

Time Tested Faith

Bro. Lee Vayle's Introduction of Bro. Branham
New York - May 30, 1958

...to take the gift of healing to the world, and he was born to the end that he might pray for the sick. That is one hundred percent scriptural, because God has set men within the body of the church that they may minister, and He has also given gifts of the Holy Spirit, and they are also set forth in the church amongst the people.

Well God called him to that particular end, and it's roughly twelve years ago that his ministry became as spectacular as it has been. Although previous to that he was known as the little Baptist preacher, who when he went into the Jeffersonville hospital, something was bound to happen.

And I remember one case in particular where a man was in an oxygen tent dying with double pneumonia and complications. He had just a little while yet to live when they called on Bro. Branham that he should go and visit that man. And when the nurses knew that he was coming in, they said, "Don't worry, Doctor; that man is going to go out."

He said, "Yes, he'll go out all right, but he's not going out well, he'll go out dead."

They said, "No, I'm afraid you're mistaken, because when that little man prays, something happens."

And sure enough Bro. Branham went in and rolled back the oxygen tent and prayed, and he said, "*He'll do!*"

Sure enough the next day he was home, one hundred percent, one hundred percent fine. It got so that whenever they saw him coming they knew that they were going to lose a customer.

My how the Lord blessed and how the Lord healed. That's before even this divine call came wherein you have seen him minister in the last twelve years. When I remember seeing him, it's just roughly not quite twelve years ago, it's eleven years ago when he came to Canada and there we saw him in one night minister to roughly two thousand people and there was not one miss.

Now when the Lord called him he told Bro. Branham that there would be two signs or evidences given him as there was to Moses. And the first sign was to be the evidence of a particular phenomena in his hand. And I think you folks know that, you read about it at least, many of you were in the meetings and hundreds attested to it, when the right hand of the afflicted one was placed upon his left hand that the hand would become angry and swollen and various little peculiar things would happen to cause him to know that there was an infirmity there, and then God would reveal what that infirmity was.

Well, I had never seen it but I knew that it was true. And last night, or the night before in New Haven the night before last, in New Haven, Connecticut, he took a lady by the hand and he said, "*Sister, just place your right hand on my left hand and keep your eyes open and watch what happens to my hand here.*"

Well I was very curious, so I just stepped right over in the light and I saw that hand become angry and afflicted and those white marks move back and forth. And he prayed for her, and I'll be frank with you, I do not believe that her faith was at a level to receive healing. And so nothing happened. He said, "*You can see it still there.*" But he said, "*Now watch, it's going to go.*" And with the authority that God gave him, the gift of healing in operation, that angry mark left, the woman immediately ceased to have any affliction within her. She was set whole perfectly.

Now that was the beginning of his ministry. And we saw thousands of people who actually were healed. As I say, one night I saw two thousand. Now, I'm not a fool. At least I hope I'm not. And I can tell when a club foot turns around. I mean, I'm that intelligent, at least! I know when a hunchback like this, all ?twisted? suddenly straightens up. I know when blind see. I know when deaf hear, and I know when dumb speak. I will grant myself that much intelligence. And when I saw two thousand, I began to grant that there was One, Who was the same yesterday, today and forever.

And brother/sister, we saw the reality and the manifestation of God, and we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. But there came that time when God had said to him, "My son, if you remain humble and sincere, I will also give you the ability to read the thoughts and intents and the secrets of men's hearts so nothing shall be hidden from you, that which you need to have revealed to you, and I will let you know it by vision."

One day in Regina, Saskatchewan in Canada, as Bro. Branham was in the prayer line ministering, suddenly as a man came before him the vision appeared and he knew all about that man. He called him by name, he told him his affliction. Everything was exactly right, as the Lord gave in the revelation. Bro. Branham told me that he was so surprised that he could have fallen in a heap on that platform, that God showed him all of those wonderful things.

Now with this however there came an influence in Bro. Branham's life, which has been very difficult for people to apprehend, to grasp the meaning. Because instead of the long prayer lines now, there were shorter prayer lines where Bro. Branham was carried away in a trance and in a vision, and the effects of the vision upon him were so weakening that he could not now minister to large numbers of people.

Now in the human mind this immediately brings what we might suggest a paradox, or at least something contrary to what we would feel in the ministry of the Lord by the Spirit of God in our midst, because we know the Scripture says, "From glory to glory and faith to faith." But this ministry seemed a diminishing rather than a multiplying, and showing the power of the Lord in a greater way than ever.

So many people were perplexed. They did not realize that even as when Samson, under the anointing and influence of the Holy Ghost was able to take that jawbone of the ass and slay the thousands, it was all right as long as he was played upon and moved upon by the Spirit of God, but as soon as the Spirit of God had moved from him in that particular ministry, you'll notice that he went to pieces. And he just got even ...?... with God. And he said, "Lord, I'm so thirsty I'm going to die, and You're not doing a thing about it."

And you know how that Elijah came down off of Mount Carmel at the zenith, the peak of his ministry, having defied the gods of this world and shown forth the true God of this world. He

came down and ran from a little old woman and wanted to die in the wilderness, and God found him way back in a cave somewhere.

And you know how that Daniel after his vision became weak, and he fainted, he became sick. And even Paul said, "Whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know."

You see the Spirit of God moving upon a mere man, even though justified in the spirit, made righteous through Jesus Christ is still a mere man. And no man can stand that tremendous influence of the Spirit of God and not faint in his own spirit.

