

## Unveiling of God no 70

### *The Hardening Process*

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Let us remain standing as we open our Bibles to the Book of **Romans** chapter **9** and take for our text this morning verse **15** through **18**.

**Romans 9:15** *For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. 17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. 18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.*

Let us bow our heads in a word of prayer....

During the course of our study of br. Branham's sermon **The Unveiling of God** we came across the subject of the **Sovereignty of God** where we've looked upon God's Sovereignty first of all **to choose whom he will choose**, which means to also **reveal to whom he will reveal** and therefore to also **blind whomever he chooses to blind**.

We see also in **John** chapter **12** where Jesus also speaks of this hardening of the heart that God does to those who are not ordained to Glory.

**John 12:37** *But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? 39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.*

So you see the aim or purpose of God hardening their hearts is so the promise to the children of being converted, and filled with the Holy Ghost may not be allowed to be taken by those not ordained to receive it.

Therefore, last week we examined **God's sovereignty in Reprobation**. In other words, **His sovereignty to save whom He wills** or **His sovereignty to ordain to condemnation whomsoever He wills**.

We found in our study of **God's Sovereignty in Reprobation** last week that Moses, Paul and William Branham all used the same words "**God hardeneth whom He will harden**", and so this morning I would like to look at this **hardening** of the hearts and how God goes about hardening the hearts of men. I would like to call this the hardening process. Because when you see the process throughout Scripture you will also see it in the day we live in as well. Because God uses this hardening process to bring about the hardening of the hearts of all those who are foreordained to fall away.

Therefore let's turn in our Bibles to the book of exodus and we will go through the Book of Exodus to see how that God makes the promise to harden Pharaoh's heart and then we will see how God brings about that hardening process.

First of all in **Exodus chapter 4** we see God tells Moses that **He will harden the heart of Pharaoh** as part of His strategy to bring Pharaoh and all of Egypt down for taking advantage of the Children of Israel and placing them into bondage.

Now, we have a lot of reading to do so bear with me as we begin to read for ourselves to uncover the hardening process God uses to bring about the condemnation of those ordained to condemnation. .

**Exodus 4:1** *Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. 2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.*

Ok, so right off the bat we see Moses sees a supernatural thing take place, and he is wise enough to know that what he is seeing is a supernatural occurrence because there is a bush that is burning yet the bush is not being consumed.

**3** *And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.*

Ok so then when Moses shows that he is interested in the supernatural, and he begins to walk towards this bush that is burning yet is not being consumed, God then steps into action and begins to communicate with Moses. This further displays not only His Voice to Moses but in reality His very presence, and so he tells Moses, take off your shoes, this land you are now standing on is Holy Because I am Holy.

**4** *And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. 5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. 6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.*

Ok, so now we see Moses comes face to face with God, and he is too humble to look into the face of God, so he bows his head showing he is ready to hear, to recognize and then to act upon the voice of the Lord God.

**7** *And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; 8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.*

So the Lord acknowledges the plight of the people of Israel and He tells Moses I have come down to do something about it, I have come down to deliver them.

And then God begins to tell Moses why He got His attention and what things God wants for him to do.

**10** *Come now therefore*, (in other words I am talking to you Moses and I have plans for you) **I will send thee** unto Pharaoh, **that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.**

Now, look at this scene for what it is. God comes down, He catches the attention of this man Moses and says, I have come down to deliver the people but I am sending you down in my place. I will be with you, and I will tell you what to do, and this is what will take place. And so Moses see this great thing God speaks of that is going to take place, but he doesn't find himself up to the task at hand and so Moses says, ...

**11** *And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?*

In other words, Moses did not doubt that God was going to deliver Israel but he could not understand what he had to do with what God was about to do. And so Moses said who am I that I should be the one you will do this great thing through? And so God promises Moses that His presence will go forth with him, and he will not be left to his own to do what God wants done.

