

THE SMYRNAEAN CHURCH AGE

 Most Glorious Father, we are so glad tonight to know that we have in our beings immortal Life. The Life of our God separated by tongues of fire and set upon each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and begin to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. O Father, how we thank Thee that Thou did divide Thyself amongst the Church. No wonder our Lord said, “That day you’ll know that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me, I in you, and you in Me.” How the God of Heaven dwells among His people! “A little while and the world won’t see Me no more, yet you shall see Me, for I will be with you, even in you to the end of the world.” Down through every church age You’d be here, the same yesterday, today, and forever, and we would know You by the works that You perform. “These signs shall follow them that believe.”

² Lord, seeing the—seeing the climax of all ages, time is fixing to run out and Eternity sets in. Father, God, we are so glad to know that we’re living in that remnant today; watching our lives and seeing the kind of objectives we have, the motives we have, and seeing that the Holy Spirit has took over. God, may every person in Divine Presence tonight realize these church ages that we’re living in and flee quick to the Lord Jesus, for it is so plainly written, that, “The Name of the Lord is a mighty tower, the righteous run into It and are safe.”

³ O God, come tonight and anoint our being, Lord. Bring the wanderers, O Lord, that’s so confused; look at the poor sheep, Lord, they don’t know what to believe; there are shepherd calls from everywhere. We pray, Father, that they’ll hear that great Shepherd of the flock, the Lord Jesus, His great Spirit speak tonight, say, “Child of Mine, come unto Me and I’ll give you the Sabbath, the Rest that seals you to your Eternal destination.” Not be tossed about upon the earth as we see the time running out now. Grant it, Father. Speak through the speaker, listen through the ears of those who hear, for we all are listening. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen. May be seated.

⁴ Now, tonight we are studying at the second church age. I see many of them taking notes and things, and that’s the reason I want to make this plain each time.

⁵ Now, the second church age was called the church age of Smyrna. And it taken place, the Smyrna Age, was issued in at the

same time the Ephesian Age went out. The Ephesian Age was from A.D. 55 to A.D. 170. The Smyrna Age come in at 170 and goes to 312. This church is a persecuted church; the one that wears the martyr's crown, is a church of tribulation. And God's promise to it, to the Elected Church in it, was to give it a crown of Life.

⁶ Each church had a *star* that was held in God's hand, which represented "the messenger" to that church age. The best that I could think was the messenger at the Ephesian church age (because the Bible does not say who they are) was Paul; because he established the Ephesian church and was the minister of that church age; that brought the Light to the Church, which Saint John taken it up from there. And then Polycarp, and on down . . . Polycarp, rather, on down.

⁷ Now, the Smyrna Age, I believe with all the . . . that I have been able to find, was Irenaeus. And now I want to give you the reason why that I chose Irenaeus instead of Polycarp. Now, most all clergymen wants to think (and Bible teachers) that that angel was Polycarp. Polycarp was a disciple of Saint John, that is true. And Polycarp sealed . . . he—he was a martyr, they stabbed him right in the heart and killed him. Now, but he was a great man, a notable man, a godly man, sweet. No doubt one of the greatest Christians we've ever had. And there was nothing you could say against his life.

⁸ The reason that I chose Irenaeus: because I believe that Irenaeus was more closer to the Scripture than Polycarp was. Because Polycarp leaned kind of towards the Roman idea of setting up an organization. And—and Irenaeus was firmly against it, he absolutely denounced it. And then, as we all know, the great issue was coming at the Nicene Council; one of the great issues was whether God was *three* or God was *one*. And Irenaeus took the side that God was God, now, just One.

⁹ I might read from *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, volume one, page 412, just a little quotation; if you want to put that down, volume one of *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*. And on page twelve, and it's the . . . If you wanted the volume, it's the last part of volume three. You could might read the whole thing; there's several chapters of it, or several sentences. Now I begin to read right at the last—right at the last twenty, thirty verses of it. I won't read it all, but just part of it:

"All the other expressions likewise being . . . bring out the title of one and the same Being;" (See, he's trying to say what they called Him, 'Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,' and he said, "That's

titles, not names, titles of the One Being.” That’s exactly what we teach yet today.) “as, for the example” (and then in parenthesis) “(in English), *The Lord of Power, The Lord Father of all, God Almighty, Most High, Creator, The Maker*, and such like. These are not the names and titles of succession of different beings, but of one and the same,” (Amen!) “by the name of which the one God, Father, is. . . He—He who all these things. . . grant to all the. . . of existence, the boon of all existence.”

