

#14 "If God is with you, why are your prayers not answered?"

1 This morning we will take our text from Malachi chapter 3 and Acts chapter 3.

2 Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. 17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. 18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

3 Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 And (reverential) fear came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. (Notice that nothing happened until the atmosphere was right, and it took reverential fear to create the right atmosphere. And the Doctrine is supposed to produce this right atmosphere of reverential fear.) 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

4 Wuest translation: Acts 2:42-27 And they were giving constant attention to the teaching of the Apostles, and to that which they held in common with them, and to the breaking of bread and to the gatherings to where the prayers to God were offered. And a reverential fear came upon every soul. And many miracles that excited amazement and attesting miracles were performed by the Apostles. And all those who believed were gathered together as a unit and were holding all things in joint participation, and were selling their houses and lands and other possessions and kept on distributing them to all, according to anyone was having a need. And daily they continued to remain in the temple, in perfect unanimity, breaking bread at home, partaking of food together in gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having the good will of the people. And the Lord kept on adding to them daily those who were being saved.

5 Let us pray, Dear father we have come into Thy presence this morning to hear from you. We know Father that you have come down, and we see the hand writing on the walls, and we know that the sixth and seventh visions of your prophet are almost ready to be concluded, but before that seventh one become manifested openly we know we shall be in the arms of Christ, gone, having left this world. Therefore, Father, how ought we to live in this world, and how ought we to be preparing our hearts to enter into that Holy convocation with the saints of all ages.

6 We ask your divine presence to help us to become what you ordained for us to become, where you ordained before the foundations of the world that we would be a holy people, in your presence. For we ask this in that wonderful name you gave your son by inheritance, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

7 Now, being that last night we took of the communion table, I would also like to read from I Corinthians 11:27 because this also speaks of that atmosphere of fear and expectation. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we

are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. 33Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another

8 Now, I believe what is missing from the churches today is this reverential fear. The churches are too much like lodges today, and everything has become a social gathering instead of a self introspection when we come together in prayer and worship. We are living in a wicked world where the governments are being controlled by the Catholic church behind the scenes, and we have a Pope who has stated openly that all Christians outside the Catholic Church are heretics, and the only true believer is the catholic. This man has undone all the ecumenical efforts of his predecessors in one speech, and has opened the way for that domineering religious spirit to once again bring forth a persecution among those who do not fall in line with the organized church. And the people perish because they have no vision. And they can not even get answers to their prayers. Mark 16 Is not working for them. James 5 is not working for them. Why? We will find out this morning.

9 From his sermon Get the people to believe 52-0717 P:4 Brother Branham said, Now, I wish to read something about prayer over here in the good Book, in James the 5th chapter, beginning with the 14th verse. Everyone listen closely now. Is any sick among you? let him call the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing with oil in the name of the Lord: The prayer of faith shall save the sick... the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed any sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for the other, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man..." Now, a righteous man is not a sinless man. See? A righteous man is a man who is confessing his sins in a righteous One. You see? See, a righteous man... Now, watch, to prove it, the next verse: Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are (See?), and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. (A man that has his ups-and- downs, just like we do, not an Angel, a man... See?)And he prayed again, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

10 James 5: 16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

11 Psalm 32:1Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. 3When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. 4For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. 5I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. 6For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. 7Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. 8I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. 9Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee. 10Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. 11Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

12 Faith without works is dead 53-0905 P:20 I said, "No psychiatrist could ever pull that out of you. No," I said, "that had to come Divine." I said, "Now, you go to your husband and make that right." She said, "I can't, Brother Branham. I got three children." Said, "It'd break my home up." I said, "Well, it's going to break it anyhow." I said, "Because you're not going to live like that. You're going completely insane." I said, "You can't keep that." And I said, "That's way back in the gable end of your soul." She said, "Well, I've confessed that to God." I said, "It wasn't God you sinned against. It was your husband. If you'd have been a single woman, it'd been different, but you sinned against your marriage vow." And I She said, "Well, Brother So-and-so told me." I said, "Sister, that

don't have nothing to do with it. That unconfessed sin, and they could pour oil on your head till they got a gallon on there. They could stomp, and kick, and snort, and run across the platform, and scream, and holler. That'll... That Devil will stay right there. He's got a right to, and as long as he's got a right to stay there, he will hold his grounds." And I said, "You'll never..." I said, "I've done all." She said, "I just can't do it."