**12** *And he (God) said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.*

I can just hear Moses thinking out loud, saying, "Ok, that is nice, but how is Pharaoh going to let me go out so that I can come up to this place."

And then God begins to tell Moses His plans and how it will come to pass that the people will be let go. Then for the next 9 verses we see this dialogue go on and God beginning to lose patience with Moses.

**13** *And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.*

**14** **And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses**, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? **I know that he can speak well**. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. **15** *And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.* **16** *And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.* **17** *And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.* **18** *And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace.* **19** *And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life.* **20** *And Moses took his*

wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took **the rod of God** in his hand.

Now, to this point God did not teach Moses yet what to do and say, but He knew that He had God's Promise that He would not leave Him nor forsake Him.

Now watch God begin to explain to Moses what would take place when He got to Egypt and began to tell Pharaoh the Message from God.

**Exodus 4:21** *And the LORD said unto Moses, **When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.***

Ok, so the purpose you say is for Moses to go down to Egypt to deliver the people of Israel from the tyrannical rule and bondage they were experiencing under Pharaoh, but then God says I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and not only will I harden his heart, But the very supernatural things I will have you to perform is what will harden his heart.

**Exodus 7:1** *And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet. 2 Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land. 3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. 4 But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. 5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them. 6 And Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded them, so did they.*

**Exodus 7:8** *And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 9 When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. 10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, **they also did in like manner with their enchantments.** 12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.*

Notice it was God by His supernatural power doing, and then Pharaoh's priests by their own divinations and enchantments being able to reproduce what Moses did by the supernatural presence of God, that allowed for Pharaoh to harden his heart.

And so by verse 13 we see God's answer to His promise as we see Pharaoh's heart begin to harden. **Exodus 7:13** *And **he hardened Pharaoh's heart,** that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said. 14 And the LORD said unto Moses, **Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go.***

And so everything that Moses did by the power of God, Pharaoh's priests did just likewise and we see as a result the hardening of Pharaoh's heart. And so on and on with each plague that Moses brought by the power of God Pharaoh's false five-fold ministry were able to do

the same by their enchantments and so each time God brought on a plague, pharaohs ministers did the same to show they also had power.

**Exodus 7:22** *And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.*

Now the next thing God used to harden Pharaoh's heart was to give a respite between plagues. In other words, bring on the heat by bringing on the judgments. Then let things cool down with an extended period where no plagues were on the scene. **Exodus 8:15** *But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them;* as the LORD had said. Now, this word respite means a breathing room, which is a period of time where nothing is happening. a cooling down period. **Respite:** a delay or cessation for a time, especially of anything distressing or trying; an *interval* of relief:

Now, this is important for us to understand, because most people today live in such an urgency of mind that is being produced in their minds because of movies, the media, electronic devices like cell phones etc. And by viewing Movies which last 2 -3 hours max they have in their mind that the plagues were one right after another. But we are told in Scripture that some plagues lasted 3 days while others lasted 7 days, and there was this respite between all of them, so it could have taken from 6 months to just short of a year for them to be completed.

And you know as well as I do how quickly people forget uncomfortable situations. Like when **911** took place many of the people who had left church returned but that only lasted a couple weeks and they soon drifted back to the world and left church again.

So if we say the ten plagues took a total of 40 days because 40 is the number of judgment, and then take a few weeks between each plague, from a month to at most two months, we can see that it would have taken less than a year for all them to take place. Because immediately after the last plague Pharaoh was so broken he let the people go. So let's read on some more.

So God brought forth lice and then took it away and we read in **Exodus 8:19** *Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them;* as the LORD had said.

Then the Lord brought forth swarms of flies and then took them away and so we read in **Exodus 8:32** *And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.*

Then God sent a plague that killed off the cattle and then there was a period of respite and so we read in **Exodus 9:7** *And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.*

And so then God sent boils upon all the people and then when that plague was lifted we read in **Exodus 9:12** *And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them;* as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.

