

#198 "Which Power?"

1 Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. 24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. 28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

2 Let's bow our heads in prayer,

3 Dear Father we see in this Scripture that there was a question in the hearts of some because they claimed to be followers of Your Son Jesus, but he said they claim to cast out devils and all sorts of miraculous things yet they are cast away. Help us to understand the day and hour we live in when it seems there are so many who claim the power and yet deny thy word. For we ask these things in Jesus Christ's name.

4 Now, this morning we are going to examine a subject that many are wondering about, because it seems that so many denominational churches have more manifestation of the spirit among them than the genuine Bride churches do. So this morning we will examine this beginning at paragraph 73 and reading onto paragraph 75.

5 73 She left Jesus, her Word Husband to marry a pope, so she can't give birth, spiritual birth; she can give denominational birth now; she's got plenty seed of that. She can't give spiritual birth, because she was a harlot. Only thing she can give is denominational life and a lot of ballyhoo. The Catholic church itself is made upon a few superstitions of Christianity and a bunch of Romanism, and the Pentecostal church is just as bad: a bunch of jumping and shouting and speaking in tongues and things like that. When it comes down: enough temper to fight a buzz saw and turn you out of their congregation. If God come in there and raised the dead, if you didn't agree with them, they'd run you out, if you don't belong to their organization.

6 74 Now, this old mother harlot (I'm going back to her a minute), she claims power to forgive sins, but you're not judged by your claims; you're not known by your claims. You're known by your works. How could she forgive sin? Look at her. When Jesus did the same thing, they... Said, "Condemn Me; show Me where I disbelieve the Word." She claims power to forgive sins, but that comes only by the Word. That's right. God only can forgive sins. Is that right? Didn't those Pharisees say that? What was the matter with the blind bunch of hypocrites. Why? Because they didn't see that was the Word standing with them. He is the Word. Glory to God. That's the reason He could forgive sins. He was God. He was the Word manifested.

7 75 Now, the Catholic church says Jesus gave them power. He did. He give the church power. That's right. We believe that. All her daughters are harlots. All her daughters, her denominational daughters, are harlots. "Brother Branham, that is a big word." Now, that ain't my word; that's His Word. That's exactly. It's not mine; it's His. All right, how? You say, "How are they? How do they become harlots? Why, they're good people. So-and-so..." I don't say a thing about that. I'm not saying what they are. I ain't saying the Catholics not good people, as good as anybody. They're human beings like we are. But when it comes to that old church, she's wrong. The Protestant's just as good... The Methodists as good as the Baptists, or Pentecostals, or anybody else. They're all the same.

8 76 But the thing of it is, how then can she be a harlot? Why? Give her the Word test. That's how you know it. Uh-huh. Try her on the Word once and see what she says. "Oh, of course, we're taught in the seminary that them days... Oh, it used to be that way, but (ha-ha) that was way back in the days of the apostles. That was only for the apostles only." You so-called Church of Christ "speak where the Bible speaks and silent where..." I'd like to hear you do some speaking now. See? No, you're shut up. God's Word shuts everything up, brother. No man can brag. That's right.

9 Now, I received an email over the weekend from a brother in central African republic that reads as follows:

10 Dear Pastor,

11 We are very happy the way you replied and still we wait ne booklet.

12 But I would like you to explain me also about the Power of the Holy Ghost as promised by the apostle Peter in the book of the Acts and Joel .I want to know more about. Causein the field we seem not see God in action the way he moved in the end time messenger BrotherBranham ; and the way he is still moving we TL Osborn and Billy Graham. Dear Pastor I am seeking for God but the Pentecostal group we see here are growing too easily in number and they seem also keeping the leadership in Christianity thought the are Oneness. I am to much confused about the way we sometime we notice that God is blessing them to much in Wondersand Miracles.

13 Pastor what did the prophettell about thePower of God ?We believe the ministry of the son of man Luc 17 :30 has already gone away with the Holy Prophet of God .But if truly speaking The Alfa is now the Omega but why is there this quietness among us, (nowonders and moving of God)among us ? I hope that you will have a short time to answer me and why not pry for us in Central Africa.

14 Sincerely yours brother Samuel, Central African Republic.

15 So you see there is much confusion out there because it seems that we do not see God manifesting Himself among the elect while he seems to be very present among the Pentecostals who have discarded His very Word for this Hour.

16 Now, to understand our brothers question, we need to review what Brother Branham said in his sermon, " False Anointed Ones at the End Time". We know that the rain falls on the just and the unjust as was prophesied by Jesus Himself. Hebrews 6:4tells us, For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,5And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,6If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.7For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: 8But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

17 And in Matthew 24:24we are warned that there will be a genuine anointing fall upon men who teach falsely.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

18 And remember in Matthew 7:22 Jesus said, Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. So the real thing is not whether we have manifestations of miracles and healing among us, because that genuine rain is falling as prophesied by the prophet Joel upon ALL Flesh. But this is the hour that the elect are to come into total obedience to the Word of God and to be transformed from Image to Image and from Glory to Glory. To be transformed by the renewing of their mind.

19 Then Jesus adds in verse 24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: Now, remember that Rock is revelation.

20 Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

21 Now, Jesus is not saying he will build His church upon a man, Peter, because if so that man fell three times and denied him, so what kind of rock would that be? But upon the Rock of revelation that He is the Christ, the Son of God. The same confession that so many had that received a reward for having that same confession.

22 Remember Martha when her brother Lazarus had died, she said to Jesus when he came, "If Thou would have been here my brother would not have died, but even now whatsoever You are capable of raising him from the dead, because I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God.

