

#191 Understanding St. John 14:12

- 1** Because there is a need for it, tonight I would like to speak on St. John 14:12 that we might gain a better understanding concerning this scripture.
- 2** John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.
- 3** This Scripture is one that is not very well understood in this Message. Many want to claim that for the Bride and then there are those who claim it alone for the Prophet Messenger William Branham.
- 4** Tonight I would like to examine this Scripture in the Light of the Word of God and Message so we can see what the real truth is behind it.
- 5** Now, where much of the misunderstanding comes from is those who take St. John 14:12 to be the same as Mark 17:16-17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
- 6** Now, there is a quite a bit of difference between these two Scriptures for St. John 14: 12 speaks of him that believes and this "him" shall do even greater things than what Jesus the son of God did. However in Mark 16 we see it is not speaking in the singular, but in the plural. These signs shall follow them. Then is plural and speaks of more than one.
- 7** Now, when Brother Branham was quoting St. John 14:12 brother Branham said in his sermon, Super Sign 63-1129 170-177 Many people wanted to accept Jesus. They thought they'd do it, "in some other convenient time," one said. They want to accept Christ, but they put it off too long. Some of them tried to get Him off their hands, and tried to wash it off with water, pass the buck on to somebody else, but it backfired. It's on your hands tonight, thrown right back in your lap. Hebrews 13:8, regardless of how many Council of Churches we have, still remains as Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- 8** Then brother Branham after quoting Hebrews 13:8 begins to quote St. John 14:12 and he says, "The works that I do..." (That's St. John 14:12 he is quoting here, and then he says, ...)
- 9** If His Life is in you, it'll manifest Jesus Christ. Now, that is true, and he even says Amen to what he just said. But then he says, "Now, you all can't be that one, but you can be a part of that with your faith. So brother Branham is telling us that at least the last half of St. John 14:12 speaks of one person. He says, you all can't be that one! Then notice what he says next, he says, All of them (whose he talking about? He uses the word all of them. And what about this all of them? He says, they) couldn't be a Jesus, when they was on earth, but they could believe Him and accept the message. Then we see brother Branham become very definitive here.
- 10** Notice he then says, There was one Moses, one Elijah, one Noah, on down, always been that, but the rest of them could accept it. And they (who is the they he is speaking of here? One Moses, One Paul, One Jesus etc. They) would've had no ministry unless there'd been somebody believe it. Jesus would've had no ministry 'less somebody believed it. Paul would've had no ministry 'less somebody believed it. The Holy Ghost has got no

ministry by the Word today unless somebody's willing to get away from their creed and come back to the Word again, no matter how well it's here and how real it's here. It's here now. I know it's here. I feel it. I know it's here. The Word says it's here. "Wherever two or three are gathered in My Name, I'm in the midst of them." And I truly believe that He's here, the same yesterday, today, and forever.

11 Now, then I want you to notice that there is one that God is dealing with here. It is not a universal Message but a One Man message. But you have got to wake up to what that Message is.

12 Always remember, Deuteronomy 29:29 tells us, the secret things belong unto the Lord our God but those things which have been revealed belong unto us and to our children forever that we may do all the words of this law.

13 So the whole purpose of the Secret things being revealed to us is that we may do all the Words of God's Law.

14 Now, here is the key which I want to bring to our understanding tonight. There is a difference between the Works that I do, and the motive and objective in doing those works.

15 Now, right after brother Branham was telling us that there could have only been one Jesus and One Moses and One Paul, he then tells us that the objective for the works that these men did was to bring us to the place of recognition of the hour in which we live.