And then we see God send forth hail storms that destroyed the flax and barley that were in harvest season but the other crops like *wheat* and *rie* didn't come up for a couple more months so they were not smitten, because they were still in the ground and so we read in **Exodus 9:34** *And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants.35 And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, neither would he let the children of Israel go; as the LORD had spoken by Moses.*

**Exodus 10:1** *And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for **I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants**, that I might shew these my signs before him:*

Then in verse **14** God sends locusts upon the land to eat up the rie and wheat after it was ready for harvest which was 2 months or more after the last plague of hail and rain destroyed the flax and barley. Now the locusts ate all the wheat and rie, and so then we see in verse 19 the Lord takes away the locusts with a strong wind **Exodus 10:19** *And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt. 20 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go.*

Then we see the Lord bring darkness over the land of Egypt for three days and it was so dark they could not even see one another, but after the three days of fear, and by this time Pharaoh was almost broken and told Moses to go with the children of Israel and leave, but when the Lord lifted that plague his heart was hardened again as we read in **Exodus 10:27** *But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.* and this time Pharaoh was so hardened that he told Moses the next time he saw his face he would die, and that is when the Lord brought forth the last plague which was death of the first born son.

**Exodus 11:10** *And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land.*

And so Pharaoh let the people go, but God told Moses it was not over yet, that He would once more harden the heart of pharaoh and it would lead to his death. **Exodus 14:4** *And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.* and then even after letting the people go, once again there were days if not a week or two that once again because of the respite Pharaohs heart was once again hardened as we see in

**Exodus 14:8** *And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand.*

And of course we know the rest of the story how God let Pharaoh's heart become so hardened that he could not even see the ambush God set before him and he and all his horsemen rushed across the dried up Red sea in pursuit of the children of Israel to their own death, because He allowed them to get so far out into the dried up sea and then with a mighty wind sent the walls of water crushing down upon the most feared army in all the earth.

Now, I hope you have been following the strategy God uses in hardening the heart of pharaoh, because that is the same strategy that God still uses today to harden the heart of those who are ordained to condemnation.

He brings on heat of a trial and then allows things to cool down for a protracted period of time until the person forgets the hardship of the trial. Then God repeats the process again.

Men just can't seem to grasp the fact that "**Whom He** God **wills, He hardeneth**." And it is this that so many people cannot grasp the fullness of God's sovereignty.

David tells us of this hardening process in the book of **Psalms 106:1** ¶ *Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. 2 Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise? 3 Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times. 4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; 5 That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance. 6* ¶ *We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly. 7 Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; **they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea. 8 Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known. 9 He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness. 10 And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. 11 And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left. 12 Then believed they his words; they sang his praise. 13** ¶ **They soon forgot his works;** they waited not for his counsel: 14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. 15 And he gave them their request; but **sent leanness into their soul. 16 They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD. 17 The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram. 18 And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked. 19 They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image. 20 Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass. 21** **They forgat God their savior,** which had done great things in Egypt; 22 Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea. 23 Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them. 24 Yea, they despised the pleasant land, **they believed not his word:** 25 But **murmured in their tents,** and **hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD. 26 Therefore he lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness: 27 To overthrow their seed also among the nations, and to scatter them in the lands. 28 They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead. 29 Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them. 30 Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: and so the plague was stayed. 31 And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto all generations for evermore. 32 They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes: 33 Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips. 34*** ¶ *They did not destroy the nations,*

concerning whom the LORD commanded them: **35** But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. **36** And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. **37** Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, **38** And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. **39** Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions. **40** Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance. **41** And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them. **42** Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand. **43** Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity. **44** Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry: **45** And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies. **46** He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives. **47** Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise. **48** Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.

Now this recount of the journey through the wilderness shows how there were many who came out in that mixed multitude but not all Israel is Israel so God had to harden the hearts of many who came out, and we see time and time again that the people would so easily forget all that God had done for them. And by this he hardened their hearts.

