

Absolute

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William Marrion Branham

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

Introduction

The remarkable ministry of William Branham was the response of the Holy Spirit to the prophecies of the Scriptures in Malachi 4:5,6, Luke 17:30, and Revelations 10:7, and many other Bible prophecies. This worldwide ministry has been a continuation of the working of God by His Spirit at this End time. It is in the Scriptures that it is spoken that it would be necessary for a ministry to arise to prepare a people for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

We pray that the printed Word will become written in your heart as you prayerfully read this message.

While every effort has been made to provide an accurate unabridged transcription and/or translation, the English audio files are the best representation of the sermons spoken by William Branham.

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Absolute

1 So happy to be here this morning and to hear this exhortation, just as coming to the platform. Sorry to be late, but the sick in the back out there, and cars, ambulance like, and I had to catch those that couldn't get in (you see?) before I could get in.

2 Now, I wonder if the sister that's got the little fellow, if she can't come back this afternoon. I want to preach this evening also, if the Lord willing. If she can't come back for the dedication then (while we've been standing so long this time), well, tell her she can bring the baby on now. But if she can come back tonight, it'll be a little better for us. But let whatever she can do; whatever it means. Why, if she can't come back, we'll bring the little fellow now for the dedication. And now, all these.... While I'm speaking, if she wants to come now this would be the time.

3 Now, tonight there is a very special.... I want to speak on the subject tonight, a prophetic message of "Sir, Is This the Time?" So, if the Lord willing, I want to speak on that subject tonight. "Is This the Time, Sir?"— or, "Sir, Is This the Time?" rather. And then, I want to take this opportunity in the presence of the church, which.... There's been many things happened in the last few days that points up to a great something that I do not understand. But we're always.... God's ways are past finding out by man, so we just have to walk by faith. If anyone could explain God, then it would no more be necessary to have faith, because you know then. But we just walk by faith.

And this morning I thought I would try to just have a regular evangelistic service, because.... Kind of changed my thought after I got down here and seen so many standing, and been waiting so long. And then, tonight, maybe be less here, and then I can go ahead with this, what I want to say.

4 One thing I'd like to announce, while many of them are together— many of you together, it's something that I've refrained from announcing for the last couple weeks; that is, your prayers has been answered concerning the tax case that I had with the government. It's settled. And so we are.... It's all over now. As many of you understand, what they had against me was those checks that had been made out for the campaign; and yet, they tried to say they were mine out there and wanted to charge me three-hundred-and-fifty-something-thousand dollars for being my personal property. And it wasn't; it was the campaign's. And the church knows about that; all of you know about it.

5 And finally, they've come to the place that.... (I'll just give you a little

outline of what happened.) They had been most three to five years about (nearly five years, I guess), in the case, and back and forth, and character, and everything. But I'm so grateful that they couldn't find anything against me, so they couldn't indict me for it. So there wasn't nothing to be indicted, only they said, just my ignorance myself, I guess. But not knowing much about law, they'd bring me the checks; and I'd sign them, put my name of them, place them in the campaign. But then, as long as I put my name on them, they were mine. You see? No matter.... Said, "That's very nice for you to ... like that, but they were yours, and then you give them to the church. But as soon as you put your name on it, it was yours; no matter what they was designated for, they were wrote to you." So, and if they'd been put on ... somebody had put across there "personal gift," it would've been all right; but they just wrote "William Branham" see, and when I put my name on them, that done it; it was all of it. So they was.... And then finally with prayer....

6 And then not long ago, you know, I had the vision that a great, dark, smoky, sooty, scaly (like an alligator) man come moving towards me with iron fingers. I had one little knife, like that, and he had on him "United States Government." And I couldn't help nothing, I was helpless; and then the Lord came on the scene, and it was conquered. And you remember me telling you that long ago.

And they offered a compromise the other day. And my attorney, Mr. Orbison in New Albany, and Isen Miller in Indianapolis on the tax case called me and told me, "Come down." And I went down, Brother Roberson, and I, and my wife, and the trustees of the church here, and all of us; we went down, and they told us that they were—the government was willing to compromise.

7 And I said, "If I owe anybody anything, I'll pay them. I'll do my best. But," I said, "I don't owe that." And so I said, "It's honestly, God knows. And why don't they indict me then if I'm guilty?" I said, "They've had five years to try to do it, but they couldn't find nothing to do it with." So I said, "No, I just won't pay it until it's proved that I owe it."

And then, the attorney took me in, and talked to me, and said, "Now, we can try the case. Government will try it." And said, "When they do, the only thing they can find against you was that you...."

8 The way I done it; I didn't just.... I don't know nothing about keeping books, so I just had to do it the way I thought was honest. And it was never banked in my name; it was always banked to the name of the church, campaign, and so forth, see. So it wasn't nothing that I could do about it.

And he said, "Well, they are willing to compromise for fifteen

that you German people can't understand." I said, "On my road down here today, a dog barked at me in English. That's right." I said, "He had no trouble at all. And there sat a bird, and he sang for me in English. I come down the street, and a mother had a little baby on her arm, when I come in back there at the back." And I said, "That baby was crying in English. What's the matter with you people." That's right. Oh, if you just look around, He's everywhere, isn't He? Sure He is.

154 Now, let's just raise our hands, and close our eyes, and sing, while we ask the pastor to come up for dismissing. Let's stand up first. Everybody on your own feet. Everybody, do you love Him, again now? Say, "Amen!" And you know, the word "Hallelujah" is the same in every dialect? Go in the Hottentot jungles of Africa; "hallelujah" is the same word. Hallelujah! It ought to almost be a Christian salutation, oughtn't it? Hallelujah! The word means "praise our God." And He's worthy of it, isn't He? He's absolutely my Saviour; He's absolutely Jesus Christ, the Son of God to me. He's absolutely the same yesterday, today, and forever to me. Is He that way to you?

I love Him, I love Him,
Because He first loved me;
And purchased my salvation
On Calvary's tree.

thousand dollars, with ten thousand dollars penalty"; and the attorney's fees was fifteen thousand. That made me forty thousand. And so then, they want five more, I think it is now, so I went ... I said, "Where in the world would I ever get forty thousand dollars?" I said, "You know my bank account here, it says about a hundred dollars or maybe less." I said, "Where would I get forty something thousand dollars?" And I said, "I have nothing for collateral; I just haven't got it. That's all.

9 And he said, "Mr. Branham," he said, "here's what it is: If we try the case," he said, "there's no doubt but what we can beat the case." He said, "But here's.... We can beat it, because here's what I'll do. They're going to claim all that's yours, because you signed your name to it. And they are going to claim it's yours, though it was banked in the name of the campaign, church, Branham Campaign, and in a church."

And not one time could they find one cent that I ever spent on myself. That's the truth; God knows! There's men sitting right here now, been right with me all along. There wasn't one cent that I ever spent for myself. It was all for the kingdom of God, everywhere, every check, everything else.

10 But see that? But that don't matter. It was supposed to be mine first and then the church's, the campaign's. And they have a way of doing it, you know, all kind of escapes they can make. So then I said, "Well, I just won't do it."

And he said, "Well, if we beat the case that way, because I'll declare them personal gifts [See?]. I'll declare it, by the government, personal gifts." And said, "Then, when I do that, all over ten thousand dollars will be inheritance; and then, you'll be right back in it again, and they'll hold you another five years checking all them."

11 See? When you write a check, it goes through the clearing house; they Photostat, copy of that check. 'Course, I had all the checks too, that it went through.

So they said, "That's where they get you right back again." And he said, "Another thing, Mr. Branham, if you ever are called in to the government, like that, under an investigation, no matter what you ever do, in the eyes of the public you're a crook." See? But that's all.

12 Look at this little Baptist minister down here in Mississippi. That little fellow.... A woman said that he come in and insulted her. And that man brought evidence from across the country and everywhere (he wasn't even around the city for days before the day, or day after), insomuch that the judge wanted to turn back and have him to sue the woman for scandal. He said, "Let her go."

And when that was put on a monitor test across the country, you know what happened? Seventy-five percent of the American people said, "Where there is smoke, there's fire." And that poor little fellow (just as innocent as I'd be or anybody else) will labor under that the rest of his days, when he had nothing at all to do with it.

13 I felt very bad, for a while, to think that I put my life to the kingdom of God to try to make (see?) people pay your taxes, and do things, and do what's right, and make crooks become right men, and have to be put up like I was a crook myself.

I thought, "What in the world have I did?" And then it came to me, and I looked in the Bible. Every man in the Bible, no exceptions, that ever had a spiritual office, if Satan couldn't get them on morals or something, the government caught them. Go right back to anywhere you want to, all the way down—Moses, Daniel, Hebrew children, John the Baptist, Jesus Christ (died by the government—capital punishment), Paul, Peter, James the great, James the less, every one of them died under the government, because it is, every government is the seat of Satan. Jesus said, so; the Bible says it, see.

14 Every government is controlled by the devil. There's coming a government who will be controlled by Christ; but that's in the millennium. But these governments now, no matter how well we think they are, yet the back of them they're dominated by Satan. "These kingdoms," he said, "are mine; I do with them whatever I wish to. I'll give them to you, if you'll worship me."

Jesus said, "Get thee hence, Satan! Thou shalt worship the Lord, and Him only shalt thou serve."

15 And then I got discouraged (my wife's listening to me); I went home and I said, "No, sir! If I owed it, I'd pay it. I do not owe it, and I'm just not going to pay it. That's all." I said, "How can I pay it anyhow?"

So I went home and I said, "Meda, wash the kid's face, get their clothes ready; I'm leaving." I said, "They won't even.... Everything, it's just upside-down." I said, "What have I done? Tell me!" And I said, "Yet, me forty thousand dollars? Whew! You don't realize what that means to me!" And she come in as a nice little wife would, I said, "I'm leaving!"

She said, "You think that would do any good? Prayed over it yet?"

16 I thought, "Well, maybe I better pray again." I goes back in. It seemed like He said to me a scripture. Always we want to watch the Scripture, what God did about it. You see?

And one day it was asked to Him, you know, trying to accuse Him to the government; they said, "Is it right for us free Jews to give tribute or

150 Bless our pastor, Brother Neville, this humble servant, Lord, standing at his post of duty just as reverent, as a member of the body of Christ, trying his very best to follow everything that You'd tell him to do.

Bless the trustees, them men who stood with me so gracious in this great, dark time that I've been through. Stand with the church, who prayed with me and stood by me in times of trouble. Lord. I love them, and I offer my prayer that they will look to You, Lord. May they look away from this mortal clay of a servant; may they look to Him, who is the omnipotent, who is.... And we know, Lord, that we are finite. No matter who we are, we're still mortals. But not the messenger, but the message. Grant it, Lord. That's where we point to, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Grant that He'll be so real to everyone here today, even to the little children, that He'll become the absolute of the entire congregation. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

151 I love Him, I love Him,

Because He first loved me;

And purchased my salvation

On Calvary's tree.

Now, while we sing it again, shake hands with somebody in front of you, back of you, side of you, just everybody shake hands now. Just remain seated; just turn around and shake hands if you can, see.

I love Him, I love Him,

Because He first loved me;

And purchased my salvation

On Calvary's tree.

152 They just announced communion Monday night at midnight. Let's raise our hands now and sing to Him. How many feels He is your absolute? The Word, He is the Word. Do you believe that? He is the Word, and the Holy Spirit germitized that Word to make that life live in you, of the Word, the vindication of the Word. Put the Word in your heart; let the Holy Spirit come in, and watch the Word move. Believe, be humble; don't desire to be a great somebody; be a nobody, that God can make you a somebody, see. All right. Do that now.

Everybody love Him say, "Amen!" You know what the word "Amen" means? "So be it." Amen! That's right.

Let's say, "Hallelujah!" You know what that means? "Praise our God!"

153 When I was in Germany not long ago, I got up before about thirty or forty thousand people out there that day, and I said, "It's a strange thing

revelation; You were the vision; You were his hopes, his salvation. Even at the hour of death, when he knowed he was going to it, You were still his absolute.

147 You were Daniel's absolute. You were all the prophets' absolute. In the midst of the denominational difference, and the troubles of their days, and the Pharisees and Sadducees, still there was men who took You for their absolute.

And today, Lord, men and women with compassion, with love, and hearts that are bleeding, Lord, for a real experience of knowing God, and to have an assurance of an absolute, maybe all the people ever knowed before, Lord, was to join the church. And we realize, as I have tried to sincerely, not to be different (you know my heart), but tell them that you cannot join the church, you join the lodge, the Methodist, and Baptist, and Catholic, and Pentecostal lodges; but you're born into the church—the mystical body of Christ, and become members of His body, with the gifts of the Spirit to make His great body move in action and power.

