

#122 Christian Life no 3 His Character not ours

1 Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation works patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

2 Let us pray...

3 Notice now that the Apostle Paul speaks to us that what trials we go through teaches us patience and in patience we develop what he calls experience, and this experience gives us hope which is an earnest expectation. Therefore if we earnestly expect, then we are not ashamed, because it is the Love of God that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.

4 Now, this evening I would like to focus our thought on this experience which leads us to patience and earnestly expecting. Because this word although translated as the English word experience actually has another better translation.

5 The Greek word "Dokime" that was translated into the English word "experience" is only translated once as "evidence" but three times it is translated as the word "proof" as we see in the following Scriptures.

6 2 Corinthians 13:3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

7 2 Corinthians 2:9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

8 Philippians 2:22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

9 Now, when we use the word "experience" in our daily dialogue, we use it in terms of experiences we have been through. But when we refer to someone who has been there and done that, so to speak we say they are experienced. Now the word takes on a further character of its own because we are no longer talking about the instances of something happening in the life that one has gone through, but now we are talking about the cumulative knowledge on how to deal with those instances. This changes the word the meaning of the word experience to knowledge based on experience.

10 In Romans 5:1-5 we found three words of significance, The first word is Patience translated from the Greek word hupomone meaning steadfastness under trials, patiently enduring, so it speaks of a certain endurance we receive from learning to wait.

11 The next word we see is Experience which was translated from the Greek word "dokime" which means a tried character, a specimen of tried worth, or proof.

12 And the third word he uses is Hope which was translated from the Greek word "elpice" and it simply means an earnest expectation.

13 Now from the Church Age Book, The Smyrnaean Church Age Chptr. 4 Brother Branham said, "3 If there was tribulation in the first age, there is now predicted an intensified tribulation throughout the second age. There is no doubt but what the following words of Paul applied to the mass of Christians wherever they were in the world and in every age. Hebrews 10:32-38 "But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He That shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

14 So what is this promise that we receive by patient waiting? It is the proof that we have received the promise. And what is that proof? It is His character, because that is what we receive when we patiently wait. Because we wait because we believe, and we patiently wait because we truly believe. And our Belief then produces in us the very same character it produced in all believers, from the original Believer in the promise of God which was Abraham, to Jesus Christ The royal Seed of Abraham down through the ages to all royal seed of Abraham.

15 NIV Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

16 And Paul tells us that it is this Character that every son of Abraham will have in common.

17 From his sermon, Identifications 63-0123, 40 Brother Branham said, "Now, Jesus gave us the Example of what we ought to be looking at, when He reflected His Life to us through the Word, what we should see. When we look into God's mirror, we should see ourself identified with Him. That is a perfect Example. 41 Now, but we find out that, as we go along through life, that our character molds the image that we are. Each one knows that. You, as you live, so is your character, molds you to what you are. Now, you have seen people that you just love to be around, yet they might not exactly be in your bracket of society. And, again, they might be of a different race, the colored, or the brown, or the yellow. But there just something about that character, that you just love to be in their presence. Because each person is a little dynamo of their own, and you put out an atmosphere. 42 And then you see people that were noble people, but yet you were always glad to get away from them. It's just they create such an atmosphere around where you are. Nothing against them, they're nice people, but you just don't like that atmosphere, they, they're... they're in. And their character creates whatever they are, makes them what they are."

18 58 You cannot, no way, ever produce a Character like that; only, accepting that Character in you. A church cannot do that. A creed cannot do that. A denomination cannot do that. An education cannot do that. It must be a Birth. It's got to be a dying out, and let God in, by the grace of Christ, mold this type of character in you, that you become Him, and your life and His is the same, then you are sons and daughters of God.

19 In the very next paragraph brother Branham tells us of an identifiable characteristic of that Character in you. In other words as the Greek word is translated as the word "proof", he is going to tell us of a "proof" that His

character is reflected in your life. He says in

20 pp. "70 Now, with our Message, can we stand by the looking glass of God's Word and see Christ reflect in our own lives then?"

21 Notice he is asking us a question, can we look into the mirror of God's Word, and see the same character of Christ reflected in our life?

22 "Can we bear such, and the reproach of the Message that we're standing for here?"