In the book of **Jude 1:3 ¶** we read, *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. 5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrhah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. 8 ¶ Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. 9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. 10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain,*

And what is the Way of Cain? It is to have a word which is out of season. Your sacrifice, which is what has been revealed to you, and that which you give back to God, is out of season) *and they ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward*

Notice the error of Balaam was for reward, and there are three things that will destroy a man, "**money, Popularity and women**", and Balaam wanted to be popular, and he did what he did for money, for a meal ticket, "**and perished in the gainsaying of Core.**" And what was the gainsaying of Core? **He did not believe nor did he understand vindication**, that God uses just one man, and that God was present to vindicate that His man had a message from Himself.

**12** *These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water.*

That's **Deuteronomy 32:1 the rain of God is His Doctrine**, and these are without rain, **therefore without water, no doctrine.**), "*carried about of winds*" because they have no strong doctrine that will hold them, And brother Branham said "**a man without doctrine is a man without a ministry**".

They are driven like the wind, and the winds of doctrine take them all over the place, and because the Word has not been revealed they try to use simple mental prowess to figure out the Scriptures and quotes and they do it to their own destruction.

*"trees whose fruit withereth"* What fruit, or what teaching they do have is dried out and is dead because it dries up and perishes, in fact he says they are "**without fruit**" (In fact they no longer are capable of holding onto any teaching and are left without teaching, without fruit which is the teaching of the season as brother Branham taught us in the **Anointed ones at end time 65-0725M P:42** Notice. *But it's what they produce that tells you the difference. "By their fruit," Jesus said, "you shall know them."* Man does not gather grapes off of a thistle even though the thistle be right in the grapevine. That could be possible, but **the fruit will tell it.** **What is the fruit? The Word for, the fruit for the season; that's what it is, their teaching.** **The teaching of what? The teaching of the season,** what time it is, man's doctrine, denominational doctrine, or **God's Word for the season.**

*"twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars".*

As Brother Branham said, **they wander because they wonder**, therefore **they are not only wandering stars, but wondering stars**, wondering about this and wondering about that, "*to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever*".

And that means that they have shut off the light for ever, and are completely without a clue.

Now, this is an awful condition to be in, and therefore this morning I would like to show you how it is that they arrive at this condition. This **hardening of the heart** does not come on suddenly, you've actually got to work your way to hell.

Brother Branham said, it is like going through a red light. The first time you do it, something in side of you tells you that you had better not do it. But once you have done it, then the next time it is a little easier and then the next time even more easier and on and on until you come to the place that it becomes second nature to you. And that is the way the hardening process takes place.

**Hebrews 3:13** *But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.* Paul tells us to exhort one another daily, **warn one another, be talking this Word**, keeping it fresh in your minds lest you become hardened through the deceitful of sin.

**Proverbs 21:29** ¶ *A wicked man hardeneth his face: but as for the upright, He (God) directeth his way.* If it wasn't for God's choosing, so go we. It is God that hardeneth, and God that shows mercy.

Now, we already covered **Romans 9:17-23** where we see God hardened the heart of Pharaoh in order to destroy him. For time sake we won't read that again. But let me read some things God's prophet taught us.

**Five Junctions of Time 56-0122 E-36** *Paul was on his road down to Damascus to arrest the people that were having a revival down there. And the Angel of Christ came down in a bright Light. It even put Paul's eyes out, it was so bright. And there was none of the rest of men with him saw it. Nobody saw it. **It was so personal to Paul that his eyes went out, and he had to be led by his hands. Is that right? And the men with him, they didn't see no light. They didn't see nothing about it. But that's how it can be so real to some people, and some people know nothing about it. See? God reveals Himself the way He wants to, to the people He wants to. It's His sovereign will. He hardens who He hardens and justifies who He justifies. It lays in God's hands, not in my hand or your hand. It lays in God's hands to what He will do. The Bible said so, do you realize that?***