¹⁰ Irenaeus says that “All these titles are summed up into one Name, under one God, and they are only titles of what He was.” He was the Rose of Sharon. That’s what He was. That’s a title. He was the Morning Star. He was Alpha. He was Omega. That’s titles of what He was. He was Father. He was Son. He was Holy Ghost. But there’s *one* God. One God, and His Name is One. And that’s one reason that I thought Irenaeus was correct in his—in his diagnosis here, or interpretation of the Scripture.

¹¹ Another thing that I’d like to read you, it’s found in the book: *How Did It Happen?* And this is by the historians. And, *How Did It Happen?* by R. C. Hazeltine, the history of the early churches. And here on page 180: “The Spiritual Gifts In Irenaeus’ Time, A.D. 177 to 202.” Now, the reason I’m quoting this, it’s going on tape, you see, and—and it’ll be taken off on books:

“It was in Irenaeus’ time that the most of the Apostolic church of France had all the gifts of the Holy Ghost.” That was from him teaching, see. “Irenaeus’ church members at Lyon,” that’s Lyon, France, “spoke with tongues. It was not uncommon to see someone dead brought back to life. Healing was—healing was an everyday occurrence in all the evangelistic. . . evangelical churches everywhere.” That Irenaeus knowed how to teach! “Miracles were frequent. In fact, those churches were never without a miraculous manifestation of God’s presence either by vision, suspension of the elements of nature, in a miracle, to remind the evangelical Christians of that day, they was His beloved disciples. But from the histories of the past, we cannot glean a single instance of raising the dead in the first Roman church.”

¹² That’s people that don’t. . . not interested in either side, they’re just telling the truth. It’s historians.

¹³ That’s why I think Irenaeus, because, you see, he had the same faith that Paul and the disciples had handed down. That’s why I have. . . believe that he was the angel of the church of Smyrna, because he was. . . he had the same Scriptural

teachings; and the same Scriptural teachings upon the basis of God's Word will produce the same thing every time. If you will just simply take God's formula and carry it out to the letter, no matter what the churches say, just follow it just the way it said, it'll produce the same thing. And that's what Irenaeus did.

¹⁴ Now, I think that Polycarp was a fine man, understand; but I say that he leaned too much to organize the church, and like the Nicolaitanes was doing. They were organizing the church, and—and bringing a brotherhood together. Which seems all right intellectually, but, you see, the Spirit is so far ahead of the intellectual till the . . . you can't even think right to—to the Spirit. "My high thoughts are higher than your thoughts," saith God. "My ways are higher than your ways." So there's only one way to do that; just follow Him by the blueprint. That's right.

¹⁵ Now, we might think, if you was going from here . . . If I was going to Chicago tonight, I might get out here and get me a compass, and say, "Now let's see, Chicago sets right this way. All right, I'll take right off." I wouldn't get out of Jeffersonville. See? I got to get me a road map. And there's—there's a lay . . . way lined out that I can go to Chicago in six or seven hours of travel by automobile, but I can't just cut any way. The airplane just can't cut any way; he's got a—a air line or a certain height and things that he has to fly, of certain degrees that he has to stay in.

¹⁶ There's a way made, and God has a way. God has the way for His Church, for His people. And He never did intend It to be controlled by popes, cardinals, archbishop, or general overseers. The Holy Spirit is the Tutor of the Church of the living God, to raise It. And all the holiness don't go to a cardinal or a priest, to make him a holy man in the—in the church, anything. The laity has just as right . . . much right to the Holy Spirit as any preacher, pastor, deacon, trustee, whatever more. Laity!

¹⁷ And the reason they call it Nico-laitanes . . . As we had last night, Nicolaitane, we broke the word down and took it from the Greek. And N-i-c-k-o, meant . . . *Nicko*, which means "to conquer or to overthrow." What? N-i-c-k-o, Nico-laitane, *laity*. "To conquer the laity," and overthrow it by giving them a order of men, clergymen that would teach them and would . . . they would get their own conclusions together. That's how the Nicene Council was held. Because many got together and fixed up an order in the Nicene Council. We ain't . . . don't want to talk too much on it, 'cause that's Thursday night's, in the Nicene Council.

