

#56 Humbly accepting God's Word and Will

- 1 Wednesday evening we spoke from brother Branham's sermon Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed and paragraph 312 in your books and we spoke on Resurrection Life as mentioned by brother Branham in referring to the Apostle Paul. Actually there were five statements he made concerning Paul's Life in reflection of this Life of God.
- 2 In paragraph 312 brother Branham said, "Paul, this great intellectual man, (1) never tried to express his great theological terms upon the people.
- 3 Now, what exactly would he make a statement like that for? Because when a man tries to use intellectual theological terms he is trying to get you to focus on himself and how great he is. He is not trying to get you to see how great God is. Humility is not pride brothers and sisters, and the way up is down, always that way with God.
- 4 He that shall exalt himself shall be abased the Scriptures teach us.
- 5 Matthew 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.
- 6 Luke 14:11 For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.
- 7 So we see that when brother Branham refers to Paul never trying to use puffed up theology to speak over the people, that statement shows that Paul was a humble man.
- 8 This same Apostle said in Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.
- 9 And again he said in 1 Corinthians 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, I never came with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. I never tried to impress you with how much I know, but rather 2 I determined not to know any thing among you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. In other words I looked for in you what I want to see in me, Christ only and a crucified Life. A life that has died out to self, and is not being lived by the same life that lived in the body of Jesus, the Holy Spirit. 3 And therefore when I was among you, when I was in your presence, I was there in weakness, and not only that but I was also in fear, and not only fear, but I actually trembled lest you not see in me what I wanted to see in you, Christ Jesus and Him crucified. 4 And it affected my speech for my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, No, not at all. But it was in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, not by my own ability, but by my death to myself, and giving over of my body unto God the author and finisher of my faith to live in me as he lived in Christ Jesus. 5 And my motive was that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Because words are nothing more than the sounding of a gong or cymbal, and can have the wrong affect upon you if their source and motive and objective are wrong. That is why I feared, that is why I trembled in your presence. Not fear of you, nor trembling at your presence, but I feared myself and my humanity. I trembled at the thought of Paul getting in the way. Because words, mere words, are powerless unless they have their source in God who is the author and finisher of your faith.

10 Therefore Paul, after his conversion was never proud. He was never arrogant. He was never boastful, but he was always fearful that his position given him by God would not be understood by the men in which he was called to bring to Christ. And he knew had it not been for the grace of God he would not have come to the knowledge of the truth himself.

11 Paul was quite aware of his own humanity, and he knew in his own abilities had brought him to be at war with the God he desired to serve. And in his own abilities, he missed God altogether and had become the enemy of the God he thought he was serving. He knew that were it not for God finding him and knocking him off his high horse and blinding him, he would have never known he was already blind.

12 That is why William Branham said, "Paul, this great intellectual man, (1) never tried to express his great theological terms upon the people."

13 And do you know what an intellectual is? It is somebody who is trained to bypass the word. That's what brother Branham said. And he's the one whose vindicated, so that's good enough for me.

14 You know, I like the way brother Branham approached the Word because it shows the reality of who actually has the right Word or not. Now, you might say, well, what do you mean preacher? Well, brother Branham said if God be God like Elijah said, then the God who is God will manifest what he said to be true, and if he is not God then nothing will manifest, right? So the proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof, isn't that right?

15 The chef that won't eat his own cooking isn't much of a chef. And that's the problem with being a very good chef, because you look like you've been sampling a lot of your own stuff.

16 Now, come on, these chefs on television that are thin, those are hired entertainer's and not real good chefs. The good ones are all a bit on the plump side because they are good at what they do, and what they do is cook really good stuff, and since it is so good they sample a bit here and a bit there. A chef that won't eat his own cooking is a fake.

17 Look, even Moses ate the same food Israel ate. He didn't give them food and eat something else. He ate what they ate, and if it was good enough for him it was good enough for them. That's why brother Branham would always say, "don't preach me a sermon, live me one". then I'll believe you. Why should I believe a man who says "say what I say but don't do what I do". Didn't Jesus tell the people, The priests give you order to do from the Scriptures, and so you must do it, but don't do what they do. Don't let them be your example, because they are hypocrites who do not do what they tell you to do.

