saying "***I am the voice of God***", and you should only listen to me, as some might believe. He taught contrary to that. I've got the quotes where people asked him, "Should we be only listening to you." And he said NO, You need to be in church. He told us the Word of God is the Voice of God, that we must hear. And God's Word is His Voice to us. Don't get confused and look to the natural realm and natural veil, look to the God who is using that veil.

Look to the Spiritual realm, look to God. Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in his wonderful face, and the things of things of this world will grow strangely dim, in the light of His Glory and Grace.

Have you ever seen those pictures that are so full of colors and lines and curves and there is so much details that you can't really see the picture. But if you begin to just focus down on that picture, and keep focusing in until your focus becomes single, eventually you will see the hidden picture. And that is what Jesus is telling us here. If we are clearly focused down on the Word then ***our light is great***, but if we have so many distractions, then ***what light we do have becomes darkened by the distractions***.

Jesus continues by saying, "***If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!***" Now, this is very symbolic what He is saying here. ***If thy light be darkness then how great is thy darkness***. Imagine that you who have light, and ***the light is a lamp unto your feet***, but what if that light or that lamp becomes so darkened by the soot from the wick that you can't even see any light coming out of that lamp. That is the same thing as all the distractions that we have around us today pulling our attention away from ***God's voice*** to us.

Then what light we do have actually becomes that which is actually blinding us, because they all say, "***we have a prophet so we are ok***", and yet they are not listening ***to the voice*** of that prophet and they are not taking heed to his message.

And the Apostle Paul told us the same thing in ***2 Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.***

Notice it is the devil who uses the gospel to blind the people. There are more complete sets of ***the voice of God*** out there than at any other time in the history of mankind, and yet there is more perversion and more distractions that at any other time as well. And thus we are becoming a people ***blinded by the very Gospel we proclaim to believe***, because we have watered it down so much by the sheer volume that it no longer means so much to the people to have it.

Used to be that we were totally dependent upon the Holy Ghost to find a quote or scripture, but today they have their computers and search engines, and yet know no more about what they are quoting than ever.

There was a time when we would listen to the prophet of God for hours every day. I could call one of the believers, and in the background you would hear the tapes going. Someone would drive up in their car and we would hear the voice of God from their speakers. And that is when we could only get a handful of tapes. And we would have gladly spent everything we had to get a tape or two of the prophet back then, but now that it has become so inexpensive, and we only have to pay \$10 for an entire library of every sermon that was ever recorded of God's prophet, and now that the people have full sets in just about every home, you will be hard pressed to hear anyone listening to a sermon any more.

Now, I'm not saying that you people aren't, because I do not know. You people are so busy that you hardly invite me over to your house anymore and I'm not in the habit of just popping in like I used to 20 to 30 years ago. But you will be hard pressed to find people listening when they drive up, or when you call them. So I ask ***what voices are we listening too?*** What has your minds attention so much that you are not focused in on God's Voice to us in this hour? Brother Branham preached the sermon, "***What is the attraction on the Mountain.***" But I would like to ask you, "***What is the distraction on your mountain.***"

And from his sermon ***Voice of God 63-0120M 31*** Brother Branham said, "***There is so many voices in the earth today, that it is absolutely a hard thing, because it deadens the Voice of the supernatural. There is so many intellectual voices, great voices of mighty man who are intellectual, that in their***

intellectual conditions, even shake the nations. They're just not overnight people, but they shake nations, bringing great organizations together, great campaigns, flowery. And a person would be a bit confused. **It's enough to confuse them**, of how that these things go on and prosper. And there's voices that raise up and do these things, and it **causes the Voice of God to be placed way back somewhere, the True Voice of God.** 32 "And the Voice of God," they say, "how will we know it's the Voice of God?" Because for today... Then it was an a-vindicated prophet. Now, today, how we know it's the Voice of God, because **it's the manifestation of the prophet's Word.** This is God's Prophet. And **a true Voice of God only brings back that real, living, supernatural God with His supernatural Word, with the supernatural manifestation of the true Word.** Then we know that **It's the Voice of God.** Because and that super... There's so much other in the other realms, that just almost deaden That out. But, remember, It will glisten; It'll come forth. It'll do it. 33 Now, there is a voice today in the world of politics. That's a great voice. And people, absolutely, in this great day of politics, they'll... **It's all mixed up in their churches and everything.** And many times, that we have just seen recently, that **the voice of politics is actually stronger than the Voice of God in the churches,** or the American people would've never did what they just done. See? They'd have never done it. **If the Voice of God would been kept alive in the church, they'd have never made that mistakes.** But **the voice of politics is so much stronger in the earth today than the Voice of God,** until people sold their Christian birthright for a mess of popularity, education, and political power. It's such a shame to see it.

He tells us what the Voice of God is today, he said **it's the manifestation of the prophet's Word. It's no longer the actual tape, it's the word that was on that tape that is manifested.**

Because you remember a few months ago we read where he said, they can read the same Bible you read but they cannot see the manifestation of it. And I will say this, to give it a 21st century understanding, ... **"They can listen to the same tapes you listen to but they cannot see the manifestation of what is on those tapes becoming a reality."**

You know, since the election, I've learned to not listen to the news any more. I don't care to hear it at all because it is the same news we heard back in the 1970's. It's just another distraction. Same news, only the names and faces have changed. And so we see that the many voices have so cluttered our minds that the people have become blinded and deaf to the voice of God in this hour.