16 He continues saying, Oh, if I could get this little tabernacle... I love you. And I don't believe there's a man on earth that I could say I loved any better than Jack Moore, and that's right, Young Brown, and Lyle, and these men here. I read a article today that Anna Jean wrote; I was going to ask her permission to reprint it again of the nice things that they can say. And, look, but if you don't wake up quickly, it's going to be too late. The Life Tabernacle, I'm part of you, and that's the reason I cry out. Year by year, I find it cooling. You might not notice it; you live right in it; but stay on the field and then return back with the memories of the year before. Didn't I tell you that out there in that little tent one night, "From this hour on"? What'd I say about Shreveport when that woman give me that dirty write-up that time? Remember what I said that time about the United States, three or four years ago, five, then run all through the papers? I said, "This year the United States will accept the Gospel or they'll never do it." They've declined since that time. And there'll never be a big revival in America no more like that. If you believe me to be a prophet, you remember that's the Word of the Lord. See? Just watch and see if it isn't dying. The churches are dying. They're withering away. And it kills me, inside of me to know that men and women that I love better than I love my own life, that I've given my life. I've come among you as your brother, not your God; your brother, not your enemy; your brother. I've told you the Truth, and God's declared the same. With every word I've preached, He's declared it to be -exactly the Truth. Then why not accept it, brother, sister? In the love of Jesus Christ, why don't you accept It? If you'll just believe that to be the Truth, just accept It to be the Truth, that's all I ask you to do.

17 And yet we find so many in this Message thinking that St. John 14:12 applies to them in the same way it applied to William Branham, and that is so far from the truth. The first half perhaps, but never the second half. And as brother Branham said, show me the works and then we will talk about the greater works. So how can we say it pertains to us unless there is evidence that it does. Just because you claim to be a believer doesn't mean that God views you as one.

18 And because they do not understand the application of St. John 14:12 and how it differs from Mark 16 they want to fuss and fight about it. But I am not here to fuss nor fight, but what I am here to do is to try to help you by the Grace of God to get a better understanding of this Scripture, and it's application for the day that we live in.

19 In this next quote I want you to see how brother Branham ties St. John 14:12 with Malachi 4, and Luke 17:30 etc. Invisible union of the bride 65-1125 P:83 Malachi 4, Luke 17:30, St. John 14:12, Joel 2:38. Those promises is just exactly like John the Baptist identified himself in the Scripture. Jesus identified Himself, what did they say? "Away with such a person. John's a wild man." The church wasn't able to receive it. That's the pattern. Neither will the church receive it today. But to the elected, God's calling. To the elected, they know it. Calling the virtuous Bride, the Word, the last day church, the elected Lady of our Lord Jesus Christ, Word. If Jesus is the Word... How many believes that? All right. then the Bride is always part of the Bridegroom. So the Bride will not be a denomination; it'll have to be the Word manifested to be the Bride of Christ. He promised to do it. He said how He'd do.

20 So we are to be looking at the Manifested word, not just an unfulfilled promise in this Bible. And let me say this, show me one ministry that has fulfilled St. John 14:12 with greater signs than what Jesus had? There was only one since his day and that was in William Branham, period.

21 And I want you to notice further that the very purpose of God using that man to manifest that Scripture is for a purpose.

22 Christ revealed in His own Word 65-0822M P:113 So we see the evening Light's here. And what does it do to have light, if you don't have any eyes to see how to get around in it. What is the evening Light? The Light comes on to reveal something. Is that right? If there's something here you feel, and you can't understand what it is in the darkness, then turn a light on. It's to reveal. What's Malachi 4 to do? See? Do the same thing. What was the opening of the Seven Seals to do? What are all these denominations staggering around in this...?... It's to reveal, bring out. If you haven't got any eyes, then what's the use to reveal? There has to be eyes first to see. Is that right? It'll reveal Malachi 4, reveal St. Luke 17:30, St. John 14:12, also John 15:24; 16:13, and to also reveal Revelations 10:1-7, the opening of the Seven Seals and the Seventh Angel's Message, to open up, to reveal when the evening Light's come.

23 So we see the ministry of Malachi 4 is to reveal St. John 14:12 etc. So the works that I do is not what you and I are to do, but was what the man who believes was supposed to do.

24 And so we see much contention concerning this because some want to have what they were not ordained to have. So let me tell you what the whole thing is about.

25 There is a pre-condition to Mal 4, there is a Pre condition to Revelation 10:1-7. There is a pre-condition to St. John 14:12 just as there was a pre-condition for all the Scriptures that came to pass in their day. And what is that pre-condition? There had to be the right man, the right vessel to step into the word that is spoke of that one in that day. And brother Branham said, "when God has a Word for the season, the vessel God uses to manifest that word for that season, becomes the manifested Word for that season."

