The Conflict Between God And Satan

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1 Hearing these wonderful songs, listening to the church sing them, and thinking about old times, and looking out and seeing faces I haven't seen in a long time and ... it's just something about it that's real, to get back in church. Don't you think so? Good.

I was ... just awhile ago, an old friend I haven't seen—oh, to wave at him, I guess, but it's been years since I associated with him—a boy, Jim Poole, I used to run around with when I was a boy, and now.... He was down my home awhile ago, the first time he was ever at my place since we were ... well, since I've been married. And Mrs. Woods here invited him to come down and hear us preach. He said, "Well, I used to hear him all the time." And we used to walk together hunting and so forth, and we ... he didn't ... he wouldn't say very much, you know. I'd talked all the time. I said, "Why don't you say something?" He said, "How can I?" I just had all the time took up.

So looks like it's kind of been that way with me: kind of taking up time, doing a lot of talking, not getting anywhere. But I'm glad today that I've changed my way of talking since them days—talking about the Lord. I just love Him!

2 I was talking to Brother Ruddell and he was telling me there (thank you, Brother Temple).... I was talking to Brother Ruddell. And he come down a few days ago and was talking to me and told me three dreams that he had dreamed. And I got two of them and I forgot the other one. I was trying to tell him what it was. It was me with a mirror trying to reflect, and saying, "You see how God reflects—just like we reflect in a mirror." It's certainly been good.

Brother Creech, is this your girl playing the piano? I didn't know whether that was Patty. Where is Patty? How... ? My goodness! I remember when they lived down there, well, right where they live now, it was just about like this little fellow sitting right here. And Mary Jo's, I guess, married? Jim was standing there awhile ago. His grandchild was standing there and here come my grandchild in. I said, "We might as well get a walking cane and sit down. Don't you think so?"

But just beyond the river, that's the great place, that's where we're looking for. And it just isn't because I got ... getting old that I think about that. I started talking about that when I was just a little, little bitty fellow—young man right in the prime of life. I believed that there was a land somewhere. We're going that way. I'm so glad of it.

3 You know, I don't say very much that amounts to anything, especially when you're just talking. But a lot of times I pick up something another here along in the Scripture. But sometimes the Lord gives me something, it just tickles me to death when I get ahold of something that's real good. I just ... oh, it just does me so much good. We all feel that way. I know, Brother Neville, you, and brethren here, Brother Junior, and all of you, you feel the same way when you get something the Lord gives you, and you see it's just so real.

And the other night I was preaching (I believe it was the Tabernacle), and I struck something that's done me more good than anything I've thought of since I've been converted. And that was.... I might repeat it again if it's all right. I don't know whether you know where I'm going to, but it was that evidence of salvation, see. It just struck me and I said it. I went home, I got in my room, and I walked up and down the floor. I just had a little good time by myself, you know, just in there thinking about it.

4 And here's what it was. I might pass it on to you just for a minute. I was talking about we are possessors of all things—everything's ours. They say that we're the crazy bunch, you know. But yet, after all, it all belongs to us. And we might ... that's the reason we act a little funny, you see. We're heirs of all things, you see.

And I was thinking of we possess love, joy, courage; we possess faith, and longsuffering, gentleness, patience, meekness. You couldn't buy that with no kind of money. No matter, there's not a.... Go down and buy me a quarter's worth of patience, you see. Just couldn't do it, and ... but yet God gives us that. We possess that—that's

our possession. And then buy us a little faith. We'd be willing to give all we had for a little faith, see. But it's give to us and everything is free coming from the Lord. Isn't that wonderful?

5 Then I thought of this: when Israel, once a slave, God's children in bondage down in Egypt. Now that was God's heritage, just as we are today. And then ... would probably bring them something to eat, a bunch of molded bread, and throw it out, and anything they could get a hold of. Kill one—it was just like killing a dog or anything else. And they longed for a deliverance out of there. They'd been in there four hundred years.

Then one day come ... stomping down out of the wilderness come a prophet with a light following him, and he told them there was a land that's flowing with milk and honey, and God had give it to them. And He done signs and wonders to show them that he was not a bogus, a false something; but he was actually commissioned of God to take those people to that land.

6 Now think of it. Their children.... Slave drivers come by, if they wanted to kill one it was just all right. Nothing would be said. Go and take your young daughter over for some havoc. Why, nothing would be said. You'd just have to stand there and let her go off, see. Your boy kind of got ... didn't work just right and they wanted to kill him for it, kill him. That's all right, nothing can be said.

But now they're told that they're coming out of this bondage, and they're going to a land that's flowing with milk and honey, and they can have their own farm. They can raise their own stuff, feed their own children, send them to school, live in peace. And the great land ... and it belongs to them. You know, that was a great promise. Think of what that meant. Well, this prophet done so many miracles among them till they seen that he really was God's sent man. Well out they went, out into the wilderness.

7 And when they got over to Kadesh-barnea.... Now Kadesh-barnea is the judgment seat. It was at that day to the world. Kadesh-barnea—it was a place where there was a great big spring and many little springs, little tributaries to this spring.

Well, there they had a man among them, a great warrior named Joshua (Joshua is Jehovah-saviour), and Joshua went over into the promised land. Now, remember, none of them had never been there. They didn't know whether the land was actually there or not. They just, by faith, went by what was told them, that God had a place for them, and they was going to that place just by faith. Now think of that. Left Egypt and God brought them out, and now they're nearing that land.

And when they get near the land, Joshua goes over into the land and brings back the evidence. Crosses Jordan, goes over into Palestine, brings back the evidence, great bunch of grapes, that taken two men to pack, and they could eat those grapes. And he said, "The land is just exactly what God said it was. Oh, what a freedom that was! where they could go now and they could have their own farms, and raise their children, and have ... and God's blessings upon them, and live in peace. They was nobody's slaves.

But finally, after they lived a good long life, they finally had to die, yet being God's children. It went on for year after year: raising their crops, and having their families, and good peaceful life, and then die.

8 Then one day down come the greatest warrior of all, the Lord Jesus, the Son of God. And He said, "There is a land where a man don't die. In my Father's house is many mansions. If it wasn't so, I would have told you. I go and prepare a place and return to receive you." Now, He's the prophet that come speaking of a land just beyond the River Jordan—death—where that.... Even though you got your farms, you got your families, you're blessed of God, but yet you have to die. But yet there's a land beyond that where you don't die. Oh, my!

Then He came to Kadesh-barnea, Calvary, the judgment seat again. Where the penalty of sin that caused men to die, it was met at judgment at his Kadesh-barnea. He paid the penalty of sin—died—crossed Jordan, the Jordan of death, and rose up on the third day.

Coming back He said, "Feel me. A spirit don't have flesh and bones like me. Got something to eat?" He eat fish and bread. And He was with them for forty days, proving, like Joshua that the land was there. He's the evidence of the land there. Now, He said, "All that will believe this, go ye into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not shall be damned."

9 Then on the day of Pentecost He sent back the earnest of this place, the assurance, the evidence that this land is real. Just like Joshua brought back the evidence, Jesus brought the evidence of the Holy Ghost.

Now we reckon ourselves dead. We're buried with Him in baptism unto his death, and we raised with Him in the resurrection. And now we are in already.... Not we're going to; we're already raised. Oh, my! We are now. Not will be; we are now, tonight, sitting in heavenly places. How? In Christ Jesus. Not we will be some other time; we are now. The church don't realize who they are. We are now, right this minute. How? In Christ Jesus, assembled together in Him already raised from the dead. Our souls is immortal.

10 Now let's stop just a minute. Here once we used to lie, steal, cheat, fight, curse, everything else. And then we confessed all that sin. Then we were buried with Him in baptism and raised up with Him. And when we come up, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and you shall receive the evidence," the evidence of this good land. And then that Spirit that comes upon us brings us up from that lying, stealing, and all that stuff back there. And now we have raised up with Him, now sitting with Him up here in heavenly places. Our souls are absolutely already....

11 Why, William Branham's been dead for thirty-some-odd years. I become a new creature. That old man died. I look back there, talking to that friend of mine this afternoon. He said, "You remember when we used to do so-and-so? You remember when we throwed that boy in the water that night snoring."

I said, "Yeah. I wouldn't do that again."

"Remember that time we was going to stick that pin in that frog, when he'd gurr like that?"

"Yeah," I said, "I remember that, and all these things that we done."