148 God, that's what these hands meant this morning when they went up. "Place me, O Lord. Take me, mold me, make me; just make my position in life such an absolute; tied to Christ, that I'll think of nothing else but that absolute." Grant it, Lord. Bless them heal the sick and the afflicted. Save the lost.

Now, Lord, we know it's customary to call to the altar the people, but that has become a tradition to us. And this morning with the altars filled and the little children and all.... But, Lord, somehow You spoke to them; they raised up their hands. They made, as it was a decision. They want to, they want something real; and I'm offering my prayer in their behalf. Grant it to each one, Lord.

Be with us now, forgiving our sin, healing our sickness, and giving us the deliverance that we need.

149 And, Lord, above all things, may we never forget today that we are tied to the absolute, our North Star, to Calvary, to Christ, and the Holy Spirit is taking the words of God and making them manifest literally to us by healing the sick, showing us visions, raising the dead, and doing just exactly what He promised to do.

And may this church and these people, of the portion of the body of Christ that's assembled here this morning, live like Jesus said to live: "Ye are the salt of the earth." And may they become so salty, till their community will be thirsty. Salt creates a thirst, and salt can only save as it contacts. And I pray, God, that You'll grant this to the people, that they might be soul winners also.

taxes to Caesar?"

He said, "You got a penny?" Said, "Whose inscription's on it?"

Said, "Caesar's."

Said, "Then you give Caesar the things that's Caesar's, and to God the things that's God's."

17 And I thought of that; I've turned over in the Bible and read it. I thought, "Truly, Lord, that's right! But this don't belong to Caesar; this was Yours, it wasn't Caesar's. If it'd been mine, and I'd had to pay more taxes or something, well that'd been different. It belonged to Caesar, but this is Yours. [See?] And it didn't belong to Caesar in the first place."

You know, He's always got the answer in the Word. I just read a little farther, and He said, "Say, Simon, haven't you got a fishhook in your pocket? [See?] You always carry a little fishhook and a string. And I just made a deposit this morning in a fish bank down there at the river, you know." Said, "I made a deposit, and the banker will certainly give up what He's got. Just go down there and throw the hook in the river; and when you get up the bank, open his mouth (you see?), and he'll give out the coin. Let's not offend them. Don't bring offense to them. [See.] Go pay it, Simon; that'll be for me and you."

I thought, "True, God, You've got fish banks and everything else across the country. I don't know how it'd be done."

18 But we went down; I got the brothers right here in the church, that's stood on my note. And I put a note in, and got the forty thousand dollars, and paid it off. I went home; I wanted to know the way I wrote that check if they'd ever come back on me again. I said, "This is to say that I'm free from all taxes." Whoever endorses that one is sure going to be in a mess after that.

I kept calling back the bank to see if they'd do it, and finally Bob told me; he said, "Billy they did it."

And I went in and put my arm around the wife; I said, "Honey, I'm free!"

What a feeling to be free. And so I can pay it back now (they made it real easy on me), I can pay it back at four thousand dollars a year. Now, I can't loaf anymore, folks; I got to get out and go to work. So, it'll take me ten years to pay it back—if Jesus doesn't come. And when He does, all the debts are settled then anyhow, see. So I hope that you all ... your prayers (and tonight I'll continue on with something just a little to that), but your prayers is what helped me. Thank you so much. God bless you. No matter where we're ever at, I'll never forget that.

19 Tonight, if the Lord willing, I wish to state some of the facts that I know, and be sure to come. Now remember, "Sirs, What Time Is It?"

Now, we're going to.... I believe they got a full schedule for the rest of this week—and Monday night is the ... services today, and tonight, and Monday. Monday night is the watch service. And then, that gives you Tuesday, New Year's day, if you're out of town, can go back home. And we'll have some fine ministers here now for that meeting, a great group of fine speakers. And everybody will be speaking at intervals down on till midnight; and sometimes they take communion (if it's in line, I don't know whether they are this time or not) right as.... Where they are whooping and hollering, and shooting, and drinking, and going on, we take the communion (Amen!), start the New Year's right with the communion.

20 Now, you're all invited, and I hope that you ... God of the heavens will give you an opportunity to stay over if you can.

Now, before we approach the Word, I want to say this too, that I certainly thank this church, its members, for this fine suit of clothes that you bought me. Thank you, very much. That's so much to me: all your cards and things through the Christmas seasons, and gifts that you sent to the family; and oh, they were innumerable to me, and little spots that cannot touch the spot in my heart. Nothing could do it like that, to know that it come from you.

And so, some of them sent me some of their Christmas gifts in money, and some of them sent.... Such as, one brother sent me a pocketbook that he'd had made with my name on it; and a little pin that you look through, and it's got the Lord's prayer in it; and oh, things like that, we just treasure. Wife and I, and the children want to tell you thanks so much. It's so little, but I'll say this (this is the greatest word I think that anyone could say): "God bless you." There's nothing could be any greater.

21 Now, and to these brethren here at the church who bought me that rifle, I wore my suit, but I couldn't bring the rifle to church. It was.... They really would have something against me then, wouldn't they? So I certainly thank you, my brethren. And I was going to read their names on a little.... But one of the brethren was up yesterday; said, "Oh, don't thank me, Brother Branham, it would just take all the joy out of it," see.

So I thought, "Maybe the rest of them might think the same thing." But I got your name; they typed it out. I'll always remember it, and the Lord bless you greatly.

And you know what I relax at, and just go in that den room, and sit there, and live all over. When I get so wound up I can't go no farther, then think about some hunting trip I took somewhere, or somewhere went

Though stretched from sky to sky.

144 Think of it, when about three-fourths of the earth is water. And look at the hydrogen, and oxygen in the air, the humidity and stuff, see. If every moisture was ink, and think of the billions, and trillions, and trillions of straws which would be quills. And think of the billions of men that's been on earth and every one of them a scribe by trade. To dip them pens into the ocean and try to figure out the love of God would drain the ocean dry; or could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from eternity to eternity.

Don't figure it out; you can't. You lose your mind trying to figure it out; just believe it. Make Him your absolute! Stay there; the sweet peace and an experience that you'll never forget, anchor to that, and your anchor will hold within the vale. Let's bow our heads.

145 How great Thou art! How great Thou art! How many in here with your heads bowed this morning.... It's approaching New Year's now; and you've been very religious (and that's good, I appreciate it, every one of you. I'm sure God does), but you really haven't had that absolute experience, that something that you just didn't make believe, you just didn't imagine, but something spoke back to you. And then you seen your life change from that time, and every word of God, every promise is punctuated with a "Amen." Then you're holding to the absolute, 'cause you remember, He said, "Heavens and earth will pass away, but my Word shall not fail." You haven't come to that place yet to where you could say "Amen" to every word, if it was against your creed, if it was against your denomination; but you want to come to that place like Moses, like the rest of them that could not do that till they caught that absolute, and you want it in your life this morning, would you just signify the same by just lifting your hands to God. God bless you. All right, sir. All over the building.

146 Gracious Father, I know that sometime we must part. There's got to be a time then when we're going to leave this world. We don't know what time that is, and it doesn't make too much difference. If our time is finished, then we want to come. Our objective of staying here is to serve You.

And since on the road to destructions one day, as Paul was on the road to Damascus to make havoc of the church, a light blinded him. And oh, God, that light followed him, for it was Christ. And he anchored there to an absolute that even death itself, he could laugh in the face of it, and say, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ."

You become a complete absolute to that apostle. You were the amen to him in every sentence. You were the star of his life, the guide post. You were the compass that guided him through the storm. You were the

close. It's getting late. Well look here, I thought it was eleven o'clock; and it's 12:30.)

141 Friends, all day, all night, all year, and all through eternity could never speak of it. Don't try to figure it out. You can't. There's no way of figuring it out. You say, "Brother Branham, if you...."

I don't know; I just believe; I quit trying to do anything about it; I just believe it that's all, see. "Not him that runneth, or him that willeth, it's God shows mercy," see. Not by works, it's by grace, see. I just believe it. God's.... It's up to Him to do the rest of it. Just believe it. Act upon it.

This famous song, I heard them play it ... sing it here or somewhere:

O, love of God, how rich and pure!

How fathomless and strong!

It shall forevermore endure,

... saints' and angels' song.

142 When a man in mathematics tried to break down, or tried to show by his education, it'll run you crazy. You can't do it. Don't try to do it. Don't try to figure it out; God's past figuring out. You don't figure God out, you just believe God. That's the secret. Don't figure it out, just believe it. I can't tell you what it means; I can't tell you how to do it. I just know, I just believe it; that's all.

Just like, you promise something to a little kid, he believes it. You should keep your word. You're God's child. He keeps His Word; just simply believe it. Don't be shook up; just stay right there. God did it one time, He has to do it again. If He don't, He'll tell you why He can't do it. That's right. Now, just stay right with it.

143 You know, that one verse there.... I believe our precious brother there (was baptized last night) sings that song, "Oh, Love of God." They tell me that that verse, this part of it, was found penned on a insane institution's wall, when it said:

If we with ink the ocean fill,

Or were the skies of parchment made;

And every stalk on earth a quill,

And every man a scribe by trade.

To write the love of God above

Would drain the ocean dry,

Or could the scroll retain the whole,

fishing. I appreciate that. God bless you.

22 Now, can we bow our heads just a moment as we approach the Word! I'm sure there's requests in here this morning too numerable to numerate just now, so I wonder, while we have our heads bowed, your special request, if you'd just keep it on your heart, and just raise up your hands, and say, "God, you know what I'm thinking of now."

23 Lord Jesus, You see every hand; and You know what's behind that. Down beneath that hand lays a request. And we are coming now, reverently up to the throne of the living God, that great white pearl that stretches across the space of time, where Jehovah God sits in there, and the blood of Christ laying upon the altar. And we speak across that blood by Him that said, "Ask the Father anything in my name; it'll be granted." Won't you hear, God, this morning and answer their requests? I lay my prayer with theirs today that You'll grant it.

Here are handkerchiefs laying here, Lord, that sick and afflicted.... And we're taught in the Bible that they took from St. Paul handkerchiefs and aprons; and they were placed upon the sick, and unclean spirits went out of them, and diseases departed. And Father, as we have known for a long time, and we surely know, that we're not St. Paul; but after all, we feel that it wasn't St. Paul, it was the Christ that was in him. And You are the same yesterday, today, and forever according to the Scripture.

24 Now, these people, Lord, believe that if we ask God, and take these handkerchiefs, and lay them upon their sick, that they shall recover. I pray that it'll be so, Lord. When these handkerchiefs are placed upon the sick.... As it was said, one time Israel starting in the line of duty, going to the promised land, and the Red Sea cut them off right in the path of duty; but God looked down through that pillar of fire with angry eyes; and that sea got scared, and it rolled back its waves, its waters; and Israel went through on dry land to the promised land.

Now, Lord, today look through the blood of Jesus. And You see this act of faith that we're performing here this morning; and may Satan get scared and move away. And may each one of these pilgrims that's present, and each one that these handkerchiefs will lay upon, may the road be opened up, the sickness moved away; and may they journey on towards the promised land, being led by the Holy Spirit, the pillar of fire. Grant it, Lord.

Now, bless the services, the words, the context, the reading; and may the Holy Spirit take the Word this morning and sweetly divide it to each one of us, Lord, as we're growing close to some great, tremendous something, that we know not what. Our hearts are moved strangely, Lord, and we pray now as we reverently approach Thee and Thy Word that You'll

interpret to us the meaning thereof. For we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

25 Now tonight, don't forget "The Time, What Time Is It?"

And now, this morning I wish to turn (you that have your Bibles or mark it, if you care to)—in the Scriptures, where we want to speak from for a few moments, found in the book of Acts. We might read two or three places: Acts 26:15 first, Acts the 25th chapter and the 15th verse, to begin. Then we want to read Acts 23:11; and you might add with this (if you wish to, I probably won't have time to read it) Philippians 1:20. It's all about the same course, the same words.

26 Now, in the book of Acts 26:15, reads like this:

And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

... arise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, ... whom now I send thee,

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Whereupon, O ... Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision:

But shewed first unto them at Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coast of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

In Acts 23 and the 11th verse again:

And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of a good cheer, Paul: for ... thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

May God add His holy blessings to the reading of this most gracious, holy Word that we have before us.

