

#172 The Law of Adoption - Branham Tabernacle, Jeffersonville, Indiana

1 Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

2 Pray...

3 Notice that before the very foundations of the world when God was predestinating his children to the adoption of children, he was at the time also predestinating His first born son Jesus, to become the lamb slain before the foundations of the world. That's Revelation 13:8. So why was that do you suppose?

4 Brother Branham taught us, that the adoption of sons, the law of adoption was that when the first born son came of age, and was found to be always about his fathers business, he was then taken up before witnesses and the Father turned half of His Kingdom, over to that first born son, and that made the son co equal with his father in all things.

5 Abraham and his seed after him 61-0423 P:53 Well, now if this son is a good son, then one day we have what we call in the Scripture in the Old Testament, a placing of a son. Or it's called sometimes, "the law of adoption." Now, this same son that was born into the family, His name's no good on the check. We call it like that. His name's no good out there yet. He's never had the law of adoption done to him yet. But when it comes to the time for the law of adoption, the father takes his son out into a public place, and sets him up on a place, and dresses him in a certain robe, and performs what's knowed as the placing of a son, or the law of adoption. And now, when this son is adopted into his own family, from then on, this son is given power. He's gifted, then his name's just as good as father's is on the check, because he's the boss. He's over the straw bosses. God gives him things that none of straw bosses knowed nothing about, because he's a son. That's right.

6 Desperation 63-0901E P:57 Pentecost, there's where you failed. You thought because you were borned of the Spirit, borned of the Spirit of God, the birthright, that settled it. But it only starts it. You remember in the message of "Hear Ye Him," how that the child, after it was born in the family, become a son. It had rights to the birthright, but it had to be proven, child-trained. And then, if it did not prove out to be an obedient child to the father's will, then it must be... Well, it did not become heir. It heired nothing, yet it was a son. But he heired nothing, if he wasn't interested in the father's work. And so, when the Holy Ghost fell upon the Pentecostal people and begin to restore back the gifts and things that was in the church, they thought because they were born in the Spirit, that settled it. But you see, there's a placing of a son. And after this son proved to be a real son, then he was taken in a public place, and then was set up, and changed robes, and set up there, and then there was a placing of the son that he had heir of everything the father had.

7 Hear ye Him 58-0209A P:23 a child was born into that kingdom, he was a son as soon as he was born. He would be heir of all the father had if his character was right, but first his character had to be proved. Now, you ministers know where I'm going to; it's the placing of a son. Now, but if his character didn't show up right; he didn't inherit anything; he was just a son. So then, the father, in order to get this great son of his who he loved... He had business to be doing, so he got a tutor, trainer, over his children. And he sought through the places till he found the best man he could find, because his son's education, and the future of his son, depended on what kind of

a training that child got. And that's the way it is today in the Kingdom of God, that when we're born in the Kingdom of God, God sought out the best Tutor that He could find for the Church, and that was the Holy Spirit.

8 Galatians 4:1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

9 But notice when we were being predestined to the adoption of sons, Jesus who according to the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:29 was the first born son in a vast family of brothers. But notice before the foundations of the world, at the very same time God was predestinating us to the adoption of Children he was predestinating his first born son to die as a bleeding dying lamb. Now, Why would that be?

10 Because according to the law of adoption when the first born son reached the place of maturity and had been proven to be always about his fathers business, he was taken up and adopted and he received half of the Father's estate or kingdom. But the rest of the children did not receive their inheritance until the father died. But we have a problem here because we have a Father who is the only Immortal King, which means he can not die. So when Jesus was adopted on mount Transfiguration, when he became co equal with the Father in all things, when he went immediately to Calvary to die. Why was that? He had to do that so that you and I could become joint heirs with Christ.

11 Just think of that. His death was necessary for us to receive inheritance from our Father who could never die. And so the fifty percent that was given to the first born son, making him co equal with the father was now made available to the rest of the children. Had Jesus not gone to Calvary, we would not have inheritance.

12 The Bible says. No greater love is there than a man lay down his life for the brethren. When he could have had fifty percent of the Kingdom for himself, he chose to share it with the rest of his brothers and sisters. Why? Because Eternal Life is living for others.

13 Now, the law of adoption begins with our new birth, and lasts until we get our body change. So once you have received the Holy Ghost then you are put to the test to see what character will produce itself in you. And once we received our glorified bodies, our new cloak so to speak, our trials and testing will be over. So our entire pilgrimage here on this earth is to do one thing, to receive the Spirit of adoption and produce in us the character of the first born son.

14 Paul said we are to put on Christ. And when Jacob wanted the blessing of the first born, he put on Esau in every way. He put hair on his arms to feel like Esau, he dressed in Esau's clothing to smell like Esau. He did the works of Esau in making the pottage for his Father, and He came in Esau's name. And so we too must put on the firstborn son to receive the blessing of the first born from our Father.

