

Unveiling of God no 51
The character of Christ no 5
Predestined to it
September 23, 2018
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This morning we will speak concerning the character of Christ that is predestined to come into the Bride and reflect through her life. We will show you how we develop that character and how we are to be conformed to his image as we see in **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, the word in Greek that the word image was translated from is the Greek word "**eikon**" which means "a likeness, i.e. (literally) statue, profile, or (figuratively) **representation, resemblance**:--image"

We are told this comes about as a result of God working in one of the gifts He has given to the church in **Ephesians 4:11**

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

Now, the five-fold ministry which are just men, cannot make you mature and bring you unto the measure of the stature (character) of Christ as Paul says here unless God does 3 things.

1) God has to predestinate you to come to that maturity of character which he says is being conformed to the image of the first born son. We see that in **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.*

Brother Branham said in his sermon **Identification 63-0123 P:66** for you to let your character be molded into the image of God, that He projects Himself, and you and you are His idol walking on the earth, the expressed image of Him...

2) God has to send gifts to the church and He Himself operates those gifts that He gave to the church. (Therefore the gift is not the man, it's God using the man, the vessel.)

Brother Branham said in his sermon, **Jesus Christ the same 56-0426 P:49** *Notice, if Jesus did those things in that day, and He has raised from the dead, and He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, He's obligated to His Word. Now, His corporal body sets at the right hand of God. You believe that, don't you? But the Holy Spirit is here working through His sanctified vessels.* (notice this is plural here.) *And God has set in the church what? First apostles, then prophets, then teachers, then evangelists, then pastors (Is that right?), for the perfecting of the church. God has did it. It's not the preacher that*

preaches; it's God preaching through him. It's not the prophet that sees the vision; it's God speaking through him. "I do nothing except the Father shows Me first what to do."

So if it is not the preacher that preaches, then the gift is just a vessel for God Himself to utilize to bring the bride to a perfection of character, which is a maturing of her character.

And so remember, the Paul said in **1 Corinthians 3:6** *I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.* And that goes for any of the five gifts God has placed in the church by predestination. As we read, from brother Branham It's not the preacher that preaches; it's God preaching through him. It's not the prophet that sees the vision; it's God speaking through him. And then he even quotes the words of Jesus saying in **John 5:19** and **30** *"I do nothing except the Father shows Me first what to do."*

Paul continues, **7** *So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but (but what? But the only one that is anything is) God that giveth the increase. **8** *Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one:* (And How can that be? Because it is the same "God that worketh in them both to will and to do His good pleasure". That is why one can plant and another can water but it takes God to give the increase.) *and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. **9** For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.**

Notice he says, *For we are laborers together with God:* Why is this so? Because It's not the preacher that preaches; it's God preaching through him. It's not the prophet that sees the vision; it's God speaking through him.

So the man just lends God his voice, and he preaches, and the teacher lends God his voice and he teaches.

And that is no different from William Branham.

Anointed ones at end time 65-0725M P:193 *Now, I want you to know this is sure. And you that listen to this tape, (Now, he's talking to the tape listeners) you might have thought today that I was trying to say that about myself, being that I was packing this Message. I have no more to do with it than nothing, no more than just a voice. And my voice, even against my better judgment... I wanted to be a trapper. But it's the will of my Father that I declare to do, and determined to do. I wasn't the One that appeared down on the river; I was only standing there when He appeared. I'm not the One that performs these things and foretells these things that happens as perfect as they are; I'm only one that's near when He does it. (There's your Parousia, His Presence. I don't know how they can not see that. It's not about William Branham, it's all about God. Paul said the same thing. He said, *So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.* And then brother Branham says,) I was only a voice that He used to say it. It wasn't what I knew; it's what I just surrendered myself to, that He spoke through. It isn't me. It wasn't the seventh angel, oh, no; it was a manifestation of the Son of man. It wasn't (even) the angel, his Message; it was the mystery that God unfolded. It's not a man; it's God. The angel was not the Son of man; he was a messenger from the Son of man. The Son of man is Christ. He's the One that you're feeding on. You're not feeding on a man. A man, his words will fail, but you're feeding on the unfailing Body-Word of the Son of man. If*

you haven't fed fully on every Word to give yourself strength to fly above all these denominations and things of the world, will you at this time do it, while we pray?

Now, that sounds like the Apostle Paul who said although I sowed, and Apollos watered, yet nothing would have come of it, had God not given it the increase.

Listen to what brother Branham said from his sermon **Influence 63-1130B P:56** If you want to find how great you are, put your finger down in a pool of water, or a bucket of water, then pull your finger out and try to find where you put your finger. You're nothing. God can do without you, He can do without me, but we can't do without Him. We've got to have Him, for He is Life, and He alone. Not to know His Book, not to know this, or know that, or know the creed, but to know Him is Life, know Him as the Person, Christ in you, the Word made flesh in you. That's knowing Him. When you and He becomes one, like I said last night in "The Super Sign." He's got to come in you: you. God and man must come one. You're conscious of your littleness.

