

#145 Christian life no 25 Confirming the Commission

1 Before we go to the Word of God for our text this evening, i would like to read a couple emails I received from brethren recently. The first is from br. Don Hoffman who travelled with me to Chile and Argentina last month.

2 Br. Brian, I was just communicating with brother Matias (the song leader) in Cordoba, Argentina via facebook. As you remember, Brother Enrique Villa had just found out that he had cancer in both lungs a day or so before we arrived. In one of the services he asked for prayer for healing. Prayer was offered for his healing in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Brother Matias just informed me that tonight, brother Villa come over to announce to his family (all gathered together) that after several medical studies, the doctors told him he is completely healthy. Praise be to our God. This is truly Jesus Christ the Same, Yesterday , Today and Forever. Brother Brian, this is so wonderful to see we serve a living God. This should be common among the believers.. The Great Physician now is here... the sympathizing Jesus. God bless you brother Brian. Continue to hold His banner high as a true soldier of the cross.

3 And another email sent from Mozambique this Morning in response to br. Don's email..

4 Brother, Yesterday I was talking to my wife about a certain woman whom I prayed for, was healed from cancer, she is not a believer of this message of the hour, her leg was completely black, swollen up and dry, eaten up by cancer, the doctors recommended it to be amputated but she refused, she dint want to have one leg. Last Sunday I went to preach at Kaphikamtama, one of our churches, after the service as I was passing by the house where this woman was staying, I heard a calling "pastor" then I stopped and turned around, it was the woman whom I had prayed for. She said pastor I am healed, can you see my leg, its clean, I am putting on shoes. She went for tests, the doctor confirmed that she had no cancer. She said, I wanted to come to your home to tell you but I did not know where you were staying. I just told her to thank God who is the healer of all our diseases and make her life right with God and fulfill all righteousness. Indeed Jesus Christ is the same Yesterday, Today and Forever. Br. Enock.

5 This evening we will continue in our study of Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed, and this will be no. 145 in our series, and number 25 in our minis series on the Christian Life. I would like to entitle this Confirmation of the Commission.

6 But before we go to brother Branham's Message, let's open our Bibles to Mark 16 and John 14:12 for our text tonight.

7 Mark 16:11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. 12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

8 Look how skeptical and guarded the brethren were of each other. even to the point of denying anyone's testimony who had any experience that they themselves did not have. But it's always been that way. The brother rejected Joseph because God showed him things he didn't show his brothers. But is that righteous grounds for skepticism? I think not. he actually calls it unbelief and hardness of heart as we see in the next verse.

9 14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

10 Notice after he commissions them he tells them that there will be a confirmation of their commission, and that confirmation are supernatural signs that will take place in their lives. so what he is saying here is that there will be an identifiable confirmation that they have been sent by Him, and that identifiable confirmation or seal that they have the goods to preach , is that He will back up there calling with supernatural exploits.

11 And now let's turn in our Bibles to John 14 and we will begin reading at verse 12.

12 John 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. 12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. 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. 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (that's how you will know Him, because he will live Himself out in you.)

13 18 I will not leave you comfortless: (that word is orphanos, or in English Orphans. he says I will not leave you orphans. So when is an orphan no longer an orphan? And the answers is when he is adopted.) I will come to you.

14 19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. 20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. 21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

15 Now, the question is, how will He manifest Himself to you? By manifesting Himself in you and through you.

16 Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to self, to live after self. 13 For if ye live after self, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit Itself will bear witness with your spirit, that you are the children of God:

17 So how then will The Spirit which is God's Spirit bear witness with your spirit that you are indeed His Children? because His Spirit will bring your spirit into subjection and you will do what He shows you to do.

18 The very word bear witness means that God will be in you and His Spirit in you will identify or confirm in

you that he is working in you to will and to do.

19 Philippians 2:13 For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

20 Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

21 2 Thessalonians 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, 17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish (confirm) you in every good word and work.

22 Notice we have the promise that it will be the very God himself Who will confirm these things in you. And How does he confirm these things in you? By doing them Himself just as He did with his own son. It is God which works in you both to will and to do

23 Hebrews 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect (He will make you mature and a finished product) in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

24 Whose working in you? God Himself promised to work in you. Oh, brothers and sisters, what a beautiful promise we have of His glorious presence, His glorious Life living itself out in us to first will and then to do. And it's Him that is willing in us and it is Him that is doing the work which he promised we would do.

25 Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

26 Glorified together. Endoxazo, In doxa zoe, in you the doxa which is the values, and opinions of God expressing or manifesting themselves in your zoe, in your life.

27 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory (the doxa) which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation (the apokolupsis, the revealing) of the sons of God.

28 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of The Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

29 Now, this brings us to our thoughts tonight that we will study from brother Branham's sermon, Christ is the Mystery pp. 224 Remember. Think of it, that people borned of His Spirit in a day like this, in this great denominational age that we live, and the living God takes His living Word and vindicates It personally. This Life that's in the Word, the germ that's in the Seed (and the Word is the Seed that a sower went forth to sow), and the Life is Christ in the Word personally in you, vindicating something that you cannot do, proving Hisself that it's not you, but it's Him. And you become one, a love slave to Him to be a Bride.

