

#51 The Character of Christ expressed is John 14:12

- 1** This morning I would like to read some more from brother Branham's sermon Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed and I would like to begin reading from paragraph 140.
- 2** 140 That's why they're blind, same as it was in the days Christ was on earth. Oh, my. They stagger the same way. They said, "He's Beelzebub." They seen He could do it, so they said, "He was born an illegitimate child, and kind of a odd fellow. He's just got possessed with some devil. He's a Samaritan over there, and he's got a devil in him. That's how he does that."
- 3** Notice that brother Branham is illustrating how the intellectual explains away the works of God that Jesus did which works of God was His identification of what Seed He actually was. And if the works of God identified the God-Life that was in Jesus Christ the son of God back then, won't the works of God also identify what Seed is in you?
- 4** Oh, you say, "well, no that's not right because only one person is to do those works." Now, if you think those works are the discernment, you are right that no one else is to do that, but you are absolutely wrong if you think the discernment is the works of Christ that Jesus was talking about in John 14:12. The word "works" that Jesus spoke here was translated from the Greek word "ergon" which means labor.
- 5** Discernment is not a labor, it is a viewing, which is passive in it's nature. But once you have viewed it as in a vision, or dream, and then you step into it and do it, that is ergon.
- 6** So Jesus says if you truly are a believer in me, then the works that I am doing you will also be doing, because the evidence that you are a believer lies in the works you do. Remember he told us, "by their fruits you shall know them".
- 7** In fact Jesus told the Pharisees that he doubted they were the children of Abraham because they did not do the works of Abraham.
- 8** Turn with me to John 8:39 and we will read it together. "They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham."
- 9** Now, what is Jesus saying here? He's actually teaching from Genesis 1:11 that if every seed must bring forth after the image of the original seed, then if you were seed of Abraham that would mean you would live and act like Abraham lived and acted.
- 10** In fact in John 14:10 which is only two verses before John 14:12, Jesus says, "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me? the words that I speak unto you, I speak them not of myself:(these aren't my words from my own mind,) but the Father that dwells in me, he doeth the works. He speaks the words.
- 11** So in this instance Jesus is telling them that the works that the father was doing in him at that moment was actually speaking to them, and He tells them it is the father who is literally speaking out from him because these are not my own words but the father who is speaking out from me, they are his words. Then he says in verse 11 "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me:" And if you can not believe my explanation then

"believe me for the very works' sake."

12 So we see here that the very works that are being expressed through his very own vessel actually are identifying the life or nature of the one who is living in Him and doing them.

13 Then he says in verse 12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He (and we know from the original he is actually saying, "whosoever" or "whoever that") believes on me, the works that I do shall this believer do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

14 So Jesus is telling us there is a way that we can be certain of identifying those who are truly believers in Him. He tells us the works will identify whether you are a believer or just a make-believer. But then he tells us how this will come to pass. He lets us know that it is not what we can produce but rather what is leading and guiding us that does it.

15 13 "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

16 So Jesus is telling us that it is not us that actually will be doing the works, but He will be doing them, just using our body as a vessel or conduit to channel the work through.

17 Then he tells us in verse 15 "If ye love me, keep (or focus your attention on) my commandments." Now, this word commandments comes from the Greek word entellomai which means to enter into the conclusion of an act or state. In other words this word "commandments" speaks of "the direction you are being led into by him, and the end results or goal that he is directing you into."

18 As God said to Moses, Speak and go forward, thus if Moses would have only spoken, nothing would have happened, but he had to speak first and then walk into that water in order for the water to separate. So too Jesus is saying that if you will follow his directive for you in your life and step into that directive, and rest in that process, then your end result will be the same end result that He ordained for you to come into.

19

20 Just like Jesus saying, "the Father worketh", that's the vision, that's the commandment, "and the son worketh hitherto", that's the son's obedience in order to bring about the fulfillment of the vision, which is "the word expressed" or "the word made manifest", which means "the Word coming alive".

21 Then in John 5:36 Jesus explains, "But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, (you see? That's the commandment, that's the vision.) the same works that I do, it is those works that bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."

22 Again notice that the works is the identification of the Father's hand in what he is doing.

23 And then Jesus tells us in John 10:38 But if I do, (the works that my father has shown me in vision to do) though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

24 In other words the works that I do will identify who it is or what Life it is that is living in me. That is why brother Branham said so many times, that "If the spirit of life of John Dillinger was in me, I would have guns and rob banks" And "if the spirit or life of Mozart was in me, I would compose music" because that is the life that was

in me, and therefore what fruits I bear in my body, they are the fruits of the spirit that is living in me.

25 And then Jesus ties whether we should believe the person not based on what they say, but what works they do, or what expression is living itself out from that person.