13 Faith without works is dead 53-0905 P:25 Now, you couldn't have poured enough oil on her, anointed her with oil. You couldn't have stomped, or hollered, or... Devil don't care how loud you holler. He don't pay no attention to that. That's right, but he will recognize faith. Yes, sir. He will have to know where truth lays, and he will recognize truth, and he will recognize faith. And if you have got something... That's the reason I watch close. Now, on these lines like we're going to have tonight, we just pray for the people, and lay hands on them and so forth. That's the way that... That's going to be up to you. So you confess your sins before you come to the platform and say, "Lord," and everything's in your life, you straighten it up now before you come. For be it assured to you that that thing will hang right over you as long as you got unconfessed sin.

14 Show us the Father 59-0419E P:70 Now, you in the prayer line that's standing here now, to come into the line, if there is any unconfessed sin in your life... Remember, I'm laying it right back in your lap, my brother. Look, if you have got sin, that you have not confessed, just be it aware that you'll be worse than ever if you come here to be prayed for with unconfessed sin in your life. You make things right. If that's in your life, step out of the line just a minute, make that right; come back in the line. But don't come like that. Now, that's the reason my lines use to be, when I combed each person closely to see if there was sin in their life by the visions of the Lord. Then the reason I did that was to be sure. If God permitted Satan to put a something on the people and I come along with prayer and take it off, then I would be in trouble with God. And so I don't want to do that, and that's the reason I kept it just one by one and watch closely that nothing pass by. Now, tonight, not a discerning line, not in the discernment, but just to pray... So if you've got unconfessed sin in your life, don't come in the line before you make it right. Now, then if you have, when you pass by here, don't come by just say, "I'm going up and let Brother Branham pray for me." Get that off your mind.

15 Led by the spirit 59-0407 P:55 I see they're still trying to get them all in line back there, so I'm waiting just a few minutes to see if they still got them lined up. Now, let's bow our heads just a moment now while we make ready. Set reverent now, waiting, each one now, waiting on the Holy Spirit. Now, you that's in the prayer line, if you've got any unconfessed sin your life, just be it known unto you, that God will never heal you as long as you got unconfessed sin in your life. And that's why I take that line real slow, the old line, for the Holy Spirit would reveal to me. And all you are witness of that, how sin's been called out of people, told them, and this woman here in adultery with this man setting up here. You know how those things has been. And that's the reason I comb the case real close, before I try to pray a prayer of faith for them. 'Cause what if God let the devil put that sickness on them to bring them to discipline, and here I come around with a Divine gift with faith and took it off of them? See, I'm in trouble with God, like Moses who smote the rock instead of speaking to it.

16 Go tell 60-0417M P:85 And, remember, if any of you has got any unconfessed sin, be it known unto you that God will never heal you with that unconfessed sin. Make it right before you come through here, 'cause it might make you worse. See?

17 Balm of Gilead 59-0614 P:55 But now, remember, if God has permitted sickness to come on you to bring you to discipline, and you refuse to discipline yourself before God, then step out of the line. Don't come in there, because you... It might make you worse. If you're sinful, and you got unconfessed sin, make it right with God before you come to God for prayer.

18 South Africa testimony 54-0902 P:60 Prayer is the right thing. But listen, friend, if you went to a doctor. And the doctor, you say, "Oh, doctor, I'm having headaches all the time." He said, "Here take this." And he give

you some aspirin. That ain't a doctor. He's just trying to get rid of you. A real doctor would take you in and examine you and find out what was causing those headaches. And then work there. Is that right? That's a real doctor. Well now, that... Before you can find a cure, you got to find the cause. Is that right? If a person's sick, there's some reason they're sick. What caused it? You got to... It may be unbelief; it may be hidden sin; it may be unconfessed sin. It may be God trying to get them to do a certain thing. I don't know. But when I find what it is, then I know what I'm talking about. Then I can say, "It's THUS SAITH THE LORD," because it's true.