And Jesus promised us that there would come a day when that happens. When you and God become one like He and God were one.

John 14:20 *At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.*

John 17:21 *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

3) The 3rd God must do in order for the character of Christ to come forth and manifest in the bride of Christ is that she must respond to the Gift that God gives them by way of His word through the gifts He places in the church.

Revelation book of symbols 56-0617 P:33 *If a boy was at the door, and knocked at the door latch, tell the ushers, "I have a telegram here for Mrs. So-and-so and Mr. So-and-so." He would be a messenger, a earthly angel. Your pastor, when he stands here on the platform, ministering the Word of God, he is God's angel to the church, messenger to the church. Therefore, a pastor should never leave that Word, but stay straight with the Word, because He's feeding the shepherd's place, 'cause the word "pastor" means "shepherd." Look it up and find out if that ain't right. A pastor is a shepherd, and the Holy Ghost has made him overseer over His church and flock to feed them. What with? The Word of God. Amen.*

Therefore when we come to the place where God gives us His Spirit we now have in us the nature of His Life, and therefore should begin to project the very character of Christ. Because whatever character you are projecting, it is that Spirit that is living it's life in you.

Identification 64-0216 P:39 *You find your place as a Christian, because your character is molded as Christ. You are Zoe, the same as He was Zoe. ...You're invited to come and take His character. By having His character in you, it molds you into the same mind that He was. And His mind was always to do what the Father had ordained Him to do. He said,*

"Search the Scripture. They testify of Me." In other words, "If I don't do exactly what the Scripture said I'm to do, then show Me where."

Then if you have his Spirit in you, and His character in you what will it do? He tells us in **The Token the 63-0901M P:138** *And it displays His power. **John, 14:12**, says, "**He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also.**" New Testament is new covenant, **new life**. Shows Jesus has met every requirement for us that **God required to make us back truly sons and daughters of God**, under the Blood where there is no more condemnation. **Romans 8:1**, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in (not those who are believing it), those who are in Christ Jesus, that walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* *"And My Word is Spirit and life?"* Oh, couldn't I take a text from that, and stay about a couple more hours, but we'll hurry over it. You see? **No more condemnation**; free from sin; free from the cares of the world. No condemn... Why? *To them that have been by one Spirit baptized into one Body, there the Blood of the Lamb has been applied. The God of heaven has accepted you. And your... His life is in you, and you are sons and daughters of God. Your character is God's character. What is it? A little pushover? No, sir. God's a God of judgment. He's a God of correct. It must be on the line. Nothing else will do. That's the kind of character you are, because you're the character of your Father. See? Watch.**

And that is the only thing God is looking for in a Bride. Remember the vision Brother Branham had of the bride as She marched to "**Onward Christian Soldiers**" That is what he was presenting to God. A bride that had the very character of Christ. And that is all God is looking for. Now how much Bible you can recite, or how many quotes do you know by memory, or how well you understand the doctrine. But He is looking for the character of His Son to be conformed in us.

From his sermon **Sudden secret going away of church 58-1012 P:43** *You might have the name of church, might have the name of Branham Tabernacle, or Methodist, or whatever church you go. That isn't it, friends. See, it's something different; it's your character; that's what God's a looking at. You might be Methodist; you might be Baptist; you might be Presbyterian. It's not that. It's character that God looks at, not just earthly character, but Holy Spirit character. *"These signs shall follow them that believe," said Jesus in the 16th chapter of Saint **Mark**. And anything that tried to be mixed with that character breaks the mold. **You can't mix creed with Word.** You can't mix the world with the Word. Jesus said you can't serve God and mammon. "**Mammon**" means "**the world**." You can't be one or the other. *"If you love the world or the things of the world, the love of God's not even in you."* Is that true? Then, you see, you can't mix it. You can't mix oil and water. It just won't mix. You can churn it up and down, do anything you want to; it won't mix. And your character will not mix with the world, if you are being molded in the form of God, by letting the mind that was in Christ be in you. That's the control tower, the direction.**

And how is your character displayed? By obedience to His Word. From his sermon **Unity one God one church 58-1221E P:47** *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel," said Jesus, His last commission to the church. "These signs shall follow them that believe." How far? "**All the world**." Who to? "**Every creature**." These signs shall follow some of them? The Scripture says, "**Shall follow them**," **all of them** that believe. *"In My Name they**

*shall cast out devils. They shall speak with new tongues. If they shall take up serpents or drink deadly things, it shall not harm them. If they lay their hands on the sick, they shall recover." That's what Jesus said. "These signs shall follow believers," not negative thinkers, not intellectual church members, but born again believers who's come from the intellectual to the heart where God takes throne in His control room, to control your emotions, **to control your faith, to control your character.***