EPH2:6

I thought, "You know that's when I was.... That's when I was.... That's when I was dead," see. But now I'm alive. Oh, I don't want to do that. Now we're sitting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. And now we have the earnest of our salvation, the first payment. The thing cost ten thousand dollars, and He give us the first thousand, see. This is the first tenth of our earnest which.... We've already raised from sin and unbelief up into the resurrection with Christ, and now sitting together in heavenly places with that evidence, like Joshua brought back. The land's there and we're on our road. No more death. Can't die.

12 When they tell you some time Brother Branham died, don't you believe that. Why? Brother Branham can't die, see. That's right. I can't die—done dead. Now William Branham died a long time ago—about thirty years ago or better, about thirty-two years ago. I've been preaching about thirty-two years. So he died even before that. But now this is a new creature.

Russell Creech, a new creature, he ain't that little boy that used to run around down there in below Cordon. Orman Neville ain't that little boy that used to be, and Brother Ruddell ain't that little boy that used to be, you know. And Brother Jackson and all these others, they're not them fellows. All you brothers and sisters, we're not them people we used to be. We are new creatures—new creations. You don't have to worry about it; we're already up here. Look where we was; look where we are now—new creations in Christ Jesus. Oh, my!

You know, Russell, I feel like I could almost sing that song that every time I hear it, I think of you and Sister Creech.

I'll fly away, O glory,

I'll fly away in the morning.

(Yes, sir. Remember when we used to

sing that?)

When I die, hallelujah, by and by,

I'll fly away. (I like that.)

13 And as we begin to get older, and hair is turning gray, shoulders stooping, that just means more to us than ever, see. Because a kid looks forward: who's he going to marry? how's he going to educate his children? When that's all over, then it's just about done then, you see. Then you're facing the setting of the sun. But just think, brethren, there isn't nothing but what we have. We got love, we got joy, we got peace, we got life, we got ... we possess death. That's right. The Bible said we do. We possess death—it belongs to us. We don't belong to it; it belongs to us.

Say, "What are you going to do with death?"

Just like Paul said when it come knocking at the door. Said, "Have you come to escort me across the river?"

A writer once said, "God hooked death to a buggy. The only thing it can do is pull you in the presence of God." That's all. Can't die. Hitched up death to a buggy and the only thing it can do is pull you right up in the presence of God. It's just a mascot come to pull you across the river. That's all it is. So there's nothing can bother us anymore.

Paul said, when death come rolling down through the ... time for him, he said, "Oh, death, where is your sting?"

Said, "Well, I'm going to take you out to the grave."

He said, "Then, grave, where is your victory? I possess you too." Then he turned around and said, "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Then we got it, Brother Temple. That's it. It's all over.

14 Well, Sister Snelling used to sing an old song. I don't guess any of you probably remember Sister Snelling. I was over at her grave the other day. She used to sing a little Pentecostal jubilee about:

Let's go on, let's go on,

Talking about this good old way.

Let's go on, let's go on,

Talking about the Lord.

(Did you ever hear it?)

Feeling so much better,

Just talking about this good old way.

I'm feeling so much better, I'm talking

about the Lord.

That's it. All right. Let's talk to Him just a minute now in a word of prayer before we start in reading his Word.

While we have our heads bowed and our eyes closed, and the cares of the day passing by now, we've assembled in his name and in his presence. Would there be some here could remember something that you'd like to be remembered before God? Just raise up your hand and by that, "God just remember me."

15 Our heavenly Father, the infinite God who knowed before the world was ever formed that we'd be standing here tonight, you seen those hands. You know what's behind each of them, what laid beneath the heart that that hand was raised over. I pray for them, Father, that you'll answer according to your great riches in glory and your power.

We thank thee for this church, for its pastor, its board, its trustees, deacons, all the members, and for all those precious souls that are sojourning down here in Clarksville—pilgrims, strangers, don't belong to the world anymore. They gave up everything of the world, sold all they had and bought this great pearl of great price—the Lord Jesus who gives us eternal life. We thank you for it, Lord.

Thank you for these precious souls, and I pray for each and every one. I think of Brother Jackson and how he's labored, tried, strove, trying to feed the sheep, and to

make a meeting place for the pilgrims to gather at, keeping them together waiting for the coming of the Lord, he and his wife and family sitting here behind me tonight. Brother Ruddell, he also is keeping them together, the little group that's sojourning up on '62, Brother Neville and the group up at the Tabernacle sojourning, and the others, Lord, that's present may be here from other places. We are looking for the coming of the Lord.

16 Forgive us, Lord, as we assemble now together. We come in the name of Jesus, knowing that you promised to hear us—whatever we'd ask in his name, it'd be granted. And now tonight as we open up the Bible to break into a little lesson.... Now, we're not here to be seen or to be heard just as men. The people are not sitting in this room just to say, "Well, I attended church tonight." We're expecting a visit from you, Lord. We're waiting for it. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. And we ask you to break to us the bread of life. May the Holy Spirit take the few words, plant them down deep in the heart. Strengthen those, Lord, who are feeble, and give joy to those who are strong; courage to those who are out of courage, health to those who are sick, salvation to those who are lost; and we'll bow our heads and give praise to Thee. We ask it and commit ourself with the Word in Jesus' name. Amen.

17 I would like to be remembered by this church as we start next week now in a journey across two nations to preach the gospel. Pray for us as we go along. And if you got any friends around (you know the itinerary), coming to the meetings, we'd be ... or could come, we'd be happy to have them in the meeting.

We'll be praying for you all here, your pastor and different ones, to keep the home fires burning now until we can get back. If Jesus comes before we come back, we'll meet you in that morning. If we got any other motive but that, God forgive us.

18 Now we want to turn for just a few words tonight out of the Bible, found over in the book of Joshua 24, 14th verse and 15th verse. I want to read from his Word. Listen close to his Word. Joshua 24:14 and 15:

Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

And if it seems evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell: but as for me and my house, we'll serve the LORD.

Lord bless the reading of his scriptures. I have some notes here that I would like to talk just a little bit from, and I want to take a text tonight to call it, "The Conflict," the conflict between God and Satan. And now, just to teach it like a Sunday school lesson, for I've got several scriptures laying here.

19 In Eden, God knew his enemy and all the attacks of his enemy. Now God is the infinite God, and the infinite God is the perfection of the perfections. He knew all things before they ever was. And therefore, if this infinite God could have looked forward, and did, and seen the end from the beginning, and knew that He would have children on this earth, his own blessed children, don't you believe that He would provide for them the best that He could provide?

Would not you tonight, to your children that was helpless little fellows who can't take care of themselves, don't you struggle, and work, and do everything that you can to provide the best that you can or able to provide for those children? Because you are a father, a parent; and if that being the ... what I would say, the trueness, and the thought of a earthly parent.... And parenthood originated in God, because He was the first parent. Don't you think that God, seeing what Satan would be, what Satan would do, He gave to his children and provided for them the best thing that could be provided for them, to...? Knowing what the enemy's attack would be, God fortified his children.

20 We take the war, when a general goes out to meet another general in war. And this general, if he's a real true citizen of this nation that he represents (and he surely would be to be a general) and he ... first thing, he studies the enemy's attacks. He knows what he's going to do, how he's going to work, because he kind of went over and spied out.

We got spies everywhere, you know. There's American spies in England. There's

American spies in France. There's American ... and there's German spies here, and there's.... No matter how friendly we are, we still got spies. And we're spying out some kind of a nuclear weapon. Then we find it, take it back to the country. Then what it is, they get ready. When war does come, they know how to attack their enemy.

21 And if we knowed.... God knew this great warfare was coming on between right and wrong, and He knew what the enemy was going to do, He knowed just exactly how to equip his people. So, if we notice, the very first thing that God equipped his children was.... Being infinite, He knowed what it took to defeat Satan any time, any place, anywhere, on any condition. Now, He wouldn't say, "I'll give them something here, and then a few years later I may study out something better to give them. And then, after a few years later...."

Like we, in military force, the old bow and arrow, and sledge rock hammer; and then the next was a.... After the bow and arrow come the musket, and after the musket come the Springfield, and now the atomic weapons and things. See, we keep growing more; but God at the beginning gave his children the atomic weapon, because He's the infinite God.

22 Now, seeing there was going to be a conflict, and there was going to be a battle, God equipped his children with the right kind of ammunition, the right kind of attack, the right kind of everything that they had need of that would sweep them all the way from Eden to the rapture. What was it? The Word. The Word. That's what defeats Satan is the Word. It'll defeat him anywhere, any place. Now why do we want to substitute something else? when we've already got the best thing that there is—the Word.

