

#36 20th Century examples of Biblical Desperation

- 1** This evening we will continue in our study of brother Branham's sermon, Desperation and we will read several stories tonight about certain believers who through desperation we made whole. These stories he tells us were not to build up his own legacy, but rather they were given us as examples of people who through desperation, their faith was completed by the manifestation of their revelation.
- 2** 87 Look. If Florence Nightingale, the great-granddaughter of the late Florence Nightingale that founded the Red Cross...
- 3** Let me just say something here for the record. Her full name is Florence Nightingale Shirlaw, SHE WAS BORN IN 1915 and passed away in 1992. Some unbelievers are trying to make an issue of this quote we just read, and this testimony of Br. Branham in this sermon. But she was named after her great grandmother Florence nightingale, and to me that is the thing brother Branham was telling us in this sermon.
- 4** You never hear br. Branham calling Billy Paul Branham by his full name. He always called him Billy Paul because that is the way of the South. When people speak of George Walker Bush, they don't call him that, they call him GW as distinguished from GH his father.
- 5** We as believers in this Message know br. Billy Paul as just that name, but actually his birth name is William Paul Branham. But for people to make issues on such shows they are not interested in the facts namely, Florence Nightingale was healed by God through the prayer of William Branham. Rather they try to find someone else's testimony that was there to see if there are any variations to it, and then strike at the variations to try to prove the testimony as false.
- 6** If they wish to play that game then they must do so also with the Scriptures, and I can give them many testimonies in Scripture where Matthew or John testified of certain things they saw one way and then we see Mark or Luke having some things in their testimonies that were not in the testimonies of the others. Does that negate those records, and make them lies? Is not then why would they try to do that with the testimony of William Branham.
- 7** It shows they are not believers, and are not looking at the record, and the fact that yes, the woman was dying with cancer and was extremely thin, and yes William Branham prayed for her and she was healed.
- 8** One version of Scripture says when Paul was met by the Pillar of fire that they all heard the voice and saw the light. Another version tells us no one saw the light or heard the voice but Paul.
- 9** Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, 2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. 3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. 7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a

voice, but seeing no man.

10 Acts 22:6 And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. 7 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 8 And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. 9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.

11 Then again in the same book of Acts we hear it somewhat a different way.

12 Acts 26:13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. (So Paul says here he saw the light and them that were with him saw it as well) 14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

13 Now, the make believer which is nothing less than an unbeliever who hangs around long enough to find fault, will have a real problem with this. What apparently seems to be contradictions in the Scripture. Yet both of these instances are written by the same person Luke who wrote the Book of Acts. One instance he is telling the story of what happened, and another he is quoting Paul who is telling the same story but with some facts slightly different.

14 Does that mean we should take the Book of Acts and through it out? NO! it means that the details are not important, but the Message is important, God stopped Paul and knocked him from his horse and spoke to him. Now, whether others heard that voice or not doesn't matter, what matters because God was not talking to them, he was talking to Paul, and Paul heard it.

15 But if you really want to nail this down, look at the words Paul used when he spoke of the others not hearing in Acts 22:9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.

16 The word hear was translated from a Greek word "akou" which means not only to hear but to understand what they hear. Apparently Paul is saying they heard but did not understand what they heard. We hear Jesus explain this phenomena in Matthew 13.

Matthew 13: 10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12 For whosoever hath, (echoes) to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath (echoes)not, from him shall be taken away even that he thinks he hath (echoes). 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. (notice Jesus is telling us it is not that they don't hear it, but what they hear they don't understand. Hear means to understand.)14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

17 So let's read Acts 22 from another translation where they chose to place the right translated word for "akou" which the KJV translated as "hear"...

18 In the NIV we read this story as this. 9 My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice

of him who was speaking to me.

19 Now although it is nice to hear testimonies from people who attended Br. Branham's meetings, of what they saw take place in those meetings, yet when there is a conflict in details between what they saw and what brother Branham saw occurring in those meetings, I would rather side with a voice that has been vindicated than any other voice that tells the story. "Say what is on the tapes and only what is on those tapes."