**Serpents Seed 58-0928E 13-2** *No wonder Paul said in **Romans 9**, "Foolish man, who can tell the Potter what to do about it?" Who... When the clay raises up and say, "Why did you make me thus?" Did not He raise Pharaoh up for the same purpose, that He might show His glory down in Egypt? He hardens who He will and justify who He will. It's not him that willeth, or him that runneth, but God that showeth mercy. So you have nothing to do with it. You haven't one thing to do. If it's grace, if it's a free gift, there's not a thing you can do about it. God has give it to you, and that's the will of God. That's the thing that God has predestinated to you.*

**Divine Healing 54-1219M 133** *Listen. It's not him that wants to get saved, that's saved. It's him that's saved by God's choice. Esau wanted to get saved too. He wept bitterly, and couldn't find no place to repent. He wanted to get saved. It ain't 'cause you want to get saved. God said, "**I've hardened who I will harden. I have mercy on whom I want to have mercy.**" That's right. He said, "**Before Esau or Jacob, either was born, not knowing right and wrong,**" God said, "**I love Jacob and hate Esau.**" And Esau tried to get right with God and couldn't. Pharaoh tried to get right with God and couldn't do it. So it's not you, not what you want. It's what God has ordained for you to do. That's right. Paul said in the **9th of Romans** there, "**Hasn't the potter got power over the clay to make an honored vessel or a dishonored vessel, to show His glory to those who He has honored?**" You didn't know that, did you? That's what the Scripture says. Pharaoh tried his best to repent. He was kindhearted. He said, "Sure, I'll let you go. Go on." God said, "No, you ain't. I'm going to harden his heart so you can't do it." 'Cause God's Word has to be fulfilled. And if we're*

living in this day when formalities and things has broken the church down, broke away; why, it's God's Word being fulfilled. As sure as God said, **"These signs would follow them that believe,"** as sure as God said these churches would be like they are now, God also said this opposition would meet it. **So the same God that ordained signs and wonders, ordained that these should be persecuting against It.** **So there you are. If you're on the other side, I feel sorry.** And I want you not to be that way, but maybe you can't help it. See? God might've fixed it that way.

**Divine healing 54-1219M 148** We've seen people shout and live all kinds of life. We've seen people speak in tongues and do the same. We've seen people go out and pray for the sick to be healed, and do, **live any kind of a life.** Jesus said, **"Many will come to Me and say, 'Lord, have not I prophesied in Your Name, preached? Have not I cast out devils in Your Name?'"** "Yes." **"Have not I done these mighty works?"** "Yes." He'd say, **"Well, then, depart from Me, you workers of iniquity. I didn't even know you."** **"It ain't him that willeth or him that runneth; it's the God that haveth mercy,"** the Bible said. He said, **"Didn't I say to Moses, 'I'll have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I'll harden who I will harden?'"** Paul said, **"No man..."** Well, you say then, **"How can He find fault? If He predestinated you to eternal destruction, how can He find fault?"** Said, **"Oh man, can the thing that's made say to Him that maketh him thus? Can't do it."** 150 **So you see people that you can't talk to, and just won't listen, and won't listen to the Scriptures, and believing half of It's right and half of It's wrong, and yet they do this. You say, "Could that be ministers?"** The Bible said so. Said, **"Men of old was foreordained to this condemnation to take the grace of God and turn it to lasciviousness"** What is "lasciviousness?" **"Knowing truth and won't walk in it."** It said, **"When the Truth has been presented to somebody, he willfully turns away from It, he ignores It, there's no more sacrifice for sin left for that person."** Why? There's nothing in him to believe. Do you get what I mean? 153 Looky here. How could you feed a lamb, slop? He wouldn't eat it. That's right. He wouldn't eat it because he's a lamb. But a pig will eat it (See what I mean?) because he's a pig by nature. And **all that's ordained to Everlasting Life will hear the Truth, and believe the Truth, and come to the Truth.** But those who'll go to church and be just as pious as the rest of them, yet won't receive the Truth, because there's nothing in them to blend with It. **They can't believe the supernatural, for there's no supernatural in here to blend with the supernatural.** There you are. See what I mean? There's nothing supernatural...