23 Now, you all remember we preached 45 sermons on the benefits we receive by understanding and confessing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And in the Book of Ephesians chapter 4 concerning the True Five fold ministry we are taught that in their teach the understanding and knowledge of the Son of God it will bring people to The Faith, the Same Faith he had and will build up the church to the place of maturity.

24 Now, in getting back to Matthew 16 and verse 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. 21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

25 Now, just a few minutes earlier he said you are blessed, Peter, and upon this rock of revelation you have received I will build my church, and now just a few minutes later because Peter shoots off his mouth with his own thoughts and not God's thoughts, Jesus tells him, that wasn't from God that was from the devil.

26 24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his

cross, and follow me. 25For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 27For the Son of man shall come in the glory (in the doxa, in the opinion and values and judgments) of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. 28Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

27 Now, if every man will be rewarded according to his works, then what if your works are not accepted by God, like Cain's works were not acceptable to God, then what? Well you will still get a reward, but what kind of reward. So you see as the Scripture tells us life is in the tongue and so is death, so it depends on what reward you are sowing or planting.

28 Now, back to our Scripture, Matthew 7:25And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

29 So in order to understand the question our brother has we must first understand what power is the important power we should be seeking in this hour.

30 We need to understand the difference between miracle working power and the Power of an endless life and the Power to be conformed to the image of the first born son, and the Power to become sons.

31 Now, we know this is the hour that " ALPHA has become OMEGA."

32 Luke 24: 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

33 Jesus told them to wait for this power yet so many run, run, run and try to produce miracles, and claim they have miracles and yet when I look into many of these claims, they are made up and are ever so false.

34 They pray in Jesus name, and it seems they get results and yet they lie, cheat, steal, and if you know them by their fruits, then why do they get some results, and why do we not see the same amongst the Message believers.

35 Well, first let me say, I see the results in every country we go to. Now, I am not talking on the level of William Branham, vindicated prophet of God, because that was Malachi 3 where God comes with healing in His wings. But we see Mark 16 at work.

36 Now, the problem is that the Pentecostals are trying to produce John 14:12 and that is not for them. And many of these men out there if you look at their life you ask yourself like this brother, why do they get results when we struggle so.

37 Well, you get what you preach for. What you sow is what you shall reap. However this is not the hour for sowing for miracles, not that we should not expect them, but those things in the ministry of William Branham were not the man, those things were sovereignly given. Even Jesus said he could not do anything but what the father showed him first by vision to do, then he just stepped into that vision, and then that vision became manifested in flesh, His flesh.

38 Now, Jesus spoke on the Power that was to come from on high. So then where is the power from on High. We have witnessed the power even as the apostles had in their own day in the ministry of Jesus while in the body of flesh. But the promise was that they were to tarry until that same power came back into them. Now, I'm not looking for miracle working power because what would it be for. The people rejected both Jesus and brother Branham's ministry with it, so what god would it do for you and I. But what I'm looking for is that same power to come in and finish the job that believing the promise has started. Now why did Jesus say that they would receive power from on high. Why from on High.

39 What does "on high mean?" EPHESIANS 4: 8 - 10 8Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

40 Notice that He ascended up on high that He might fill all things. Why would He go up if He was to fill all things? It said He that ascended is also He that descended. And the Power had to come from "on high."

41 Now, in these closing words of this Great Epistle spoken from the lips, heart and mind of the Apostle Paul, he begins by saying, Now to him that is of power to stablish you...I love these words for without God we are nothing. Without the Blood of Jesus Christ we are but as the rest of the World, lost in sin, hopeless in a wicked and chaotic world that is falling apart. But we have hope that others do not share. We hop in our Lord Jesus Christ, and that God is a God of His Word. And this is what Paul is telling us here. He says, Now to him that is of power (that is dunamai which is miracle working power, it also means He has the authority to execute that power, and it also means he has the Will to bring that power upon whomsoever He wills).

42 And so in Closing, Paul says, Now to Him that is of power (To HIM who is of such a nature that He is all powerful, and able, and willing) to stablish you... and the Greek word that stablish was translated from is sterizo stay-riid'-zo and actually means: To make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix: to set one's face steadfastly, keep the face turned, to strengthen, make firm; to render constant, confirm, one's mind. So Paul is talking about God having the ability to make your mind firm and stabilized, constant and strengthened. It is the mind that we have so much trouble with, and it is the mind that we have these assuring words that God will do this strengthening of our mind for us.

43 So we are looking at a more important power for the believer and that is the power of an endless life. A power or authority to become what we are ordained to become, sons of the living God.

44 John 1:12But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

45 JOHN 1:12 But as many as received him, (The Greek word for received here is Lambano and it means to have experienced, or to have taken to one's self. And it is these that truly experienced Him, they are the one's He says,) to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: So these are believers, predestined from the beginning to believe and receive Him. And He is the Word. They Believe His word, and they believe in His Name. And to them He gives power to become sons... Now the word power used here, is not the Greek word dunamis, which speaks of great miraculous power, but rather the Greek word "exousia", which means the power of choice, or the power to make a right decision.

46 And the word to become was translated from the Greek word Ginomai and it means to generate, or to come forth into manifestation. Therefore, to them that experience Him and openly receive Him, to them are given an

ability to make a right decision and to become what they were meant to be in the beginning.

47 Paul said in, Galatians 4: 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

48 And John said in 1 John 3: 1-2 1Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.2Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.3And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

49 Now, this evening for our communion service we will look at this power to transform us to what we are ordained to become. The power of transformation verses the power to heal.

50 Let's bow our heads in prayer.