And we find Jesus on earth.... Just to prove this was the best equipment, when Satan come in hand-to-hand combat with Jesus, He never just reached over with his power and tied his hands; He just took the same weapon that God gave in the garden of Eden, his Word, and said, "It's written. It's written." And He punched him right out of the ring with it. That's right, because it's God's best.

23 And look where it is. It's not just for one or two in a church; it's for every one of us. Every believer has a right to take this Word and fight the enemy anywhere you meet him. Anywhere you meet the enemy, this Word is what you have to use. And Jesus proved it when He come. So He equipped his children with the Word for their protection against the enemy.

When the all-out warfare comes into battle and sets in array, then there's only one thing a real soldier can use, a real Christian soldier. That's "thus saith the Lord." Walk right out there and meet the enemy with the assurance that nothing.... "Thousand may fall at your right and ten thousands at the left, but it won't come nigh thee." Just remember that God made this statement and give this to his children, and it's the best that's ever been yet.

24 Satan, in Eden when he first come to these attacks, to attack the person, knowing the children of God was fortified with this Word, Satan attacked the Word, see. He never attacked the being; he attacked the Word first. Look at that sneaker lizard, what he does today. The first thing, he can't lay it on, saying, "Well, that's not a good person." That's a good person, see. But the only thing he tries to do—no matter how good the person is—is to get them to deny that Word. That's just the only thing he wants to do: get you to deny that Word.

So Satan tried to attack the Word in the garden of Eden. So he had to have something, now, that he could use to the human being would look better than that Word, see. He had to have something that would look better to the human being than Word. And do you know what he used? Reasoning—just what we'd say, common sense. So that's what he used and he succeeded. So that's what he's used all along.

25 But God can't give nothing else but his Word, because that's what He chose first, and when God makes a decision, it has to ever remain that way. And Satan took reasoning, and took the reasonings and attacked the Word, and shook Eve off the path. That's right—by reasoning, human reasoning.

Now the only way that she could have got to disbelieve God's Word, it had to be appealing. And Satan knows how to make reasonings appealing. It has to appeal to you, and sin is very appealing. And there's only one sin, and that's unbelief. So it's really

appealing. Satan makes sin so appealing to you.

26 Just stopping here for a few minutes. I've often thought, as a young man, and read about different nations and the morals of the country; and I'd heard different people tell me about ... especially down in France, down in the place called Pig Alley, and how that the people was so immoral. Well, I thought if I ever go in there, I'll see them people down there, women coming out, you know, reprobate with such a old haggy look, you know, and mean. And I went down in Pig Alley the first night, me and three more ministers. Brother, what a surprise we got! Now, Satan's too smart for that. He isn't going to produce something like that. But some of the prettiest girls I ever seen in my life was there—appealing. Certainly. Sin is appealing and attractive.

Satan hasn't got forked hoofs, and a pointed tail, and like that. He isn't old John Barleycorn out with coat hanging up and ears hanging down; he's a slicker—appealing. Sin isn't just rude, like you think it is; it's very appealing. Therefore, we have to watch it close. (We'll just get to that in a little bit; I thought of something else.)

27 So, how Satan makes it look so real, it's appealing to them. But if they would've just stayed fortified with the Word, let the Word be their fortress, then see, they'd have been fortified. They'd have been behind the Word. The Word would've been in front of them always: "Thus saith the Lord, thus saith the Lord, thus saith the Lord," right or left, "thus saith the Lord."

Like those angels down there that day when Isaiah ... met in the temple, he thought he was getting along pretty good. A fairly good preacher, the king liked him real well. But the king was taken from him one day. And he knelt at the altar and fell into a vision, and saw angels with wings over their faces and over their feet and flying with two wings, singing, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty."

See, every which way they went, Ezekiel saw the picture of the vision. This way the spirit of God was moving, it had the face of an ox; this way it had the face of a lion; and every way it went it had a face. Everywhere it went it was fortified. The Word of God there's no way around. Fortified all the way around everywhere—"Thus saith the Lord, thus saith the Lord."

28 Your walking, your talking, your business, your associating, and everything—put the Word of God first. Say, "I believe I'll go tonight, and this little dance just won't hurt anybody." Could you take "Thus saith the Lord" with you?

"I believe if I could pull this little deal.... Oh, it's just a little bit shady." But could you say, "Thus saith the Lord" with it? See, always take Him first, keep fortified, for He is our fortress.

It's strange, but do you know you have to ignore before ... in order to believe the devil's lie, you have to ignore and deny God's truth first, before you can believe the devil's lie? Did you ever think of that? You have to deny the truth first before you can believe a lie. Right—have to deny it.

29 Eve got from behind it and lost the battle. As soon as Eve.... Satan was standing out there shooting his targets. She said, "But the Lord said... ," and then he shot again. She said, "But the Lord said... ," so then he shot again another way. "But the Lord said... ,

But Satan raised up back there, said, "But wait just a minute. If the Lord did say that, let me just tell you something. You see you're not wise like God; you don't know right from wrong. But if.... Listen, wouldn't you love to be wise like God?"

Why, Eve said, "Ye-e-s, I ... I believe I would." Maybe something like that. "I believe I would like to just know all the wisdom of God. I'd like to know what's right and wrong. I don't know it."

"Well, I tell you...."

Now, she said, "But the Lord said...."

"Oh, but surely you know He's a good God. He won't do that." See. Right there, she broke the hole through so he could shoot. Right there she made the wrong stop, right there—stopped a little bit.

30 Now let me say something to you Christians down here. Don't you never stop one

second for the devil. Don't stop to reason it out. When you start to reason it, the devil comes right in. You cannot reason God, you cannot understand God; you've got to just believe God, see. I can't explain God. Nobody can. I can't explain many things. But the only thing, I just believe it because He said so. Now there's none of us can explain it. Don't try to explain it.

Don't get with these unbelievers that say, "Well, now look. Your pastor out there, Junior, I heard him pray for the sick. Now you're all crazy down there. There's no such a thing as divine healing."

Say, "All right, there isn't for you then; you're an unbeliever." Just walk right on, see. It's just for believers, see. Don't....

"Well, you all say you got the Holy Ghost. There's no such a thing as the Holy Ghost."

Say, "It isn't for you then; it is for me." Just go on, see. Don't try to reason it. It hasn't got no reasonings. You just believe it.

31 You don't reason a thing, because remember: the only way that you can accept God is by faith—not by reasons, not by understanding, not able to explain. You don't explain nothing; you believe something. Not what you feel. Jesus never said, "Did you feel it?" He said, "Did you believe it?" That's right. You just believe what God says.

I can't explain to you how that ... how could a ... the greatest miracle that I can think of is a man who.... Just like, take a pig; and tell that pig, "You know you're no more a pig; you're a lamb," and he becomes a lamb, see. That would be hard to believe. Why, it's the same thing takes place when you become converted from a sinner to a Christian.

See, it changes your own opinions. It changes your own will. It changes everything that's in you; and it brings you into another life and gives you another spirit that bears forth another record, see. Then your old life has to die, and a new one has to be borned again. And then, see, you're no more the creature you was at all. That's when you become behind the blood, fortified with the Word. Don't try to explain nothing; just believe it and go on.

"Lord, I believe. Saviour, raise my faith in Thee till it can move a mountain," see. "Lord, I believe, for all my doubts are buried in the fountain."

32 What if Abraham had been asked? The doctors would've come and said, "Abraham, you're a hundred years old, your wife is ninety. How're you going to have a baby?"

Now Abraham'd say, "Well, now, I tell you, it's like this. You see, there's going to be a time that we're going to drink a certain thing, and this is going to do this, and this kind of change is going." Abraham couldn't explain that. Abraham would have said something like, "I don't know. I don't know no more about it than you know. The only thing that I'm resting on is He said we would have it, and I'm looking for it." Said, "Yes, sir. That's all there is." Takes ... just take it, believe it. God said so and that settles the whole thing, because God said it.

33 Now we find out, Eve losing the battle, she got from behind the Word, raised up on top of the trench and say, "You don't say so! Is that the truth?" She's lost right there.

"Well, you know, we don't teach that over at our church."

"We believe that what He said here...."