And from his sermon **Identification 63-0123 P:19** brother Branham said, "*But **there's just something about that character**, that you just love to be in their presence. Because **each person is a little dynamo of their own**, and **you put out an atmosphere**. And then you see people that were noble people, but yet you were always glad to get away from them. It's just they--**they create such an atmosphere around where you are**. Nothing against them, they're nice people, but you just don't like that atmosphere they're in. And **their character creates whatever they are**, makes them what they are.*

Why 61-0128 P:59 *God's Holy Spirit is the toxin. Yes, sir. And it makes a new creature out of you. It makes a new person out of you. It straightens you up, and makes you what you ought to be. **It makes your character different.***

Life 58-0512 P:30 *Man's not measured by muscles; that's beast, brute. **Man's measured by character. And if you're a son of God, you're measured by your character.***

Identification 64-0216 P:76 *Speaking of Jesus Christ he said, **Let your character reflect with His.***

Choosing of a Bride 65-0429E 10-2 *So you must make the right choice. Again, **the kind of a woman that a man would choose will reflect his ambition and his character.** If a man chooses the wrong woman, **it reflects his character.** And what he ties himself to shows truly what's in him. A woman reflects what's in the man when he chooses her for wife. It shows what's down in him. No matter what he says outside, watch what he marries. I go to a man's office and **he says he's a Christian, pinups all around on the walls**, that old boogie-woogie music going on, **I don't care what he says; I don't believe his testimony; because his spirit's feeding on them things of the world.** What say if he would marry a chorus girl, or what if he'd marry a sex queen, or just a pretty modern Ricketta? **It reflects; it shows what he has in his mind of what his future home's going to be**, because he took her to raise his children by, and whatever she is, that's the way she'll raise those children. **So it reflects what's in the man.** A man that takes a woman like that shows just what he is thinking of the future. **Could you imagine a Christian doing a thing like that?** No, sir, I could not. **A true Christian will not look for such beauty queens, and chorus girls, and sex queens. He'll look for Christian character.***

Hear ye Him 57-0519A P:38 *It's your character, your conduct that gives God confidence in you. The reason that we haven't got the great church marching on today, is because God can't find people to put His confidence in.*

Hear Ye Him 58-0301E E-57 *God's searching for real man. I don't mean how big his muscles are. **Man is never judged by his muscle. That's brute. Man is judged by character.** I've seen man that weighed two hundred pounds and solid muscle, and didn't*

have a ounce of man in him; will throw a baby from a mother's arms and ravish her. That's a brute. But **man is measured by character**. There never was a man like Jesus Christ. And the Bible said ***there was no beauty we should desire Him***, but **a character** like it has never been molded. That's right. "***Hear ye Him.***"

When a man dies, we don't stand around and say, look how many companies he started, or look how he built up that church from nothing, no, people don't talk that way, but what they will remember is your character. They will remember how she lived for others at the expense of her own self. They will remember all the sacrifice you made to help others in need. That is what people will remember, and that is what God is looking for.

From his sermon **Hear ye Him 56-1215 E-53** brother Branham said, "***Man is not measured by how much muscle he's got; that's beast. I've seen men that weighed two hundred pounds and didn't have an ounce of man in them: throw a baby out of a mother's arms and ravish her. That's not a man; that's a brute. Man's measured by character. There never was a man like Christ Jesus, never was a character like that. Man's measured by character. And I said, "Man's not measured by his big arms, but by the bags of the knees in his pants, whether he's been praying or not." That's right. And he said, "Aw, you preachers, you'll get next to yourself." And he...***

And so he said in his sermon **Influences 64-0215 P:12** What you **read**, what you **do molds your character**. It tells what you are.

And from his sermon **Identification 63-0123 E-28** He tells us how we get the character of Christ in us. "**You cannot no way ever produce a Character like that, only accepting that Character in you. A church cannot do that. A creed cannot do that. A denomination cannot do that. An education cannot do that. It must be a birth. It's got to be a dying out, and let God in it. By the grace of Christ, mold this type of character in you, that you become Him. And your life and His is the same.** Then you are sons and daughters of God.

Notice he said, ***That you become him.*** and that is perfectly scriptural. Because the apostle Paul said in ***Ephesians 4:15 That ye may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:***

So it is all about growing up into him. Because if you do not grow up into him, you will never reflect His Character.

And then he tells us how to test whether you have that character of Christ or not. He says in his sermon **Identification 63-0123 P:83** ***Do you love the praises of them people more than you love the invitation you're give to mold your character into the image of the Son of God? What about it? How can we do it? Oh, my. Can you see yourself identified, (or) popular-loving?***

Let us pray