20 That is why God tells us in Psalms 103:7 He (God) made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

21 Now, this tells us that although Moses and the people may have seen the same supernatural things take place, Moses knew and understood what they were all about where as the people only saw what took place but were left without an understanding as to what they meant.

22 And that is why you see God's vindicated prophets have one testimony while the others who were also there saw the same thing but some details were not important to them and so they leave them out when telling the same story.

23 Let's look at another example of what looks like it could be a discrepancy in the Scriptures but really isn't if you understand the Godhead properly.

24 In Exodus 33:20 God said, : for there shall no man see me, and live.

25 Now, this tells us that no man can see the face of God and live, right? And who is being quoted here by Moses? It is God is being quoted.

26 And in the new testament we hear the Apostle John also say in John 1:18: No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

27 And yet there are several Scriptures that definitely tell us that certain ones actually saw God.

28 Let's take for example Jacob. Genesis 32:30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

29 Exodus 24:9-10 Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: 10 And they saw the God of Israel:...

30 And verse 11 And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink.

31 Judges 13:21 But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD. 22 And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.

32 And in Hebrews 12:14 we are told that it is possible to see God, but there are conditions which first must be met to see him. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"

33 And we see again by the writings of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 that it is possible to see God.

34 1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

35 Therefore, If God said "no man can see Me and live", and John said "no man has seen God at any time", and then the Apostle Paul comes along and says, "we will see Him face to face", therefore is Paul contradicting Scripture? Was Moses contradicting what God said when he wrote in Genesis the Story of Jacob, and of Aaron, and Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, that they all saw God and lived?

36 By using the theology of those who try to make William Branham out to be a liar because his testimony of what took place with sister Florence Nightingale was more full in detail than another man who was there and had written about, according to their theology, Paul then had to be wrong, and therefore a liar and so was Moses wrong and a liar as well. And therefore according to their theology we should not listen to these two men because their testimonies were contrary to God's testimony and the Apostle John.

37 Or maybe they have chosen to believe Paul and Moses against John and God. or maybe they just don't understand their Bible.

38 You see how ludicrous these people are in their attacks of God's vindicated prophet? But you can always tell a liberal mind when they have rules for themselves and change those rules for ones they do not like.

39 Now, let's move on now with our reading from Desperation, and we will pick up where we left off.

40 "You seen her picture in the book, weighed about thirty pounds. Cancer had eat her up. In London, England... They brought her from Africa to London, England. And there in despair... Brother Bosworth wrote back and told her, said, "We can't come to Africa." She just wrote back, had the nurse to write and said, "I can't be moved. I can't do it." Showed the picture... You seen the picture. Only we had to put a little piece over it. It just had a small cord around. I thought maybe somebody, put in the book, might criticize because her body was so exposed there, and we put a little thing across her here. She just had a little a rag or towel laying across her hips, but up above there was nothing. And even... But we thought we'd put a little piece of paper on there and photograph the photograph back. Keeps the people who's not got right kind of a position in their mind of thinking, that they wouldn't criticize me putting that picture in the paper.

41 He knew there would be people criticize this story, so they made a paper cutout and placed it over her picture to cover her privates and give her some dignity.

42 88 And then, when the doctor said that she can't be moved, and she knowed I was going to visit England, she had them to put her on a stretcher, and pack her to a plane, and bring her to London, England, and send a guard out to the plane before going down to Buckingham Palace, sent a guard out there to come pray for her. And she was so far gone until she couldn't even speak to me. They had to raise her hands to put it in mine.

43 89 You know how London is, some of you soldiers been there. It's always so foggy. And I knelt down there by the side of a window, and she, the tears was running off. She wanted to... I don't know how she even got enough moisture to let tears come. It was just only bones, skin over them; and her legs up here at the hips wasn't over about, looked to me like about two inches across, or three inches. Her veins was collapsed. How she was living, I don't know. You seen her picture later. I knelt down by the side of the bed. Now, she was desperate. Whether I could come or not, they're going to bring her anyhow.