"Yeah, but listen dear, you know better than that. Your own common sense would tell you that that's not right. Why, I heard them people just cry and cry. What they crying about?" see. "Now, own common sense would show you that they're just worked up. They're emotional," see. If you stop to listen to that, you've lost the battle.

If they say, "Oh, now wait a minute. Your doctor said that you had TB and it's in an advanced stage. There's no way for ever you to get over that TB. The doctor said there wasn't." Now, don't common sense say that? Well, if you're going to rely upon reasonings, you might as well make ready to die. But if you're going to what the Lord gave the promise and you can believe it, it changes the whole program.

34 Now, the same way it changes is the same way it changed for me down there, see. I just believe it. Don't know how it's done, but there was a new creature come. I used to

... I'd shun church. A guy told me when I used to box.... I was fighting my fifteenth professional fight down here at Evansville, Indiana, and Howard McClain.... Many of you New Albany people knew him there. And I was walking up the street. And Howard was a welterweight and I was a bantamweight, and I was fighting Billy Frick from Huntington, West Virginia. Had on a blue suit like this. In them days I had a little hair. And I was walking up the street. We'd eat supper about three o'clock, getting ready for the fight that night. We was going in there to rest and then have our hands wrapped.

And Howard said to me, he said, "You know what, Bill?"

I said, "What?"

Said, "You look like a little Baptist preacher."

And he could have called me anything.... I never.... I turned around. I said, "Now wait a minute, Howard. Now you laugh when you say that."

He was about that high, but I was ready to climb right on him. I wanted nothing to do with no preacher; and now, the greatest compliment that he could have give me. Oh, when somebody says, "Brother Branham, you look like a preacher," I say, "Praise God!" see.

35 What's the matter? I died! and I'm a new creature. How did I do it? I took his Word. "Brother Branham, what kind of medicine, what formula did you take?" I didn't take any. How did He do it? I don't know, but anyhow I believed it. I never took nothing. I just believed it, and He raised me up from what I was, a sinner, to a Christian. He did it because I took his Word. He'll do the same thing by sickness, He'll do the same thing by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, He'll do the same thing by any promise He give.

36 But see, what's my subject? "The Conflict." The conflict: Satan tries to get you to reason about it. And don't you do it. But after you become a Christian, then you are fortified by the Word and any promise in the Word. Whew! I didn't know I was going to say that.

You are ... when you become a Christian, you're placed behind the Word of God, see. Now there's your fortress, safety. Oh, my! Every promise in that is yours. Only thing you have to do is just reach to get it, and go right on with it. "How do you know it's going to work?" I don't know how it's going to work. "Explain to me." I don't know. The only thing I know that God gave his children the best attack that they could have, and the best thing to attack with, because He knows the working of the enemy.

37 Now listen. Let's diagnose that down—like take the chemistry of the blood, or the chemistry of water, or whatever it is, see. Let's diagnose it down. Why? Why did He give the Word? Because (are you ready?) the Word is eternal, see. And if God made a promise, that is eternal and there's nothing nowhere can stop it.

They couldn't have ... turn every atom upside down and turn it backwards, could never pierce the Word of God one little word, see, because Jesus said, "Both heavens and earth will pass away but my Word shall never fail," see. That's the best weapon there is. It's the Word of the eternal God.

Now what is the Word of God? The Word of God is God Himself. So God gave the believer Himself. Amen. Whew! It's God Himself! He gave the believer Himself to attack the enemy by. In other words, He's the Father and the Word is God. Then the Word is our Father. We are born by the Word, and He's standing in the forefront for his children. Amen! There you are. He's standing out there for his children. What are we scared about? The rapture's sure, the coming's sure, every blessing that's been promised is ours, all belongs to us.

38 Now if we kind of slack up and say ... Satan say, "Come right over on this side. I'll reason that out with you." Oh, oh, you got from behind Father then, see. Don't you do that. You stay right where Father stands—right where it's saying ... says, "Thus saith Father," see, "thus saith my Father, thus saith my Father." It's going to defeat him as sure as the world. It's got to. All right. But when you get out from behind that, like Eve did, the battle's lost.

Now, poor Eve, she listened, she lost her place. All right. And then God chose man to hold his fort, and he has ever since. That's where many times people in these last days sometimes say, "Why could you not think that the lady could do just as good a job

in the pulpit as the man?" I'm not disputing that. Not at all. Sometimes a lot better than I could, many of them. But you see we have to take what God did, see. Right there, Eve was the one who broke down the bars. And Adam did not break the bars. No, sir. But because he loved his wife, he walked right out with her, see. So God chose man to hold the fort.

39 Now, the next we find out then, after the battle was lost there at ... the time of destruction come to them. The next time there was a change of the dispensations. From that time, we know how the battle went. We know that Eve lost the battle because she relied upon her reasonings instead of her faith in God's Word. Let's repeat that. She relied upon her own reasonings instead of having faith in God's Word. It reasoned out. Therefore, she broke the front lines and the enemy rushed in. And then death struck the world. Now therefore, God never did trust it again with the women to hold that front line as with men.

40 And now the next change of dispensation, the conflict started. And I'm looking at a scripture here. I believe I'll just start and read it. How much time do we really ... do you really...? Preach just about ... won't take just about six hours more, and we'll ... and so we.... I didn't mean that, folks. All right. Let's start over here, you in your Bibles. Let's read just a few minutes. I just love to read it as I go along, and then it's God's Word all along.

41 Let's start at the change of the dispensations again from the Adam ... Adamic dispensation until the Noahic dispensation. Now just before that time comes, let's just look at the ... what's taking place. Let's start with the 6th chapter of Genesis and just read a few verses:

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and the daughters were born unto them,

And the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Now let's just compare that. Now remember Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the coming of the Son of man." Now watch, reading this close now, just like a Sunday school lesson for just a verse or two, then I'll go right on with some more scriptures.

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them [men see],

... the sons of God saw the daughters of men [Now did you notice that?] sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all ... they chose [all which they chose].

42 Now the great ... many of the theologians.... I don't want to be different. I don't mean to be, but many of you know that theologians believe that these fallen angels that had fell by Lucifer's lie took themselves wives. They were fallen angels, actually sons of God that fell from grace, cast out into the earth, pressed themselves into flesh, and took wives. I just a little don't think that just makes reasonings with the Scripture. Because, the first place, before a fallen angel could make himself a man, he would first have to be a creator. And there is only one creator, and that's God. So that would wash it out.

Another thing, the sons of God took daughters of men, and did you know the Bible never denotes sex in angels? See there's no denoting of sex in angels. And there's no place in the Bible where there's a woman angel, because a woman is a by-product of a man. It'd all be the same—like Adam was both Adam and Eve to begin with, see. She was taken from his side. So it disqualifies their argument that this was fallen angels.

43 But—if you will excuse me and not try to think that I'm trying to make a know-it-all here, but just to give my thought of it—I think these sons of God was the sons of Seth, saw the daughters of the Canaanites, the Cains, that they were fair. Because the sons of Seth came ... was the son of Adam, who was the son of God; but the son ... the daughters of Cain, who was the son of Satan.

Now you notice, they noticed just at the end before this antediluvian destruction that the daughters of the Canaanites were fair, pretty, attractive. Do you get it? Now Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Noah so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man." Women, attractive. What kind of women? Canaanites, see, taking the sons of

God, see—sons of God taking the Canaanite women.

44 The extreme beauty of women has so increased in the past fifty years.... To pick up a picture of fifty years ago what an attractive woman looked like.... I was looking the other day in a history of the wars, and how that Pearl White, about a hundred years ago, when she was stabbed by Scott Jackson, her lover, and the looks of the woman. Now, also a Mary Bonneville, and many of the so-called attractive women of fifty to a hundred years ago, compare them with the women today, they wouldn't stand in a shadow. Certainly not.

Burly women has become dainty, feminish, and so forth, more attractive, and what is it? They dress themselves more attractive. Where the women used to wear great big dresses, and sleeves and long skirts, and hid their body because they didn't want men lusting for them (they lived for one man that chose them for wife); today the women pour themselves into little clothes, and immorality is on such a move and a rampage till it's beyond even thinking.