26 John 10:37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

27 Now, let's put it this way... If you claim to be a Christian and the Life of Christ is not living and expressing itself through your vessel, then why should I believe your testimony? Christian means Christ Like.

28 If you tell me that you are a mechanic and you can't even change the oil in your car, don't tell me you are a mechanic, because why should I believe your testimony when you can't produce results of your testimony.

29 Again we read in John 10:25 the same thing. "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.

30 Now, you might ask what is the first thing we can do? Well, you have to believe first, that is the first sign you are a believer is that you believe.

31 John 6:28 "Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

32 Now, these boys who are fussing at William Branham because he got some dates mixed up don't realize they are proving themselves to be unbelievers. Because the first sign you are a believer Jesus said is to believe on Him whom God has sent. And they need to declare themselves whether they believe God sent him or the devil sent him, and I predict they will come to the conclusion that the devil was behind the works that he did. Because they have already called him a liar and a false prophet.

33 And so we come to paragraph 141 from Brother Branham's sermon, Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed, and he says, "Jesus said, "I'll forgive you for that." See, calling the Word of God, the works of God an evil spirit, He said, "I forgive you for that, but someday the Holy Ghost will come, and one word against It will never be forgiven, neither in this world or the world that is to come (or that great day); it will not be forgiven." So you see, that's written plain in the Scripture; so when people come to that day, no matter how intellectual, how big a denomination they belong to, it's condemned; they have to be. They've blasphemed the Holy Ghost, calling it holy-roller and something another that has an un-tasty name or something like that. And God's Church had to bear it all the time.

34 Now, what is brother Branham saying here? Notice he says, The new birth revealed IN you that you have come to the place where He has the total preeminence in your life until you come to the place where he might express His Words or anything that He has promised for these last days, that he can bring those things to pass through His Body that He's working through. That is how God manifests His Word to be alive, because it is alive to you and living through you. Now, that brothers and sisters is a great revelation.

35 Now, let's read from paragraph 143 Notice. All right, same as in the days of Christ... God holds the key to this revelation of Christ Himself.

36 Now, what's he saying here? he's saying you can't be taught this as hard as he was trying to get this across to you. But this revelation is not an intellectual understanding, it's an event and that event is taking place in you. Remember, revelation means to manifest that which was hidden, so we are talking about manifestation or

expression here. God expressing Himself in and through you. And he can't do that until he has the preeminence in you.

37 Now, we are talking about your Life in Christ, "the Christian life", this life cannot be explained in any other way than to say it is Christ himself living that life out of your vessel. If you as a professing Christian can define your life in terms of you - your actions, your words, your personality, your willpower, your gifts, your talents, your finances, your courage, your steadfastness, your scholarship, your dedication, your sacrifice, or your anything - then although you may profess to live a Christian life, you are only deceiving yourself, because you are not dead, and your life is not hid in Christ with God. ...The word Christian means Christ like, and that means that you are out of the picture altogether and Christ is preeminent. How do you explain a Christian? It is Jesus only Jesus.

38 How do you claim to be Christian? Not I got a little gift and nobody wants it, but Christ has allowed me to die to myself, and He has taken over this body. I have loaned it to him, I have given it to him, that he might get out of it whatever He chooses to do with it. When you have come to that point then you have died to yourself, and Christ has been born into your being and has received the preeminence in your life, because it is not longer you but Christ.

39 The Apostle Paul said in Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: (Not I once was crucified with Christ, But I am dead to myself, I have crucified myself along with Christ, and crucifixion is not an easy death, and this death that I have died to myself is a most unpleasant thing, it is a most painful dying process, nevertheless, I am dead to myself) Yet I am still living; yet it is not I that is living in this body, but actually it is Christ who now lives in me: and the life which I am now living in the body of this flesh, I am living by the faith (the revelation) of the Son of God, (who also learned to die to his own self, and that's the revelation I am now living by, to let God use His body for whatever purpose God so chose to use it for, and I know this is true, because I know) He loved me, and gave himself for me. And he could not have done that without dying to himself and his own desires and allowing the Life of His Father to take over control of that body to bleed and die for my sins.

40 Now, remember, we had just read where brother Branham said theology could never teach you this dying to self, and this coming alive as Christ occupies your vessel instead of you occupying it. And so he then says, "You believe that? Schools of theology can never find it. Jesus said so (if you want to read it now) in St. Matthew 11:25 and 27. "I thank Thee, O Father God of heavens and earth, that Thou hast hid this from the eyes of the wise and prudent, and revealed it to babes such as would learn." See, see? I don't care... Look at them scholars of that day, those Jews, very fine men, their organization of Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians, and whatever they might be (See?), all of their great organizations that Jesus said, "You're blind; you lead the blind; well did Isaiah speak of you: 'You have ears and can't hear, and eyes that you can't see.' 'Cause Isaiah said this in the Spirit, therefore the God of heaven has blinded your eyes. You're doing like Eve did: accepting the intellectual side (I'd like to add, that's the mechanics) and know nothing of the Spirit of God. (that's the dynamics) Therefore, won't they all fall in the ditch, both the leader and the blind too?" The leader will fall with the blind, 'cause he's blind also. The leader fall, is blind leading the blind. They both fall in the ditch. And God alone holds this key.