So Bro. Branham became very weak in that ministry, and many people didn't understand and they'd say, "Well, you just said a minute ago that that ministry wherein there seemed a diminishing of healings, it shouldn't be compared to the other part of his ministry where there were more healings, I'd like to go back there."

Yes, but I want you to notice something right now. The miracle of the vision by the revelation of the Holy Spirit is a far greater ministry than we emptied wheelchairs and took patients out of cots of death. And I will tell you why. And if you folk were here the last time Bro. Branham preached, you will remember that he spoke to you of the sign of the Messiah. That when Peter stood before Jesus Christ, Peter [Jesus] did not ask him his name, He did not look up any reference as to statistics concerning his birth and all, He simply said, "I know who you are, you're Simon, the son of Jonas, from now on we're going to call you Cephas."

There is a man named Philip who heard that. He was greatly impressed and he knew that that had to be in the realm of the seer, and it could be if he were a seer that he could be that great Prophet spoken of by Moses. Right? Absolutely. The One Who knew all things. He went and got his friend Nathaniel, said, "Come, see who we have found." He knew Who He was. But he didn't want to make too bold a statement.

Nathaniel said, "Well, can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" He didn't know where Christ was born you see. A lot of people get mixed up on that. They don't know Who He is.

This man didn't know, and so his friend said, "Well, you come on down and see for yourself."

When Nathaniel came before Jesus, Jesus immediately operated once more in the realm of that great Prophet, and He said to him, "I know who you are; you're an Israelite in whom there is no guile."

And so right away Nathaniel said, "Well, how did you know me? We've never met. Why are you telling me my history if we've never met?" He was perplexed.

And He said, "Before you came here I saw you under that tree, before you were even brought here."

And what did he say? He said, "Thou art the Christ."

Why? Because the Messiah would come revealing the hearts of men. That was the sign of the Messiah, the great Prophet, the One Who knew, just like Moses when he knew what was in the

heart of Miriam, and in the heart of Korah and those men, he knew. And brother/sister, that's the Seer – the One Who knows.

Now, let Him go before the Samaritan lady. And He immediately once more demonstrates the power of the great Seer. And He said, "Go call your husband."

She said, "I don't have a husband."

And He said, "That's right. You don't have a husband. You've had five now and none of them your husband. You've got one man you're with now and he's not your husband either."

And she said, "You must be a prophet! And when Messiah comes, He'll tell us all things."

Why? Because that's the sign of Messiah, the great knowledge. You say, "What's important about knowledge?" My friend, knowledge is the most important asset in this world. If you've got an atomic bomb, but I know how to build a bigger one, I'll lick you every time. If you've got a billion dollars, but I know how to get it away from you, you won't have your billion. Knowledge! "My people perish from lack of knowledge!" And they knew that was the key! The Giver of all knowledge. They knew in Him Whom was all knowledge would come.

And she said, "When He comes..."

He said, "I've come. I'm He."

The sign of the Messiah. But when did He come to the Jew? He came in the end of their dispensation. When did He come to the Samaritan? He came in the end of their dispensation. But He never came to the Gentiles, never went to them.

So now, if Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, and His mode of dealing with people does not change, then He must appear by the Spirit as the great Prophet to the Gentiles, as He appeared to Israel and the Samaritans. That's logical.

And so what do we see today? We see today the sign of the Messiah once more. Brother/sister, that's the great miracle. And what is that great miracle? That soon, the Trump shall sound, and He Whom we love with all our soul shall appear. It will be with the Voice of God, with the Trump of the archangel, the heavens shall be rent, and He shall appear. And this is a sign unto you, here in New York, that you may be warned and warn your friends that Jesus is coming soon and He shall not tarry, because God has spoken, and His Word shall forever stand because it cannot be altered. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever and He manifested this very hour!

Praise God, He is speaking tonight. That's the great and mighty miracle and we love the Lord for it. But isn't going to be very long now before this will change once more. You say, "Why will it change?" Because brother/sister, God has vindicated Himself amongst His people. You don't need to carry a sign on forever; you go on with the business of the Lord. And what is that further business? I believe that it could be possible this meeting in New York tonight, if God so leads Bro. Branham, this shall be the last time that a meeting is conducted in this particular way of the trance and the vision. The final warning has gone over America. Every state has been covered, New England, the last states are now covered. Canada has been covered, Mexico, the North

American continent has seen the power of God. It's gone all around the world, where men must know that Jesus Christ is coming soon.

And so now back to the original message that God gave Bro. Branham. Back to the original pattern. "I've called you to pray for the sick. I've called you to take a gift of healing to the world." And I believe with all my heart that that day is just around the corner. Yeah, I believe that it could be within this twenty-four hours that the next great move of the ministry which God has given him shall once more come to pass in such a way that there shall nothing, absolutely nothing stand before the power of God, which has been given to man, not as though he had power, but had authority because of that Name.

And I trust tonight, I'm hoping, with all my heart that this could well be that last night. And it could be too as we believe in a great burst of glory, as these meetings are closing after these thirty days, and North American continent has been covered. Who knows, it could circle out and circle out from New York here – the good tidings of the tremendous power of Almighty God, Who has sent His Spirit, He's been here a long time, but Who has sent His Spirit in a special way this last day. Where as once the former glory was great, how much more now the latter glory? Even as the former rain were moderate, once more the latter rain that much greater. And I believe with all my heart that this new phase in his ministry is about to take place.

Bro. Branham will be here in just a minute, if he's not here already. He's here already? Let's rise and sing, "Only Believe." Praise the Lord, and believe it!