23 Notice he is asking the question, what character is reflecting from us when we are under trial, or testing? Then he gives us the absolute example. he says...

24 "Someone can say something about It, (say something about what? He's talking about you bearing up under slander and libel, saying things against the Message and against you. And he says, can they say something about what you believe) and yet you just don't open your mouth and say nothing about it. He was example, because God was reflecting His character in Him. And then if we're sons and daughters of God, God reflects His character in us, then we become like Him. That's my heart's desire. I think that's every believer's desire, is to become more like Him.

25 So we are given an insight into the very character of Jesus Christ when he was put to the test. You know he stood on trial, and they ripped the beard right off his face, and they took the whip and tore out his flesh, and yet he answered them not a Word. He didn't give them anger for anger, or wrath for wrath. He answered them not a word.

26 John 23:1 And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King. 3 And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it. 4 Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man. 5 And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.

27 You know, I've have experienced that myself when I was in Uganda in 2006. I over heard some ministers using my name so I walked over to them, and I asked them I heard my name and was wondering why they were talking about me. And one said, "why did you come and stir up the people in our nation?" And I said, "the entire nation is stirred up?" And he said, "yes, what you are teaching over here has stirred up the people all over the nation", and I said, "well then that's good". and he said, "are you happy about it?" And I said, "well no, Not happy, but the Bible says, that every where that Paul went there was no small stir, and the Bible also says Jesus was accused of stirring up the nation of Israel, so I guess I'm in good company." I said, "if I came to tel you what you already know, then that would be a waste of my time and yours. But I came to tell you what you didn't know, and i am glad the people are stirred because then they will have to dig into the Word to find out whether what I am saying is right or not."

28 So Jesus said in John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

29 Well I can say that there is at least one Scripture that is manifested in my life. And I am thankful for it. Aren't you?

30 And if Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever. Then that explains why Brother Branham is still attacked even 48 years after he's gone off the scene, and that explains why brother Vayle is still attacked more than a year and after he's gone off the scene, and I haven't been to Eastern Uganda since 2006 and last week I received a meeting report from Br. Marcus Janckheere from Belgium, a close friend of mine, and he told me he attended a minister meetings in Norway, and he said in his email to me the following:

31 "On Friday afternoon, we had a walk along the fjord, and Br." (X, I've purposely left out the name because it is not necessary to tell the story, but if you wish to know, you can read the email for yourself) "he asked me to walk besides him. The first question he asked me: did you go with Br. Brian to Africa. I said, yes I did. He said "You know, he is bringing a lot of confusion in Uganda".

32 And I ask the question, Confusion? Who is confused? Those who teach what brother Branham taught or those who refuse to teach what Brother Branham taught because it doesn't agree with their own Oneness dogma.

33 That reminds me of what brother Branham said in his sermon, Perseverant 62-0719E P:86 Here not long ago down in Mexico, we was having a meeting there, and it's a great Catholic country, and all of you, pretty near, you ministers know General Valderna. He was the one taking me in. The bishop of the Catholic church went up, told the president, said, "Well, you're bringing a non-Catholic in here." He said, "Well," said, "General Valderna says it's a reputable person." Said, "Well," said, "there isn't nothing like that in here." Said, "We can't do that." He said, "Why," he said, "they tell me that thousands of people come out to his meetings," the president said. He said, "Well, nothing goes out there but just the ignorant and unlearned." He said, "You've had them five hundred years. Why are they ignorant and unlearned?" Guess that would crop off the feathers. See?

34 Now, I was in Uganda seven years ago, back in 2006 and we invited 60 ministers to attend our meeting, but three ministers from the United States went in a week ahead of our meetings to try and convince the ministers not to attend my meetings because they said, I was preaching Lee Vayle's "Two God's" doctrine. Well, first of all those brothers lied because brother Vayle never preached a "Two God's" doctrine and secondly he had corrected the "Two Lords" teaching back in 2000 setting the record straight by calling Two Lords a fallacy and that was six years before my meetings in Kampala Uganda. So there was no excuse to do what they did but they still continue to use defamation, libel and slander even when they know what I teach because it is on the internet, and no where have I ever taught Two Gods, and I have taught against Two Lords every where I go telling the brothers that Brother Vayle said do not teach it that way because it is false to do so.