18 Look, the Scripture is God's Word and it matters not who is quoting it, but look at the lives of the ones quoting it and if their life doesn't live the Word themselves, then forget it, you're looking at a hypocrite. and why would you believe a hypocrite?

19 That's what brother Branham said, Be not afraid 60-0717 P:86 Now, if you want to say, "I've got the Holy Ghost standing on my head," amen, go on. I don't care what you got. You say, "I got a, I seen a big light." Go ahead and see the big light. Amen. If you live the life, I believe you got it. You say, "I got it speaking in tongues." Amen. If you live the life, I believe you got it. If you don't live the life, you didn't get it. That's all. See? You've got to have that Life behind there. "By their fruit, you shall know them." That's right. I believe in speaking in tongues, and believe in shouting, and believe in all the Pentecostal experiences. Yes. But if it hasn't... But if that isn't tied together with love, it'll never work. Love is what puts it over.

20 Unpardonable sin 54-1024 P:47 And if you say, "Well, I got the Holy Ghost. Glory to God. I know I got It; I fell under the Spirit." Oh, that ain't no sign that you got the Holy Ghost, not a bit. Friends, I've seen all kinds of things fall under the spirits. That's right. That don't make you have the Holy Ghost. But when you've got the love of Jesus Christ in your heart, when God makes a Christian out of you, when He seals you into His Kingdom, you might fall under the Spirit too. You might do this, that, or the other, whatever it is. But your life will tally to your testimony. Your life testifies so loud, till... No matter what you say, people don't believe it if you don't live it. They ain't going to believe you. And you don't believe it yourself, and the public don't believe it; so you're just making yourself miserable. Why don't you come with a true heart, and say, "God, I confess my wrongs, and I believe on Jesus Christ with all my heart. Now, God, give me the Holy Ghost." He will do it. That's right. He will do it. Then, the fruit of that, because you believe...

21 Hebrews Chapter 4 57-0901E P:79 Listen. Watch: Neither is there any creature that is not manifested in his sight: but all things are naked and open before His eye to him... who we have to do with. Seeing then that we have a great high priest,... (Listen now: to the sick.)... that has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confessions." Hold fast," that don't mean just keep testifying. If you don't live the life, you don't hold it fast. You're living a hypocritical thing. You'd better be on out and just say you're a sinner and forget about it. Don't profess a Christian and live something else; you're the biggest stumbling block the world's ever had. If you're a sinner, admit it and go on, get right with God. If you're a Christian, hold fast your confession; stay there.

22 Jezebel religion 61-0319 P:4 You want to live just what you talk about. If you don't live it yourself, how could you expect somebody else to live it. See? So you are written epistles read of all men; so always be honest, just, true. Tell the truth, no matter how bad it hurts something. Tell the truth anyhow, 'cause you can always tell it the same way each time. And if you tell a lie, you'd have to go a million miles around, and still you have to come back to that lie again; and you just made an awful thing. Just be honest, and you can always tell it the same way because it's the truth.

23 Believing God 52-0224 P:55 And I know this, that some of us has more faith than others, and those who have abundance of faith are supposed to pray for those. But if you don't live the right kind of life, you better leave away from it; the devil will laugh at your prayer. But when you live right, and do right, and act right, and have faith in God, Satan will tremble when you speak, 'cause God swore under obligation He'd take care of that prayer. That's true.

24 That is why Paul tells us in Romans 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? 4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. 5 But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) 6 God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

25 Amplified: What if some did not believe and were without faith? Does their lack of faith and their faithlessness nullify and make ineffective and void the faithfulness of God and His fidelity [to His Word]? 4 By no means! Let God be found true though every human being is false and a liar,

26 The Message Romans 3:3 Do you think their faithlessness cancels out his faithfulness? Not on your life! Depend on it: God keeps his word even when the whole world is lying through its teeth. Scripture says the same: Your words stand fast and true; Rejection doesn't faze you. But if our wrongdoing only underlines and confirms God's rightdoing, shouldn't we be commended for helping out? Since our bad words don't even make a dent in his good words, isn't it wrong of God to back us to the wall and hold us to our word? These questions come up. The answer to such questions is no, a most emphatic No! How else would things ever get straightened out if God didn't do the straightening?