45 It was so striking when.... I read an analysis the other day of Chicago when I was there, New York, Los Angeles, Birmingham, and many of the great outstanding cities, to this club, or.... The social clubs has come together in such a way that families after families through neighborhoods join into this club. And they go to a certain meeting place, take their keys, throw them into a hat. The woman reaches in and gets the key, and that's her husband till they meet again. That's our American women. You see it goes to show that ... back again, it started in the beginning with women by sex, and it ends up the same way at the end. Now, not.... God didn't bless it for an honest and good woman. Read over in Isaiah when He said how that those will escape in the last days—the daughters of Zion that will escape all these damnable things that's upon the earth.

46 Now, "The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and took them wives all which they chose."—now a great sign of the end-time. Let's read another verse.

And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, ...

Immediately after this took place—marrying—Luke tells us that. I got it wrote down here. I think Luke 7:27 said that how ... or Luke 17:27 said that how that they married and give in marriage in the days of Noah. See how it was? The same thing. Men looked upon the attractiveness ... sons of God supposed to be holding the fort, looked upon the daughters of men—men. How they become so attractive, fair, and they took to them wives, and they married and gave in marriage. Same thing they're doing today, see.

And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

And there were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came ... to the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, and the same became mighty men which were of old, men ... renown.

47 Notice these smart, educated Canaanite women (not...) from Cain's lineage married these humble peasant boys of Seth, and from there became giants and were renowned. We find out that they become great scientists, great workers of wood—great, smart, educated people. And they had a great economy, and they lived in such a scientific age until they built pyramids that we couldn't build today. They built the sphinx, and many great marks that we see in the rock, in sands of time, that we could not reproduce today, because those people leaned upon their knowledge, and become scientists and smart men and renowned men.

But the sons of God that stayed humble stayed away from such things as that, and relied upon God, knowing that they were going to inherit all things in the end, see.

So the people today say they're smart, they got all this, and we do all this, so much smarter than we was; and we're so much farther away from God than we were, see. You draw yourself right away.

48 All right. I won't take no more time to read on down. Sometime when you get a chance, read it on down, the 6th chapter of Genesis, how that those things happened. Just a little mark, I thought I'd read that, had it wrote here that I would read that just a verse or two to show you the parallel of Noah's time to this time.

Now we see that people are marrying and giving in marriage. We see the beauty of women that has taken off their clothes to become attractive to the sons of God. Now, not just laying this part of the message upon women. I'm thankful to have women, like here, that's ladies, young women that's still decent and honorable, that don't put on. Now the average woman today is back in fig leaves just like Eve was, and fig leaves is actually a man-made system: shorts, smoking, bobbed hair, attractive. What do they do it for? To appear to their husbands? If they do, then he isn't a son of God; he's a Canaanite. And then if he's a son of God, he'll tell you, "Wash your face and put you on some clothes," see. Right.

49 Now, God in this time, He chose to send his Word again for his children. And He chose a prophet, and the Word of the Lord come to the prophets. And Noah and Enoch, what a beautiful type.

50 And someone.... Many times people.... I know it's some of them questions I didn't get to answer—they ask that question. Said, "Brother Branham, I disagree with you." The precious brother that wrote some of the nicest articles that I'm going to now, Brother.... (What's that guy's name we're going to preach for up there now this next meeting, up here at South Pine or Southern Pines? Parker, Thomas Parker.) He said, "There's one thing that I have to disagree with. Brother Branham said he believes that the church will not go through the tribulation." Said, "I believe the church goes through the tribulation for purification."

What happened to the blood of Jesus then, see? There's no place in any parable, or in any word that the church goes through the tribulation. They.... (Have to put that on these men that's not bald-headed—they don't get hoarse so quick.) There's no place where the church ever goes through the tribulation period. Christ's blood and the fullness of the application of the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses all sin. And why do we have to be purged? We are purged daily. No tribulation. Listen. Listen what Jesus said in St. John 5:24, "He that heareth my words and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life, and shall not come to the judgment but has passed from death unto life." Amen.

51 Enoch, prophet.... Noah is a type of the Jews, a remnant, God's servants; and Enoch, the great prophet who prophesied of the Lord coming, was translated—raptured before the flood. Noah was carried through for a ... to preserve seed on the earth.

Now, God sent his Word by his prophet, Noah. And when Noah and Enoch began to prophecy.... And then just before the flood struck, what happened? Enoch went up; Noah went through, see. Enoch was translated. Noah's sign was watching Enoch. When Enoch come up missing, then Noah knew the flood was at hand because he was keeping his eye on Enoch.

52 Now, Satan in this time set up the same system that he did in the garden of Eden, reasoning against the Word of these prophets, same thing. Now Satan set his system up. He had more than one or two people to deal with now; he had billions to deal with. The antediluvian time—more people probably than there are now. They'd multiplied all over the face of the earth. There was a great earth of people in them times, probably far more than there is now. And now look, Satan, in order not to set up with one—with Eve—he set him up a system. What was it? To combat the Word of the Lord that came to the prophets. Do you get it? He uses that same old tactic every time; and God stays with his thing, the Word.

53 Here come Noah and Enoch with "thus saith the Lord," building away on an ark. Now, notice, Satan's system laughed at God's system. Now compare that with today: "holy rollers," and whatmore, see. Scoffers, the Bible says. They laughed at God's system. Satan's system laughed at God's system. They thought it didn't stand up to their own science and reasoning.

Now, they said, "That old fellow up there on the hill building that ship, and he says there's some water coming down from up there. Now we've got the best scientists in the world. Now they probably have a radar that they can shoot plumb to the moon and whatmore, and can prove that there is no water there. Now, how's there any coming down? Old fellow, you're crazy."

"But I've got, 'thus saith the Lord.' " Built right away, stood right in the door of the ark, preaching the gospel, and building away, and watching Enoch.

When he come in of an evening said, "Did they take it down there?"

"No, they laughed at me. They throwed rotten eggs at me and everything else."

"Did the same thing up here, but let's pound right away, see.

Oh, they call me a holy roller and everything, else but that's all right."

They all gathered in for prayer meeting and went on just the same, see. Just exactly the way it's doing today, because they knowed they were fortified, because they were standing behind "thus saith the Lord."

Now the common ordinary reasoner would say, "Oh, that's nonsense."

54 A woman once said.... One time I was.... This boy taught Sunday school at the Baptist church and I was preaching up there one night, and I met him downtown. I was on my bicycle. I was downtown and I met him. He was on a bicycle. He pulled over to the side and he said, "Billy, I come up to hear you the other night," and said, "I was enjoying what you was saying till that woman got to crying and going on, and all them people saying, 'Amen,' and," said, "I just couldn't stand it," see. He said, "It made shivers run up my back to hear them people, 'Amen!' right when you was saying something."

I said, "Brother, it didn't affect me like that." I said, "You don't believe in saying, 'Amen,' and that little shouting and things they was doing?"

Said, "No, I don't believe that."

I said, "If you'd ever get to heaven, you'd freeze." I said, "Because if that made a shiver run over your back, what's it going to be when the angels there standing before God, day and night, screaming, 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty. Holy, holy, holy.' Why this is the quietest world you'll ever live in." That's right.

In hell there's going to be weeping and wailing; and in heaven there's going to be screaming and shouting. So you're going to ... you're in the quietest place you'll ever be right now. So you might as well get used to it, one place or the other. So I'd just rather take my choice and get behind God's Word. Wouldn't you? Just keep pushing it on. It's "thus saith the Lord, thus saith the Lord." Just keep pushing it on. All right.

55 Yet it didn't stand up to their scientific specification. And today when they see the Spirit of God that can discern the thoughts of the heart as God said so, tell forth and foretell, speak in tongues, interpret, all these different gifts, they say that's a telepathy, see. They try to bring it in. They say, "Well, we see it being done, but you know what it is. It's just a human telepathy."

But it's "thus saith the Lord."

Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe," that's all I know. How long? "To the end of the world."

It don't stand up to their scientific research, so they laugh at it, and they did the same thing in the days of Noah. Oh, yes. It don't stand up to their reasoning. You can't reason it out, but it's God's Word just the same. All right.

56 So Satan started his attack upon the Noah group just like he did in Eden, that each one had to choose by faith. Glory! Not something you bought, but by faith; and the only way that you can by faith believe a denominational lie is to refuse God's Word first. If you're thinking about salvation, this is it. And the only way that you can disbelieve it, you have to put your faith on a counterfeit lie of the devil by reason, instead of believing God's Word that you've got to be borned again. And when you are, these signs shall follow them that believe. Oh, I love this. That sounds good to me, see.

Believe his Word. No matter what anybody else said, "God said so. God said so."

Say, "Well, this is so-and-so...."