35 But you see, people want to lump people together, and all those who still teach it wrong, we are lumped in with them, because we both are tied to together via our association with Br. Vayle.

36 Now, listen it was the people who said they fallowed Luther that burned down churches, and killed priests and beat them and did all kinds of fanatical things, and they said it wasn't a miracle that Martin Luther could protest the Catholic church and get away with it, the real miracle was that he could hold his head above all the fanaticism that followed his ministry.

37 So in getting back to John 23:6 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean. 7 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time. 8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. 9 Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing. 10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him. 11 And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate. 12 And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves. 13 And Pilate, when he had called together

the chief priests and the rulers and the people, 14 Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: 15 No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. 16 I will therefore chastise him, and release him. 17 (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.) 18 And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas: 19 (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.) 20 Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them. 21 But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. 22 And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go. 23 And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed. 24 And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required.

38 Now, listen to brother Branham describe this character that could be beaten, this character that could be and mocked, this character that could even be sentenced to death for no other reason than for His relationship with God His Father.

39 "106 Oh, no other nature could do this. No. Cause, He was the molded perfect character of God. 107 For, it was a fallen character that all nature had. All men had a fallen character. Even everything that was under man fell. Everything has got a dying character. 108 And He had a living character, so He expressed it in Christ, and He paid the price. And then because of His obedience, He raised Him up on the third day. See? 109 And then He gives to us. That gives to us the proof. It gives to us the assurance, that, as long as we're in Him, we're already risen with Him.

40 Look at the use of that word "proof" and "assurance". And look how it is tied to the character of Christ. and that character is our proof that we are already raised with Him. It's not being able to recite a creed or dogma or doctrine as good as it is to know the doctrine right. But what does your nature do when you go through the same trials he went through? Does your nature, project the same results His nature did?

41 Brother Branham continues, "We won't raise with Christ; we're already raised with Christ. That's right. We are in Christ now. And if Christ be risen from the dead, aren't we raised from the dead with Him? Amen. "Now we're setting together in Heavenly places in Him." Oh, my! That ought to make you Presbyterians shout. Uh-huh. Yeah. Certainly. Expressed images of God, molded after the fashion of Christ, that the world can see Him in you. That's the looking glass to look at. 110 No other nature could do it; it was fallen. And God identified. Look. God identified Himself as a Man, and took upon Him the form of sin. Now, well, not sin, but the form of sin, that in order that He might take the sin of the sinner, see, and pay the penalty for it, and give the sinner back the Life that he had before the fall. Oh, my! What love God has expressed to us! See? Think of it.

42 That's what Paul said in 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.

43 Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

44 Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

45 Now, as we continue with what brother Branham was telling us, in pp: 111 brother Branham said, "And now remember, after Jesus doing this, when nobody else could do it, we are invited. Now, church, think of this just a minute. We are invited to shape our own character to His, by His grace. We are invited, think of it, to become characters like His. If we are ready to lay our character down, and the molding that we had, "Heady,

high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, false accusers, and incontinent, despisers of those that are trying to do right, having a form of godliness and denying the power of the Word." How can God come into a place like that, when they deny the Word? When, He watches over His Word, to vindicate It, to make It come to pass. And the Word is pushed out, how can He identify Himself with something like that?

46 112 We've got to take the entire, full Gospel. We must. And now, being that we have identified ourselves as full Gospel people, let's mold our character.

47 Why is he saying, "full Gospel people?" Because he is saying, "now that we have the doctrine of Christ correct, let's mold our character to His character".

48 Now, just to make sure we have our balance on these things, I think beginning tomorrow, I am going to begin alternating our study of the Christian Life sermons with sermons showing the importance of Doctrine, because without having the correct doctrine, how can you really have the right spirit. Brother Branham never said "I would rather you be wrong in your doctrine and right in your spirit". He said "I would rather your doctrine be wrong and right in your heart". Why? because how can you be wrong in your Spirit if you have the Holy Spirit. But the fact is you can have right doctrine and not have the Holy Spirit just like the Pharisees did. And Jesus made an example of the Pharisees who walked who had there doctrines all right and still missed God's presence among them in the form of His Son. And Jesus told the parable of the man that had been beaten and laid to die along the road, and in it he exonerated the good Samaritan and said that is what we should be like, but he excoriated the Pharisee whose doctrine was right while the Samaritan was all messed up in his doctrine but his heart was right and so he stopped to help the poor broken man, and even paid all the expenses to help the man get well.