Now, Paul told us that the God of this world hath blinded the minds of the people, and God's prophet William Branham said in the sermon, **Putting on the Whole Armour of God 62-0607 E-104 To disbelieve the Word, you are blind. The preaching of the Gospel blinds the unbeliever.**

And again in the sermon **Is Anything Too Hard For The Lord 60-0328 E-20** he said, **"How we ought to think today, that the preaching of the gospel blinds the unbeliever. No wonder they can't see: they're blinded. God says they have eyes, but can't see, ears but can't hear. God, if anything, I want Him to do for me, is open my spiritual eyes that I might recognize Him and look around and see Him, for He's everywhere. I want to see Him and be so acquainted with Him that I'll know Him on the very first sight. I'll recognize that It's God. That's my heart's desire, be as Abraham was.**

I believe that we should pray for revelation more than anything else, because if God does not open our eyes, then we will never see the kingdom of God manifested even though it is manifesting all around us. And if we cannot see the kingdom of God how will we expect to enter into it? That is what happened to the foolish virgins, they heard the midnight cry, which is the Shout which is the Message. And what was that shout? **"Behold!, Look! Come and see!, He is here!, come out to meet him."**

But when they came out they could not see him, yet the wise virgin could see the manifested Word. And so those who could not see who it was that came down went to them that sell. And while they were gone the Wise virgin entered into the wedding with the Bride-Groom the Word of God.

Therefore, Then if we do not see the Kingdom of God, we are still lost in our sins, and are on our road to hell. That's how serious this Gospel should be taken. The people that say, "*what matter does it make whether we know it or understand it or not, we just believe it.*" How can you believe what you do not know or understand? The only ones who could say that are those who do not understand it, otherwise they would never make a statement like that. It does matter what you know and what you do not. How can you worship God in Spirit and Truth if you have not His Spirit and His Truth. Then your worship is in vain.

John 12:35 *Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.*

Can't you see that this applies today! **He is talking about the Light, that Pillar of Fire is here and we should walk as though we truly believe He is here.** He said, "*The light is only here for another short while so you had better walk with that Light while He is still here to walk with Him.*"

And then He said "*for he that walketh in darkness does not even know where he is going.*" And that is the foolish virgin who knew not the Bride Groom when they went out to meet him, they didn't recognize Him who is the Word. Who was knocking at the door? Christ the Word. How many are walking in darkness today having rejected the Pillar of Fire, and yet they are preaching of heaven and even believing they are going to heaven, while cursing the very God that is here to lead us into the millennium.

He said, they don't even know where they are going. Then Jesus says, **36** *While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.*

Now the only way you can believe IN the Light is **to believe while you are in it.** If you *walk IN the Light as He is IN the light then your sins are washed clean by the blood of the lamb, and you have fellowship one with another.* But you've got to be IN the light in order to believe IN the light. *These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.*

Look, Alpha has become Omega, and in **John 12:37** we read ¶ *But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:*

Notice it was **the volume of miracles** that ended up **blinding the people.** Why is that? **Because it become so common to them.** And that is the same thing that has happened in this hour. A precious brother, and I call him a dear friend wrote to me recently, "*brother Brian I've seen where God has done quite a few miracles in your ministry but what has he done lately? Where is the supernatural lately?*" And my thoughts on that are "*What has he done lately?*" well, for starters, "*He has opened my eyes to see the manifestation of this end time Revelation*", "*we are seeing God's Word as it is coming to pass.*" And that's the evidence that what we are seeing is correct, because "*God interprets His Word by bringing it pass.*" I would take that over every other manifestation of the supernatural at any time in my ministry.

From his sermon **Why we are not a Denomination 58-0927 59** Brother Branham said "*Now, we've got gifts of healing working. Oh, it's going good. Well, brother, there's other gifts. That's just one of them. That's just a little minor thing. Why, here's a far greater gift right here. Which would be the best, the gift of the Holy Ghost of wisdom to put the Word of God together and to show the church where we're standing, than just to get somebody healed? We all want to be well; but I'd rather have my soul well, than my body well anytime.*"

So when we look at the supernatural of God let's not forget that revelation is the best form of showing his supernatural in our lives. For without it we can never know Him.

From his sermon **Five identifications 60-0911E P:26** Brother Branham also said, "*Revelations 17, and we'll try to make this just quick as possible. But now watch as we read:... there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying... Come hither; and I'll show thee the judgment of the great whore that setteth upon many waters: Now, this is all symbolized, because it is a revelation of Jesus Christ, sealed up. Did you know that? It is a hidden thing, and only can be revealed, not by the intellectual mind, but revealed by the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Spirit, "To him that*

has wisdom let him count the numbers of the beast. To him that has wisdom, the gift of wisdom, let him do this and let him do that." And this is the revelation.

And from his sermon **I will restore 57-0309B P:15** “Now, if you'll notice the routine of the gifts: **the first is a gift of wisdom.** (Thank you.) **The first is the gift of wisdom. That is the best gift of the group.** And if we don't have wisdom, we won't know how to use knowledge, is the second gift. And if we can't use the second gift without wisdom, how are we going to use the last gift, interpretation? or next to the last, speaking in tongues?

Therefore, my brethren, if our eye be single focused on Christ the Word, and what he is doing in this hour, we will not only partake in the Shout which is the Message, but when His Presence takes us from the **79** signs and events of His Shout and begins to move us into the Voice of the Resurrection time ministry, to fulfill the last 5 signs and events of His Parousia. Then we will walk in that light as well. And in closing let me quote to you a promise from your eldest brother Jesus which he said in **Luke 12:32** “*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*” Again it is not what you do, if he gives it to you it is a gift, and that is **grace, grace, grace unto it.**

Let's just bow our hearts in prayer