

#147 The Witness of our Spirit

1 Now, this evening I would like to read from brother Branham's sermon The Spoken Word is the Original Seed and we will read from paragraph 155-6 155And you say, "Well, Brother Branham, wait a minute. Bless God, I've seen them go out there and heal the sick." Oh, sure; so have I. "Oh, I've seen them speak in tongues." Yes, sir. So have I. And I've never believed, and there's no one can prove it by God's Word, that the initial evidence of the Holy Ghost is speaking in tongue. I want the man to come do it. I've challenged that all along. I believe in speaking in tongues. Yes, sir; but I've seen devils speak in tongues, witches and wizards speak in tongues and interpret it, denying there was such a thing as Jesus Christ. I've seen men speak in tongues living with another man's wife. Stand and look me right in the face and a vision before him, call him out to one side and made him a witness to it. And you call that the Holy Spirit?

2 156Oh, yes. You say, "Well, Brother Branham, don't you believe the Holy Ghost speaks in tongues?" Yes, sir, but give it the Word test. See, Jannes and Jambres worked miracles. That's right, didn't they? Yes, sir. Jannes and Jambres... When Moses went down to Egypt, everything that Moses done in the way of a sign, Jannes and Jambres, them two witches, could produce the same thing: two devils. Moses would say, "Fleas." They said, "Fleas." Moses said, "A stick on the ground." They said, "A stick on the ground." "A serpent." "A serpent." That's right. They could work miracles. The Bible said that in the last days that devils would rise working miracles and would deceive the people. Awful hard, brother, but you must know the Truth.

3 Now, what the Pentecostal people are looking for is some sort of evidence or witness to the fact that they have been baptized with the Holy Spirit and are indeed sons and daughters of God. Now, that is not a bad motive, because everyone looks for some form of marker in their live to tell them whether they are or whether they are not filled with God's Spirit. So the Pentecostals decided it would be speaking in tongues, because after all on the day of Pentecost the believers spoke in tongues. Today, they have taken this thought and added their own thoughts and they teach that the evidence of the Holy Spirit is for you to speak in an unknown tongue. But what happened on the day of Pentecost is contrary to what they teach. They did not speak in unknown tongues, the real miracle on the day of Pentecost was that every man heard them in their own language.

4 Acts 2:1And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. 12And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

5 So you see there was a witness on that day that the Holy Spirit fell on the believers, and it was that every man who heard them could understand what was being said in their own language.

6 Now, the Apostle Paul spoke of the Witness of God's Spirit to the believer in Romans 8 13For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 18For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

7 Notice Paul tells us that it is "The Spirit" that bears witness with "our Spirit" that we are the sons of God. Brother Branham said, "Just because you were Baptized correctly doesn't mean you are born again". He said, "you must be baptized with the Holy Ghost."

8 God's provided place of worship 65-0425 P:40 Let's find out what the Bible says now. We find in I Corinthians the 12th chapter, the Bible said, "By one Spirit are we all baptized into one Body." We're baptized into the Body of Christ by one Holy Spirit. We're not shook in; we're not joined in; we're not baptized with water in. We are baptized with the Holy Ghost into the Body of Jesus Christ. How long does it last when you get in There, until you misbehave yourself? Ephesians 4:30 says, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you're sealed until the day of your redemption." Argue with Him, not me. That's what It says. I'm reading It. All right. "You're sealed until the day of your redemption," until the day that Jesus comes for you. Then think of it.

9 God's provided place of worship 65-0425 P:70 See, you can't die; you're done quickened. Oh, if the church could only see that, that it's not what you're going to be; you already are. It's the Devil trying to rob you from that." Well," say, "now I'll tell you. I belong to this." Don't care what you belong to. You've got to be born, regenerated, baptized with the Holy Ghost into Jesus Christ, quickened to every Word. Your Spirit in you will punctuate "amen" to every Word of the Bible. Outside of that, if it shakes its head on one, you get rid of that spirit. It's not the Spirit of God that would dispute the Word of God. It'll keep the Word of God. Not only does it believe It, but It makes It live. It manifests the Word of God. Yes, sir.

10 Now, notice he said, "You are already" so what does that mean? Well, let me say this, a few weeks ago I made a statement that if you were not listening you might have not understood what I was trying to say. I said it is not your actions that are predestined, it is the person that is predestined. Now, I know we can see some actions that are spoken of in scripture as being predestined, and that is correct. But the person is Who God predestinates. He has a picture of you from the very beginning in His mind, and you are ordained to that picture. But you start out here, and He has ordained you to end up here. See, by foreknowledge He knew you, and planned your destiny, that is like this. In the beginning in His mind, He knew you, and ordained you to a certain status and state. Sons of God in the image of the first born son, right?

11 Ok, but you are here now, and not there. Yet you are on your way there. So According to Psalms 1:6 The Lord watches over the way of the right with an active participation, so when you are in trouble, He is there as your buckler and shield. When you are in need He is there as your Jehovah Jireh, your provider. When you are sick he is there as Your healer. You see, He ordained you to a certain place, a certain role in the family, and He is there every step of the way. Now, that doesn't mean that He pushes you through a tube and says blessed is he that overcomes. No way, but He is there to make sure you do not do too much damage to yourself.

12 He said if you be any other wise minded, He would reveal it to you. So that means He is there as that still small voice to lead and guide, if only you will let Him. But He doesn't make your choice for you, he let's you make it yourself. So if I am here in this state right now, but I am ordained to that state He saw me in before the foundations of the world, then I know I am going to be there. I do not know what turns I might take on my

journey to that state, but I know who does know, and I know that He will place in front of me whatever it takes me to make the right decision.