"But God said so."

"Well, we Presbyterian...."

"I don't care, but God said so."

"We're Baptist."

"I don't care; God said so," see.

"We're Catholic."

"God said so," see. Stay right like this.

"Why, our pastor's got so many degrees."

"But God said so."

"Our pope's got this, our bishop's got this."

"But God said so."

57 And stay right there! It's your fortification—is fortified in the Word of God. Wrapped up. Why, you're baptized in the Word. By one Spirit we're all baptized into one body, and that body's Christ. Is that right? Yes, sir. By one Spirit all baptized into the body of God, then you're baptized into God. You're fortified with God. His Word is your fortress.

He's a mighty tower. The name of the Lord is a mighty tower; the righteous run into it and are safe. He's my fortress, my buckler, my shield, my shoes, my hat, my coat, my heart, my all in all—O God, all in all. God—wrapped up in Him, dead to the world, rose with Him in resurrection. Not I live anymore, but Christ that lives in us.

"We're looking for the coming of that glad millennium day when the blessed Lord shall come and catch his waiting bride away. Oh, the world is groaning, crying for that day of sweet release, when our Saviour shall come back to earth again." Then the meek shall inherit the earth.

Each had to choose by faith. You have to do it. Today you have to believe the lie of the devil; or believe the Word of God—that's either one.

58 Now we find out ... let's take Noah for just a minute before we leave here. I can imagine Noah—you know he had some things to go through. I imagine he'd go down on the street, him saying, "Judgment is coming!"

Why, they ... "How do you know? What kind of a judgment?"

"God's going to strike this sinful nation! The sons of God has married into the daughters of Cain and there they are. Look what you've become to. You've turned from God. You've got your great religious systems. You've got all these things, but God shall strike the earth!"

Said, "Poor old fellow, he's kind of ... just let him alone, see. He's...." But he had "thus saith the Lord." He could prove what he was saying, but they didn't believe that, see. He had the Word of the Lord.

59 Now, maybe day after day and they laughed and made fun. The children maybe "ha-ha'd" at him, but Noah went right on preaching anyhow. And all of his family and all the converts went right on believing anyhow. All that was following Noah believed Noah. That's right. They had to make their choice to believe what the world said, or believe what this mighty anointed prophet said. So he said, "Now watch, Enoch is going to leave one of these days, church. And when it does ... when Enoch goes away, we'd better get in. We're going to miss Enoch; he's going to be taken up, so we better get in." So they watched closely as the days passed by.

After awhile God said, "I've had enough of their jeering. I've had enough of their insults. I'm going to bring it. Take the animals now and go up there and holler 'Hallelujah!' about five times, and the birds will come flying. All the lions and everything else will come two by two. Holler 'Praise the Lord!' about four or five times and here they'll come," see.

60 Now, so Noah got ready and all the animals went in, and then Noah himself went in. And so, when he went in, I guess, the last thing he said was standing in the door and saying, "It's thus saith the Lord." The last call. That's where we're standing today—at the door of the ark. Christ is that door.

If you'll take that literally and want to work on it a little bit, take over in Revelations between the Philadelphian and the Laodicean age, He said, "I set a door open before you, and you refused it," see. That's the hour we're living, just before the destruction—an open door. But they wouldn't listen. Now they turned Him outside. Now He stood in the door and proclaimed, "The hour is at hand that when the Word of God

that has spoke will be fulfilled." That's right.

61 Into the ark he went, and when he went into the ark, you know what? God shut the door. Oh, my! Nobody had to shut it; God shut it. That was all—the last chance to be saved was gone. So I'd imagine the kids got arm in arm around that ... about a five-hundred-yard ark there; and the old folks walked up and said, "Why, that old fellow will smother to death in there," see. So, on making fun of him just the same, made jeering.

And you know, every person.... (Now, listen. Maybe this will help you. Listen close.) When you take God's Word and follow God's Word, there's many times that after you've already done all you can do, your faith is put to a test. There's nobody here but homefolks. I'm standing on that ground right now. That's right. I don't know what to do. The revival's over, you see. I don't know where the next call is. I'm just standing—nervously, looking, wondering what's next.

62 Noah went in, followed the will of God. God shut the door behind him. But it never rained for seven more days. Wonder what Noah thought all that time in there? Noah sitting in the ark, the door shut, he thought, "Just any time, children, you'll hear it. We'll pull the door, the lid up here on top." They was up on the top floor, you know. The animals on the bottom, the birds in the next, and they was on top. "That sun—oh, in the morning, there'll be something over there dark, and the rain'll come." But the next morning up come the sun.

Maybe some people that kind of half-way believed Noah might have went up there and stood around the ark, and said, "You know what? That old man might have been right. We'd better stand here." Well then, they seen a mistake. God's prophets make no mistake! God's Word can't fail.

You've heard me preach on about Jonah going to Nineveh. They said he was backslidden; he sure wasn't. He was right in the will of God—exactly. He had the Word of the Lord, and he walked in it.

63 Here Noah said, "Now children, all of you get around and you'll see the first cloud that ever come in the sky. It'll come over in the morning." Well, the sun come up. "Well, maybe by nine o'clock—we'll watch." At nine o'clock, ten o'clock, eleven o'clock, twelve o'clock, three, four, five, six. Whew! "He shut the door yesterday, too."

Some of them said, "Well, you know what? I'm going to agree with Sister Suzie down there in that great ... in her big church. That old man's crazy. See, he went up there and shut that door and said the rain was going to fall—and there he sits. And then there's nothing to it, see."

Sun come right up, went on across like it always did. No such thing as rain. So them lukewarm, half-way believers—half-hearted, that's not willing to take God plumb down to the end of the road, live or die. You see what I mean? Stand in your fortified ... condition, live or die, sink or drown. Stay right there just the same.

64 When Abraham, the father of the faithful, pulled out the knife, pulled the hair back on his child's head to cut his throat, he said, "I'm persuaded that God's able to raise him up from the dead from the thicket that I felled him on." He was willing to follow the Word of God to the end. You get it? No matter what it is—stay right there if everything seems to be.... You can't go one inch farther, go that inch. Then if you hit the wall, stand there until God makes a way through it.

65 First day passed, second day passed, third day passed, fourth, fifth, sixth. You know Noah had a lot to do. I imagine some of his congregation said, "Dad, do you think that we ought to climb out the window and.... Think it was all a mistake?"

He said, "No, son, no, no. Who was that that took Enoch? Who was that that closed that door? Who was that that done all them things before us? If He's led us this far and shut us in, let's stay with Him."

That's it, church. If He's brought us up out of the world and led us this far, and shut us in with Him, with the Holy Spirit all around us, in us, and through us, let's follow Him on through. That's right. The time will come. The time will come. Let the scoffers say what they want to.

66 Then on the seventh day, that morning the people was out in the streets. They'd never seen such a thing. Clouds coming up, great roars of thunder, lightning flashing

across the skies. About seven o'clock great big drops of rain began to fall for the first time on the face of the earth. I imagine the birds was squawking, every ... nature was all tore up. Men began to wonder and said, "Get out your scientific instruments. Try your radar. Tell us what's this all about." But it wouldn't work. "We never seen anything like it in all of our life."

Well, by noontime the streams had begin to swell. By the next morning the rivers the deep had broke up. About the first three or four days the waters was all over the streets—the floods. The people were coming up around the ark beating on the door, "Open up!" Noah was riding right along on the waves. She got about twenty-something feet, I believe the Bible said, the ark picked up off of ... off the ground, began to rock its way along.

They climbed to the highest peak, hung to the highest branch, they screamed; and everything that had nostrils to breathe perished that wasn't in that ark. Everything that breathed died! They could scream for mercy. They could cry, but they had spurned God so many times until there was nothing to do but bring his justice—and his justice was judgment. Same as He told Eve, "The day you eat thereof that day you die."

67 Now, I want you to notice.... We've seen now twice that the Word come in conflict with reason. And now it's come again—reasoning against the Word. Now you can choose. Joshua said the same thing. He said, "Now, if you want to choose to serve the God that your fathers did before the flood, see, or do you choose to serve the gods of the Amorites whose land you possess? The fathers before the flood rode through the flood, that believed God's Word. The Amorites that turned it down, God's give you their land. Now if you think it's evil to serve God, choose you this day who you'll serve. But for me and my house, we'll stay right with the Lord." Amen! I like that.