27 So what we see is that God wants for our words to match our lives, which is the some of our actions, and if it doesn't, then why should anyone believe what you have to say.

28 In quoting Elijah, brother Branham says in his sermon, Uncertain sound 62-0714 P:86 "Let the God that be God speak like God". "Let the God that answers by fire be God". Let the God tonight... If your systems is better than the Word? then let them speak and heal the sick, and discern the thoughts, and do what God said He would do. Amen. If your denominational systems is better than the Word of God, then let them speak. Let's see them raise up a church in their Roman dogmas, and so forth, and produce something like Jesus Christ. Let's see them with the dogmas make the Word live again. They bypass the Word by their dogmas, their creeds today, because they're afraid to meet the issue. And they bypass it and base the people upon intellectual education in the stead of the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the manifestation of His Being. Amen. Nothing uncertain about that. Try it. Certainly it's the truth.

29 And that brings us to point number (2) where brother Branham in speaking of Paul says,, "He humbly accepted the Word of the Lord, and (3) he lived the Word so that it expressed It. (4) He lived so godly until they seen Jesus Christ in him so much, till they wanted his handkerchief to take it and lay it upon the sick. (5) There's the Life of Christ.

30 So we are looking at this humility that he is speaking of here and we know that humility is not that mere notion of man. In fact the scriptures instructs us in many places what humility is. In examining Scriptural Humility we find that true Scriptural humility is not so much a mannerism, nor is it an action, but rather, True Scriptural humility is a condition of the mind. For it is simply knowing your place in the Gospel, or knowing your position in Christ.

31 In Colossians 3:12 we read, Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye. 14 And above all these things [put on] charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

32 Notice the apostle Paul used the phrase "Humbleness of the mind". Then humility is a condition of the mind. Therefore, Humility is not bowels of mercies, humility is not kindness, humility is not meekness, nor is it longsuffering. It is listed here as one amongst many different attributes, but it is not those attributes. And yet if you are a True Christian you will possess all of these attributes, plus humility.

33 Brother Branham said, "some people think humility is to wear a skirt, no sire, Jesus was the humblest man to ever walk the earth and he plated ropes together and whipped the money changers out of the temple". No, sir, he said, humility is the way to success. For humility is knowing you place in the Scriptures. He said, "That's what makes Him God to me, because He humbled Himself. God is humility. Don't never forget that. Humility is God. Never boastful, nor--it's always humility."

34 The definition of "humility" in the English Language is "the state or quality of being humble." And what it means to be humble is defined as "not having or showing any feelings of superiority, self-assertiveness, or showiness."

35 Therefore, Humility is to know your place in the Word, to know your place in God's plan. And if you know

that something is outside of God's thinking, then it is not worth even thinking about.

36 Brother Branham said from the message, Be Not Afraid It Is I 61-0414 65 Some people thinks humility is something that ought to wear a skirt. No, no. You misunderstand that. Jesus, the humblest Man that ever lived, He could plait ropes together, and look on them with anger, and run them out of the temple. Yes, sir. Certainly.

37 Too many people have the wrong understanding of what humility is all about. They think the guy who walks around like a dishrag is the one who is humble. They think if they can just say, "Lord bless you my precious brother", just the right way, then that is being humble. But that's not humble.