13 It's like curling, you know that Olympic winter sport. They throw the clay jar down the ice toward the target, and then the two people go before it preparing the path. They brush here or there and by the way they brush the ice it makes the clay vessel turn right or left, but they lead it to its final destination. And so too a man may choose his way but the Lord directs His footsteps.

14 Psalms 17:5 Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

15 Proverbs 15:19 The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.

16 Proverbs 10: 3 The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

17 Psalms 1: 6 For the LORD knoweth (yada the Lord watches over) the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. (aw-bad that means he is left to himself).

18 So then we had to ask the question... Then how do we know we have been born again by the Spirit of God? By what means do we have confidence that we have been born again? What is our evidence or our assurance - or witness that we are born again and have been baptized with the Holy Spirit? And so we must ask ourselves this question. By what witness do we have confirmation that we have been truly born again? And then I would like to say, First of all we know that the Holy Spirit is a down payment or earnest of our inheritance. We find this in Ephesians 1: 13 - 14 And secondly, we know that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is our hope of Glory, or the earnest expectation that God's mind coming in and taking over our mind as we find in Colossians 1: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

19 And 2 Thess 1: 10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

20 And again in 1 John 2: 19-21 where John said, "we have an anointing which makes us to know all things", and You'll notice that when we receive this anointing upon our minds and our soul we are quickened to the Word of God as John said, We know all things. And this is exactly what Brother Branham said when He said the Word for the hour becomes all lit up before us.

21 God's only provided place of worship 65-1128M P:114 You see Who the door is? Where did God put His Name? In Jesus. How do you get in His Name? How do you get in there? By being baptized in there. How by? Water? By Spirit: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, that's Holy Ghost baptism. The water baptism just put you in fellowship with the people, that you recognized that you have accepted Christ. That's the True. But it's Spirit baptism. I can call the Name of Jesus over you and baptize you; that doesn't make it so. But when once that Holy Spirit really genuine Word comes into you (the Word, Jesus), then, brother, the message is no secret to you then; you know It, brother; It's all lit up before you.

22 Thirdly we know that we are truly looking at a birth, a genuine birth of a genuine Life that is coming forth into existence as we see in Colossians 3: 1-4 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall

ye also appear with him in glory.

23 Gal 2: 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

24 and Eph 2: 1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

25 and it comes by the Word according to 1 Pet 1: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

26 Here we see that there are actually two different types of being born again. One which is a denominational type of being born again by a corruptible seed or word and the other is God's Provided Way of being born again by the Word of God which is incorruptible in its nature. Now notice, it speaks of seed and Word and so if the incorruptible Seed is the Word of God then the other seed must be a different sort of word or some other's word. And so when the Son of Man went forth sowing Good Seed or Good Word, we know it is God's Word since Jesus said we should call no man good but God. And this Seed was called the Good Seed so it then must be the Good Seed which is the Word of God a carrier of God Life. Then the man in black (which we know is the devil) followed behind, sowing forth bad seed or bad word, and then we see both seeds growing up together until the time of the harvest.

27 Now, knowing then that this new life or new birth comes by means of the Word of God, then we must ask ourselves, "What witness do we have that we are truly born again?" In John 8: 12-19 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. 13 The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true. 14 Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go. 15 Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man. 16 And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. 17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. 18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me. 19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

28 Here we find Jesus Himself telling us in the mouth of two or three witnesses we are to establish a thing. If we read John 5: 30-32 we see that we can not be our own witness for our witness does not count without that of another. I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. 31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. 32 There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.

29 So we see here that it is not just a matter of you having a good conscience about the matter, or a good witness within yourself because every denomination that teaches the new birth look to their own experience and to their own conscience to tell them if they have this or not. Jesus Himself said, "You can't go by your own words or your own testimony" because, let's face it, if this were true, then everyone who claimed to have it would have it based upon their own testimony. And as Brother Branham said, "Just because you say it doesn't make it so." Jesus said, "God is My witness".

30 John 10:25 Notice, Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

31 Acts 15:8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as [he did] unto us; Jesus Himself said we had to have a witness outside of our own selves. Then He said, God was His

witness. Then He said that God through His Vindication was His witness. So we see then the Word we serve, must be a manifested Word for the Hour and it must have been vindicated, and then this vindication becomes our witness.

32 So it all comes down to this, ... Brother Branham said when we are Baptized with the Holy Spirit the Word becomes alive to us and becomes all lit up before us. God's only provided place of worship 65-1128M P:114 But when once that Holy Spirit really... genuine Word comes into you (the Word, Jesus), then, brother, the Message is no secret to you then; you know It, brother, It's all lit up before you.

33 Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. So we see that His Faith which is revelation was his witness, because only the Father can give us revelation but it must come through the right channel which is His Prophets.

34 So I hope you can see just what this witness is and we shall see how all others continue to look for a witness, something they can identify with in order to bring an assurance to them. But in their own human efforts they leave the light for the hour and go back to what is popular and what has already been proven as a witness in ages gone by. But let me assure you of one thing, the witness of another age is not the witness of this age unless you go all the way back to the beginning for Alpha has got to become Omega. And yet it is not the fruit of Alpha that we look for but the Seed that was planted in Alpha is what sprouts forth in Omega.

35 So I hope and trust the Seed that was sown by the Son of Man is indeed bringing forth fruit in your life which identifies where its life comes from by reflecting the same life that was in the original Seed.

36 Let's bow our heads and heart in a word of prayer.