44 90 And I got down there; my heart was a-bleeding within me of the faith of that poor, little, dying creature, and I prayed with all the heart that I had. And while I started to pray, a little turtledove come flew on the window,

begin to walk up and down, cooing. I thought it was a pet. I hadn't been in England but about an hour, just coming from the airport down there. And I thought it was a pet, and when I raised up and said, "Amen," it flew away. And I started to ask the brethren, did they hear that dove. And they were talking about it, and when I started to say, "Did you see... what that dove mean?" It come out, "THUS SAITH THE LORD, you'll live and not die." And she's living today. Why? Desperation. Desperation drove the woman to take a stand, live or die. Desperation arranged it that she got there at the same time I did. And a token from God, He sent a dove to give THUS SAITH THE LORD: desperate.

45 Now, those who are criticizing brother Branham's testimony here show the record of a certain man that was there and that man confirmed that brother Branham prayed for Florence Nightingale Shirlaw and she was healed, but her full recovery took some weeks. And this person although vouched for what he saw of William Branham praying for her and her being healed, never mentioned the doves or the "Thus Saith the Lord" in his rendition, so these unbelievers say it never happened, and brother Branham gave false testimony.

46 You see how polluted with evil from Satan their minds have become? Since when does one telling a story and leaving out a detail or two, throw out another person's version where the details are in the story. In Fact what this man's testimony does is to confirm brother Branham's testimony.

47 Now, let's continue reading from brother Branham' sermon Desperation. 91 When Sister Hattie Waldrop of Phoenix, Arizona, she was coming up the sidewalk in my first meeting... The intern and her husband was bringing her: cancer of the heart. She'd made her stand to try to get there to the meeting, but she was so bad she couldn't breathe no more; the blood was dropping back through her heart where the cancer had eat into her heart. Now, cancer of the heart... That's about eighteen, nineteen years ago, maybe twenty; 1947 is when it was. Now, she said to her husband and the intern, "If, though I die in this line, take me up there." Desperation; she lost conscious. I don't think she was dead; she claims she was. Now, she might have been. She may hear this tape. You see? Now, she claims she was dead; I don't know. They told me, "There's a dead woman coming up the line." And when the woman come by, she was lifeless. And when they brought her up there, the Word of the Lord came; and I went and laid hands upon her, and she rose up and went home walking. This has been about, I'd say, safely, eighteen years ago, and she's just as healthy and hearty... She'll be at Tucson to meet me when I get down there. Desperation: "Though I die in the road, still, but get me down there. He healed others; He will heal me." Willing...

48 Now, let me read the testimony of sister Hattie Waldrop of Phoenix Arizona.

49 "Last September I went to Dr. Weldon Baker, North Second Street, Phoenix, Arizona. and he made two x-rays. He found that I had a bad case of colitis, that my heart was enlarged from poison, that only one-fifth of my liver was active, and that there were several stones as big as my thumbnail on the right side. of my liver. I started on a six. week treatment, but became very sick.. Dr. Anderson attended me and said I had cancer, but had waited too long before getting help. I became very sick and couldn't take any more treatments. My colon had to be opened up to permit the waste to pass through. I had a very bad spell. Dr. Baker came, and the saints were praying when he got there. He told me later that I had been dead two minutes, but that Jesus had heard the saints' cries.

50 I was in bed nine weeks and lost 40 pounds. At times I was so bad that I could not swallow water for five days. Then came the announcement that William Branham was coming to Phoenix the second of March to pray for the sick and afflicted. My husband was at church early that first Sunday night, but Brother Branham was unable to get to me. Nor was he able to get to me the following night, although I witnessed many miracles of the healing of others. The next day I was taken again, but when I reached the church I became very sick. They brought a cot for me, but I don't remember when I laid down.

