

#1 Conditions

1 This morning we will begin a study of brother Branham's sermon "Desperation" which he preached as his very next sermon after the "Token". In fact he preached the "Token in the morning and desperation that same evening.

2 In our study of "Desperation", you will find out why this sermon had to be the one to follow the Token Message.

3 You see, brother Branham taught us that "first we must hear the Word, then we must recognize what we hear, and then once we have recognized what we have heard, then we must act upon that Word of God". And Desperation, is the recognizing that places you into the correct atmosphere in order to act upon what you have heard concerning the Token Message.

4 You will never come to the place where you receive and apply the Token without having the right approach to it, which creates the right atmosphere for the Token to become applied. And Desperation creates an atmosphere where you place your full trust in God to do what He promised to do, or you are going to be lost and left behind for the judgments.

5 As we begin reading we will see the first few paragraphs are more or less just a preliminary for the local congregation to let them know he has been quite busy and will be leaving them for a little while. But with that in mind, I would like to begin to read from brother Branham's sermon called "Desperation" which he preached Sep 01, 1963 at the evening service, which followed his morning service concerning "The Token".

6 1 "Let us remain standing now as we bow our heads. Lord Jesus, we are just only believing. You've told us just to believe, and we believe now. And we give Thee thanks and praise for what we have already heard and seen that anchors our faith. Now, we thank Thee for another opportunity to come to minister to those who are needy. And I pray Thee, God, to meet our needs tonight according to Thy promise. In Jesus' Name we ask it. Amen."

7 2 We are very happy tonight for this privilege of coming back to the Tabernacle again with the Gospel of the risen Lord Jesus. And I was just a little late. I had a special rush-in case from Michigan just now. And the Lord done a marvelous thing just then for us. My, how He knows everything and lays it just... Don't have to tell Him; He knows (See?) He knows just what to do. And so, we're very grateful. The people drove all day to get here. And then, we're so thankful for that. Now, don't forget the services this coming week, Wednesday night, and next Sunday morning, and Sunday night. If you're around in the neighborhood, I know they'd sure be glad to have you here. And now, pray for me as I go on my road elsewhere, and I hope to be back again soon.

8 3 I want to thank you all for your kindness and memories of what you've done for me. A brother just sent me a new suit of clothes from down in a little church in Georgia. And them people, It's just marvelous. And I want to thank those people from down in Kentucky that I was with last week on the vacation, and all that the Lord did for us there, great, mighty hand that we seen Him, what He did.

9 4 Now, we're trusting to see you again pretty soon, as soon as I can get back this way going to New York for the meeting. That's at the Stone church with Brother Vick, beginning, I believe it's November the 12th. We'll be by here a few days before the time. Then we pass back through again going down to Shreveport, Louisiana, with

Brother Jack Moore. That's at Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving week, to be there at Shreveport. It's on the bulletin board, I think, back there in the announcements.

10 5 And then, we hope to be with some of the southern friends after Christmas. And we'll be in Phoenix in January. And then waiting for the overseas call, so we can get the meetings ready for overseas. They're working on them now, this last month, Brother Borders, corresponding back and forth, from a complete world tour to begin just as soon as we can get it ready; but we have to wait for conditions.

11 Now, before we continue I would like to comment on what he just said here because this could almost be a sermon in itself. He is speaking of meetings they are organizing for other countries but the meetings are all dependent on one thing, for the conditions to be right for having those meetings.

12 Now, many times we see people in Christian churches have the wrong idea about mission work. They use Scriptures like we see in Luke chapter 10 where Jesus says, Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest.

13 And so they recruit everyone they can in their church that will go. They get brick layers, and skilled and unskilled workers, electricians, Sheet metal workers, carpenters, and by the sheer number of volunteers, they now have enough people from their own church or affiliated churches to start what they call "a revival" somewhere. And the people excited to travel to some exotic place in the world, are attracted to go not because God has called them, but because the preacher invited them.

14 So the preacher spins the world globe that's setting on his desk, he closes his eyes, spins the world globe around and around and around, and then as it's spinning, he places his finger down on the spinning globe and when it stops, he opens his eyes and looks where his finger has fallen on the globe, and he now has his answer from God where to go for his next mission work.