26 So as much as you want to believe for St. John 14:12 to be you, that you will do greater works, it just can't be. That Scripture has already been manifested in William Branham. And the greater works speaks of only one, not many. But as brother Branham said, that one would not have had a ministry if there had been no one to receive it.

27 So when God has a Word for the hour that speaks of who you are, then you must step into that Word for that Word to become manifested. And I have shared quite a bit on that concerning the Spirit of Adoption because after all, if we do not have the spirit of an obedient son in us, then forget it all.

28 For years I have been a staunch defender of John 14:12 only being for br. Branham and that is true if you are

looking at the greater works in his ministry, because John 14:12 speaks of the greater works, ie: "even Greater shall "he" do, for I go to my Father..." Which no man's ministry even compared to Jesus Ministry in that way until this hour in William Branham, and even more so than what God did in the ministry of His own dear son. However, our focus should not be the works, but the obedience that is the pre-condition to the works being done. Obedience is the pattern which has been established for us. Because let's face it, Jesus never did the works nor did William Branham, it is God who does the works, and they just stepped into the vision of what the Father showed them to do as obedient sons.

29 Anyone can deflect the responsibility of being an obedient son away from them and say that was for Jesus and that was for William Branham only, and although that may be true concerning the greater works, but that is not how God views it concerning our obedience to Him. We are ordained from before the foundations of the world to become obedient sons and molded and conformed into the Image of the first born son. That is Ephesians 1 and Romans 8 for sure. But we must gladly submit ourselves to our Father in all things that H shows us to do. Not greater works, but the little things is what we seem to leave undone. And it is the little things that you don't do that will put you out of the will of God.

30 Now, we know that in this flesh we will not be perfect in doing all we are called to do, but in our heart we can be perfect before God. And that is what God looks at. Jesus himself said, "Judge not according to the appearance but Judge righteous judgment."

31 And Martin Luther said, "How shall a work please God if it proceeds from an unwilling and resistant heart. To fulfill the law however, is to do its works with pleasure and love, and to live a godly an good life of one's own accord, without the compulsion of the law. This pleasure and love is put into the heart by the Holy Ghost."

32 That is why Brother Branham said you could have the right doctrine but if your heart is wrong, then what good will it do you. God looks on the heart. That is why the Scripture tells us that the love of God constrains us. That means it is our motivator, or as Jesus said, my meat is to do the will of Him that sent me. In other words, "my motivation", "my source of energy" "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me."

33 From Paragraph 96 of the Spoken Word is the original Seed brother Branham said, I'm a Branham because I was born of Charlie and Ella Branham. That makes me a Branham because I'm their seed. Their two agreements with their sperm together made a seed, and that made me. When God and His Word becomes one (Hallelujah.) that's when God's Spirit waters the Seed of God, the Word of God, It produces God; and it's not the individual; it's God. For what? you are dead; you're not yourself no more. You reckon yourself dead, hollowed out, waiting for the Seed germ. Then what is it? It isn't you no more; isn't the man; it's God in the man. It's a Seed germ like the beginning spoken Word. God's Word made manifest in the man; then it isn't the man; it's the man that's died. He can't be a hybrid and a son at the same time. He's either a son of death or a son of Life. So if he's a son of death, give it over to the devil and let him kill it. Give over to God a minute and let Him kill the devil that's in you, run him out: hollows you out. Then let God plant His Own Life in you, then it's not you no more; it's God's Life, because it's God's Word, watered by the Holy Spirit will produce the same thing. You see it? I'd just love to preach on that a few minutes, but with thirty or forty pages of Scripture here... And I've only got three so far.

34 So preacher, what are you trying to say here. Well, perhaps I am not doing such a very good job of it, but what it comes down to is this. Too many are placing too much emphasis on the man. That is what brother Branham is saying here. And God can not use the man, the body, the vessel unless it has died to self. So When we focus too much on St. John 14:12 and the works, and point to the works, and the man, we are missing the God who is using the man.