27 Now, I was hearing a man speak ... or taught not long ago, and he used the word "absolute." And I thought, "That's a very fine word; I hear it used so many times." "Absolutely." That's....

I looked up in the dictionary, Webster's. According to Webster's, it's "perfect in itself; unlimited in its power; primarily, an ultimate." And an ultimate is the "amen"; that's all. A "absolute," it's "the unlimited in

could raise the dead; for He's the same yesterday, today, and forever! I wasn't sure; I didn't know till I seen. And when I saw the baby, it was an absolute. Absolutely right! There it was. Death has to give up its victim.

138 Here went the Son of God; that bee of death begin to buzz around Him. "Aw, how could he be a prophet! How could he stand there and let spit in his face? How could he stand there and let them make fun of him and not do something about it! That isn't Immanuel! That's just an ordinary man. Look at the drunken slobbers from them drunken soldiers. Look at his face bleeding!"

The devil said, "I'll get him. I'll get him." Here he come like a bee, the sting of death, buzzing around Him. But, brother, when that bee ever anchored its stinger in that Immanuel, when he come out, he lost his stinger, even death itself.

No wonder Paul later could look in the face of it and say, "Oh, death, where is your stinger; grave, where is your victory? Thanks be to God, Who giveth us the victory." Christ's death was the absolute to every man that feared it.

My heart says "amen" to every word in His book. (I'm closing, sure enough now. I just got to cut this off, see.)

139 That's why I know the Holy Spirit is my compass that guides me. He is the one that makes me know this Word is true; He is my absolute; He is my sunshine; He's my life; He's my anchor! When troubles are on, He's my North Star. When I'm lost, the Holy Spirit is my compass that guides me back to the place.

Denominations are like other stars; they shift with the world. Other stars shift as the world shifts, but not the North Star. The world can shift where it wants to, but it stays put. Oh, brother! The North Star is anchored. The others shift around; you can see them here and there, and everywhere else. That's the way with the denominational churches. But Christ is the absolute. He's the one you can put confidence in. When the denominations got you all twisted up, just look to the North Star. The Holy Spirit is your compass.

140 He ever remains true to His Word. When they told me that them things couldn't happen in a modern day like this, I knowed if there is no God, then live, eat, drink, and be merry. If there is a God, let's serve Him. And I've lived to see the day that He has performed everything, even to raising the dead when He was here on earth. And we know that by documented statements that it is the truth. Yes, sir! He is my absolute.

Now, make Him your absolute. Take in the time of my trouble, He's always a absolute. Now watch, by the grace of God.... (Now, I just better

he had.... Well, I guess, they had two-hundred ushers standing there; and she climbed over them. The night before, that blind man received his sight; and she knew. (She was Catholic.) But finally, I said, "Go, Brother Moore, and pray for her, because that baby...." It was raining, pouring down, they'd been standing there since early that morning (out in that big bull ring). And I said.... (Let me down on ropes behind to get into the place, just there for three nights.) I stood there, and I said, "As I was saying...." (preaching) and looked; I seen a little baby out here in front of me, a little Mexican baby, no teeth, just sitting there, laughing at me—right here in front of me. I said, "Wait a minute, Brother Moore, bring her here." Oh, absolute!

The ushers cleared back; here she come. She fell down and said, "Padre, Padre!"

I said, "Stand up!"

And Brother Espinoza said, "Stand up!" (He told her in Spanish.) She stood up there.

I said, "Heavenly Father, I'm standing here in this rain...."

137 A pretty little woman about twenty-three years old, something like that, her hair hanging down, her little face looking up like that, the look in her eyes—expectation; she'd seen that man that'd been totally blind for about forty years, his eyes come open on the platform. She knew if God could open blinded eyes, He could heal her baby. There she lay there, a little stiff thing laying under a blanket like that, and it soaking wet. She'd been standing there all morning and afternoon too. There it was about eleven o'clock—ten o'clock that night, something like that, holding that baby out (you seen the article in the Christian Businessmen) there, holding that baby like that.

I said, "Heavenly Father, I do not know what this means. I'm just your servant, but I seen that baby standing yonder; it was alive. I lay my hands upon it in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Said, "Waa!" and begin to cry. The mother grabbed the baby and started screaming, and the people started screaming out through here, and women fainting, and things. I said, "Don't you say nothing about that. Send a runner with that baby ... with that mother, and go to that doctor, and let him sign a statement that that baby died. It died with pneumonia the morning before that, or that morning at nine o'clock." And we got the signed statement by the doctor; the baby was pronounced dead in the doctor's office that morning, and the mother packed it around all day. What was it? An absolute!

What was it? She believed if God could open blinded eyes, why, God

power," the word "absolute." It's perfect in itself. That's all of it; that settles it. And I thought, "That's a glorious thing; that's a wonderful word."

And now, a word is a thought expressed. First, it must be a thought, and then it becomes a word; because you do not speak your words without thought.

28 When we speak in tongues we have no thought; it's God taking the thoughts; it's God's thought using our lips. We don't think or know what you're saying when you're speaking in tongues, if it's inspired speaking. When you interpret you do not know what you're saying; you just say it, that's all, see. That's God. And prophesying, you're not using your own thoughts; it's God, 'cause you say things that you ordinarily wouldn't think about saying, see.

29 But the word "absolute" is an ultimate; and therefore, I think that everybody should have an ultimate. And every great achievement that's ever been achieved, there has been an absolute behind it. No matter what it was, it's had an absolute behind it. And every person in order to achieve something has to first have the absolute. And that's the final wind back through this, that, back through the other, till you come to that absolute, or the "amen," or the ultimate of what you're.... You got something you have to tie to, in other words. It's the final tying post to every achievement. It's somewhere; it might wind through many different things, till it gets to that tie post; but there is the "amen" to all of it. There must be such a thing. You cannot go on through life without having one.

30 When you got married, there had to wind back through your mind something, till you hit that tie post. And it should have been love for your wife or your husband. Well, maybe she isn't as pretty as John's wife; or she's not this, that ... but there's something about her that it strikes you. You say, "She might not be as pretty as the other," or, "He might not be as handsome as the other"; but there has to be an absolute there that that person's different. And there's where you hold on to. If that isn't there, you better not get married, that tie post, that absolute.

31 We can think of many who had absolutes in the Bible. Oh, how we could take down through the stream of that Bible, and just be here two weeks from now, and never even touch the surface, if we'd think of the absolutes in the Bible. For instance, let me just call one or two, just brief them.

Look at Job. Now, he had an absolute. Everything went wrong for that man, a just man. Now, we would be daresn't to say that he wasn't just, because God said he was. There was no one on earth like Job. He was perfect in the sight of God; and he knew it, because he had an ultimate; he had an absolute.

32 When everything seemed to be contrary, sickness broke out, his friends might've said, "Now, there you are, Job, that proves that you are sinning; you're wrong." And then, the bishops come down (they called them Job's comforters), and instead of comforting him, they seen nothing but sin in his life; because God had dealt with him the way He had.

And his children was killed; his property was burned; his everything went wrong, and even his own life in jeopardy, sitting on a ash heap, broke out from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet with boils. And even his lovely, sweet companion, the mother of those children, said, "You should curse God and die the death." But in the face of all that, Job had an absolute!

33 Oh, in time of sickness if we could only tie ourself to that absolute. Job knowed that he had done Jehovah's bidding, and he had faith in what he done, because Jehovah required it. If we can just do that! Jehovah required a burnt offering for his sin. And Job, not only for himself, but for his children, had made a burnt offering, and that's all God required.

Oh, you might say, "I wish that's all He required today."

It's less than that, just faith in His Word. If you make His Word your absolute, you can ... any divine promise in the Bible, you can tie your soul to it. No matter how much the waves whip you around, you're still tied. Your absolute.

34 And he held on to it, and when his comforters said, "You've sinned," he knowed he had not. He was just, because he'd done Jehovah's bidding. And when his.... The man come in and said, "Your children's dead"; another one come in, said, "Your camels are all burned up, and there come fire down from heaven...."

Look what an argument his discomforters had, "You see? The fire came from heaven. Now, Job, that proves...."

"It proves nothing!"

"Now, He wouldn't have struck your children, Job; you're a just man."

But Job said, "I know that I've done what's right." He still held on; he had something that he could drive down. That's it. He had accepted it; he had done exactly what God told him to do; and he was absolutely sure. All right!

35 Then, when he come to the spot when that absolute held, then finally he begin to feel the string tighten up that'd been running loose, bouncing around. But it begin to tighten up, and the Spirit come on him; and he stood up, being a prophet, and he said, "I know my redeemer liveth!" Amen! See? He tightened up to his absolute; he'd come in contact. He

again. I thought, "Wait a minute!" Looked back here on the flyleaf of the Bible, "And it shall come to pass, a little boy about nine years old.... He'll be killed by an automobile. There'll be a long strip of evergreen, rocks lapped in there; the car will be laying across the road, wrecked. He'll have on little stockings like ... up high, a crock haircut; and his little eyes will be turned back; the bones in his body will be broken."

I looked; I thought, "Oh, God!"

I said, "Stand still all of you!" (The mayor of the city there.) I said, "If that boy isn't on his feet in two minutes from now, I'm a false prophet. Run me out of Finland." Certainly! "But if he is, you owe your lives to Christ." That's right. They stood still.

I said, "Heavenly Father, across the sea yonder, two years ago, You said this little boy would lay here...."

134 There was Brother Moore and Brother Lindsay, and them looking at that. And everywhere, and they'd wrote it in the Bible; and thousands of Bibles across the land had it wrote in it. What was it? A absolute.

The Father had showed what would take place. There's no fear at all standing there—absolute. Sure, he'll rise.

Right there in Finland, where thousands of people coming in nightly (and have to even move some out and let me speak to them; move them out and put somebody else in), there he stood with.... All the people loved me; and they'd seen healings done, but here was a boy laying there dead. What was the absolute? The vision. "I do what the Father says do. He that believeth in me, the works that I do shall he also." There's your absolute.

I said, "Death, you can't hold him any longer; God has spoken! Come back; give him up!" And the little boy raised up and looked around like that; the people got to fainting and everything.

135 There it is, wrote right there and signed by the mayor of the city, by a notary public. That's right! What is it? An absolute. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If that ain't the same God that stopped the woman from Nain with the ... bearing her with her son.

When anyone died in them days, they immediately put them in the grave; they didn't let them lay over; they put them in the grave. There's that same Jesus Christ yesterday, today, and forever.

136 Look down there in Mexico when that little baby (some of you laying here ... sitting here), and that baby (the doctor signed a statement; it's wrote in the Christian Businessmen), that baby died that morning at nine o'clock, and this was ten o'clock that night. And that little woman would not be comforted. Billy standing there, my son, trying to put her back, and

up the hill); but He had an absolute. He knew where He stood, because the Word of God said through David, "I'll not leave my holy one to see corruption; neither will I leave His soul in hell."

He knew corruption set in seventy-two hours; He said, "Destroy this temple, and I'll raise it up again in three days." He had an absolute!

There He's going up the hill with gobs of mockery, spit of drunken soldiers, that put a rag around His face, and hit Him on the head, and said, "You're a prophet, tell us who hit you!" There He was going up the hill in shame and disgrace to be ... His clothes stripped from him, despising the shame, hanging on the cross before the people, naked; dying in Roman disgrace under government capital punishment, a man that had done nothing.

131 A little story one time said Mary Magdalene run out and said, "What has He done? Healed your sick, raised the dead, and brought deliverance to those that were in captive. What has He done?"

And a priest smacked her in the mouth, till the blood flew out, and said, "Would you listen to her or your high priest?" Oh, that denominational world; it's a curse of all of it. That's it. There it is.

132 And they took Him on. But as He went up the hill dragging.... The devil had always doubted it, Him being what He was. Said, "If thou be the Son of God, turn these stones into bread. You claim you can do miracles. If you are the Son of God, command these stones to be turned to bread."

That same old devil lives today. That's right. "If you are a divine healer, here's old John So-and-so sitting here on the corner; I know he's crippled; heal him!" Don't you know it's that same old devil?

Jesus said, "I only do...." Look! He went through the pool of Bethesda, where thousands lay there, lame, blind, halt, and withered, and went to a man that could walk. He could get around; he might've had prostate trouble. Whatever it was, it was retarded (he'd had it thirty-eight years). He said, "When I'm come into the pool, someone steps ahead of me." He could walk. Left all them laying there, and went to that very one, and healed him. Why?