15 Now, they might not do it exactly that way, but I was just being a little bit dramatic to get the point across. Most of the time God is not even in their mission work, and I know because there is no real fruit to show for all their troubles. I knew a couple that went on Caribbean cruises, and tried to find a local church at one of the ports where they would land and spend a couple days. And if they could line up a church to attend, they called it a mission trip. Now, they might have fooled their church members and maybe even the Internal Revenue Service, but they haven't fooled God for one second. And brother Branham preached a sermon about that, he called it, "Doing God a service without it being His Will.

16 But notice that we just read where brother Branham said they must wait upon the conditions, because the conditions have to be right, or there is no use in going. And you shouldn't go because you want to do mission work. You shouldn't go because you want to go. You Shouldn't go because others want you to go. You should only go because God has told you to go. So the conditions must be met for the meetings to be a success.

17 There must be an anticipation that God is going to do something in those meetings in order for such meetings to take place, because if God is not present in the meetings then most assuredly the meetings were only the efforts of man.

18 So the conditions have to be met before you go, or the meetings will be a bust. Because God said in Proverbs 16:25 "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." and he also said in Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD."

19 Therefore the very first condition that must be met is the condition of your own heart. Because God requires the condition of your own heart to be right even before you pray for anyone who is sick.

20 I will never forget when I first learned that lesson. I was traveling home from meetings in the Black Hills of South Dakota, and we stopped by a hospital in Sioux Falls South Dakota where the father of one of the brethren that was traveling with us lay paralyzed in his hospital bed. He had two degenerative disks in his lower back and was paralyzed on the left side of his body.

21 We stopped at the hospital on our way past Sioux Falls and went into the hospital to lay our hands upon him and pray for him.

22 Having heard brother Branham's sermons on "Demonology", I instructed the man concerning how prayer for the sick works, and how the demon would go out, and then there would come swelling in a few days and he would think it was back on him, but how that was just the physical body getting rid of the toxins and things built up in the body, and that he should not let his faith slip when that happens. That was 1977, I was 24 years old, and I knew all about healing, because I heard a sermon or two on it. You may remember what it was to be young and how we thought we knew everything to know about everything. Some of you may be going through that state right now. But by God's grace you'll grow out of it, or you will get hammered in the process.

23 Well, anyway, I instructed the believers father as brother Branham had instructed, and I told him we would take a few minutes of silence for him to go through his conscience and clear up anything with God that he knew was not right in his heart, that might hinder our prayer from being answered by God.

24 You know, the Scripture teaches us in the Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

25 So we waited until he had checked his conscience and then I laid my hands upon him as commanded in Mark 16, and after laying my hands upon him I began to pray.

26 Immediately after praying for him, I felt like I was dirty, as though I had just sinned in the presence of the Lord. So I excused myself from the Hospital room, and walked down the hallway looking for an empty room I could go in and get on my knees before God to pray.

27 I found no room but a bathroom, so I entered and locked the door and got down on my knees before God and asked my Father what was wrong, why did I feel like I had just sinned such a grievous sin?

28 His answer came back and He said, "you asked him to confess his sins, but you didn't confess yours." I knew immediately I had not met the conditions, and immediately recalled how brother Branham had told his wife to tell the Lawyer that he was not home, and then stepped outside to make his words appear to be correct, but when he went to pray for the child, God would not hear his prayers. So he had to go home, and call the Lawyer and tell him what had happened.

29 Realizing I was in the same condition, I then asked God to forgive me, and then I spent some time in silence searching my soul and found out that I had a certain attitude towards a certain brother that was hindering my prayer to God. I promised God I would make that thing right when I returned home to Minneapolis.

30 Now, you may not think your having an attitude towards someone hurts that person so your natural thinking says, "they deserve how I feel about them so I can have this attitude because that is just what I think about that person because they deserve to be thought of that way".

31 Therefore you think, "I don't need to make anything right to that person, they should make right to me".

32 But even though they might not know about your attitude towards them, the thing of it is, your having that attitude may not hurt that person, but it certainly does hurt you. You are the one with the attitude, and so you are the one who needs to make it right, not them.

33 I don't care what excuse you give yourself for having any attitude, others are responsible for their actions and attitudes, and you are responsible for yours. And other persons attitudes towards you doesn't hurt you, but your attitude to them is what hurts you. So I confessed to God my attitude and promised Him that I would make that right when I returned home from our trip.