41

42 144 He expressed the same thing in a previous Scripture awhile ago when I read it, when He said, "Who does man say I the Son of man am?" And Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." He said, "Blessed art thou Simon, the son of Jonas. Flesh and blood never revealed this to you. My Father which is in heaven... Upon this revelation here alone, I'll build My Church. The gates of hell will never prevail against it." See?

43 Flesh and blood never revealed this to you, you never got it from a school of the prophets, you never got it from a teacher, or professor, or some man who could really teach, no, no, no, that's not how you get it. You got to go to God to get this what he's talking about here. You can't get it from listening to tapes, you can't get this from some Friday night talk session. You're not going to get it from paying attention in church. No, no, no, that ain't how you get this. You get it by going to God to get it, and you can not approach God and live. Jesus said, no man can approach God and live, so then how you going to get it? You got to die first and then approach God as a dead man to get this new life in you, his life.

44 Look, God is the author of Life, he doesn't kill. God ain't going to kill you, you've got to kill yourself first, and then as an empty vessel with no money, with no ambition, with no talent, with no personality, with no position, with no motives with no objectives, you've got to come to him empty, so He might fill that empty vessel with His Life, His Character, His talents, His gifts, His purpose and His motives and His objectives.

45

46 That is why brother Branham said in paragraph 145 Now. You see? So therefore, there's no school, no theologian, no teachings of the Bible, among any school that knows anything about it. They cannot know nothing about it. It's impossible for them to know anything about it. God has hid the senses of knowing it from the very elected teachers and everything else. It's a personal, individual affair with the person that Christ is revealed to them. And if you say, "He has been revealed to me," and then the Life that Christ produced here in the Bible (that same Life that was in Him) does not produce Itself in you, then you got the wrong revelation.

47 Oh, brothers and sisters, can't you see this is what I have been trying to get across to you for the past 7 years? Not theology, not how well you can explain it, but have you died to self, completely died to self so that Christ can live your life for you.

48 Take a good look in the mirror. Especially you sisters who want to dress as close to border line as you can. Take a good look at your soul my brothers, my sisters. Do you see Jesus Christ living out your life for you? Or do you still resist him in your shoes, and your dress length, or your choice of what you watch on the screen?

49 Brother Branham said in his sermon called, Life 58-0512 P:8 "Now, the Christian church should have real character then. And if the Life of Christ is in the church of Christ, then it's got to have the character of Christ. It'll produce the Life of Christ. It's just a no more than just what we call in the south, common sense. If the Life of the Spirit of Christ is in the church, it has to produce that Life, because the life that's in you, makes your character. And what kind of characters ought we to be, who have solemnly promised that we would serve the Lord Jesus as long as we live, and we have been baptized to His death, burial, and resurrection, and have put our names upon the church rolls, take our place in Sunday school, and then go out, and live something different? Oh, it's more... It's more of a detriment to the cause of Christ, than all the bootleg joints we have in America. God grant the day, that when men will live just what they are. And you can always tell hem by their nature, their make-up.

50 Brother Branham also said in his sermon, Identified Christ of all ages 64-0401 P:11 And so Divine healing, the main thing is Divine healing of the soul. The Body of Christ, it needs healing worse than anything that I know of, is the Body of Christ. It's been so broken up by man's theology and denominational differences until it's a sick body. And I tell you, it needs healing, great healing.

51 And so in closing let's read from paragraph 146 where brother Branham said, "If I put a life of a pumpkin into the life of a pear tree, it would bear pumpkins. "By their fruits you shall know them." It's exactly right. And if the first you put a tree (a grape vine), and it put out a bunch of grapes (the first shoot it put out, brought grapes), the next one brought out lemons, the next one brought out pears, the next one brought out apples, there's some

kind of a grafted affair in there that's bearing its own life. Every denomination will bear a life of itself. But if that original vine ever puts out another shoot, it'll bear grapes like it did the first time. And if the life, the Life of Jesus Christ ever puts out another body of believers, it'll bear the fruit that the first one did; they'll write a Book of Acts behind it, 'cause it'll be the same, the same Life. See, what I mean? You just can't get away from it. It's the Life of Christ in you, been injected in you by the Holy Spirit Itself, living Its Life through you. Blind leaders of the blind...