He said He knew he had been in that shape. Then they said to Him, questioned Him when they found Him (St. John 5); He said, "Verily, verily I say unto you, the Son can do nothing in Himself, but what He sees the Father doing...." There's His absolute. That's still the absolute.

133 Standing yonder in Finland that day, and that little boy laying there, and I walked around him laying there dead (been dead for a half hour, as you read in the book).... I started to walk away; something put their hands on me. I turned around; I thought, "What was that?" And I looked

knowed that he had done what was right, and someday he had to pull to it. "I know my redeemer liveth, and at the last days He stands upon this earth. Though after the skin worms destroys this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." He knew then; then his absolute anchored.

36 Abraham, an absolute, coming down from Babylon, from the tower and out into the Shinar, and out in there where he was sojourning with his father, and perhaps was a farmer. But one day, way back in the jungles somewhere maybe picking berries, or going to kill a beast for his meat, and somewhere back in there, God spoke to him when he was seventy-five years old.

And he and his wife, Sarah, her being sixty-five, was childless, they didn't have any children. Then, God told him, "You're going to have a child by Sarah, but in order to do this you've got to separate yourself."

37 God's promises are always on condition. You must absolutely.... No matter how fundamental you are with the promise, it's under conditions always. How we could stop here and weave through that Scripture, back and forth for hours (see?), that the condition is what means something. You can be just as fundamental as you want to, but it's under conditions by the promise, predestination, and so forth.

38 Notice! Now Abraham, he believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness. Now, what a horrible thing it would be to meet a civilized world, a man seventy-five years old with a woman sixty-five (and had lived together since they were a young couple, 'cause she was his half sister) and now going to have a baby by her. But he had an absolute. There was nothing going to move him.

And when, the first month it didn't happen, his absolute held, because he knowed he had talked to God. The second month, second year, ten year, and at twenty-five years later, when he was a hundred and Sarah was ninety, his absolute still held.

39 And the Bible said, when his obituary was written, he said, "Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong, giving praise to God." Why? Did you ever think why? He was absolute positive, and the only thing he had to do was separate himself from his people. And God never did bless him until he did it. He took his daddy; the daddy died. He took Lot; and after Lot separated from Abraham, then God come to him, said, "Now, walk through the land." Obedience, promise under conditions, always goes with God, and His Word.

40 Now, look at.... Let's take Moses. Moses, the runaway servant-prophet, that God had raised him up and educated him in Pharaoh's palace, and Moses went out with his theological training and the first man, he slew. Then the first little defect come along, then Moses was scared to

death. Why? He had no absolute; he only had his mother's testimony of his birth.

He was a strange child; he had his mother's word about it. He had the scrolls that God had (perhaps in paper somewhere they had written, packed along with them)—that God was going to visit His children. He knewed that that was the time, like we do now. We know something's fixing to happen.

41 Now, Moses knowed that was the time, and he knowed that he was chosen for it; but he didn't have an absolute, see. And one day on the back side of the desert, when he'd lost the vision, God appeared to him in a burning bush and said, "Moses, I have seen the afflictions of my people; I've heard their groans and crying of those taskmasters punishing them; and I have remembered my promise. I've come down to deliver them; now, go down to Egypt." Oh, my!

Moses complaining, said, "I don't speak very well; my deliverance is not very well; they won't believe me!"

He said, "What's in your hand?"

He said, "A stick!"

He said, "Throw it down!" It turned to a serpent. Said, "Pick it up by the tail!" It turned back again to a stick. He was giving him the assurance, a vindication. When God gives an absolute, He gives a vindication to that absolute, always.

42 Then, Moses, when he was down there, and he threw down his stick before the magicians and Pharaoh (and the magicians come and threw down their stick too), Moses never run and said, "Oh well, I was wrong, it was just a cheap magician trick and maybe I was wrong." But he knowed; he was positive that he met God; and he stood still. Next thing he had done, exactly what God told him to do; so had Job done exactly what God told him to do; Moses had followed His commandments. Then stand still and watch the glory of God!

Moses was tied to his absolute, his commission, and he stood still. And when he did, his serpent swallowed up the rest of the serpents, see. He was tied to that absolute. God said, "When you deliver them children, you'll worship me again on this mountain."

43 And how the enemy in every way that he can will try to get you away from that absolute. Right as they started out of Egypt, they got cornered right in the neck of the Red Sea—mountains on either side. Come up through a valley and there's the Red Sea—no way to escape over the hills, no way to escape this a-way, and Pharaoh's army coming this a-way. What a place to stand! See how the devil gets you in a place where you

To sail the wild seas (that don't know where you're at, this way, that way) no more;

The tempest may sweep over the wild stormy deep, (All may turn down)

But in Jesus I'm safe evermore.

Yeah! None of these things move me, for I'm tied to an anchor.

"Oh, since I met Him," Paul said, "on that road, I've been tied to an anchor. He turned me around; He started me back right." You remember, Paul belonged to an organization too (the biggest in the land), but he got tied to the absolute.

128 Listen! I want to tell you something. He had a purpose in saving me; He had a purpose in saving you. And I am determined, by His will, to do it, not to add to it or take away from it (Revelations 22:19, if you want to put that down). All right! Whosoever take away.... I'm determined (I'm fixing to leave the church, and you know that), and so I'm determined just to remain with this gospel as long as I live, by the help of God.

Remember! Here's grace. There were millions dying in sin when He saved me. Who was I that He should save? He had a purpose in saving me, and I'm determined to carry out that purpose. I don't care; it may be my end may be pretty soon now; but whatever it is, I'm still anchored. Never changed it.

129 Mr. Isler said to me that day, going up the road; he said, "Billy, in all this trouble did you keep your religion?"

I said, "No, sir, it kept me." See? My anchor held. That's right. I never kept it; it kept me. I can't keep it; there's no way for me to do it, but it keeps me. Yes sir.

He had a purpose in saving me. There were millions in sin when I come to Him, but He saved me. He had a purpose in doing so. Christ's death was an absolute to the fear of it.

130 Christ's death settled the question. When that bee of death stung Him and anchored that stinger.... You know, a bee ... a insect that has a stinger, if it ever anchors that stinger into ... deep enough, when it pulls away, it pulls the stinger out of it. Death always had a stinger.

Death always had a stinger, and one day when that ... going up Calvary, and the bumping of them rocks, the blood splashing upon the rocks.... When it hit the dirt on Calvary, going to Golgotha, the back of that cross was dragging out the bloody footprints of that little, frail body going, marching along there (them whipping and mashing Him as He went

"Oh," he said, "Billy!"

I said, "Yeah! I hear the whispering of the leaves when they play it. It plays music for me."

Mr. Isler said, "What kind of music does it play?" I said,

There's a land beyond the river
That they call that sweet forever,
And we only reach that shore by
faith's decree;
One by one we gain the portal,
There to dwell with the immortal.

When someday they'll ring them golden
bells for you and me.

126 He said, "Billy, I want to ask you something." He said, "What does Christ mean to you now? What does Christ mean to you?"

I said, "He's my life, my all. He's all that I have, Mr. Isler. He's my ultimate; He's all that I can hold to."

Why? There had been something happen.

Upon this rock....

Said, "I've seen you stand here on the corner and preach till you looked like you was going to drop dead. I seen you all hours of the night, up and down the streets making sick calls. And after He took your own wife and your own baby, you still serve Him?"

I said, "If He slay me, yet I trust Him."

Why? My anchor holds within the vale; I had a absolute. I'd tied myself to His Word, and His Word was holding. He is my absolute. I found out that all these other things may fail, but Christ can never fail.

127 The Catholic church has the pope for an absolute; the Protestant has their bishops, and their creeds, and their general overseers, but I, like Paul....

Got your pencil? Set down something! Paul said, in Acts the 20th chapter and the 24th verse, "None of these things move me."

Oh, they can have the creeds; you can have whatever you want to, but them things don't move me!

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

don't know what to do? But remember, if you're tied to that absolute, that's got it. Moses knowed that God promised him that "You'll worship on this mountain when you bring them out. And I've come down by your hand to deliver them and place them over in that other land." He stayed right with it, and God sent a east wind and blowed out the waters out of the bottom of the sea, and they walked across on dry land. An absolute!

44 How we could go through the Scriptures: Daniel, his absolute; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, their absolute; David, his absolute. All—absolute!

Paul had one too, the one we are reading about. He had a Christ-centered call, and that was his absolute. That's the reason he wasn't afraid of what Agrippa would say. standing there (and Agrippa was a Jew, as we know)—and so, when he was standing before these kings and things, God had already told him he'd stand there. So he had an absolute, so he told exactly the heavenly vision. He said, "I'm not a ... I wasn't dishonorable to it. I did not misjudge it; I didn't misbehave myself." But he held to and was not disobedient; he carried it out to the minute, for it was an absolute. And any Christ-centered life, that's your absolute.

45 Now, since meeting Him face to face on the road to Damascus, that meant so much to Paul. Now remember, he was a scholar beforehand; he was a mighty man in the Scriptures, but he didn't have any tie post but the Sanhedrin that would back him up, and a diploma from a great teacher. He was a great man in his field, but he was waving. Only thing he had, his absolute would only be as strong as his organization was; that's all the stronger it could be. And he was working faithful to that, and was taking Christians, and binding them, and making havoc of them, and even stoned Stephen.

46 I think later in his life, the reason he went to Jerusalem, when the prophet told him, "Don't go up there, Paul, for chains and prison waits for you."

And Paul said, "I know it; but I'm not only going to Jerusalem as a witness, but I'm going there; I'm ready to die for Jesus Christ," for he knew what he had done, and his ambition was to seal his testimony with his own blood—die a martyr, because he killed one of God's martyrs.

And now, he was on his road down to Damascus with all of his education (sat under that great teacher, Gamaliel, and how that he had been taught in all the Jewish religion) and yet with all that, he was flimsy, and he did not have the ability to do certain things. And all of a sudden, there was a light and a roar, maybe and a thunder, and he was smitten and fell to the ground. And when he looked up, there was a light shining that blinded his eyes. And what a strange thing that was!

47 No one else saw the light, just Saul. It was so real to him, until it blinded his eyes; he couldn't see, totally blind with that pillar of fire blazing him right in the face. And he heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

He said, "Lord, who are you?"

He said, "I'm Jesus; and it's hard for you to kick against these pricks. Rise now, and go into Damascus; and there one will be sent to you."

Then, when he raised up from there (and there was one, a prophet, down in the city who saw in a vision, while he was praying, and he came), Ananias came and come in to Saul, laid his hands upon him, and he was healed by divine healing. He rose and was baptized, washing away his sins, calling upon the name of the Lord; and then he had an absolute. He was never the same after that. He went straight from church to church, from place to place, trying to build up that which he had tried to tear down.

48 How the nation, how the Christian world this morning needs that type of absolute. Those who through creeds and traditions has tried to ... with doctrine of man, to disqualify God's Word to being the same yesterday, today, and forever. They need an absolute, an experience of meeting on a Damascus road, the living God who can heal the sick, and raise the dead, and cast out devils—a genuine absolute.

Paul knew that something happened; there was no one could take it away from him. Nothing else mattered; he was tied, and that was it. No matter what come, he knowed he was tied—Christ-centered life! Oh, the life that he had lived was a different life.

49 Now remember, he had been a religious man. And to some of you people this morning (and I know you realize that this tape is being made, will play in every nation under the heavens, about, around the world); and some of you people who's here, present; and some of you out where the tapes will be played in the other nations by an interpreter (giving it to the tribes of Africa, back in the Hottentots, and all around); and to you religious leaders who just got an education of the Bible (you've got it from a historical standpoint and may be able to explain all these things); but, if you haven't got an absolute, haven't got an experience (and if that experience that you claim you have makes you deny that every word of this isn't just as true to the church today as it ever was), and you are trusting upon your Bachelor of Art degree, or whatever you might have. If you're trusting upon the thoughts of your organization (that would say, "The days of miracles is past; and we have no divine healing; and the baptism of the Holy Spirit like they received on the day of Pentecost is not for the people today"); if that's all you've got, my precious brother, sister,

never! If it was, it backslid right away. They built it upon a man. What did He do?

The Protestants said He built it upon Himself. No! He did not! He didn't build it upon Himself. What did He do?

"Who does man say, I, the Son of man, am?"

And some said, "Thou art Elias, and Moses."

He said, "But what do you say?"

Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

124 Watch the words now. "Blessed art thou, Simon, son of Jonas; flesh and blood has not revealed this to you (you never learned it by some priest; you never learned it by some seminary), but my Father which is in heaven has revealed it to you. And upon this rock (spiritual revelation of the Word), I'll build my church, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it."

I thought, "Lord, that's it." I read over here in the book of Revelations, 21st chap... 22nd chapter, where He said, "Whosoever [this is the complete thing]—whosoever shall inject something to it; whosoever shall take something away from it [deny it's so], or whosoever shall try to make it a little better, and polish it up for the day; whosoever shall add to or take away, the same will be taken, his part, out of the book of life."

I said, "Then that's all I need, Lord, is to believe this. And in this, that cross yonder, the Christ came." It's perfect all the way, every word that He ever said. Take the book in this hand, the history in this hand, and just vindicates right straight down, just perfect. And I said, "Then, Lord, receive me!" And when I did, I received Christ, the Holy Spirit, in my heart, my absolute. It hasn't been me.

125 I was sick one time when I lost my wife; I lost my baby; lost my father, and lost my brother, and lost my sister-in-law. And Billy was laying, dying, and I was just about gone. I was going up the road crying, going to her grave (her and the baby, and the baby on her arm)—going to the grave. I was walking up; Mr. Isler (used to come here and play, you know, the state Senator of Indiana), he was coming up the road. He stopped, and he run out there and put his arms around me (it was after the '37 flood); he said, "Where you going, Billy? Up there?"

And I said, "Yep!"

He said, "What are you going to do up there?"

I said, "I'll listen to an old dove." I said, "I sit there by the baby's grave and hers. An old dove comes down there, and he speaks to me."

some right away; I'm sure."

And said about that time, he seen a bunch going by and was Catholic. Said he walked over and said to this priest, "Could you give me some religion?"

And he said, "Come on!"

Said, "He went in and made a Catholic out of me." (And there in New Albany there was John Howard and a bunch of them real royal Catholics sitting there, you know, when this guy was telling this.) And he said, "The next day in the combat...." He was talking oh, how it was, and said (he's a great big fellow, you know)—and said "They got hand-to-hand, and they was just stabbing with knives, and screaming, and cutting, and slashing." Said, "The lines got twisted up, and they got right around one another." Japs let them walk right into it, like that, and them big old machine guns a-bellowing from every side ... a hand to hand combat.

122 Said, "Directly, I stopped along like this...." And said, "Everything, screams and carrying on, you couldn't hear yourself." Said, "There's blood." He said, "I looked, and it was my blood!" Said, "I looked here. There was a hole in my side." He said, "That was my blood." Said, "You know, I...."

And a real.... Catholic friend, I'm just saying this for fun now. But a real, loyal Catholic said, "Did you say a 'Hail Mary.' "

He said, "No, sir!" Said, "That was my blood. I didn't want any secretaries. I said, 'I want to talk to the main man.'" Said, "That was my blood."

And I think that's about the way it is. Yes, sir! That's the way it goes. We've got to have a tie post, an absolute.

"I had no time for His secretary," he said, "I wanted to talk to Him."

And that's it, brother. When a man comes to Christ, you don't want to take some preacher's word, some secretary's word, some something else. You Protestants, don't take this, that, or the other; go to that absolute until you're anchored there by the new birth, being borned again, and filled with the Holy Ghost, and you see the Bible being manifested in humility and love through your life. Oh, then that's your absolute. Yes, sir.

123 I read in the Word where He is the Word. When the German church said, "It's this way," and the Methodist, and the Baptist, and the Catholic.... But I read in the Word, where He said, "Upon this rock I'll build my church, and the gates of hell can't prevail against it."

Listen now, in closing. Now, the Protestant says.... Now, the Catholic says He built it upon Peter. "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock...." No, He

you need a Damascus road experience!

You need to meet this living God where you ... not only just a mythical thought in your mind, not some shiver, or some kind of a sensation, but a taught and experience of a real genuine....

50 The same Jesus that walked in Galilee is a-living today and alive forevermore, and He's the same yesterday, today, and forever—an absolute, that you don't have to take what anyone said, you know for yourself, not some sensation.

And if the sensation that you've had, and somebody (it might've been a real Bible sensation)—and somebody tried to explain it away from you, saying those things were in some other day, be careful! It is true, be careful! But there is a way to know. Test it with the Word; that's the blueprint!

If the house goes up contrary to the blueprint, the contractor will tear it down and rebuild it. But it's got to go to the blueprint.

51 No matter what your experience is then; if something in you tells you that that Bible isn't true, that power of God, apostles, prophets, and teachers, and pastors, and the gifts of the Spirit just isn't the same as it was when it flowed through them apostles at Pentecost, there's something wrong with your absolute. It has to tie to a denominational creed, instead to God's Bible, when He said, "Both heavens and earth will pass away, but my Word shall never fail."

Watch what your absolute is. You might be absolutely sure that you're in good fellowship with the pastor; and might be absolutely sure that you're in fellowship with the district presbyter; and might be absolutely sure that you're in fellowship with the bishop, or some other great man in your church; but if you're not ... your absolute isn't Jesus Christ ... "For upon this rock I'll put my absolute, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"—spiritual revelation of who He is and knowing. All right.

52 Oh, now, when you become like Paul, have the same absolute that he had.... A Christ-centered life is a different life than what you once had; and it might be a very religious life that you live.

Oh, I've heard people say, "Now, they're very religious." That don't have one thing to do with it! I've just seen many religions, very devout, many times more sincere than the Christian people of today profess.

53 When a mother can take her little fat, black baby (about that long) and throw it into the mouth of a crocodile, for the love of her god, I wonder how sincere Christianity is. When a man can afflict himself in such a way, would put in a thousand hooks through his flesh, like that (hanging

with balls of water, holding him down like this), and walk through a streak of fire, from here to the end of that tabernacle (back and forth, and it white hot, fanned like that), for the sacrifice of his god (an idol there with ruby eyes in it and so forth), I wonder where Christianity is. So don't think sincerity; sincerity is not it. Sincerity is all right if it's placed on the right thing.

54 Like a doctor giving medicine, he might give you arsenic, sincerely; and he might give you sulfuric acid, sincerely; you might have your prescription filled wrong, and you might take it in sincerity, but that don't save your life, see. No, sir! You've got to know what you're doing. And anything contrary to God's Word, I don't care what it is and how long it's been in existence, it's still wrong.

55 Peter gave them an eternal prescription on the day of Pentecost. He said, "Repent every one of you, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost; for this prescription is to you, and to your children, and to them that's far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." That's right! It's an eternal prescription.

Now, some quack druggist could get a hold of that and kill you, see. Certainly! You know, there's so much poison in a prescription, to poison the germ, and the doctor knows just how much your body can stand. If he over poisoned, it would kill you. And if you haven't got enough of it, then what would it do? It would do you no good to take the medicine. He knows what your body can stand.

Now, and that's the way the prescription of God is. No matter how much somebody else says it must be done this way or that way, don't you believe it. When you follow the Word exactly to the letter, that's it. That's right. Hold on to it.

56 Now, we've got those who say you must be sprinkled. They got those say you must use the titles of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; there's no such things in the Bible, no such place anybody was ever baptized in the Bible any other way besides the name of Jesus Christ. That's a dogma that was added in the Roman Catholic church and has carried down through traditions. (We'll hit that tonight.)

57 But notice, then amidst of all that, the prescription remains. That's why we got so many sick children, because they're not listening to what the doctor said. The absolute, when you've tied to that, that's it; that's God's Word; it cannot fail. Christ-centered life, very religious, but it wasn't Christ-centered; so many of us have that today.

And when you get this Christ-centered life, it makes you do things you ordinarily wouldn't do. It makes you act different than ordinarily you

118 I said, "Sir, I don't understand Your language." I said, "If You can't talk mine, and I don't understand Yours. And if You have forgive me, I know that I'm supposed to be reckoned in that cross there, somewhere that my sins was supposed to lay in there. And if You will forgive me, just come back and talk in Your own language. I'll understand by that, if You can't talk my language." I said, "You just let it come back again."

There it was again. Oh, my goodness! There I got an absolute. Amen! Yes, sir! Felt like a load of forty tons lifted off my shoulders. I walked down through that boardwalk, couldn't even touch the ground.

119 Mother said, "Billy, you're nervous."

I said, "No, Mom, I don't know what happened."

There was a railroad track back there; I run down that railroad track jumping up in the air just as hard as I could. I didn't know how to give vent to my feelings. Oh, if I'd have knowed how to shout! I was shouting, but in my own way. You see?

What was it? I had anchored my soul in a haven of rest. That settled it; that was my absolute. There I'd found something, not some mythical, some idea. I'd talked with the man. I'd talked with that man that told me never to drink, or smoke, or do anything that would defile myself—with women and so forth; that when I got older there'd be a work for me to do. I had contacted Him, not the church; I'd contacted Him! Him! Yes, sir! He was the one.

120 Like a fellow down here at the Kiwanis was speaking. Right after the First World War (Brother Funk standing there, been a soldier)—he said that he was ... (It's a little ... kind of sounds jokey, it's no place for a joke, but here's what he said. He was here in New Albany.) He said, "The captain taken us out, said, 'That whole country there is infested with Japs. Tomorrow, boys, we go in; we got to take 'em.' He said, 'Remember, boys, there's many of us standing here today that won't be there tomorrow. They won't be here tomorrow; we're going in, in the morning at daylight.' Said, 'Now, each one get to his own religion.' "

This guy said, "And I didn't have any religion." And said, "I stood there, and all the rest of them...." Said, "Here come a chaplain, went this a-way; a Protestant went this way, and the Jewish went this way, and a Catholic went that way with their chaplains." Said, "I stood there."

121 And said, "The commanding officer said to me, said, 'Boy, you better get to your religion.' "

He said, "I ain't got any."

He said, "You better be getting some, 'cause you're going to need

I know you pass down this path here, 'cause I set here squirrel hunting. I know You come by, and I know You're here. I want You.... I want to tell You something....

I thought, "Now, wait a minute. I never seen anybody I didn't.... I want to talk to them; I want to speak with them. I want to talk to Him." I thought, "Well now, I don't know how to do it."

115 And I went out in the shed and knelt down, water, wet and little old car sitting there wrecked up. And I said, "I believe I seen a picture.... I believe they put their hands like this," and I got down. And I said, "Now, what am I going to say?" I said, "There's some way you have to do this, and I don't know. I know there's a way to approach everything, and I don't...."

I said (I put my hands like this)—I said, "Dear Sir, I wish that You would come and speak with me just a moment. I want to tell You how bad I am." (Held my hand like this.) I listened. People said ... God talked to me, and I knowed He did talk, 'cause I'd heard it when I was a kid, telling me not to drink and things. He didn't answer me.

I said, "Maybe I was supposed to put my hands like this." So I said, "Dear Sir, I don't know just exactly how to do this, but I trust that You'll.... Will you help me?"

116 And each preacher telling me come join theirs, and stand up and say they took Jesus Christ, and they believe Jesus to be the Son of God. Devils believe the same thing, so I thought, "I got to have something better than that." So I was sitting like this.

I read where Peter and John passed through the gate called Beautiful, and there was a man crippled from his mother's womb. Said, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have...." Oh, I knowed I didn't have that.

So I was trying to find out how to do it; I didn't know how to pray. I made my hands; then I laid down like this. Of course, Satan come on the scene then, said, "You see? You waited too long. You're already twenty years old; there's no need of trying it now."

117 Then I got all broke up and started crying. And then, when I really got broke up, I said, "I'm going to talk. If You don't talk to me, I'm going to talk to You anyhow." So I said, "I'm no good; I'm ashamed of myself! Mr. God, I know You'll hear me somewhere. You hear me? I'm ashamed of myself; I'm ashamed that I have neglected You!"

About that time I looked up, and a funny feeling swept over me. Here come a light moving through the room and made a cross, like that; and a voice that I never heard in my life, talked. I looked at it, just cold all over, numb; I'm scared. I couldn't move. Stood, looked at it; and it went away.

would act. I don't mean act silly; I mean act in the Spirit, something that's real, something that's genuine. And when you see somebody acting silly, you know they're only putting on something. They're only trying to impersonate where that genuine thing is.

When you see a bogus dollar, remember there's a good dollar it was made off of, see. When you see a bogus, it's absolutely a off-shadow of something that's real; it's something that is genuine it's copied off of.