34 Then the Holy Spirit said, "go and pray for him again". And I didn't move. I thought, "Ok, I made this attitude right with God, so now God will honor my having already prayed for the man", but that's not what happened. He said, "Go pray for him again." And I became frozen on my knees, I didn't understand what he had just told me. I thought I had cleared up my mistake and I had promised to make the attitude right, but I didn't understand that God had not even heard my prayer before, because I had held iniquity in my heart.

35 But now my heart was cleansed, and I thought that would retroactively make the situation ok, but that not what God requires. The conditions have to be correct. So as I sat there frozen on my knees, I heard His voice from within me says again, and this time a lot louder, "go and pray for him again."

36 I still didn't move, not because I was disobedient or rebellious to what he said, but I was still frozen by confusion, because I did not know how I was going to go about doing what God just told me to do. And then that voice came back again, and this time it shook my entire body and said, "Go and pray for him again." Then I said, "but Lord what shall I tell him", and the Holy Spirit Spoke to me and said, "tell him the truth".

37 And that is always the best and only way to be. Tell the truth. Always tell the truth, no matter what the circumstances, tell the truth, because if you don't, one lie will lead to another lie, and then another and another until your story becomes so stretched that no one will believe it.

38 So I returned to the hospital room, and told the man everything that had transpired since I prayed for him. I told him how after praying for him I felt dirty, and how I got up and left to find a place to pray, and how the Lord revealed to me I had iniquity in my own heart so he would not hear my prayer. I told him everything, and then after opening my heart and confessing my own faults to him, I asked him if I could lay hands upon him again and pray for him. And he said, "yes", and so I prayed again and then after praying I knew with certainty that God was going to heal him. I had such great assurance of it because I came according to the way God told me to come, and I knew the conditions had been met the way God wanted them met, and now it being impossible for God to lie, I knew God would do His part as He promised to do in His Word.

39 And do you know the next day when they came to get him ready for surgery they took pre surgical x-rays and found his two vertebrae were perfectly normal and healthy. They compared his Friday x-rays with his Monday morning x-rays they had just taken, and could not understand what had happened, so the man told the doctors what had taken place the day before, and the doctors told him it could only have been a miracle.

40 So they released him from the hospital and when they drove him to his farm, he asked if they would just drop him at the roadside so he could walk by himself down the long lane to his house. One day a paralyzed man, the next completely healed.

41 "Conditions", brother Branham said they were waiting on the conditions to be right. And don't you think

with the Resurrection ministry that has been promised, and the Third Pull ministry, and the great meetings we're expecting sometime soon to happen, don't you think God might be just waiting for the conditions to be right?

42 You see, we are promised in Malachi 4 that the ministry of the end time Elijah is to get the people to the place that their hearts will be restored and ready for the rapture.

43 Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

44 And we read in 2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

45 So God has certain conditions that must be met before he will step on the scene and do what He has promised to do.

46 The crowds are so tremendous there, we can't put them in buildings, just have to set them out on the ground. And then, sometimes they run up, it's almost unbelievable to the numbers, sometimes as much as 500,000; that's a half a million people in one single gathering, not how many attend the meeting in so many days, but one gathering. You know, usually evangelists count how many people attended in six weeks. You see? Well, we count just how many is there that day, that one time. And so, sometimes there's no place to seat will them; you know, you just have to put them out on the ground. And we have to get the seasons where it's not raining and pouring down rain. And those poor people set out there... I seen women set out there with their hair just stringing down, fine dressed people, and just set in that rain all day long, just set there, and it just pouring, and thundering, and lightning, and storms blowing, them just leaning back and forth against one another like that, setting right there, wait till you come to pray for them. See? Now, you know, God honors faith like that. He does. 6 You've got to do something for God to honor. You see? You show Him... The people that's got everything handed to them so easy, they don't usually, they don't do nothing for it. You see? You've got to... The gift is free, that is true, but you've got to... It seems like that, you know, like they say, if you was born with a silver spoon (you've heard that), you don't appreciate. But when you have to work for it, you appreciate the valuation of it.

47 Notice he said, you've got to do something for God to honor. That's just like what Jesus said in John 14:12-13. He says you must be a believer first, and if you believe God regardless of what He wants you to believe, then He will honor that by giving you whatsoever you ask for in prayer.