The conflict. Notice, the day that the fort was broken in Eden, man went out. Amen. They went out. And the day that they kept the covenant of God in the antediluvian destruction, they went in. They went out of Eden; they went into the ark, and on this third they go up. Go out, go in, go up. We see what they did two times. I'm going to stand with the Lord. Don't you want to? I want to keep the Word of God.

68 Jesus said, "As the days of Noah so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man"—right against wrong, light against dark, life against death, the Word against science. That's right. Scientific research will disprove the Word as they think it does; but it don't disprove the Word. Satan had ... has his system at work again to get people to misbelieve the Word of God.

Satan's wrong way of worship—like Cain and like Balaam—they're very religious. Cain was religious. He brought an altar, made an altar, and frankly, Cain was more religious than Abel. Sure was. He done more for the Lord than Abel did; but Abel come in the way of the Word, that's all. He done more, he built a great denomination, he built a great thing, a great Christian heritage. But you see, he come in the wrong way and it wasn't received. Now ... wrong, for it was contrary to the Word.

Balaam was just as religious as Moses. He come with the same sacrifice, the same lambs, the same clean animals, and everything; and prayed to the same God, and offered sacrifice to the same God that Moses did, though he come in the wrong way, see. It was contrary to the Word, like it was in Eden.

69 The Word won't mix with modern theory, see. You can't have modern theory (now in closing, listen close), the Word won't mix with any modern theory. It can't have a theory and have the Word. You've got to have the Word or the theory. Now which are you going to believe? If the Bible teaches the baptism is in the name of Jesus Christ, and the church says it's Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, then who you going to believe?

If Jesus said you must be borned again, and the church says come join, now what are you going to believe? If Jesus said these signs shall follow them that believe, and the church says you're just a good member, who you going to believe? If Jesus said, "The works that I do shall you do also," and the church says "Days of miracles is past," who you going to believe?

You see what I mean? I can stand here an hour, right down those things, bringing those different things—how theory has built up a system to counteract the Word of God. Now, Christians, stay behind the Word! Yes, sir. Wrong way of life—trying to mix it.

Today they take these women that's dressed any way; take these men if they smoke, drink, or anything else, make them deacons and so forth in the church—even pastors. These dressed women, any way they want to dress, and bring them in and make them sisters in the church. Don't you never try to get to heaven like that. It just won't mix with modern theory.

70 So, we have two classes today that's professing (now listen close, in closing), we have two classes that's professing to be the bride of Christ. That's right. And the Bible speaks there'll be two classes. That's right—the wise virgin and the foolish one. Is that right. There's two classes.

The church says, "We are the church." They go out and have these great evangelistic campaigns, bring the people into the church. The women continue on with their way of doing. The men continue on with their way of doing. They never change their doctrine. They've got it all wrote out and documented and set down, and those Apostles' creed and certain prayers, and all these catechisms, and everything that the Methodists and Baptists and Presbyterians and Catholic and all, read.

And they accept that catechism because some great man back behind said that was right. He might have been a great man. He might have been right. But he hasn't got the authority to say that, because the Bible is God's authority. It's the written Word of God, and any man that adds one thing to it, or takes anything from it, the same will be taking his part out of the book of life. That can't be done so.

71 So now ... but we have two professing it. One said, "Well, we're the church." The other one said, "We're the church." All right. The wise and foolish, both are invited, but did you notice they both had vessels? That's right. They both was virgins—believers. They both had vessels. But Satan is more than a match for us. We know that. We know that Satan is way more than a match for any human being. Don't you never try to do it with your wisdom—outsmart him. You just can't do it.

Jesus knew this, so He sent to the church, that ... so Satan would not outsmart them, a place to be fortified. He sent them the Holy Ghost. And the church does not claim to be smart; they just claim to believe. The preachers can't go out and show you their Ph., double L, Q, U, S, DD, and all these other things. They don't have no great big inauguration times when they're ordained into some ministerial association.

You know I used to sing a little song:

These people may not learned to be,

Or boast of worldly fame,

They have all received their Pentecost,

Baptized in Jesus' name;

And they're telling now, both far and wide,

His power is yet the same,

I'm so glad that I can say I'm one of them.

72 Yes, sir. Yes, they don't have these big things. They don't claim to know anything. They just claim to believe something. Jesus sent the Holy Ghost which is Himself. He said, "A little while and the world seeth me no more, yet ye shall see me for I will be in you, be with you, even in you, to the end of the world."

Now, now watch. Jesus knew it so He sent the Holy Ghost to confirm the Word. Did you get it? See, to confirm to those who've taken their refuge behind the Word that He is in the Word. Let ... them out there, they'll laugh at the system. They'll say they're crazy. But Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, which is Himself, to get it to those that's behind the Word like Abraham's group, to confirm the Word before them to show that He's still the Word. See, that you've taken the right place. All right.

73 Fire is the confirmation of the light coming from the Word. They will fill.... The smart virgin, the wise virgin, had oil in her lamp, and she trimmed her lamp and lit it. Now what is it? Now God is the Word, the oil is the Spirit, and the fire is the gospel light on that oil. God said so, see. That's the vessel. All right. The oil is in the vessel, and the fire burning it shows that it's reflecting the light of what the Word said, see. That's the reflection. Now, that wise virgin could do that; but that other, foolish virgin, was on the

outside, had no oil. And they couldn't reflect nothing but just their church and their denomination, see.

Now, "You say the Word ... you said the Word was Spirit?"

Yes, sir. God said, "My word is Spirit." That's right. The true bride must be unified by the Word. Now, remember, if she is a part of Christ, she has to be the Word of Christ. In order to be the Word of Christ, you have to be baptized into Christ. And when you're in Christ, you believe Christ and Christ is the Word.

Amen! Amen! Amen!

Do you believe it? Amen!

Do you love Him? Amen!

Will you serve Him? Amen, Amen, Amen!

He's the light of the world. Amen!

He's the joy of our hearts. Amen!

He's the power of our life. Amen, Amen,

Amen!

74 The bride must be unified—unified together by the Word. "My sheep hear my voice," and this is his voice on printed word. All right. Unified by the Word, she makes herself ready—not with the regular creed.

Like Esther. When Esther was to be chosen to stand before the king, she didn't adorn herself with all the things. But she adorned herself with a sweet, meek spirit. That's what the bride's adorning herself with, with all of the fruits of the Spirit following it. What's she got? Assembling together in the fellowship of the Word. Amen. Fellowship of the Word. That's right. Fellowshipping, sitting together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus tonight—one accord, one place, one Spirit, one mind, one hope, one God, one purpose. Amen. See, there you are.

Every time the Bible says anything, we say, "Amen." Punctuating every word with, "Amen." Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever. "Amen." Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. "Amen." Everything is "Amen, amen, amen." Right on down, see, in fellowship.

75 Fruits of the Spirit ... her ... what's she got? What is the fruit of the Spirit? Joy. Joy of her heart knowing that He's coming soon. Amen, and amen, amen. Peace of mind. What peace of mind? Peace of mind—know what ... no matter what comes or what goes, let the ship rock. Let the storms come, let the lightning flash, the thunder roar, whatever takes place, don't make a bit of difference. Atomic bombs can fall. You can build rock shelters, bomb shelters, whatever you want to. But she's still saying, "Amen, amen, amen!"

Why? She's fortified. What? Fortified in what? The Word. The Word what? Made flesh, dwelling among us, watching Him move among us in our assembly, see. There He is, so what difference does it make? "Amen." Let the conflict go on.

I've anchored my soul in the haven of rest,

To sail the wild seas no more;

The tempest may sweep o'er the wild

stormy deep,

But in Jesus I'm safe evermore.

76 You say you're in Jesus and then deny his Word—something wrong. He always says, "Amen," to his own Word. You know that. True. All right.

Assembling for fellowship. Joy, one of the fruits of the Spirit, peace of mind, and faith in the Word. Peace, joy, faith, longsuffering, patience, gentleness, faith. What kind of faith? What kind of way you're using your faith to fight the conflict? Are you going to use your faith on some theory, on some reasoning something? Isn't it reasonable that the most of the people comes to this church? Isn't this the big church? No, sir, it isn't.

If that church don't preach every word of that Bible there and "amen" to every

Word of it, believe every sign, every wonder, and see them working right among them, I'd get away from it no matter how big or how little, see. Faith, love, joy, peace, and faith in the Word.