**Acts Of The Holy Spirit 54-1219E 35** **"No man can come to Me, except My Father draws him."** **It's not he that wants to be; it's God that elects it to be.** **It isn't whether you want It or not; you have nothing to do with it. It's God.** He, **"He hardens whom He will harden. He has mercy on whom He will have mercy."** That's right. And no matter who you are, what position you have, whether you're the president or whether you're a bum on the street, doesn't make a bit of difference. **"God has mercy on whom He will have mercy."** And before the world began, He ordained that so many people, down through the ages, who they was, would be saved. And every one that He ordained will come to Him. That's right. Every one will come, and none of them will be lost. He's ordained, said there'd be a Church there; It would be without blemish; It would be without wrinkle.

Then how does this hardening take place? As I mentioned about the red light. It is a repeating of the offenses against God that causes a hardening to take place. It is a habitually doing what you know to be wrong. **1 John 3:9** *He that is born of God does not habitually sin, for God's seed remaineth in him.*

If you will notice how **God hardened the heart of Pharaoh** and the Egyptians, it was by **bringing on a hardship**, and then they would cry out for deliverance and when they were delivered, when **God would lift that judgment**, they very quickly forgot and then they got a little bit harder. Then **God would repeat the process over again**, and they would get soft, and then **when the heat was taken off they would cool back down and become even a little more hard**. And **God would repeat this process over and over again**, until the people were tempered just the way they were ordained to be, and then the final judgment would take place.

Just like the refiners fire. He forges the molten metal in the fire, to soften it until it become malleable and moldable, Then he beats it into the shape he ordains it to be and then he cools it, then he **heats it up again and cools it and heats it and cools it** until it become very strong and hardened. But also brittle. I have taken steel bars that were so heat treated too many times that when I bent the mettle in my hand it just broke.

Let's see if the scripture supports our claim.

**I Samuel 6:6** *Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?*

**Psalms 95:7** ¶ *For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, [and] as [in] the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. 10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: 11 Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.*

**Hebrews 3:7** ¶ *Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. 10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.*

**Hebrews 3:15** *While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. 16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. 17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom swear he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?*

**Hebrews 4:7** *Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

**Mark 6:52** *For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.*

**Mark 8:15** And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod. **16** And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread. **17** And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? **have ye your heart yet hardened?** **18** Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? **19** When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. **20** And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. **21** And he said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand?

**John 12:36** While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. **37 ¶** But **though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:** **38** That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? **39** Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, **40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart;** (That word **harden** is from the Greek word "poroo" and means to **harden** or **blind** to cover with a thick skin, to harden by covering with a callus; metaph. to make the heart dull; to grow hard, callous, become dull, lose the power of understanding) **that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.** **41** These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

And the blinding of the heart is actually the hardening of the heart. When your eyes harden you go blind, and when your heart muscle hardens you die. And since we actually see with the eyes of our heart, when the heart hardens your understanding goes dull. And when the heart hardens your spiritual site goes dark.

**Ephesians 4:17** This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, **18** Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

**Romans 11:7** What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (**hardened**)

**II Corinthians 3:14** But their minds were blinded (**hardened**): for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. **15** But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. **16** Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

**Deuteronomy 15:7** If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, **thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:**

**Deuteronomy 2:30** But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: **for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.** **31** And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have begun to

give Sihon and his land before thee: begin to possess, that thou mayest inherit his land. 32 Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz. 33 And the LORD our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people.

**II Kings 17:13** Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. **14** Notwithstanding they would not hear, but **hardened their necks,** like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. **15** And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.

**II Chronicles 36:13** And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but **he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart** from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.

**Nehemiah 9:16** But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and **hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments,** **17** And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but **hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage:** but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

**Jeremiah 7:25** Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them: **26** Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but **hardened their neck:** they did worse than their fathers.