19 Greater witness than John 53-1107 P:47 In a few minutes, here they come back up the steps, tears streaming down their cheeks... Ah-ha, Satan lost his hold then. See? Now, there's where it's at. See? Now, that settled it. But as long as that sin was under there, no matter how loud you scream, how hard you stomp, how much oil you pour on, how loud you pray, or how easy you pray, or whatever you do, that devil will stay right there. 'Cause he has a legal right, as long as you got unconfessed sin. That's right. And you'll watch on the platform... You seldom here me say something about, "I cast out this devil." I have to see first whether it's the will of God to do that first. I'll pray for the person, but never call over that demon.

20 Do you now believe 53-1106 P:9 Now, if there's something hanging over you, sin, and you don't confess that, you could anoint that person, pray for them, do everything you want to do, it'll... Satan will stay right there as long as you got unconfessed sin in your life. Or some times something that you haven't done, something you neglect to do. And in there God reveals it if there's anything wrong. Then you make that right; your healing is complete.

21 God in His people 50-0227 P:26 Now, the gift declares all diseases. Now, this is the claim. The gift declares all diseases, rebukes sins, calls the secrets of the people's hearts. And remember, that any persons come into the prayer line, if you come with unconfessed sin, remember, it'll be told from this platform. No matter how vulgar and bad it is, it'll be told from the platform. Now, that's a great statement to make. And remember, I stand before thousands of people, but It's never failed one time.

22 Then what about the great white throne judgment? You won't be able to hide then. And don't confess the blood, because as long as you have unconfessed sin, God will not hear your prayer and the blood is not obligated to take away your sin.

23 Psalms 66: 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

24 Harvest time 64-1212 P:80 Didn't Jesus say, "Many will come to Me in that day, and say, 'Lord, haven't I prophesied in Your Name? In Your Name I've cast out devils. I've done mighty works. I've been a great man in the organization. I've done all these things, these things'?" He'll say, "Depart from Me, you that work iniquity." What is iniquity? It's something that you know that's right, and you concede it and won't do it in your heart. When you know that that Bible teaches a certain thing, and you won't do it, that's iniquity. And David said, "If I hide iniquity in my heart, God will not even hear my prayer." Is that Truth? Is that the Bible? Now, surely you couldn't get angry with that. See? Jesus said that, "Many will come to Me in that day, and say, 'I've done all these things,' and I'll say, 'Depart, you workers of iniquity.'" Same as did Adam. Adam said, "Lord, I did this, I did that." But one Word (See?), one Word did it. That's all it takes, just disobey one Word.

25 Behold a greater than Solomon is here 62-0721 P:86 Someday You want Him to say, "It's well done, My good and faithful servant. He that will confess his sin..." "But if I regard iniquity in my heart, then God will not hear my prayer," said David. What is iniquity? Iniquity is something that you know that you're doing that you ought not to do and still won't repent of it. If I regard iniquity in my heart, knowing that I should do it, and don't do it, then God promised, the Bible promises that God will not hear your prayer, if you know you should do it and won't do it. That right, brethren? That right, brother ministers? It's true,...

26 Works is faith expressed 65-1126 P:44 Well, that's the same way with preaching Divine healing or anything else. As you go along, you begin to learn. If you don't learn, there's something wrong. See? You've got to learn, and you've got to learn how to accept God and what it really means. We allow it, sometimes say, "Well, this guy didn't have enough faith; this guy didn't do this and this. There's a reason there for that; there's a reason. Sometime it's unconfessed sin. You could pour a gallon of oil on a person, and scream till you got hoarse; it would never move that devil. No, sir. You've got to confess that. That's what discernment does, say, "Go make that right; bring that out." But it's so slow doing that. You see? And then the rest of them get impatient, and they say, "Aw, I never got prayed for."

27 Deep calleth to deep 54-0624 P:48 That's the same thing we have to do here. If an evil spirit... If there's unconfessed sin or something, or some out of the will of God, you could anoint them all night long, and cry, and scream and do all you wish to, that demon will stay right there. That's right. He has a right to. Well, that's what you have to watch. God has put a curse on somebody for something, then you come along and take it off, you get in trouble like Moses did. That's right.