15 And so the study of the Law of adoption is a very beautiful one, but there is also the trail of adoption that we must understand as well because every son that cometh to God must first be tried and tested. And in this trail of adoption we must all come through the testing as we see so many throughout the Scriptures go through.

16 Joseph was an obedient son who was always about his fathers business, and therefore he was positionally placed in the family and given a role in the family before any of his older brothers. He was the first responsible son, so he was placed in the family and given a role by hi father to do. His Father gave him a coat of many colors, and he was placed. The other brothers became jealous because the Father did this for him, and they persecuted him as a result. But God blessed him and showed him in dreams what his role would one day grow into. And when he spoke of the dreams, the brothers hated him even more. And that is the way with all sons. God shows you what he wants for you to do, but since he is only showing you, the brothers do not accept it because they

never heard from God what you are supposed to do, right?

17 Well, according to the law of adoption that is the Fathers business, and it is not the business of the brothers to place each other. So when the Father placed Joseph it caused a jealousy among his brethren, and so with every son comes those same trials. But notice that Joseph when he came through all his trials, during them they produced a character in him that he could see God's plan made manifest in his life. And when the brothers came to him, he resented them not, but forgave them.

18 And I have learned one thing through these studies, and that is although those brothers hated Joseph, although they wanted him dead. yet they will be in the New Jerusalem. And although the apostles did not cooperate with Paul, and all men forsook him, yet the twelve Apostles will all be there in the new Jerusalem.

19 So as we study tonight this wonderful thing God is doing for his children, in giving them the Spirit of Adoption, in answer to the law of adoption, I would like to show the nature, and the character that we are to learn in how to deal with those trials thrown our way along this trail to adoption.

20 Now, in order to see this let's read from the book of Romans chapter 8. In studying Romans 8 we must understand that when Paul speaks of flesh, he is not speaking of skin, or of the body, but he is speaking self. It is all too easy to read the word flesh, and think of others, but when we use the word self, it speaks to the individual personally.

21 In Romans 1 the Apostle Paul tells us he is addressing "all who are called to be saints".

22 So let's begin to read from Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, (that means self, who walk not after self) but after the Spirit.

23 Adoption or placing 60-0522E P:34 So there's no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, that walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. And if you do anything wrong, it isn't willfully. You don't sin willfully. A man that sins willfully, goes out and willfully sins, never come into that Body yet. But a man that's once in there, he's dead, and his life is hid in God through Christ, sealed by the Holy Ghost, and the devil can't even find him; he's so far back in there. He would have to come out of there before the devil can ever get in, for you are dead.

24 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

25 Now, what Paul is talking about here is that we are first taught in Genesis 1:11 that the law of life is "every seed after it's kind" That means that if you come forth from any particular seed, you will have the same nature as the seed you came forth from. And in the spoken word is the original seed, brother Branham taught us in paragraphs 180

26 Spoken word original seed 62-0318M P:180 "Then the works will be manifested in Him are the same, for it is the same Seed Word of God. God's Son was His example Seed. And what His Life was when the Spirit poured upon Him after His baptism and the Holy Ghost come upon Him, the very Life that He produced will, that same watering Spirit of the Holy Ghost will bring forth the same kind of a Life, doing the same thing that He did; if it's the same Seed. Son of God Seed will bring forth a Son of God Seed."

27 Now, that is John 14:12, whoever believes in me, the works that I do you shall do also.

28 And brother Branham taught us in his message, Who is this 59-1004M P:48 No man can call Jesus the Christ, only by the Holy Spirit. You say, "I believe It because the Word said so." That's true. But the Word says

that no man can say Jesus is Christ, until you have received the Holy Ghost. No man can call Jesus the Christ, only by the Holy Ghost.

29 And to go one step further, the Bible and the only man God vindicated in this hour, taught us that no man can understand the things of God unless you have been born of the Spirit of God.

30 1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God knows.

31 Key to the door 62-1007 P:68 Now, when He went away, He said, "It's expedient for Me that I go away. For, if I go not away, the Holy Ghost will not come." See? Then when He comes, He will reprove the world of sin, and teach righteousness, and show you things to come; that's visions. "He'll take the things that I've taught to you, and reveal them to you." The very Words that He's come... No man can understand the Word outside the baptism of the Holy Ghost. And when a man says he's got the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and disputes the Word being right, there's something wrong.

32 So unless you have the Spirit of God in you, how can you know the things of God. How can you even understand this Message? You can't.

33 Notice the Apostle Paul continues in verse 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

34 That we might know, In other words you have to have the Spirit of God in you in order to know or understand the things of God. And there is no way around that. That is Scripture, and that is what a vindicated prophet taught us.

35 Now, the Apostle John taught us in 1 John 2:20 But ye have an unction (you have an anointing) from the Holy One, and ye know all things. 21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

36 So we see that you must be born again in order to understand this Message, and what the Word of God manifested in this day is all about.