30 Now, notice his words here. He says when you have received the confirmation within you of the very Life of Christ living itself out from you, that is God vindicating in you that you have His Word abiding in you. Now, that

is what he's saying people.

31 I know there are people who have a hard time with this but this is Scripture what brother Branham is saying here. Jesus said the same thing.

32 John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

33 Now, just before He made this promise to the believer, Jesus said, in John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. So there is your key to what he is saying right there. It's not you being able of yourself as though you have some power in your own, but if you abide in Him and His Living word abides in you then ask what you will and it will be done. He then says,

34 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

35 Now, just as Jesus said, the son can of His own self do nothing, so neither can you or I do anything except we abide in Him, then we ask and he does it.

36 Now, in his sermon, Confirmation of the Commission, preached Jan 22, 1962 brother Branham makes this point quite clear. In paragraph 22 he says, "Now, I think that anything ought to be confirmed. If you'd build a house, it'd have to be built according to specification; or, they wouldn't confirm the house to be built, and you'd have to tear it down again, build it over. And I think also, if you were going down the road and, or out at your work, and someone would walk up to you and say, "I am a United States marshal. I now put you under arrest in the name of my office." Now, you have a right to say to that man... If you look at him, he has on a uniform and a badge pinned on him. That yet doesn't make him a United States marshal. Any phony could wear that. You can buy a badge over here almost in a ten-cent store, go to any rummage sale and get a uniform or anything. That doesn't make him a United States marshal.

37 23 To make hisself identified he has to have his papers with the seal upon them, that to confirm his statement that he is a United States marshal; or, he's nothing until he's confirmed to be that. He has confirmed his commission, and he does it by a sealed statement, a declaration to show that this man has been sworn in, and he's been... His commission has been sealed with the seal of the United States, and then over the top of his name. And that makes him then, whether he has a badge on, or whether he has a uniform on, as long as he's packing this paper he is the marshal, and that's his commission. Just a badge and a uniform won't work.

38 27 Now, we realize that Jesus said here in Mark the 16th chapter, that all that He sent out on commission would bear the confirmation: These signs shall follow them that believe. Now, He didn't say they maybe they will follow, or they might follow. He said, "Go ye into all the world..." Now, somebody wants to chop that commission off two thousand years ago. But He said, "All the world, to every creature..." These signs shall follow in all the world and to every creature (See?), and that was the signs that was to follow to approve the identification.

39 28 The Bible said the Gospel came to us not in word only, but through the power, manifestations of the Holy Ghost. In other words, it's the Holy Ghost taking the Word of God and making It manifest. See? And otherwise the only way that the signs of Mark 16 can follow the believer is that the Holy Spirit Himself takes the Word of God and demonstrates it to the people. That's it. Now, faith makes that Word live. See, the Word is God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." And then Jesus said, "If

ye abide in Me and My Word in you, ask what you will and it'll be done for you." See? That's staying with Christ in the Word. Don't go right or left; stay right with it. See? And then it's actually not your word then; it's His Word, and His Word has the power and authority behind It.

40 29 Now, and if the Holy Spirit, which is God's Word, or the power of God's Word, comes in with God's Word, it'll make God's Word display Itself. "Go ye into all the world and demonstrate the Gospel to every creature. (See?) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe." What a beautiful setting that is. If we would just go deep now and listen, that was the credentials that was to hang onto every man that went forth preaching the Gospel. And no man has a right to preach the Gospel without the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Jesus would not let Peter, James, John, any of the rest of them, preach the Gospel until they waited in the city of Jerusalem until the Holy Ghost had filled them, because it's the Holy Ghost that makes the Word of God go into action. See?

41 30 Now, that same Word is just as alive tonight as it was the hour it was spoke. See? All we need is... The Holy Spirit behind the Word puts it to action and demonstrates the power that It promised. Every blessing that God promised, everything that He said, can be brought to life if the Holy Spirit is behind the Word, because that's the thing that quickens the Word and gives It life. See? And now, we know that that's right.

42 31 Jesus said, "These signs shall follow all that I send." Others refuse; that's all. Certainly. Any unbeliever, any critic of the Word, can come along with an identification of some denomination, some manmade organization, or something; say, "I'm Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist," whatever it might be. He could easily identify himself into a fellowship of that same denominational church because of his credentials. But his credentials only comes from a organization that's been made up by a theory and not the Word of God. But God... If he's sent from God, "These signs shall follow them that believe." See? Jesus said so. See?

43 32 See, it's either whether you take what some organization said, some manmade theory said... They'll preach the doctrine of that theory. And then, that is their credentials to the deacon board or whatever it is, that they stand in good fellowship with that organization. I have nothing against that, understand, but I'm only defending what Jesus said. See? He said, "These signs shall follow them that believe." And Jesus said in St. John 14:12, "Verily, verily I say unto you (that's "absolutely, absolutely, I say unto you) he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also." And how can a man believe that he is sent from God, and then turn around and deny the very commission that God said would be the identification of every person that He sent out?