38 Brother Branham sets the record straight when he said "Jesus Christ was the most humble man that ever lived, and he took a rope and made a whip from it. Then he speaks of compassion and says, compassion is not human sympathy, but doing the will of God. And that is exactly what humility is, to know your place and to walk in the order for which you were called. Humility is not some feminine or sissified mannerism, and if the definition of humility is "not having or showing any feelings of superiority, self-assertiveness, or showiness." then true humility is knowing your place in the Gospel, and standing firm, for when you have done all you can do to stand, then just stand. Because after all, if you have a true revelation of the sovereignty of God, then you will not have any notions of superiority, nor will you be self-assertive, nor will you put on a show when God does tell you to do something.

39 Look at the men who were humble in Scripture. Look at Moses, God selected him to do what he was called to do, and yet he saw nothing in himself that merited God's attention. And when God told him what he wanted him to do, he pleaded with God to send someone else because he felt so inadequate for the job. Look at Paul. Before his conversion he was proud and he wanted to go, and after his conversion he hesitated every time in going until God assured him he was to go. And that is the way with brother Branham. The more brother Branham yielded to the Holy Ghost the littler and littler his meetings got. And the more obedient the lesser the job God had for him to do.

40 But the nature of the American people, well, not only in this country but I've seen the same pride in almost every nation I've gone been and that is 56 countries and that includes most of South America, Africa and a few in Asia. It seems the preachers, especially the younger ones, think the more you are in the will of God the bigger your meetings will be. And that is just the flesh. Because Brother Branham's Africa and India meetings were his largest meetings on record, and they were in the beginning but he was more yielded and obedient to the Spirit as he grew in Christ in later years. In those earlier years the angel had to rebuke him for making a side show of the gift, but in those later years he went to only a handful here and there when he still had invitations to go where the large crowds were.

41 In fact brother Branham tells us this in his sermon, Queen of Sheba 58-0107 P:14 "Here sometime ago a vision came and told me about going to Africa. And I thought that it meant go to Africa first, then to India. And the Lord spoke to me and told me to go to Africa first, and then to India. Well I thought that compared with the vision. And then I forgot about it and went to India first and then He condemned me at Portuguese, as you know the story. And said, "I thought I said to you 'Go to Africa first.'" And then I was condemned. And I thought all the time, and now it just comes up, the revelation begins to push me for Africa, and I read in the vision, and the vision really said, "Go to India first and back to Africa." It's just exactly the way it's going to happen. Now, see, the Lord spoke to me, knowing that I would fail, but the vision can't fail. It's what God has already said and it cannot fail. The vision, I've got it wrote in an flyleaf of my Bible. I will bring it down maybe and let you see it. How that it really reads that I will go to India first and then back to Africa; but He told me to go to Africa first and then to India, knowing that I would fail, but the vision can never fail. God has spoke it. It's got to be that way."

42 Now I bring this example up not to point the finger at brother Branham but to show you that he was much more sensitive to obedience to God as he grew in the knowledge and grace of God. In his younger years he was excited to go and do the will of God, but as we see in this quote, he missed it here. Now, you and I would never have caught that had he not told us, so those pointing at this and trying to make hay over it are out of their place altogether, for this was something that God was dealing with brother Branham on, and not for you and I to speculate as to if he will still in the future go and make right this vision or not. That was his vision, not ours, so I am not interested in whether it was fulfilled by his first trip and if he will have another, it's none of my business. And the older I get and more in tune with my Father, I realize that a lot of what goes on is not my business, and I just need to know when to stick my nose in and when I am not supposed to stick my nose into someone else's business.

43 And I have found that unless I am invited in, I will not stick my nose into it. But you can see by this 1952 and the 1958 quote quite a concern had come over brother Branham that he missed it on that vision. And that bothered him tremendously. 99.9% of all other preachers if they had had the vision, they would not have cared how it was fulfilled, they would just be thrilled to have had a vision, and to see healings like took place in those meetings.

44 But brother Branham was humble, and he was so upset with himself when he looked in the fly leaf of his bible and saw what he thought to be a mistake on his part. But you know what? whether he got it wrong or not, God honored that man and thousands were healed and something like a dozen and a half truckloads of crutches were hauled to the hotel where he rested after those meetings in Africa. And in India he challenged just like Elijah challenged the 400 priests of Baal, so brother Branham challenged the heathen priests to heal the blind man.