37 Now, back to Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law (and this word righteousness comes from the old English words "right wise-ness", which is having a correct understanding) That the right-wiseness of the law might be fulfilled in us, And notice he said fulfilled In us who walk not after self, (who are not self centered) but (who walk) after the Spirit.

38 5 For they that are after self do mind the things of self; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

39 Now, doesn't that make sense? If you are focused on self you will mind the things of self, but if you are focused on the Spirit of Christ living in you, then you will pay attention to the leading of the Holy Spirit in you.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; (to be self centered is death) but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind (the mind that is focused on self) is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

40 How can a self absorbed person be pleasing to God, you can't do it, and the very nature of being focused on self denies you being focused on Him.

41 8 So then they that are into self cannot please God. 9 But ye are not into self but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

42 Now, we know brother Branham said eternal life is living for others. And if you are living for others how can you be living for self? If you are focused on Christ and Living for the brethren, the Children of God, how can you then be focused on self? You can't.

43 Brother Branham gave us the example of what a Christian in this day and age is to live like, and he denied self, evening denying his own family to help the children of God that were in greater need.

44 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

45 Is not this also what Paul told us in Colossians 3:3 where he said, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

46 And if you are dead then you must bury the old you.

47 Paul said in 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.

No where in the world would any government allow its people who are not dead to be buried alive. Then why do we find among Christian churches today, where they knowingly will bury a person in baptism who has not shown themselves to be dead to self.

48 Just a thought for you to think about the next time you see a sinner go down dry and come up a wet sinner.

49 But The Apostle Paul tells us in verse 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 (made alive) your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. And that is not your body that is in the grave. A mortal body is one which is able to die, not one that has already died. That's a cadaver. A mortal body is this body you live in, and the Spirit of Christ living in this body will make it alive to the things of God. No longer just going through the motions of religious obligation, but a heart on fire for the things of God.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the 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.

50 Position in Christ 60-0522M P:83 For ye haven't received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of a... [Congregation says "adoption"--Ed.]Now, after you're adopted, all right, after you're adopted, you're placed; then you understand, after the ceremony's said and you've been put into the Body correctly. You're a son, sure, a daughter; when you're borned again you're... That's your birth. But now you're positionally placed. We've not received the spirit of fear...; but we have received the Spirit--we have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (Which means, "my God." All right.)The Spirit itself bears

witness with our spirit, that we're--we're children of God: How does it do it? You say, "Glory to God. Hallelujah. It don't bother me; I'm a child of God," and go out and do the things you do? The Spirit of God will do the works of God. Jesus said, "He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also." See, see?

51 You know brother Branham preached 3 sermons on Adoption, and 17 sermons called "hear Ye Him" which he speaks mainly about the Spirit of Adoption and then about a dozen more sermons where he dealt specifically about the Spirit of adoption and placing of sons and he said "Hear ye Him" was his most requested sermon.

52 And here in Romans 8 we hear the Apostle Paul tells us that if we are not into self, if we have died to self, if we have been made anew in Christ, if Christ's Spirit is dwelling in us, then we have the spirit of Adoption, and without that spirit of adoption we have no inheritance.

53 Water of separation 55-0121 P:10 You've got to die to every thought of the flesh so that you can receive the mind of Christ and walk from henceforth, not of your own, but of His mind: the mind of Christ in you. That's the only way you can stay alive. That's the only way I can stay alive. That's all I live by, is by the Holy Spirit.

54 And then in the next verse Paul tells us 16 The Spirit itself God's Spirit beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

55 Now, how does God's Spirit bear witness with your Spirit? By doing in you the same things he did in Christ Jesus His first born son. His eldest son in a vast family of brothers.

56 Who is this 59-1122 P:16 A person come to me recently and said, "Brother Branham, do you really think it's wrong for a man to smoke cigarettes as a Christian?" I said, "Why did you ask me? That proves that you're condemned or you wouldn't have asked the question." If there is a question in your mind, get away from it. You cannot walk by faith with a question mark in your mind. If you're a Baptist and got a question mark, Pentecostal, got a question mark, Presbyterian with a question mark, get that question mark out of the way. Know Him, then there's no question to it; you know you've passed from death unto Life, because you know Him. His Spirit dwells in you; you take His nature; His Word is alive in you; everything He said is "Amen." You'll not say, "The days of miracles is past, and no such a thing as Divine healing," with the Spirit of the living God Who wrote the Bible in you. You can't do it. He will vindicate Himself. Then when you see such things going on, you'll not criticize that, you'll glorify God, because the very Spirit that wrote them and is performing them will bear witness of them. That's the Spirit of the church of the living God, the living God living in the living church. And they are dead to sin and trespasses, and have been awakening in His likeness and moved by His Spirit. Therefore, no matter what denomination you go to, if you are borned of His Spirit you have His nature in you.