**Mark 6:52** For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

**John 12:40** He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

**What is the main difference between them that become hardened, and those who never become hardened?**

**Proverbs 28:14** ¶ Happy is the man that feareth alway: but **he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.**

**Proverbs 29:1** ¶ He, that being often reprov'd **hardeneth his neck,** shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. In other words when God sends destruction it won't help them a bit.

**Jeremiah 19:15** Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon this city and upon all her towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it, because **they have hardened their necks, that they might not hear my words.**

Notice he tells us they harden their hearts that they might not hear God's Word. That's why people stay home on Wednesday night, their hearts have become hardened. There is no real joy of the Lord in their hearts anymore.

**Washing Jesus feet 57-0310A P:28** *Evangelists has crossed the country and people harden their hearts till the Gospel don't even have any affect on them anymore. I believe the day of grace of this nation is finished. I believe it. Preach, persuade, bring the Gospel; it'll never attract them. A little handful of saints will gather out, but the world sets on the sideline and makes fun of it. That's the way you treat Him. No wonder He doesn't visit. Jesus only comes where He's welcome.*

**God is his own interpreter 64-0205 P:28** *Lot is a type of the denominational church down in Sodom yet. Watch, the Bible said that the sins of Sodom vexed his righteous soul daily... instead of attending church, setting home on Wednesday night, watching television, instead of attending church. They feel like saying something about it, but the board would put them out. What's the matter? It's Lot again, looking out of his window and seeing the sin, and afraid to call sin sin.*

**Expectations 61-0308 P:75** *stay home on Wednesday night from prayer meeting, and let the church set vacant, to watch "We Love Susie," or something like that on, this nonsense on the television. That shows how much you love God.*

**Sign of the time 58-0520 P:37** *Stay home on Wednesday night to see, "We Love Susy," the televisions and things, and let the church set without anything. And run the old fashion pastor out, and put a little kinky headed Hollywood rat in never know no more about God than a rabbit knowed about snowshoes. And put him in there and call him your pastor, electing something like that. **What we need today is the old fashion hell fire and brimstone preacher back in the pulpit to handle the Gospel, barehanded, call black black, and white white. We've played religion too long.***

**We would see Jesus 61-0208 P:16** *But you know what's the matter? We've took out the Wednesday night prayer meeting, and **put in a television program that keeps all the people entertained.** "And **where the treasures is, there the heart is also.**" And what makes people want to go to things of the world? Well, You know the reason you do that is--**the reason people does that?** What makes a man want to get drunk? What makes people want to act the way they do? The world. What would a person stay home on Wednesday night from a prayer meeting, to watch a certain television program? What would they do that for?*

**Greater than Solomon 63-0628E P:82** *You that love television program, that you'll stay home to see some immoral movie star like "We Love Suzie" or what of some of that other stuff that they have, stay home on Wednesday night to watch television instead of coming to the prayer room, the love of God's gone from your heart. You do that, and still you hold your membership? The love of God would drive you from that, and drive you to your church, to your brother and sister, to come together and set in heavenly places and listen at your pastor preach. And the revival, or the camp is ending now. **If that still remains in your heart, let us pray together now that God will remove it.***

**Christ is the mystery 63-0728 P:45** *And now, you've got tapes on that. You've got tapes on what we believe. You got tapes on discipline in the church: how we behave ourself in the church of God, how we got to come here together and set together in heavenly places. **Don't stay home. If God is in your heart, you can't hardly wait for them doors to open out yonder to get in here to fellowship with your brothers.** **If you don't feel that way, then I tell you, it's time you got to praying.** 'cause we're in the last days where the Bible exalted us--exhorted us to--***to much more as we see that day approaching, to love one another with Christian love and Divine love, to assemble ourselves together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus and love one another.*** "This will all men know you're My disciples when you have love one for the other."*

Let us pray