48 From his sermon, Man running from presence 65-0217 P:33 brother Branham said, And when you see then in this day now when the Word of God has made these promises of things that we see happening now, then we've got the responsibility to either face up to it or get away from it. You just can't stay neutral; you've got to do something about it. Some move's got to be made. You can't come in that church door and go out the same person you come in. You're either further away or closer to God every time you come in or go out there. Oh, how easy it is for people to shirk these things. And I want us to think of these when we start into the official services tomorrow night, that I want you to notice when something is confronted, if there's a question about it... If there's a question about it, there's got to be an answer.

49 And also from his sermon, Have not I sent thee 62-0124 P:65 There's many sympathizers that say, "Oh, the Bible's right. Yes, Brother Branham, I believe that the Bible's right. But you know, I just don't know." There you are, "But I..." See, there you are, just like an old goat butting his head, you know. Just... See? "But it's all right, but you know, our pastor don't believe that. It's all right, but I don't believe it can be done." See, there you are

again. You see? You'll never see it done. You've got to act. You've got to do something. And when you will take God's promise, and know that it is God's promise, and act upon it, you'll see the mighty miracles of God return back to the church of the living God. That's right. You'll do it.

50 You can't claim to Love God and just stand there and do nothing about it. Jesus said Himself, in John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. And again in John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

51 From his sermon, Unveiling of God 64-0614M P:19 Brother Branham said, "There's several setting here, a number, that was with us the other day when He came in a whirlwind, told us the day before, Brother Banks Wood, then, when He said, "Take up this rock; throw it up in the air, and say, 'THUS SAITH THE LORD. You will see it right away.'" And I picked up the rock up on top of the mountain, threw it up in the air, and the... 'Course, coming down, it started a whirlwind (See?), the suction of it. You have to do something to cause something to follow it. Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it, then multiplied from that piece of bread. He took water, poured it into a pitcher. Elijah took salt, put it in a cruse; cut down a stick, throwed it on the water. It's something to symbolize. And picking up this rock and throwing it into the air, and coming down started the whirlwind.

52 Brother Branham said in his sermon, Conference 60-1125 P:43 "Now, Moses cried to the Lord and the Lord said, "Rise up and go forward." And when Moses went right straight and stepped his foot into the water, when that taken place, the Red Sea opened back, and Israel crossed over to a great victory.

53 Now, the actual Scripture says it this way, Exodus 14:15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

54 So Moses was commanded to speak and then the people were commanded to go forward, but if Moses had not stepped into that water and the water opened up, the people would have never went forward. So you have got to do something to show that the conditions have been met.

Influence 63-1114 P:48 You must remember that God is watching you every hour. He watches you when you're asleep. Now, I think the reason that people do those things is because they're not conscious of His Presence. See? But yet He's there, whether you think He is or not. He sees every look that you make, and every move that you make. He knows all about it. But we ought to realize that.

55 Proving His word 65-0426 P:12 It's the attitude that always brings the results. It's the attitude that you take towards God. Here's a woman touched His garment; she was healed with a blood issue. A soldier spit in His face, and put a crown of thorns on His head, and felt no virtue. It's your approach. The attitude is what it takes. And that's what it is tonight, dear friend; it takes the attitude. We are, and believe that we are in the Presence of Jesus Christ, but it's your attitude that brings the results. The mechanics is here and so is the dynamics. If you can just get started, God will do the rest.

56 Jesus Christ the same 54-0824 P:41 See? You just have to get a little start. That's all you have to do. Just get your faith moving one time. God will do the rest of it.

57 Hebrews Chapter 4 57-0901E P:12 Now, we notice over here then, that He said...For some, when they had heard, did provoke:...Certainly. They got weary every time they'd get to a place where a showdown come, then what would they do? They would fly loose and get weary and want to turn back, and "Why did this happen to

me?" Strange thing, this morning after preaching that just as hard as I could, there was many came to the altar and questioned it, "Why does this happen to me?" You see how it goes? It goes over the top of the people's head. It's just the same people. Jesus said, "You have eyes but you can't see." He said that to the disciples. They said, "Lo, now Thou speakest plainly; now we believe. No man has to tell You anything, 'cause God shows it to You." He said, "Do you now believe after all this time?" See? You mustn't question anything to God. "For the footsteps of the righteous is ordered of the Lord." And every trial is put upon you to prove you. And the Bible said they're more precious to you than gold. So if God let a few light afflictions happen to you, remember, it's for the correction of you. "Every son that cometh to God must first be chastened of God and tried," child-trained. There's no exceptions, "Every son that cometh..." And these afflictions are done or brought about to see what attitude you'll take. See, it's God on this proving ground. That's all earth is, is a proving ground, and where He's trying to prove you.