57 And in his sermon, Testimony of a True Witness brother Branham said in speaking of the Holy Ghost in you, he said he's, "a witness inside of you, bearing record of the resurrection of Christ, and to the Word of God."

58 In other words, God's Spirit in you bears witness with your spirit that you are children of God, that you are seed of God, that you are life of His Life, nature of His nature. Every seed after it's kind, because as Jesus said, Whoever believes in me the things I do shall he do also, and so you will think like Christ, and speak like Christ, and do the things that Christ did, and you will live like Christ, because the very nature of Christ is living in you, and you don't even have to try, it's just so natural to you because it's not you doing, but as the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

59 Hebrews 13:21 Now the God of peace, Make you perfect 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.

60 So it is God who is working in us both to will and to do.

61 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. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

62 Let me just stop here and make a comment on this word "glory" that we see so often in Scripture. did you know that is was translated as the word "glory" from the Greek word "doxa". And when we think in English terms of the word glory we think in terms of some outstanding light, or honor, But did you know this word Glory was actually translated from a Greek word "doxa" which means, the opinion, the values and the judgment of".

63 So when we hear Jesus tells us in his prayer to the Father in John 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

64 In other words, he is saying, Father, the opinions, the values and the judgments you have given me I have given them that they may be one as you and I are one.

65 Brother Branham said in his message, Harvest Time 641212 87 34 Jesus said, "That they might be one, Father, as You and I are one." Not for some man to be over something, it never will work; one denomination wants to take over the other, and one man over the other. But that you might be one with God, like Christ and God was one; that's what the prayer is. He was the Word, and Jesus prayed that we might be the Word, reflecting Him. That's His prayer to be answered. See how Satan scruples it up in the carnal mind? But that wasn't Jesus' prayer, at all, that we might all congregate together and all have a certain creed and so forth. Every time they do it, they go further and further from God. He wants us to be one with God, and God is the Word. Each individual in his heart must be that one with God

66 It wasn't so from the beginning 62-0630B P:13 Now, we take our Lord. When He was here He did not claim to do miracles. He said it was the Father, God, that dwelt in Him, and He was... He expressed God through Himself. God, in otherwise, built Himself a body that He lived in Himself. God came down, was manifested in flesh in Christ. And it was not Jesus, the body, the Son of God; it was the God of glory in the Son of God, showing the glory of God (You see?), through Himself: the God of glory manifesting the glory of God. And in Him... God dwelt in Him, and He reflected God. Now, that's the way each of we ministers do. We reflect God, as God is in us. And then that's the only way that God can move, and people can see God, is through we, His servants. That's how... People won't read a Bible, but they'll read you. See? And so you reflect Christ. Your walks, your talks, your actions all reflect Christ.

67 Identification 64-0216 P:27 God reflected in a Man called Christ. He was only One that could do this. There was no other character in heaven could do it. See? It was God. He was the sinless nature. He was the Word, sinless nature of God. He was the Word expressed, which the Word was the beginning. And if you are in the Lamb's Book of Life, you was God's expression from His thought. He seen you, and seen your desire, before there even was a atom or anything else. And you're His thought made word and expressed into what you are now. Amen. That's God in you reflecting Christ. You know what I mean?

68 Images of Christ 59-0525 P:25 But that's the man that's reflecting Christ in his life, a man who is humble. A man who will walk with God will act like Jesus.

69 Then after the Apostle Paul speaks of our sonship, the spirit of adoption, and our being joint heirs with Christ, because we have the same Spirit living in us that raised him from the dead, then he says, 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.

70 And you know, you can't expect the sons of God to manifest son of God expression any differently than the first born son of God did.

71 And how did Jesus manifest that He was God's beloved first born son? Because he always wanted to please the father. He said, the son can do nothing but what the Father shows me first. And this same Apostle Paul said, Hebrews 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

72 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 first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

73 Now, here is where I would like to get to in this sermon this evening. Paul says here in verse 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (the Wuest translation says, "that he might be the firstborn in a vast family of brethren.)

74 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

75 There's that word glorified again. We are predestinated to be conformed to the very image of Christ, and we are to be glorified with him.

76 We see Paul say the same thing again in 2 Thessalonians 1:10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

77 Notice, he says when he shall come to be glorified in his saints. "Glorified in", and this word was translated from the Greek word "endoxazo". en means in, doxa is the opinions, the estimation which is actually the values, and the judgments of God and the word azo comes from the root word zoe, which means in the very life of. So we see he tells us in that day when He (Christ) comes to magnify his opinion, his values, and his judgments in who believe Paul's testimony. And did not brother Branham say, I only preached what Paul preached, and the people said, we are resting on that. And I am too.

78 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

79 Let us bow our heads in prayer