52

53 The Apostle Paul said in Colossians 3:3 For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. That's the key to the kingdom right there. That's the key to eternal life.

54 Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

55 Now, notice in paragraph 147 brother Branham said, "Notice, God holds this key alone. No theologian can tell you. It's not known; it's hid from them. They know nothing about it. So the schools... "Well," you say, "I got a Ph. LL.D." You only make... To me and I believe unto God and to any real, true believer, that means you're just that much farther away; you just backed off. God is not known by education; He's not known by how to explain it. God is known by simplicity and of revelation of Jesus Christ in the most illiterate person. See? Not your theology; it's a revelation of Jesus Christ. "Upon this rock, I'll build My Church." No other rock's accepted; no other thing's accepted; no other Roman rock; no other Protestant rock; no other school; no other nothing; but on exactly the revelation of Jesus Christ in a new birth. He is born in there and injects His own Life, and your life is gone, and the Life of Christ is projecting Itself through you with the preeminence's to the people that they see the very Life, and works, and signs and wonders that He did is doing the same thing through you. Outside of that, the rest of it's not even called to at all.

56 Therefore, what we have been trying to get across to the people is that John 14:12 tells you if you have the very life and character of Christ in you, because if you do, then you will do what he does and the very character of Christ will be expressed in you. That is why John 14: 12 is such a pivotal scripture for us in this late hour, because it identifies those who are real believer and defines who is not a real believer.

57 From his sermon, God identifying Himself 64-0320 P:33 Brother Branham said, "The pouring out of the Holy Ghost in the last days upon the common people has identified God's characteristic with the people. He promised it. It's the Word. He said He'd do it. Nobody can take it back. He said He would do it. So all these things that He's promised, that's what He does. It identifies His characteristic. Yes, sir. "Don't believe it, don't believe My claims, if My characteristic isn't that of God." Now, notice in John 14:12, "He that believeth on Me," He said, "has My identification, My characteristic. He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also." That identifies that the character of Christ is in him, displaying the characteristics of Him. Amen.

58 So there you have it brothers and sisters. When we come to the place that God allows our lives to express the works of Christ which is John 14:12, that is when God will express in your body that you indeed have died to yourself and your life is hid with Christ in God. And the life you are now living in the flesh, you are living by the faith of the son of God who dies to self that God might take over His body and manifest Himself to the world using the body God had given him.

59 And notice he said if our life doesn't express what we profess then we don't have to believe that person.

60 From God's gifts always find place 63-1222 P:36 brother Branham said, "Notice now, we find that if He identified... The works that He did identified that He was Deity, showed that He was. For He said, "If I do not the works of My Father, then don't believe Me." And could not the Christian say today, "If I do not the works of my Savior, believe me not"? See?" As the Father sent Me, so send I you." And if you did the works, creation works of the Father that sent Him, then it's a creation... The Christ the Creator that sends us, does the works of Christ the Creator. See? "As the Father sent Me, so send I you. And if I do not the works of My Father, believe me not." Then the Christian today has got to do the Life that Christ did or we have a right to say, "It's not so."

61 Now, you may say, the creation was greater works, and that only applied to William Branham. Now, hold on there, that's not so. Br. Bosworth had creation in his ministry as well. Did not Br. Vayle tell us several times that Br. Bosworth looked forward to having people with no ear drums come into his prayer line, because God gave him a certain anointing where people who had no rear drums received eardrums after his prayers? And we saw with brother Branham the little girl in Canada who received brown eyes, and the little girl in Germany who got blue eyeballs after he prayed for them? That's creation. Man can't do that but God the creator sure can.

62 And from his sermon, The Fundamental Foundation for Faith 1953 brother Branham said, "Now, if we could throw yourself completely to God and to His will and be lost to our own thoughts, and just let the mind of Christ be in us, then same operations of the Spirit would work through us just as the natural things does, just the same thing.

63 And from his sermon, Stature of a perfect man 62-1014M P:60 he said, "And now, we're supposed to do His work. He said, "He that believeth on Me..." (St. John 14:7) "He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also." You're beginning to reflect the works of Christ. But so many of us try to do the works of Christ before the reflection of Christ is in us. Now, there's the trouble. We find those things happening. You know it. I know it. We see these stumbles along the road. We find the scrap heaps of ministers, of Christians, piled along the road. Is because they didn't go into it right. And that's why I'm here this morning, is to try to teach this little church, and myself, how that we can become the dwelling place of the living God. How many would like to be that? The dwelling place of the living God..."

64 So it is not a matter of how hard you try to do the works of God, unless you are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God you might as well forget it. All you need to do is learn to die to yourself.

Let us pray...