58 Time Tested Memorials of God 57-0818 P:47 Every time a wind hits a tree and shoves it back and forth and back and forth, it only loosens the roots, so it can go deeper and get a better hold. Every time sickness strikes your home, every time trials strikes your home, every time the neighbors say something bad about you, it's only shaking you, loosing you up, so you can get down and get a better hold on the eternal Rock of God's unmovable Word. That's how God does it; He sends those trials to test you, to prove you, to shake you up, and to give you a new hold.

59 In closing, brother Branham said in his sermon, Desperation, "And then waiting for the overseas call, so we can get the meetings ready for overseas. They're working on them now, this last month, Brother Borders, corresponding back and forth, from a complete world tour to begin just as soon as we can get it ready; but we have to wait for conditions.

60 I Peter 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

61 Notice Peter speaks to us of the Trial of your faith or the testing of your faith. That is how God develops the picture in us! Through the trials and testing, and those trials and testing are for the purpose of approving us. You don't do all that work with the negative just to wash it clean. You do all that washing and follow the process to develop that image that is in the negative with the purpose of bringing it into a positive.

62 So we see that the trial of your Faith is exactly that. Your faith is put to the test. God places you in situations because of your faith to see how you will utilize your Faith. Remember Daniel in the Lion den and the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace. They all possessed the revelation of their hour and so God tested them by it. The Revelation you possess is your Faith. And thus in order to get you to use it, and to apply it, God allows affliction and suffering to come your way because of your stand for your faith. Thus the suffering is a result of your already possessing Faith and puts you into the place of having to rely only upon your Faith to see you through. That is exactly what Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego went through. And Daniel & Moses, Abraham and all God's prophets Each had to go through a trial of His Faith, A trial of His Revelation. The trial came because of the Revelation and thus he learned to wait upon God and in due course when God brought forth His Faith for testing again, it caused the Revelation to energize his own faith.

63 You Faith is given you to be used. But you can't just use it for any purpose. It must be of God's choosing and according to His timing. But believe me when I tell you this, If God has given you this measure of Faith, then He will just as surely test you in it and cause it to be of use to you. So when you enter into the trials of your faith, just Let go and let God.

64 Therefore, God uses these trials if we have a need for them. Where we have a problem with testing and tribulations is when we do not understand why we are undergoing them? When we lack understanding concerning the outcome of our trials, we develop misperceptions of what is taking place, and when we do not see the good in it, we will no doubt see the bad. Our misunderstanding these trials is not the fault of the actual trial or tribulation which God has chosen for us to endure, but rather the misperception comes from our weakness during the tribulation to understand God is in it.

65 In such a case we fail to understand the nature, power and operation or (purpose) of the tribulation and therefore we judge it only according to its outward appearance and our own perception of what is happening. When this occurs, we think wrongly about what is happening, when we should be rejoicing in the trial for it is working something in us that God deems necessary for us to have.

66 James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers testings; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

67 Victory Day 63-0421 When it looks like everything's gone wrong, God's giving you a trial. He's got confidence in you. He don't have to baby you around. You're not a hotbed plant, a hybrid. You're a real Christian. God's giving you a test, see what you'll do about it. Amen. No wonder Peter said, "These fiery trials, why, count it a joy. It's--it's more precious to you than gold." And many times we hum and haw, "Oh, well. If I just..." Well, that's something God give you to overcome. He knows you'll do it. He's put his trust in you.

68 And that is what the Wuest Translation tells us as well. "In which last season you are to be constantly rejoicing with a joy that expresses itself in a triumphant exuberance, although for a while at the present time if perchance there is a need for it, you have been made sorrowful in the midst of many different kinds of testings in order that the approval of your faith, which faith was examined by testing for the purpose of being approved, that the approval being much more precious than the approval of gold which perishes.

69 Let's bow our head in prayer.