58 Notice, it makes you do things ordinarily you wouldn't do. Oh, it is something.... You are certain, you are very certain of it when you get this absolute; you're positive of it. You don't take what—somebody else's experience. That's the reason Christianity has become like little kids in the Bible and not (excuse me)—little kids in school. They try to copy one off the other; and if that guy's wrong, the whole thing's wrong, see. You got the whole bunch of them wrong. Oh, my, don't copy; meet Him yourself.

59 A good friend of mine, standing back here, is an old ... is a son of a buddy of mine, a lifelong friend, little Jim Poole. Well, his daddy and I grewed up together in school, and oh, what a fine fellow. Little Jim and I are praying constantly that big Jim will become a Christian, a real believer. And little Jim and I were talking yesterday about where we found God in the woods and seen Him in nature. There's where you find Him, because He's a creator, and He's in His creation.

And I remember, Jim and I used to go, want to go hunting. And when night come, well, we used to go down, take our bicycles, and ride right down this street here (scared to death to pass the graveyard after it got dark), and go down, and get us an ice cream cone.

60 And Jim liked to shoot pool. Now, we was just boys ten, twelve, fourteen years old. And then, Jim liked to sit around and read storybooks of hunting and trapping. And I would sit around and daydream (See?) about.... And now, some of the boys can see me. And I'd see a little bitty shack somewhere, and I used to say, "Boy, that would be a good shack to have in the mountains."

And I always dreamed that someday I'd have me a shack in the mountains, a big bunch of hounds, and some guns. I always thought, "If I could own a 30-30 some of my time...." Thought, "How in the world would I ever own a little 30-30 rifle?" And the other day, standing, looking on my wall, and seeing there some of the best rifles that can be gotten, I thought, "Amazing grace!"

I thought, "I'll train myself to shoot, and shoot good. And then, maybe sometime to take a trip into the mountains, some good hunter will take me along just to be kind of a ... 'cause he'd want to protect his life

maybe from a charging bear—he wasn't too sure. Some rich man would take me along, just to go along with him, kind of a bodyguard. Maybe some day I'd get to hunt in Africa as a bodyguard, if I could just train. That's the only thing I can do is train to be a good, steady shot. "Oh," and I thought, "God, think of You letting me hunt over the world. What a wonderful thing!"

Jim used to sit and read the book.

And I said, "Jim...."

He said, "I like to read about it."

I said, "Jim, that's what somebody else done; I want to do it myself; I want the experience!" When I come to Christ I couldn't take somebody else's experience; I wanted it myself.

61 I remember when I read Zane Grey's "Lone Star Ranger." I tore up two or three brooms for Mama, riding around the house a-galloping, when I was on this hobbyhorse broom. I read that story of the lone star ranger, and how he brought the justice through the Big Bend.

Then I read Edgar Rice Burroughs' fiction story of "Tarzan and the Apes." Mother had an old fur rug, a sealskin rug or something that Mrs. Wathen had give her from the fire. And it laid on her room, and I took that rug out (Mama knowed the wind didn't blow it out), and I took it out, and cut it up, and made me a Tarzan suit, and set up in the tree. I lived half my time in the tree, hiding this Tarzan suit because I had seen what he done, I wanted to do it too.

But one day by the grace of God I got a hold of the real Book, the Bible. My song and story has been: "To be like Jesus; on earth I long to be like Him." I don't want to be a bishop, or some great fellow in the church, some pope, or some priest. I want to be like Jesus.

62 An absolute, it makes you different. There's something about it to read His Word and.... Something in your heart you long to be like Him. You're certain.... It's like....

The absolute to the Christ—the absolute to the Christian is like the anchor in the ship. Yes. You got to have an absolute. And if Christ is your absolute, it's like the anchor that when you.... The sea is very rough, and the ship is about ready to sink, and only one hope you have is cast anchor. And then, if the ship is tossing (see?), the anchor will hold the ship. You know, we got a song (I forget the author's name now, but....): "My Anchor Holds."

63 Like the little boy (as we've many times thought) flying the kite, you couldn't see nothing, but he had the string. And a man passed by and

himself upon the baby; he stuck his nose upon its nose, his lips upon its lips; and the power of God raised up the baby to life. What was it? The woman's absolute was the prophet; the prophet's absolute was God. And together with the Word, "I am the resurrection and the life, the power of God, the creator." [Unclear words.] She raised up again, the baby.

112 Sure! The reason every man done in his own way, because they had no prophet for the Word of the Lord to come to. The Word and the prophets was missing in that day.

Oh, I seen this at my conversion, of the day that we lived in. I'm so glad that God got a hold of me before the church did. I'd probably been an infidel (yes, sir!), all this conglomeration of mess and everybody. "Well, come over and join ours. And if you don't, well, you can pick up your letter and go join the other one." Oh, my!

"Won't you bring your letter into our fellowship?"

I believe there's one letter; that's when Christ writes your name on the Lamb's book of life. That's the only one.

113 When I seen all the denominations.... Our background is Irish, which was formerly Catholic, and I seen that was corrupt and rotten. I went down to a certain denominational church here in the city; they said, "Oh, we're the way, the truth, the light; we got all of it."

I went to another one in New Albany. "Oh, my! Them guys up there don't know what they're talking about."

Catholics said, "You're all wrong."

I thought, "Oh, my!"

I played with a little Lutheran boy, and I thought ... a little German Lutheran; I went over and I said, "Where do you go to church at?"

"I go to that church."

I went down, and I found out they said they were the way. And I went down to Brother Dale, in Emmanuel Baptist, or the First Baptist; they said, "This is the way."

Then I went over to the Irish church, they said, "Well, this is the way."

"Oh, my! I'm so confused; I don't know what to do, but, I want to get right!"

114 I didn't know what to do, and I didn't know how to repent. I wrote a letter. I thought, "I seen Him in the woods." I wrote Him a letter; I said:

Dear Sir,

109 Every man today does in his own sight what he seems good, because there is no prophet.

Look in the days of the judges. Look, in the days when (I believe it was Elijah or Elisha, one. Yeah!) that the dead baby.... The Shunammite woman, she made....

Elijah was God's man of the day, not just some good intelligent teacher. But he was an old guy that walked along, would come to your door today, you'd probably run him away. A whole nation hated him. Jezebel and all the rest of them hated him, because she set in the White House and made all the women do the way she did; and all of them patterned after her; and Ahab was turned ... his head was turned by her power. We haven't missed it too far today, just about the same; and there you are. They was all popularity and all ... they was all snowed up.

110 But that little old Shunammite (not Shunammite woman but little ... yes, I believe she was a Shunammite), when she come and seen that that power was in Elijah she said, "I perceive that he's a holy man." And when that baby was laying dead, she said, "Saddle that mule and don't you stop!" She went up there.... She knowed.... And I like that, the way she come; she got to her absolute, her tie post.

Elijah said, "Here comes that Shunammite. She's grieving, but I don't know what's wrong." (See, God don't show His servants everything, just what He wants them to know.) So he said, "Her heart is grieved, but I don't know." He said, "Run, find out, Gehazi, and see what's wrong."

He said, "Is all well with thee? Is all well with thy husband? Is all well with thy son?"

Look at her. Oh, my! This is it. She said, "All is well." Why? She'd come to her absolute. "All is well." And she knelt down.... Fell first at his feet, and Gehazi raised her up. That's not right before his master, raised her up; and she begin to tell him.

111 Now, he didn't have no absolute now. He knowed he had power by the vision to give her the child, but now, what could he do? He took his staff and went down in the room, shut all the doors, taken everybody else out. He walked up and down the room. He had an absolute if he could only contact Him. Back and forth, up and down the room. Oh, my! Directly he felt something strike him; he laid himself on the baby, got back up again, went away. The baby kind of moved, got warm. He raised back and forth; he didn't get a good contact with the absolute. "What was it, Lord? What'd You say do?"

No doubt when he turned, he saw a vision: that little boy run playing, jumping in the rope, something or other like that—playing. He threwed

said, "What are you doing, Sonny?"

He said, "I'm flying my kite."

He said, "What you got in your hand?"

He said, "The string!"

Said, "Where's the kite?" Said, "I don't see it. Well, how do you know you're flying a kite?"

He said, "I can feel it; it's a-tugging," see. At the end of that string there was an absolute. To his little way, that kite was his absolute, so he could say he was flying a kite; though he couldn't see it, but he had a hold something that had a hold of it! That's the way a man, when he's borned again of the Holy Spirit, he's got a hold of something that's got an anchor out yonder; and the storms doesn't shake him. He knows he's all right; he's anchored. All right!

64 Now, if we are in our little bark, floating across life's solemn main.... As the great poet said that:

.....

"Life is not an empty dream!"

And the soul is dead that slumbers,

And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! And life is earnest!

And its grave is not its goal;

"For dust thou art, to dust returnest,"

Was not spoken of the soul.

Oh, I think that's so pretty. Now, Longfellow wrote that "Psalm of Life," see.

While sailing over life's solemn main,

For forlorn and shipwrecked brother,

In seeing, shall take heart again. (See?)

65 Now, we are embarked, sailing life's solemn main; and Christ, to the ship upon the storms of time.... When the storms get heavy and they're pitching about, I'm glad I got a anchor that holds within the vale yonder, somewhere; even death itself cannot pluck you away from it. You are tied to your absolute.

Christ is our anchor. What is He? He is the Word. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... And

the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”

66 Then when we know that our actions is exactly with the Word, we know our teaching is perfect with the Word (adding nothing or taking nothing, just the Word); and we see the same results (that others who anchored to the same Word) living up in our life, then your anchor holds. The life of Christ being reproduced in almost an incarnate way through you as it was in Christ, because it was God in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. And you see God in yourself holding that same keel on the Word, just exactly the way Jesus did, and you see His life.

“The works that I do shall you do also. He that believeth (not him that maketh believe, he that thinks he believes, but he that believeth)—he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he also.” Why? He's anchored to the same rock. What was the rock? The Word, always! You're anchored there.

67 It's your North Star when you're lost at sea. You know, we got a lot of stars, but there's only one true star, that don't move; that's the North Star, 'cause it sits in the center of the earth. No matter whether you're on the backside, upside, or wherever you're at, that North Star is just the same. It's your North Star.

Now, you see? There's a lot of stars that shift from place to place. But if you're on the sea, why, any seaman knows, or any hunter that roams the woods, knows that your North Star is your place; that's all. Then, it's like your compass. Your compass won't point to Mars, or Jupiter, or somewhere; it'll point to the North Star. Why? That's your absolute.

68 Oh, my! Notice, your absolute. Oh, I'm going to say something; I just feel it coming on. Notice! (I feel very religious at this time, because this is assurance.) Notice! Your compass can only point to the North Star. That's the only place it can point. If it's a true compass it'll strike the North Star every time. Is that right? Then if you have the Holy Spirit, it can only point to the Word! It'll never point to a denomination; it'll never point to a creed; it'll never point away somewhere; it'll point straight to the Word! (I feel like shouting!)

Notice, it's something inside of man, pulsating. When you see your star setting out yonder, Jesus Christ, the Word; and you see the Spirit that's in you won't let it move right or left. That's the only one that can.... He come to take the things of God and to show them, manifest them.

And Jesus said, “He'll do just exactly the things that I say. He'll reveal to you things that is to come [show you ahead of time, before it gets here. See?]. He'll take the things that are mine and will show them to you. And then, He'll show you things that is to come.” (John 15.)

and it made them sick, he was so stinky. There He stood there. Oh, my! I can see Him straighten that little frail frame up (because the Bible said there's no beauty we should desire Him; He wasn't very much to look at, see).

106 Just like David. He was chosen king when he was just a little ruddy thing, see. All them great big fellows said, “Wouldn't he look pretty with a crown on his head?”

“Take this older son,” Jesse said.

Samuel said, “God refused him.” Brought all of his sons up.

Said, “Haven't you got any other?”

“Yeah, we got one, but he wouldn't look like a king. Why, he's a little bitty, stoop-shouldered, ruddy-looking fellow.”

“Go get him!” And as soon as he come walking before that prophet, the Spirit fell on him. He run with that oil and poured it on his head, said, “This is your king.” That's it! Yes, sir!

107 When Jesus stood there, stoop-shouldered, perhaps, turning gray when He was yet not over thirty years old. (The Bible said He might've looked like forty.) Jews said, “You're a man not over fifty years old, and you say you seen Abraham?”

He said, “Before Abraham was, I am.” My, oh, my! St. John 6.