49 As a Word prophet you've got to know that is where brother Branham is taking his statement from. Pergamean church age 60-1207 P:31 The life of Saint Martin is one of the greatest miracle filled lives of anybody in the church ages. From all the way from Saint Paul out, he was one of the most spiritual men. He was. One of his first miracles was, He was a soldier to begin with, I believe. And then one day he was coming by and there was someone, a man laying cold and shivering, and all the people that not willing, but was able to help the man, they just passed him by like the priest and the Levites did in the Good Samaritan. But when Saint Martin come by, realizing his duty as a Christian believer, he had one coat, a cloak over his shoulders; he cut it in two with his sword and gave half of it to the beggar; he took the other half. And that night begin his career, for Jesus Christ appeared to him in a vision, wrapped in that same robe that he cut half in two; which fulfilled the Scripture, "Insomuch as you have done unto these, you have did it unto Me."

50 Now, brother Branham continues by saying here, "We're invited to be molded in His Image, that we might reflect His Presence. "And the works that I do, shall you do also. The Life that I live, so shall you." We're invited, by God, to take Him as an Example, and let our character be molded like His. What a thing! My!

51 113 Then, when we let His character be in us, then we have become sons, by having the mind of Christ, mind, which is His character. Your mind makes your character.

52 Now, notice then, how can you have the real character of Christ by having wrong doctrine and thus a wrong mind? You see, it's not the kind old priest sort of kindness, it's the God directed kindness, that always looks to the Word of God to direct us in how to be kind. I think that is why I will go back and forth between Doctrine and Character in our study of the Christian Life, because if I do not some may think we have left the doctrine and turned to a life of works, when we have done no such thing. But to understand this: That the doctrine of Christ is supposed to produce in you the very Life of Christ. And if it isn't producing in you the very Life of Christ, then you do not have the correct Doctrine of Christ.

53 Brother Branham said from his sermon, Rising of the sun 65-0418M P:31 Now, the very essence of the Message that was sent that, "He is risen from the dead," we, His beneficiaries, we, who share the resurrection with Him, draw benefits from this by proving to the world that He is alive. We cannot do it by word only; we cannot do it by some tradition of man; we only reflect exactly what we're pointing to. I'm afraid today that too many of us are not getting people to Christ. We're getting them to a church, to a theory, but we must get them to Christ. He is the only One, and the only One that has Life. "He that has the Son, has Life." And if the life of a man that's dead be projected in you, you will live the same life he lived. If the blood of a man was a certain type, and you took the blood from one man and changed the blood of the one man into another, he'd absolutely be that typed blood. And if your spirit that's in you is reckoned dead, and you are anointed with the Life that was in Christ is upon you... Romans 8:11 says, "If the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, It'll also quickens your mortal bodies," that same Life, them same powers, them same beneficiaries that He had here on earth from God. He redeemed you, a seed that was foreknown by God, whose names was put on the Lamb's Book of Life before the foundation of the world. And that Gospel Light of the resurrection, the confirmation of the Word... How did we know He was the Christ? Because He proved what He talked about. How will I know the Message of the hour? God proves what He promised and He talks about it.