35 You see, it is not him that runneth, nor him that worketh, but it is God... So get your eyes off the vessel and onto the God using the vessel. There are too many who are so focused on the Bride, the Bride, the Bride and they are wrong, wrong, wrong. It is God, God, God, and He is the Word, Word, Word. Therefore if the people had their focus correct there would not even be a debate over St. John 14:12 of whether it is one man or many. Because it matters not what vessel God uses, it is God doing it.

36 That is why if your focus is wrong you will take John 14:12 as the church universal when it is fulfilled in one man. He that believeth, not them that believe. And the same ones who take this wrong will also misinterpret this next quote I am going to give you.

37 Now in Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed brother Branham speaks of the expression. How God was in Christ expressing Himself to the world. And He is focusing on the way that God has expressed Himself through many different vessels. He's speaking of the God-life that was in Christ, and the God-life that was in Moses, and he was speaking of how God expressed Himself in Christ his Son, and in the Pillar of Fire, and how he wants to express himself in his Children.

38 But many take the next paragraph in Christ is the mystery 63-0728 P:87 and try to use it to produce a doctrine that the fullness of God himself, the very person of God is now in His Church. Listen to the quotation, and I will expand on this. Pp 87 I want to coast just a little bit so that even people listening to the tape will get the idea, that can see. It would take me around, and around that clock, just each one of those subjects. But I hope I'm making it clear enough that you can see what I'm coming to. See? God, expressed in Jesus Christ, Who was both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the Fullness of the Godhead bodily. Now, the complete Fullness of the Godhead bodily dwells in His Church, the preeminences. All that God was, He poured into Christ; all Christ was is poured into the Church, the believer, not denomination. We'll get to that in a few minutes, and it'll take it out of your mind forever. See? Show you what causes that by the help of God, if He'll just permit it to us.

39 So in looking at this quotation standing all by itself you might think that William Branham taught that Elohim, God Almighty, the very person of God is now in the church, but that is not what he is saying at all. Listen to the two previous paragraphs that he was speaking and you will catch what he is saying now, because he even paused to let what he had been saying sink in before he said the next thought. So let's read what he was saying before he brought out this whammer.

40 84 Moses: his intellectuals, he had to lose them in order to find Christ, to be a prisoner. Then when God got all the world beat out of him and all the mighty man that he was, and stand in the Presence of that Pillar of Fire that day, he was found just speechless. He didn't even, he couldn't even talk, he said. God had a prisoner then. See? You won't try after your own searching. Then God had to endue this man, endow him with power enough that he could go down there. And he said, "Lord, I told Pharaoh what You said, and he wouldn't do it." He said, "Then take this, thy rod (God speaking; that's God's Word); go out there and point it toward the east and call for flies." And flies come into creation, because He had a prisoner that Pharaoh couldn't pay off with nothing. Nobody else could turn him no way. He was a complete prisoner in the chains of God's Word, bound up wholly to THUS SAITH THE LORD. Oh, if God can get His prisoners like that.

41 85 Now, that's when He can express the preeminences. You see? He's got the man or the person so that he knows nothing but Christ. You get what I mean? All right. That's secondly. First, to express Himself completely: God in Christ. Second, to have the preeminences by this in His Church (which is His Body, Bride) to... He could have the preeminence to express Himself through them. All right. And thirdly, to restore the Kingdom to its rightly position that fell by sin by the first Adam, back to where He walked in the cool of the evening with His people, talked with them, fellowshiped with them. And now sin and death had separated them from His Presence and His entire expression. Do you read it? Before the foundation of the world to express all of His attributes, what

He was...

42 So we see that the purpose of God is to use your body, but first you have to die to self. Then God will use your body to speak His Word, to do his work. It's not you doing it, but God doing it. You are dead and your life is hid with God in Christ.