Then we come to find out, here He stood by the grave. He knowed that vision had to strike Him, knowed it had to be. “Take away the stone!” He was stinking, wrapped in grave clothes, been dead for four days; his nose had already fell in, in that much time.

108 There He stood there; straightened up His little body, “I am the resurrection and the life! He that believeth on me; though he were dead, yet shall he live.” Tell me a man could ever make a statement like that! “Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die! Believest thou this?”

She said, “Yea, Lord!” Though He had failed her, seemingly, when she called, He didn't go, she called again; He didn't go. But here she says, “I know that thou art the Christ that was to come into the world.”

He said, “Lazarus, come forth!” And a man that'd been dead four days.... Why? What? Christ had the absolute. He had saw the vision; it couldn't fail. That's right. It couldn't fail! He was absolutely sure.

And Martha was absolutely sure! If she could get Him to recognize what she believed in Him to be, she'd get what she asked for! Right! There they was, the absolute; it tied in with the Word; and that was it.

God doesn't change His policy; He cannot and be God. If God ever says anything or does anything, He must do the next time. When that crisis arise, if He don't act the second time the way He did the first time, He acted wrong the first time. And who'll accuse God of acting wrong? Who are you can lay sin to God? That's what Jesus said: "Which one of you can accuse me of sin?"

What is sin? Unbelief. "He that believeth not is condemned already."

"Which one of you can show me that I haven't fulfilled everything Messiah should do?" See? Nobody spoke a word. He had; the Messiah was a prophet, and He had proved that He was that. They hadn't had a prophet for hundreds of years, since Malachi, and here He rose on the scene. He was a mystic to the people and a stumbling block to their church, 'cause He said, "Behold I lay in Zion, a cornerstone, a precious one, tried, oh, a stumbling stone. (Yeah!) But whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed." That's right. There He was, and just exactly fulfilled Scripture. But those who believed Him had an absolute.

104 Little Martha, when she seen Lazarus come from the grave, she knew who that was. Even before it done it, she had the absolute of knowing, "I believe that thou art the Son of God that was to come into the world. Even now, though my brother be dead, just say the word; God will do it." Amen! She was absolutely positive. That's right.

When she said that (and she meant it from her heart), He said, "Where have you buried him?"

Said, "Come and see."

There He stood there with a vision, 'cause He said, "I do nothing until the Father shows me first." (St. John 5:19.)

Sent Him away from ... went away from Lazarus' house. They sent for Him to come pray. He knew Lazarus was going to die; and after the amount of time, He said, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth.

They said, "He does well!"

He said, "He's dead; and for your sake I'm glad I wasn't there." (They'd have been asking Him to pray for him.) Then He comes back, said, "But I go wake him." Oh, my! Not, "I'll go and see what I can do," I'll go wake him." Why? "The Father's already showed me just what to do."

105 Went down to the grave. There stood a man; there stood God in flesh, that could have said to that stone, "Dissolve!" and it would've dissolved; but He said to them women, them poor little women, little young women, said, "Take away the stone!"

You've got something to do too, see. And they rolled away the stone;

69 We see that He shows the things; and He takes the things that are God's and will show them to you; and He will reveal to you the things that Jesus said, in other words, He'll make plain the thing. (Place that way over in the corner tonight, 'cause that's what we're going to use in a little while.) Making sure, making that positive (see?), then you know if your North Star, which is the Word to any Christian.... Anything contrary to the Word....

Look! Let me tell you something. Listen to this closely. This is the complete divine revelation of God, His will, and the coming of Christ; and everything lays right in this book completed. And if anything draws you off of that, throw that compass away, 'cause it's only a creed; it's only a organ... it's only a paper that you're packing in your pocket, got hanging in your room framed; it's a creed! Then find the compass that sets you to the Word! Amen!

70 You notice, when this experience hit Paul, he went down in Egypt and Arabia somewhere and studied three years. Glory! He had to be positive. And when he seen, when the Holy Spirit directed him word by word, he could write that book of Hebrews and show those Jews. Certainly! Why? He was centered; that compass of the Holy Spirit put him right on the North Star.

Now, if you got something pulling you off of it, you better leave it alone. That's right! It'll point to His Word and only to His Word, because the Holy Spirit came to manifest or vindicate God's promise. There's no creed will do that; no organization will do it; no powers or nothing can do it, only the Holy Spirit by the Word; and He is the germ.

71 Now, you take a grain of wheat, a pretty grain of wheat, but it can do nothing; it's dead until the germ comes into it, then it produces many grains of wheat. And Christ is that life, that absolute. If the wheat doesn't have that absolute in it, it'll never rise. If that wheat don't have that absolute, may be ever so pretty on the outside, but it cannot live, because there's nothing in it to live by. But when it gets that absolute, it can look in the face of all critics and say, "I'll rise again." Why? Because it's got the absolute. It's in it; it's got to rise again.

72 And when it.... "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, then ask what you will." That's that absolute. But if you got creeds and everything else tied up into it.... You can't mix oil and water. You can just take a break it any way you want to; it'll never mix, because it's two different chemicals. And you can't make creed and the Bible, contrary to the Bible, mix. You can't make denomination and free born religion—or free born salvation mix together, 'cause as sure, God only deals.... I'm going to say it anyhow.

God never breaks His program. He cannot break, because He's infinite. And I realize, you know, it goes before lots of people, see. But God cannot break His program. He cannot do something one day, and change it over and do something, say, it's wrong that day.

73 God doesn't deal with groups of men; God deals with an individual, because men has different ideas; he's built up different in nature. God has to take that man, and mess him around, and pull him around out of his own self, till He gets him in His nature; and then God deals with that person.

Look all down through the ages, Noah and Moses, the prophets, never two of them at the same time—one, constantly all the way down through the ages. Therefore, if you say, "In the multitude of counsel there's safety".... Look it!

74 As I preached here not long ago at the Tabernacle, there was Ahab; and there was Jehoshaphat. And they were going up to Ramoth-Gilead to push back.... Fundamentally they were right; the land did belong to them. And the enemy, the Syrians up there was filling their children's belly with the wheat that the Israelites should be—God-given property. So fundamentally it seemed good. "Go with me, and go up there, and we'll push them off the land." Well, that sounded awful good; fundamentally it was right, but it's conditions.

Jehoshaphat being a good man said, "But shouldn't we consult the Lord?"

Of course, Ahab, that backslider, said, "Well, sure, [borderline believer, you know]." Said, "Oh certainly, I should have thought of that. I've got four hundred Hebrew prophets—four hundred of them I feed, take care of. They're the best there is in the country. We'll bring them up."

And all of them together with one accord said, "Go on up; the Lord is with you." Fundamentally they were right, but they hadn't caught that absolute.

Then when he said, "Isn't there one more?"

Said, "Yes, there's another one, but I hate him." He said, "He's always telling evil about me (see.), always saying...."

75 How could he prophesy good, when the whole Word...? Elijah, who had been before him, said to Ahab, "The dogs will lick your blood." Now, how could that a-vindicated prophet say anything that wasn't the will of God? And how that the dogs would eat Jezebel, and the dung would be upon the fields, so they could not say, "Here lays Jezebel." With a curse like that on a man, how could anybody else bless?

100 It's the person of Christ. Christ! Receive Him; and you can't receive Him without receiving His Word. The Word has to come first; then the life comes into that Word and manifests that Word.

Didn't Jesus say, "If I do not the works of my Father, then don't believe me"? It was the Word of God being manifested. God was in Christ, reconciling, expressing Himself to the world, what He was. That was the absolute. That was the eternal absolute there.

Now you say, "Is that the eternal, Brother Branham?" That was! "Then what about today?"

Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he also." It's the same absolute. All right!

101 Each one has their own absolute. Oh, my! It's just like it was in the days of Judges: every man done what was right in his own sight. In the days of Judges every man had his own absolute. He did just what he wanted to do, and that's the way it is now. Every man done right in his own sight.

Now, you know the reason they did that in Judges? This might shock just a little bit. But the reason they did it in Judges, because they had no prophet in them days for the Word of the Lord to come to, so every man could do what he wanted to in his own sight.

And that's exactly what's happened today. We don't have the prophet in these days of denominations, but God promised us one. See. He did. In the last days He would rise up and send Elijah back on the scene again, and he would turn the hearts of the children back to the faith of the fathers ... back to the original Pentecost. You know He said that!

102 And I know you'll refer, as He did there to John (over in Matthew 11th chapter and the 6th verse, I believe it is) when they said, "Who do you think this man was, this John?"

He said, "If you can receive it, this is he that was spoken of, 'Behold I send my messenger before my face.'" That's Malachi 3, not Malachi 4. But remember, if that was the Malachi 4, then the Word failed, because He said but just at this time the whole world would be burnt, and the righteous would walk out upon the ashes of the wicked. Naw! Don't mix it up, brother make it say just exactly what it says. That's right. He promised it in the last days, and it'll be right in the midst.

103 Remember, when judges, every man done the way he wanted. There was no man, no man could make that Word live. There was no prophet. The Word of the Lord always comes to the prophet (that's right), and he's always hated. Only a little group that love him! See. But I mean, there was always that.

standing yonder at the bottom of the river, 1933, in June, when He said, "As John the Baptist was sent forth to forerun the first coming of Christ, I send you with a message to the world to forerun the second coming of Christ." And around the world she's went when revival fires had been built for fifteen years on nearly every mountain. Divine healing across the nations, and the power, and restoration, and now, I believe she's ready to strike that final climax yonder, to bring forth a faith that will rapture the church into glory [unclear words] and she's laying in the messages! We're really at the end time. We've talked about it and everything, but the thing has moved upon us now. Yeah! Yes, sir! You've won! That's right!

98 The red light, as I've said, it settles the case! That's all. The red light tells you who goes. No matter what anybody else says, it's what the red light says. You can really have a traffic jam if you don't mind the red light. There must be an absolute. Yes, sir!

Just like to the church, there's got to be an absolute. To the people in the church, you've got to have your absolute. But today each church has its own absolute, see. It don't try to take....

"We Baptists believe this!"

"We Methodists believe this!"

"We Presbyterian believe this!"

"We Pentecostals believe this!"

That's all right, but why don't you take the rest of it? What's the matter with the rest of it?

"We Baptists believe in immersing."

That's good; what about the baptism of the Holy Ghost now? What about speaking with tongues? What about gifts of healing? What about prophecy?

"Oh, no! We don't; that was for another age." Oh, boy!

99 Pentecostals, you say, "Well, we believe in speaking in tongues for the evidence."

Sure, speaking in tongues is all right, but that's still not the evidence. Many people speak in tongues (that's true,) and that's as far as they ever go. The devil can impersonate any gift it's got, any gift that's in the Bible.

Paul said, "Though I speak with tongue of men and angels; though I give my body to be burnt as a sacrifice; though I sell all my goods to feed the poor, and though I have faith to move mountains; though I went to the seminary and learned all the knowledge there is to be learned, I'm still nothing."

That's the way it is today. How can a man bless these things that's taking people further from God all the time? There's only one thing to do. If you have to stand by yourself, curse the thing in the name of the Lord and stay with it, when your absolute....

And you say, "Well, Brother Branham, you make people hate you."

God will love me. That's my absolute. Can't rest on an arm of flesh, you got to rest on the Word, what God said do.

76 How did Micaiah know he was right? He waited; he had a vision. They had a vision too, but the vision didn't compare with the Word. And today the same thing. Micaiah compared his vision with the Word, and then he seen he and the Word was together. Today, if your vision's contrary to the Word, leave it alone, 'cause it's a wrong absolute. Micaiah's absolute was exactly with the Word, so he could stand and say, "He...."—what he said and believe it. When they smacked him in the mouth and said, "Which way did the Spirit of God go?", he said, "You'll find out when you set in the inner chamber." Right.

He said, "When I return in peace.... You put this man in inner prison, and when I return in peace," said Ahab, "I'll deal with this fellow."

"Oh, now, Micaiah, what about it? Your head will be chopped off when he comes back!"

77 Micaiah stood there just as stern as Stephen did (Amen!), just as willing as my Lord walked to the cross, just as easy as Daniel went into the lions' den, or Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego went to the furnace. Absolutely! He stood there and said, "If you return at all...." Why? He was absolute. "If you return at all, God never spoke to me. Chop my head off then."

He had an absolute. He knowed that his compass, that had guided him to this vision, was exactly with the North Star. Yes, sir! His anchor held. Yes, the Word and it only....

If your absolute.... If you have an absolute in your life....