54 Brother Branham continues in his sermon, Identifications 63-0123, 40 "Let the mind," Paul said, "of Christ, this mind that was in Christ, be in you." Let that mind of Christ be in you. It molds the character of a son of God. Now, how?... 114 Just listen a minute. How can we have the mind of Christ that was in Him, and then deny the things that He commissioned us to do? How can we place miracles in the past, when the very Christ Himself was God, and God in you. In the Presence of God, there's always miracles. He said, "You call Me 'Lord.' Why call ye Me 'Lord,' and do not the things that I have commanded you to do, I laid out for you to do?" Don't you see where we've gotten to, where the church is drifting? And I find it a whole lot among our Pentecostals, too. We're drifting too far from that Lifeline. We must come back to that, friend, come back, because we're getting big now. 115 I see where the Business Mens publication is the greatest one, as much maybe as what Oral Roberts has got. And I find out that when we go to getting big, then we go to acting big, see, just like Israel did. And we go to acting like we're just compare with the rest of them. Remember, "You are a different people. You are a holy nation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people." Why, we Pentecostals got so we ain't any more peculiar than any the rest the world. We just dress, act, talk, go do the things they do; run home, watch television, instead of staying for church; and just the same things they do, about. We're trying to compete, trying to be like the Joneses. See? We don't want to do that. 116 We want to make this Bible our looking glass, and let ourselves be molded by His character; having His character, His mind, letting the mind that was in Christ be in us. His mind was always... 117 What was His mind to do, the mind that was in Christ? Always to stay with the Father's Word. No matter what looked glossy, and what looked this way, it didn't make any difference to Him. The Father's Word is what counted. Everywhere, when He met the devil, He never even used His power to defeat him. He used the Word, because that was Him. 118 Did you ever think? He never wrote a book when He was on earth. As far as we know, He never wrote but one time. That was in the sand. Then erased it out, probably, afterwards. Why didn't He write a word? Because He was the Word. See? He lived the Word. We don't need so many books, when you become a written epistle of God. See? See? That's what God wants you to be, images of Him.

55 Now, in closing I would like to read several quotes from brother Branham showing how your works are really an expression of your character.

56 57-0623 Believe From The Heart "A man's work declares his character. Christ was God's work. And Christ declared God's character, His feeling for the sick, His longing for saving of souls, till even He gave His own life. God's work... God's character was declared in Christ. And if you can just empty your own intellectual thoughts out and give God the right of way, He can declare His character through the work of your yielding. Empty out; get the world, get your doubts out of the way. If you come to the altar to be prayed for, say, "I'll go up and see if I get healed," God can never declare His works. You've got to get your own thoughts out of the way and let Him fill

you."

57 Isn't that beautiful? If we could just empty out and die out to our own thinking and Let God fill us with his Thoughts, His Word, then our character would reflect His character.

58 From his sermon, Faith once delivered to the saints 57-0610 P:38 Brother Branham said, "But when that real, genuine faith that God spoke the truth, it's settled in the person's heart. It's eternal. Feeling has nothing to do with it no more. God said so. Then that faith is stabled. No matter what takes place, how you feel, whether you get sick or whether you do or not. That has nothing to do with it. It's that faith that was once delivered to the saints that they believe. They seen the works of God. They knowed it was God. It was a vindicated to them. Jesus said, "If I do not the works of God, then don't believe Me." But He did the works of God. And He said, "I do not do nothing in Myself, till I see the Father do it first. Whatever I see the Father doing, then the Son does likewise." He said, "He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also." That was the Church. Christ left this that His Church would have His Spirit. And the Spirit of Christ will perform, and act, and live like Christ. Amen. How can we segregate ourselves, when Christ taught brotherly love, "By this all men will know you're My Church," when you've got love one for another."

59 And from We would see Jesus 57-0226 P:21 brother Branham said, "Then if His Spirit is with us, He will act just exactly like He act when He was here on earth. It'll make you act the same way, because it's not your spirit any more; it's His Spirit in you, Christ's Spirit in you." The things that I do... He that believeth on Me (Saint John 14:12.), the works that I do, shall ye do also." See? We'll do the same works, think the same thoughts, live the same type of life. If the Spirit of God is in you, it makes you live like Christ, Christ-like. Then you become a written epistle, read of all men, Christ in you, reflecting His Light out of you, as God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, and reflecting God from His own body. No man has seen God at any time, but the only begotten of the Father has declared Him. God was in Christ. And what Christ's attitude was, was God's attitude, 'cause the two work together, the Spirit and flesh united together. Got a sermon on that: "The Dove And The Lamb." Want to get on it one night, one of these weeks."

60 And in closing from What shall I do with Jesus 63-1124M P:95 Brother Branham said, "As I said, if the life of Beethoven was in you, you'd live like Beethoven. If the life of Hitler was in you, you'd live like Hitler. And when the Life of Christ is in you, you'll live like Christ. And the works of Christ you do. And that'll be... If Christ lived today He'd do exactly what the Word said He'd do today. And if the Word said that, "He is the same yesterday, today, and forever," why can't this blind ecclesiastical world see the time that they're living. See?"

Let us pray.