So let Satan set up his guns. We've anchored. Amen. We don't claim to be great people. We're not great people in the sight of the world. We're humble people, peasants. We don't care for the world's riches.

77 My friend, tonight.... I started preaching this gospel.... It's getting late so I'm going to quit, look for tonight. We started preaching about thirty years something, or thirty-one years ago. About 1930-31, somewhere along in there, I started preaching the gospel. Preached this same message—never changed from it because it's the truth. Just stay right with it.

Now tonight I'm a middle-aged man, fifty-three years old—Grandpa. I love Him more than I did back there because I've seen Him in more trials and fights. And I've seen when I come to the place where it was so tempting, when I said something, like Noah in the ark, "This will be." Now watch. Oh, mercy! God what? "It will be." Stay there, "It will be." The sun passes on; it will be.

"Why do you know Brother Branham?"

"God said so. It will be. It has to be—God said so."

So "I've anchored my soul in the haven of rest. In Jesus I'm safe evermore." Ever what comes or goes, let's take it in that manner.

78 Now let us bow our heads to give thanks to Him. Is there someone here tonight who doesn't know Him and hasn't anchored like that? You've never taken your great stand with the Word of God and you'd say, "Brother Branham, I'm going to lift up my hand and say, 'Remember me in prayer,' I have never taken a stand like that, that I'd trust God no matter what come to pass, I'd take his Word no matter what anybody said or done. I still believe his Word. I want you to pray for me, Brother Branham. I believe the conflict's on and I've taken my stand in the ... I've never taken my stand yet. I want to take it on God's side and with the Word."

How many then has already took your stand and standing behind the Word of the Lord? Raise your hand, say, "I'm so thankful that I did." God bless you, one hundred per cent. Praise be God, even little children raising up their hands. My, my! Oh, if this isn't real!

79 Heavenly places in Christ Jesus, fortified by the Word. Fortified by the Word, with the presence of the Spirit here vindicating, proving to us like they did in the early days—the same gospel, the same signs, the same wonders, the same God, the same Word bringing the same things to pass. People standing up, the Spirit falling upon people with the gift of prophecy—prophesying. One will stand, Spirit fall upon them to speak in tongues. They'll speak in tongues, hold their peace, and another one will interpret it. And it shall come to pass.

Oh, my. Seeing our great powers of the Holy Spirit changing our lives from a life of sin, bringing us out of that and making us new creatures in Christ Jesus. How we thank the Lord.

80 Heavenly Father, it's so good to be assembled with this group of your children tonight, these who are sojourning down here in Clarksville. So glad to see this church moving on, to see the pastor, not one disbeliever in the midst of the people, all of them in the refuge. Oh, how we thank Thee for that, Father.

I'm thinking about a little antelope one time. He had got out of the refuge and the hounds was after him. And he was running for dear life, and when he come to the fence where the refuge was, he hurdled the fence and so happy. He snorted and turned around and looked at those hounds, because he was safe. They could not climb the fence; they wasn't built that way. If they'd touch the fence, they'd be knocked back with electrical shock. That's the way we are, Lord, when we get behind the fence, defense of God's Word. Electrical power of the Holy Spirit stands our enemy off. He cannot hurdle the fence; he's not made that way.

Father, we thank Thee that Thou has made us so that we could jump for safety, Lord, into Christ Jesus. We're so glad, Lord, safe evermore. We pray now that you'll

bless this little church, its pastor, its loved ones. Bless all that's here tonight. Bless every minister.

81 We pray for our precious and most noble Brother Neville. And now, as yesterday Satan would try to pull him from the scene, smashing him into that car, and he would try to do something bad—but You was there on the scene. God, he tried to take me the other day down at the rifle range—but You was there on the scene. He tried to take Brother Willard Crase when he slammed into that pole—but You were there on the scene. Oh, it's so good to know You. As the poet once said, " 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at his Word, just to rest upon the promise, just to know 'thus saith the Lord.' " How we thank Thee for this.

Bless our souls, forgive our sins, heal the sickness, Lord, that dwells among us. We know that these old mortal bodies are feeble, and they're rocking under the impact of sickness. And we pray that you'll keep us well to preach the gospel. Let us live many happy years if Jesus tarries.

And may we all be ready for the rapture—all in the ark of safety in Christ Jesus by one Spirit, baptized in there up on the upper floor where we can see the light of the gospel shining in, and punctuate every Word with "amen." Grant it, Lord. Bless them and keep them. I claim them for jewels for your crown, Lord, in Jesus' name. Amen.

I love Him, I love Him

Because He first loved me

And purchased my salvation

On Calvary's tree.

82 Now, as we know, the Word sometimes is cutting, but we love it that way. The Word of God, said Hebrews 4, is sharper than a two-edged sword. It cuts off everything two edges coming and going. And it's also more powerful, more quicker, cutting even to asunder into the marrow of the bone and discerns the thoughts and the intents of the heart. What is it? The Word. The Word, see. And now, after we've had a real cutting hard message, did you enjoy it? Yes, sir—the conflict.

Aren't you glad you're fortified tonight? It builds faith, and strength, and hope to the church. Oh, "On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand."

83 Now let's just worship Him for about two or three minutes, will you? Let's just close our eyes, raise our hands. Sister dear, give us a chord, "I Love Him." Will you, on that?

I love Him, (Just lose yourself

now, worship.)

Because He first loved me

And purchased my salvation

On Calvary's tree

Now, let's look to one another and shake one another's hands, say,

I love Him, I love Him

Because He first loved me

And purchased my salvation

On Calvary's tree.

84 What was Calvary? His Kadesh-barnea. What did He do? Go up there and said, "Man lives after death. I'll prove it to you." Goes up there to Kadesh-barnea, took the judgment of us all—Calvary. Died for our sins, and crossed the river of death. On that third day He come back. The stone rolled back down the hill and He walked out alive.

Some of them said, "He's a spirit."

He said, "Feel me. Has a spirit got flesh and bones like I have?" Said, "You got anything to eat?"

They said, "We got some honeycomb bread down here, I guess, and some fish."

Said, "Let's have a piece of it." And He took and eat it, and He said, "You see a

spirit don't eat like I eat." He said, "Now you go up there to Jerusalem, and you start with the gospel from there, and I'll send back to you the first fruits of the ... of your resurrection, because I'll lift you up from unbelief from the Word and make you have faith in this and believe. And you'll be above sin and all unbelief."

85 And that way, some will fall in one watch, two watch—remember, the seventh watch. Did you remember that? The seventh watch is when He come. What was the seventh watch? The seventh angel's message. First watch, they fell asleep. Second watch, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, all down through Thyatira, and all down through all the ages, down to the Laodicean watch; but in the seventh watch the voice come, "Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him." And what? They awoke and trimmed their lamps.

I love Him, I love Him

Because He first loved me

And purchased my salvation

On Calvary's tree.

Oh, my, Sister Ruth, I didn't mean to shut it off. I thought I was trying to run these beautiful songs out. I wanted to get that tape. Trying to do—catch these songs as it went out. Don't you love that?

86 You know, I do love good old Pentecostal singing, but I always said I hate an over-trained voice—one that holds their breath till they're blue in the face on some "squeekeeee." They don't ... they're not singing; they're just making a noise, see. I like that good old singing, you know, from your heart, like: "Amen, amen, amen!" Don't you? I like this:

Faith in the Father, faith in the Son,

Faith in the Holy Ghost, these three are One;

Demons will tremble, and sinners awake;

Faith in Jehovah makes anything shake.

87 Makes the kingdom of the devil crumble and fall. Turn them big blast words on, "Thus saith the Lord," that atomic Word of God flies out there and just disintegrates Satan's kingdom. Amen. "Onward Christian soldiers, goes marching as to war." That's right. All right, let's sing again. Now everybody to the top of your voice, with your eyes closed, hands up in the air, "I Love Him." All right, sister dear, all right.

I love Him, I love Him

Because He first loved me

And purchased my salvation

On Calvary's tree.

Heavenly Father, into your hands now we commend our beings. Do with us as You see fit. We're trusting You'll use us, Lord, to bring light to the others in our community, and wherever we shall be led. And God, You watch over us now and protect us till we get to meet again and bringing in precious sheaves. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Now it's a pleasure to ... being with you all tonight have this time of fellowship. I'm going to turn the pulpit back to your beloved pastor, Brother Junie. All right, brother.

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Sermons By

William Marrion Branham

"… in the days of the voice …" Rev. 10:7