78 There was a time when, you know, etiquette had an absolute. I can't think of that woman's name, but the whole nation trusted in what that woman said. (I forget her name. I was writing a note here; I couldn't think of that woman's name—who it was.) But here a few years ago they had to be.... This woman, what she said.... If she said use the knife in the left hand, that was it; that was the absolute. She was the answer to all of it. And if you'd put the fork in the left hand, then you were absolutely wrong. What was her name? [Congregation answers, "Emily Post."] Oh, that's it, sure. Yeah, that's it.

Now, you were absolute ... she was etiquette's absolute. It must be that way. Like, oh, many things we find like that. But we find out now it's gone. Eat the way you want to. Yes, sir! All right! But that was etiquette's absolute. You had to do it that way.

79 There was a time when Adolf Hitler was Germany's absolute. Whatever he said.... When he said, "Jump!" they jumped; when he said, "Kill!" they killed. Millions of Jews, he dodged his head. You see what happened to that kind of an absolute? It looked like power, but it was contrary to the Word.

"How do you know it was contrary to the Word?" God said.... Wasn't it Balaam that tried to look down upon Israel to curse it, he said, "I see him as a unicorn. How righteous are thy tents. Whoever curses you will be cursed; whoever blesses you will be blessed."

Looked like Hitler could have saw that. Looked like them German Christians could have saw that, see. That absolute.... Absolutely contrary to that Word.... You know, as it's been said, "God made man, but man made slaves"—one trying to rule over the other one. We got one ruler, that's God.

But Hitler was Germany's absolute. Look at it today. Now, see what happened? It was the wrong absolute. Why? It was contrary to the Word! And now, you see where it all went to? Disgrace.

80 And if your absolute is in some organization, or some sensation, or something else besides the person of Jesus Christ, you'll come to the same portion of shame, only worse, see. If your absolute is not Christ, that's the only centerpost of the human life; and Christ is the Word, not your church, the Word, see. "Upon this absolute I'll build my church"—upon Christ, the Word.

81 There was a time when Mussolini was the absolute of Rome. I don't know, I might have read an article, or it could've been that I read it in a book, or somebody told me; but when someone was being interviewed by Mussolini he wanted to bring Rome into athletics. And there's a big statue used to stand there of him about athletics. That's all right! Greece had that idea many years ago. Rome's always tried to have it. Athletes is all right, athletics ... but remember, that won't take the place of Christ. No matter how strong you are, that has nothing to do with it. He's the all power.

82 And you see what he tried to build Rome upon? And he tried to build Rome upon the thing of an absolute; that he was that absolute. And they said that one day that his driver was one minute early, and he shot him. Said, "I didn't say be here at one minute before nine; I said, be here by nine!"—plowly! and shot him, see. "I don't want you here one minute before; I want you here at nine!" See? Look what an absolute he tried to

stand tied to the Word and to Christ, and bring that congregation under that condition of where each member walks in condition of this Word, seeing that Word manifested, following, "These signs shall follow them that believe, into all the world."

They said, "That was done away with."

Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world; preach the gospel to every creature."

We haven't reached all the world yet, and a long ways from every creature. How long? All the world. Who to? Every creature. What will happen? "These signs shall follow them that believe: In my name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; if they should take up a serpent or drink a deadly thing, it would not harm them; if they lay their hands on the sick, they shall recover."

That's the absolute holding there, the Word, that North Star, that compass that stays right with it. That's what we need.

95 But we went out and built institutions, organized the people, took in members, and fussed with the Baptists (because they didn't believe the way we did) and the Methodist (because they didn't this a-way); and we hatched out a bigger seminary, and built bigger churches, the better pushed pews, and a bigger organ, and so forth, and a better dressed crowd; we got the mayor and everybody in the church; and what have we got? A bunch of death, tied to a denominational absolute! Death! Oh, forbid!

96 If I die in my tracks, my absolute is Jesus Christ; upon that I believe. If everybody walks out.... Someone said ... Dr. Davis said to me, "Billy, you preach such a thing as that, you'll preach it to the posts of the church."

I said, "I'll be preaching God's Word to the posts then, 'cause God's able of these posts to rise children unto Abraham." Right! God's Word is true!

Said, "You think they'll believe you?"

I said, "That's not my business. It's my business to stay true to that Word." That's right.

Said, "You think you could meet an educated world like this with a theology of divine healing?"

I said, "It's not my divine healing, it's His promise. He was the one give the commission.

97 Oh, and I remember when He swept down there in that big light,

What if we didn't have a red light? Wouldn't there be a traffic jam!

91 That's what's the matter with the churches, see. That's right. That's the reason we got such a denominational jam. That's exactly right. Nobody's getting anywhere, they're standing, fussing.

Here is God's light. When it says, "Go!" go. When it says, "Stop! This is far enough!" then stop. That's right. That's where we are based upon, that, that Word, not what some bunch of men said or some other bunch of men said.

Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe." That's go! "Go ye into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature."

92 You know, as good as education is, but Jesus never required that. That's right. As good as churches are, buildings, He never required that. As good as hospitals was ... the churches build hospitals. That's all right, we appreciate that, but He never required it.

He said to the church, "Preach the gospel." And the gospel came not in Word only, but through power and manifestation of the Word. Paul said so. Then go manifest the gospel. Oh, my! If it was that way....

93 Oh, we are today living in a time when we got the best doctors we ever had. We got the best drugs we ever practiced with. You know that. And we salute those men; we pray for them. I do, and I hope you do. Those men, who with their understanding of feeling.... They got two senses to work by, that's seeing, and feeling, and they ... and hearing. They work by a sound of the heart, or a feeling of a tumor or something, or the sight of something they can see, a spread of disease, or something on the face that's covering the face or the body somewhere. They work upon those things (see?), because that's.... They try to take medicines, and so much that will kill it, and then won't kill you, and so forth. That's their business to work on that. And we appreciate that; that's very fine.

But, we've got the best doctors, the best medicine, the best hospitals, and more sickness than we ever had. We got more unbelief than we ever had. Yes, sir! That's exactly.

94 Ministers has organized themselves, and got great denominations, and taking in anything, and so forth (and just for anything making a church member); and they're won over to some seminary, like a incubator chicken (and hatch them out by a grinder that brings them out like that), and some time know no more about God than a Hottentot does about an Egyptian knight. Bring them through like that, and there you are, see.

Oh, what we need in our churches is a man that's got a absolute! What we need in a Methodist church, the Baptist church, the Pentecostal church, the Presbyterian church is an absolute—a man of God that will

make himself. But you see what happened?

83 You remember (many of you here, the old-timers, Roy Slaughter maybe, and farther back in that)—remember down yonder when I told you about prophecy? One day down there at the Odd Fellow's building, before we ever come to here, I said, "Mussolini will come to a shameful end." I said, "His first invasion, he will go to Ethiopia; and Ethiopia will fall at his step, but he'll come to his end, and nobody will help him; in disgrace will he be buried." There he is.

I said, "There's three isms has rose up, Nazism, fascism, and communism." I said, "Them isms will revolve and come around into one; it'll be communism. Watch! Communism will burn Rome," see. You watch it. It's a tool in God's hands. They think they're against God, they're working right into it all the time, don't know it. He's just using them as a puppet, some tool in His hand, like He did Nebuchadnezzar and many of the others.

84 Now notice! See? Now, there was a time when Pharaoh was a absolute of Egypt, but look where it's at now, see. It all failed. Oh, it's a wrong kind, so they always fail. They're man-made absolutes. You can't take a man-made absolute, I don't care if it's a president, if it's a dictator, if it's a king, if it's a church, if it's a organization, if it's a creed, any of those things are going to perish, just like all the absolutes of that kind through the ages.

We can look back.... Look back! Look at men who trusted the emperors; look at men who trusted the dictators; look at men who built their hopes upon them kind of absolutes; and look where they are today!

85 Now, let's turn ourselves around and look at the men who put their hopes upon the Bible, upon God's Word and held it for an absolute; look where they are now.

Paul gives you a little brief of them in Hebrews the 11th chapter, what they did. How they subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, and so forth; and they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, of who the world's not worthy of, waiting in glory for that grand resurrection. See. All right. Some of them didn't obtain to these miracles, and they give their bodies anyhow, looking forward to that resurrection. To finish out their lives, they didn't care for it; they wanted to go on and sacrifice themselves, so they could obtain that resurrection; and that's what they did.

86 Now, absolutes. We're talking ... absolute. You know, our supreme court is an absolute. It's a absolute; it's the final end of all arguments in this nation. That's right. Their decision is an absolute, in our supreme

court. That's right. Oh, I know sometimes we don't like it, but it's an absolute anyhow. Yes, sir. What if we didn't have that, then what? But that's an absolute. Certainly is. Why? That's ... our nation is tied to that.

When that supreme court finally makes their final decision, that's it; there's no.... Where are you going to after that? You're going to follow their decision, that's all; you've got to. They are the last word; they're the "amen."

You can try it in local city courts; you can try it in magistrate, and then go to all kinds of courts, and to federal courts; but when we've come to the supreme court, that's it. That's right. Sometimes we don't like to ... say, "Well, I don't like their decision," but you try to get away from it once. That's the nation's absolute. And what if we didn't have it? Yes.

We have to have an absolute. Everybody has to have one. You've got one. But what I'm trying to tell you, background there and show you what absolutes are.

Now, the nation's supreme court is the nation's absolute. That's the last thing in any kind of a fuss. They settle it. What they say, that's it.

87 There's an absolute at a ball game. That's the umpire. Oh, yeah! Sometimes we don't like his decision either, but it's that anyhow. The umpire, his decision is the final word. That's right. No matter what others say; if he says it's a strike, it's a strike. That's right! Certainly. No matter what others say, that don't have nothing to do with it. And let's just think of.... (I don't go to ball games, but I just happened to jot that down.) An umpire, he's the absolute at the ball game.

One of them say, "That was a ball!"

Another one say, "You're a liar!"

This one say, "This isn't that way; it ought to be this way."

The umpire said, "Strike!"

See, the rest of them take their seat and sit down. They gripe, some of them, but.... I imagine they'd "boo" at him down in their heart and things, but it's a strike anyhow. Why? He's the final word.

First baseman said, "You know that, that passed!"

The other say, "You know that's wrong!"

He'd say, "Strike!" That's all of it. "Shut up then, go on back to your place."

88 What if there wasn't an umpire at the ball game? My, could you imagine what kind of a game that would be? One of them said, "It was a strike!" Another one said this. Another said that.

Another one said, "You're a liar!"

There'd be a fuss and a fight. To have a ball game, you got to have an absolute. And he walks out there, and no matter if you don't like him or what, he's the absolute anyhow. He is the absolute; his word is final. No matter what you say about it, it's that way. Now, if they didn't, the whole game would go into chaos. Is that right?

89 What would the nation be if there wasn't a federal court? There wasn't a supreme court in this nation, what would it go ... where would it go to? The nation would be in a chaos.

If there wasn't an umpire at a ball game, it would wind up ... you wouldn't make the first throw, till somebody'd be fussing. Somebody stand there and maybe the ... really went right on the plate, and the other guy'd say, "Oh, no! No, no, no! It didn't do that!" and then there you go. First ball was throwed, they'd argue about it. One of them said, "That was a strike!"

The other one say, "It wasn't a strike!"

See, you've got to have somebody that game's tied to, and that's the umpire. When he says, "Strike!" it's strike. If he says, "Ball!" it's ball. Whatever he says, it goes. That's it! And if you didn't, you wouldn't have no game.

90 Let me show you another absolute. There's a red light, a red light. When it says, "Stop!" it means stop! If you run it, you're going to pay for it. But if this city didn't have any lights out here, stop lights, what kind of a city would it be? It's got to have an absolute. I don't care what the policeman said or anybody else standing there; they're secondarily.

If somebody can prove that you went through on a green light, I don't care what the policeman said, they're wrong. When the light said, "Go!" that means go. That's the absolute. You can prove that, the light said, "Go!" The policeman might have been standing somewhere, the mayor of the city might, somewhere, that don't make a bit of difference. If you've got proof that it was "go," you go; and if somebody hits you, it's their fault. You can prove it. That's right. We can prove what we're talking about. That's right.

Now, what if there wasn't no red light? One run up to a crossing, look what it would be. One say, "Hey, get out of the way; I'm in a hurry. I got to go to work; I'm late now. I'm going through now."

Other one say, "You just think you are, because I am the one that's going through, because I was here first." And I can see a woman get out and fix her hair.