44 33 How can a man say there's no such a thing as the baptism of the Holy Ghost? How can a man say there's no such a thing as healing of the sick? How can a man say there's no such a thing as speaking in tongues, casting out devils? when that was the very credentials that Jesus pinned onto every believer that He sent out. That's the authority. Now, you might go to school and get a Ph.D., and a LL.D., and what ever more you want to do. And that's all right. That's your identifications to that organization. And them's all right. I have nothing against them: wished I had them. But the identification that Jesus, when He sends a man is, "These signs shall follow them that believe." That's the identifications that he's sent by God. "These signs shall follow them that believe."

45 34 Now, as I said, any phony man can pick up a uniform or a badge, but that really isn't a credential. It's the credentials that counts, not the uniform or badge. And there's many people (and it's too bad I have to say this, but it's truth; we must be honest), there's too many of our Pentecostal people that's wearing just the badge and uniform (See?), because that they live so different than what really a Pentecostal should be, until there's nothing to it. That's all. And it only brings a reproach upon the cause. That's right. It makes people suspicious.

46 35 But Jesus gave the verification that it would be all right, because these signs would follow the believers. That's one thing. The Holy Spirit looked down through the stream of time and seen that man would pervert His

Word and cause this, that, and the other. So He made it so clear and so positive that there's no way at all of getting around it. He said, "These signs shall follow them that believe." Now, we know that to be true.

47 36 A unbeliever can carry these denominational credentials, but that isn't what makes him a sent man from God. They walk around here with all kinds of books under their arms around through the country, and this Jehovah's this, and So-and-so, and all this, the other, but that doesn't make it so. No, sir. Jesus said, "You test them by the Word." That's right. The Word: "These signs shall follow..." "Do you believe in power of God?" "Oh, our church teaches that the..."

48 37 "Our church," that has nothing to do with it. It's what God's Word says. See?...?... "Heavens and earth will pass away but My Word shall not pass away." The living Word spoke by a living God must be in a living being. And how can a man or a woman that claims that they have the baptism of the Holy Spirit deny what God said in His Word? Because it's the very Holy Spirit that wrote the Word is the very Holy Spirit that's speaking through the person. That's right. It's got to be. He cannot do it. Yes, sir.

49 38 Now, but that... A man might come and say, "I have a fellowship card. I belong to this church or that church." That still doesn't make it right. He might have a Ph.D., LL.D., and what ever more from some great school. That's fine, nothing against that. That still may be all right. I have nothing against that. But if God sent him... And if he denies this commission here... If he's got that plus this, wonderful. But if he's got that without this, then it's no good. See? That's right. It's okay if a man wears a uniform and a badge with the credentials. All right. But he could wear the uniform and badge without the credentials. That's right. So it's the confirmation of the commission that must stand. It must do, undoubtedly.

In closing let's read from the next paragraph of Christ is the Mystery pp. 226 His Presence in the individual with a personal a-vindication of Himself expressing Himself--the living Word that's promised for the day, expressing Itself through you, a vindication of the great revelation of God... Look, only in an individual, never in a group: an individual, not in a group, His identification is with an individual. You get that? Not with the Methodists, not with the Baptists, not the Presbyterian, not the Lutheran, not the Pentecostal, but as an individual. "I'll take one and leave one. I'll separate them." That's right. "There'll be two in the field; I'll take one and leave one. There'll be two in bed, and I'll take one and leave one." It's not a group. It is a personal vindication of a pregnated child of God filled with the Holy Ghost, so surrendered to God that he don't care about anything else, and the Holy Spirit living Its Life, pulsating through him, showing the personal, personal vindication of the Word Itself expressing Itself to the people and to the world.

50 59-0628E - "Questions And Answers" 172 88b. Brother Branham, can any man do the works of Christ unless he is Christ? No. Now, you, do you mean, dear person, that...? Let me read that again. Can any man do the works of Christ unless he was Christ? That's what it is, "Unless he was Christ?" Sure. Let's take Saint John, just a minute. Saint John the-14th chapter and I want you to look at this, now, if you can catch it right quick, so you... Saint John 14:12, I believe it is. We'll get it right quick, and look what Jesus said about this. All right, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He..." whoever it is, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also." Any man, if... The man himself can't be Christ, but the works of Christ will follow every believer. See? He'll do the works of Christ in any man. "He that believeth in Me, the works that I do, he shall do." Not, "I shall do," "he shall do, he shall," not, "I." "But he believes in Me and has confessed his faith in Me and died out to himself and My Spirit dwells in him and he becomes a part of Me." Now that don't make him Christ. It makes him part of Christ with the rest of the Church. All right. He is not Christ, because that would be anti-Christ, you see. He would be taking away from Christ. But he can be, do the works of Christ, any believer. All right.

51 Let us pray