43 That is why we hear him say in [264 God's Provided Place Worship No leaven among you, that brings the entire fullness of the godhead bodily among you. Couldn't do it in Luther's age, couldn't do it in Wesley's age, couldn't do it in the Pentecostal age; but in the day when the Son of man will be manifested, revealed, brought back the Church together with the entire Deity of God amongst His people, showing the same visible signs, manifesting Himself like He did at the beginning when He was manifested on earth in a form of a Prophet-God. Ooh! Glory! Promised by Malachi 4, promised by the rest of the Scriptures. Where you worship at? The house of God, seated (in present tense). (265) Now, quickly, let us look just real fast now, and we will go in about... in ten minutes we will be gone, the Lord willing. (266) Now let us look at some that has been quickened into this house of God. Of their age...(267) Enoch! (in ten minutes we will go, if you can just suffer that much longer). Look, Enoch was the Living Word of God of his age, he was a prophet. (268) A prophet is God's reflector. How many knows that? The reflector doesn't reflect itself, the reflector isn't the reflection. There has to be something strike the reflector to make it reflect. So a prophet is a chosen vessel of God that cannot reflect nothing at all but he's in direct line with that reflection, God, to reflect the image of Christ the Word. See, nothing else can do it. You are a reflector, that's the reason the prophet had to eat the book. That's the reason he had to eat the scroll. He had to reflect that Word for that age. You got it?

44 Brother Branham said, he said, "Even against my better judgment, I wanted to be a trapper, but it's the will of My father that I desire to do, I wasn't the one who appeared down on the river, I was only standing there when He appeared. I am not the one who foretells these things as perfect as they are, I'm only near when He does it, It's not me, I'm just a voice that He uses, it's not what I know, it's what I've surrendered myself to. You're not feeding on a man, a man, his words will fail, but you're feeding on the unfailing body Word of the Son of Man."

45 Now Webster tells us a reflector is simply a person or thing that reflects. But that definition doesn't really help us to understand what a reflector is all about, now does it? But it points us to the fact that as Brother Branham said, a reflector does not give off it's own light, but reflects the light of another. Brother Branham said, "the reflector doesn't reflect itself, the--the reflector isn't the reflection. There has to be something strike the reflector to make it reflect. And that is what Webster says, a reflector is simply a person or thing that reflects. So then we must ask ourselves, what is it about a reflector that causes it to reflect. We can see that not everything can reflect. In fact, that is what the stealth bomber is all about. It is made in such a way as to cause as little reflection as possible. And so it's designers had to be able to understand all about the reflective properties that causes a vessel to be able to reflect in order to be able to make one that will not reflect. In their case the things that reflect are radio waves, electronic signals and even light rays. And in order to make the stealth invisible, it had to be able to redirect as many of these waves and rays as possible. And so there are three basic areas that had to be designed to do this.

46 So we are looking at a vessel that has gotten itself out of the way to the place as brother Branham said you don't have any thought coming.

47 Brother Branham said in his sermon, ONENESS 62-0211 102 What is it? You've got to get with the Word, get yourself killed out. I'm persuaded that many of us, friends, have received the Holy Ghost, but we just receive enough Holy Ghost in us to make us to a place where we don't want to lie, we don't want to steal, we don't want to do anything. But God wants to fill every fiber of His church; He wants to fill your thinking; He wants to fill your mind. He wants to fill every bit of you, just make you completely, totally dead to yourself or to your thinking, just

so surrendered in God till His Word's just living right through you. You don't know nothing else but God's Word; just stay right with His Word; It is Life. "My Words are Life," said Jesus. He's placed with them, teachers believing the Bible, prophets that say the truth, that say, show the same prophecy that they've always did down through the age. What's He done? He's showing Himself alive among them, confirming His Word. His Word, the Kingdom of God is God's Word made power.

48 Spoken Word Original Seed 87 All right. All right, we notice then. See, the spoken Word... Then we are God's Word made manifest. That's how God wants His church: is to manifest Himself. How can He manifest Himself unless His Own Seed is in that person? How can you use your own thoughts and God manifest Himself through you? How can you take your own belief and say, "Well, my pastor teaches... My creed says that this... days of miracles..." How you going to do that and then be a manifested son of God? How you going to do it? The death of Jesus wasn't nothing to you. "Oh, I accept Him as my Saviour." You don't. You say you do, but you don't. Your works proves what you are.

49 Let us pray...