45 So what I see here is a change in the sensitivity of the prophet. A realization that without God he was totally helpless, and a fear of displeasing God.

46 I do not claim to have figured this thing out and I really don't care, because it is none of my business. That was between God and his prophet, and who am I to interfere with that relationship. And that is what troubles me of the brethren that are making this and other petty little things an issue.

47 Brother Vayle and I discussed several times a subject that is very illusive to me, because he felt that there are times that you feel, "did I miss something with God?" Did I miss the wagon somehow in my Life, in my ministry? Should I have gone here and not there? But all I can say is that when we get to that point we just have to look at the grace of God and realize that without out His grace we would have missed the entire picture. But he that is the author of our salvation is also the finisher of our faith. He that began the work in you has promised he will finish it.

48 Having had invitations to speak to hundreds of ministers overseas and literally thousands of people scares me half to death. I've had ministers tell me if I come they will have 6,000 people come, and I tell them if they have 6,000 people come I will not come. So that is not an allure to me seeing that I do not look at my minister meetings overseas as some sort of performance. Fortunately I got that out of my flesh when I played football in front of a hundred thousand plus stadiums and on national television. So numbers mean nothing to me, if it did I would have left this church years ago to go elsewhere where there was a lot more people. But I am not interested in popularity because I know where they pat you on the back the most is the same place they will stab you in the back the most.

49 But what I am talking about this morning is true humility, and that is knowing your place in the Gospel, and being in the will of God. And whether you feel that somehow in life you might have missed out on something God had for you, just remember this one thing. If it was in the perfect will of God it would have taken place

regardless of your obedience or not. I mean look at Jonah, he ran from it, and God delivered him to Ninevah anyway, regardless whether he personally backslid or not.

50 Look, sometimes being human we just make mistakes in our leading and due to our own humanity we sometimes miss the plan of God here or there for ourselves, but you know, you can backslide to your wife, or you could backslide to the brethren in church, but you can never backslide before God, because he knows all you will ever do.

51 Brother Branham said in Questions and answers COD 54-0103M P:19 But on backsliding, remember, you backslide every day. There's no way at all for you to keep out of it. All right. But you backslide to the people in the church, but not before God... See? You backslide on Christ, but you don't on God. 'Cause, when you sin, you're gone. But you're constantly falling. Paul had to die every day. Is that right? He had to die every day, repent every day, and just constantly repenting all the time. See? And if Paul had to do that, then I'm going to have to too.

52 Brother Branham said in his sermon, Faith 56-0427 P:23 Notice then, Abraham called by election, and God giving him the covenant of grace unconditionally. You know, when God makes a covenant with man, man breaks his covenant. You make a promise to God, nine times out of ten you'll not do it. When God made a covenant with man in the garden of Eden, "This you do, and if you do this," there's an "if" in it. Man turned right back around it and broke his covenant with God. God was determined to save man. So instead of saying "if," He was no "if" to Abraham: "I have." You see the assurance? "You'll come to me in a old age. I've already settled it, not 'If you'll do anything.' I've already done it." Then it's got to be sure. And not, "Abraham, if you backslide, or Abraham, if you'll keep My Word, Abraham, if you'll do this or you'll do that." God said, "I have already done it."

53 Divine healing 54-1219M P:83 And every man or woman (hallelujah), that is born thoroughly of the Spirit of God, you may backslide. Yes, sir. When you go back out, you'll be the most miserable person that you ever dreamed of in your life till you return. And if you fail to do it, God will take your life off the earth. God promised to do it.

54 Earnestly contending for the faith 53-0614A P:29 And every man that's born of God, you might backslide or fall out, but if you're born of God, you're coming back to the ark sure as anything in the world.

55 If you are a son or daughter of God and backslide, I can guarantee you one thing, you won't enjoy it for long, because God will make you so miserable that you won't be able to live with yourself.

56 1 Peter 5:5. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

57 James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Let us pray...