51 The first I knew, Brother Branham was talking to me, saying: "Look at me sister." At first it was just a faint whisper, but the third time he repeated it I tried to open my eyes. After a while I could see him and he asked me if I believed what he told me. I said, "Yes, because I could see the angel standing beside you." Brother Branham then said, "Sister, your faith has saved you. That cancer was all over your stomach, but God has healed you. Every root is cursed and you will be well if you continue to believe, although it will take a month or six weeks for this to rot away". In 72 hours from now you will be very sick and in great pain, but just believe through it all." Then the Lord spoke through Brother Branham, and a warm oil started through my head outside and inside and went to my feet. As it went down, the pain left entirely and I felt very strong. I got off the cot shouting and dancing and was able to attend Five other services Brother Branham held in Phoenix.

52 When the 72 hours were up, I became very ill, and hurt so badly I couldn't even cry. I was terribly sick for a little over two weeks, then I began to eat anything I wanted, where before I had been living on fruit juices and soup. Seven weeks after I had been prayed for, I had several more x-rays taken and these showed I was entirely healed. Dr. Baker told me that I might tell all of this, and he would gladly show the x-rays to anyone who would like to see them, or he would talk to them personally. I am praising Jesus for it!"

53 MRS. Hattie Waldrop Adams Street Phoenix, Arizona

54 92 Let our hearts be filled with love in this day, and be earnest, and in desperation. After while it may be too late. Jairus one time had a little daughter that was dying. He was a borderline believer. He believed Jesus, but he was afraid to confess it, because they'd put him out of the synagogue. But the doctor come one morning and said, "She's dying now." Desperation set in. He couldn't afford, as his position, to be caught with Jesus of Nazareth, because he'd lose his position as a priest. But I tell you; when emergency come, it threw him to desperation. I can see him hunting for his little preacher's coat and hat, and slipped it on. Here he comes down through the crowd, pressing around, where there was a woman just touched His garment, and so forth, and they was all shouting. But he went in and said, "Master, my little girl's laying at the point of death. Master, Master, my little girl's laying at the point of death, and if You'll just come lay Your hands on her, she'll live." Oh, my. Desperation makes you say things sometimes, makes you do things, and puts you into action. His daughter was saved by the desperation.

55 93 Let's be desperate, like that little woman with the blood issue. The Bible said she'd spent all of her money with the physicians and yet they couldn't help her. She'd started time of menopause to flooding, and a blood issue, and it wouldn't stop. They'd maybe sold the farm, the mules, the horses, and whatever it was; and nothing could help her. And the priest had told her never to go around such as that. But one morning she looked down. She lived up on the bank, up there where her farm was; she seen a great bunch of people gathering around a Man down there, and they said, "What is that?" Said, "That's Jesus of Nazareth." Desperation set in. She said, "I'm kind of insignificant... But if I can only touch the border of His garment, I'll be made well." And she passed by every critic and everything else. But then she got to the spot; she touched His garment, and desperation... And when He did, He turned and said, "Who touched Me?" And they all denied it. But He looked around. He was possessed with a great gift of God. He was God; and He found the little woman and told her blood issue had stopped. Desperation drove her to do that.

56 94 It was desperation that drove the Queen of the South. She heard that the gift of God was working through Solomon. Desperation drove her to that. Desperately. That's human beings, like you, like me. They wasn't any different from you and I. They had five senses. They eat, and drink, and so forth like we do, live and die. They were human beings. It drove her into such desperation till she took part of her kingdom. It drove her to a place till she didn't think about the Ishmaelites who'd rob her on the desert, her ninety days on the back of a camel cross the Sahara Desert. Desperation, she's going anyhow. And when she got there, there was nothing held from Solomon but what he told her the things that she wanted to know. Desperation. Jesus said she'll rise in the day of the judgment with this generation and condemn it, 'cause a greater than Solomon is here. Desperation.

57 Let us pray.