28 Enticing spirits 55-0724 P:35 You can't bless what God has cursed, neither can the devil curse what God has blessed. It's an individual affair, no matter how poor, or how stupid, how unlearned, how uneducated; what God's blessed is blessed. What God has cursed is cursed. Know to differentiate what is right and what is wrong. Micaiah knew good and well that that wasn't the Lord that was with them preachers. But what was the matter with those preachers? Notice what they did. They had been dressed the best; they had been fed the best. They had come together in their parties and so forth, in their alliances until the place had gotten to, where they only knew their own theology. And the Bible said that Micaiah, when he was looking at the vision, he said, God said, "Who can we get to go down there and deceive Ahab." And a lying spirit said, "I'll go down there and entice Ahab through those preachers." Because they have to go out there in order to bring the Word of God to pass.

29 God keeps His Word 57-0115 P:50 Jehoshaphat said, "But hadn't he got one more?" One more? One more, the whole organization...?" Said, "So what about it? The whole organization says we're right. All the doctors and all of them say we're right." "Seems to me like I read where the Lord... Ahab, you just got another one?" He said, "I got a holy-roller out here," or something, ever what he was. He was an outcast, off brand. He said, "He's the son of Imlah; his name is Micaiah." But said, "I hate him." Oh, sure you do. Said, "He won't join with my group." Well, I don't blame him. Said, "Oh, my," said, "he's radical. And he never says anything good against me." Now, that lets the cat out of the bag right then. See? See, the reason they said that? See? Said, "He never says anything aga..." How could he say anything good against him? They're a good for him, 'cause he was no good to begin with. God had condemned him and rejected it. And how you going to bless what God has cursed? Or how you going to curse what God has blessed?

30 Anointed ones at end time 65-0725M P:55 Notice both of them, both of them anointed. Now, how could you tell which was right and wrong? Watch what the Word promised to Ahab. The prophet which was before him, which was Elijah, one of the greatest prophets of the age, that was a vindicated prophet, that vindicated prophet said that because Ahab had done this evil, that the dogs would lick his blood (took Naboth's life), and that the dogs would eat Jezebel and the--her body would be dung upon the fields. Now, how can you bless what God has cursed? Or how can you curse, as Balaam said, what God has blessed? See? But these prophets were sincere. There were no doubt but what they were good men, honorable men, for to be a prophet in Israel you must be honorable, or to even be an Israelite. You was stoned if not. They were honorable men. They were smart men. They were educated men. They were the selected of Ahab of the nation (see that, Sister Wright?)--the selected of the nation, well fitted for the...?...

31 Perseverance 62-0608 P:64 So Micaiah gave his prophecy, that he saw Israel scattered like sheep. Now, four hundred ministers standing there, all of them well, all them prophets, great men, ecclesiastical force. But Micaiah

was persistent. He had checked his vision with the Word. He knowed it was right. He knowed what that real prophet... Elijah had prophesied evil against Ahab, and how could he say good when the Word said evil? How can you bless what God has cursed, or how can you curse what God has blessed? It must be with the Word. Sometimes you have to stand alone, but stand there. That's right. Be persistent. Stay right with it. No matter what anybody else says, stay with it. Micaiah stayed right with it. And of course, we find out that it proved out that he was right. Faith never denies the truth of the Word, but holds to it no matter how ridiculous it might seem. Faith holds right on to the truth of the Word. Peter (in closing)... Oh, my. Why didn't somebody pull me? I didn't know it was getting that late. Excuse me, friends. I'd better stop right here then. I'll say just a couple of more little comments here (See?), and then go. Let's change it just a minute. All right. Notice. (Thank you.)

32 Micaiah the prophet 61-0426 P:42 You know, it used to be black was black and white was white. You mix it together and you got gray. So that's just the way it is. They're so mixed up. What is the drawing line between right and wrong? Methodists is right, what about Baptists? If Presbyterian's right, what about Pentecost? There's a drawing line somewhere. That drawing line is God's Word. That's the Word. God's drawing line is His Word. "Let every man's word be a lie, and Mine the Truth." So how can we bless what God has cursed? How can you let the men be married two or three times and deacons in your churches? How can you let the women who wear bobbed hair and shorts, and dress themselves all sexy come up in the platform, and play the piano, and get out in the streets and walk around like that, and not say something about it? You can't stop it, but you can give a word against it. And ninety-five percent of them smoke cigarettes, and carry on, and drink beer.