¹⁸ But there's where the Roman Catholic Church was formed, out of a group of people that were converts of Saint Paul, and Irenaeus, and Saint Martin, and on down. They were converted Christians to the . . . from paganism over to Christianity, but wanted to pull the church back into an Old Testament form of ministry, like having high priests, and—and apostolic successions, like one pope to another pope, another pope. If we could go on down through this Bible, you'd find out that that's just exactly the truth and how God condemned the thing from the very beginning; and last night's church age, said, "I hate it!" and so did the Church.

¹⁹ God never intended the Church to be run by men. God runs His Church, and He runs it through gifts of the Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit is in the Church to correct the spirit. He's got five ministerial offices in His Church. First of them is apostles, or, missionaries. Missionary is the highest calling there is, apostle. The word *missionary* means "one sent"; *apostle* means "one sent." Why they ever chose to be called a missionary, I don't know. But they are apostles. All right. Apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, pastors. Now, that's the elected offices of God to His Church.

²⁰ Then in each local church there's nine spiritual gifts that come among the people, that is, knowledge, wisdom, gifts of healing, working of miracles, speaking with tongues, interpretation of tongues. And all these things go in each local body. And every person in the church has an individual ministry, and that individual ministry goes together with the rest of the ministry, to edify the Body of Jesus Christ. And never . . .

²¹ Now, remember this, that here is . . . I'll draw these lines tonight. The first church, Ephesus; Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea. Now, remember as this goes on, *this* church had the fulness of the Spirit, but at the end of the church age we find that It was being pressed out. The next church age pressed a little more; little more; till *this* one, there was just a little teeny speck. "You have a few things," He said. Oh, when we get to that Thyatira Church Age!

²² Now, after that come, God raised up a German by the name of Martin Luther that swung the Church back again. It started out a little more, he preached Justification; along come Martin Luther, preached Justification. Along come John Wesley and preached Sanctification. Then in this church age *here*, they come right straight back again to the Baptism of the Holy Ghost again, with the same signs and wonders, coming right down. *Here's*

where it went out through fifteen hundred years of Dark Ages. And there's where the darkest . . . or the longest church period we had in the church ages. Then *here's* where it starts coming up, Justification, Sanctification, Baptism of the Holy Ghost. And the Bible said that, "In the end of *this* age, that this little minority here will be squeezed down because the same church of Pentecost will start doing the same thing they started back *here*, Nicolaitanes." (O God, let me keep my mouth shut till I get to that.) You see? What I can see there. See, until you can see here. And I'll show you that the messenger to this church age will hate denominations. The Spirit will raise up in the children. It's always been. And now we got a . . .

²³ Now, if you'll notice this, how It was great here, went out, and finally smothered It all the way out. Then It starts back. Luther pulled It back, Justification; Sanctification; Baptism of the Holy Ghost; and then right at the end time, he smothers It right down, until This is almost completely gone out, there's just a little teeny bit there, and that's when he screams that "If He don't cut the work short for the Elected sake, there will be no flesh saved." See? There you are, right at the end time. Now bear that in mind.

²⁴ Now we're going to start on this Smyrna Church Age. First I want to break it down here on some paper that I—that I have. Now, the second church age being Smyrna, and I believe you'll all agree with me (or I hope you do, or halfway, anyhow) that Irenaeus was the star to that church age. He was God's messenger 'cause he swept the country, into France (Gaul), down in there, and he established churches, and every one of them was established upon the baptism of the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues, raising the dead, healing the sick, stopping the rains, and performing miracles daily. They knewed that the living God lived among the people. That was the man of God, 'cause Jesus said, "No man can do . . ." Or, the—the people said, "No man can do these works except God be with him." It was Nicodemus that told Jesus that.

²⁵ Now, a city of commerce; a trading outlet to Lydia and to the west. The third largest city in Asia, a great harbor city. Noted for wealth, temples, buildings, schools, medicine and science. Jews lived at—at Smyrna, and they evangelized the Smyrnaean people. Polycarp was the first bishop of Smyrna. Polycarp and other faithful servants established the deep faith of God in the believing Smyrnaeans. Early church fathers give exhortation of the Truth to Smyrna.

²⁶ The church age of Smyrna, the name of the church was Smyrna. *Smyrna*, rather, that means “bitterness,” myrrh. It’s associated with dead, ’cause they were dying.

²⁷ A persecuted church, God called them “persecuted.” God looked upon their persecutions, and gave grace to bear it. He looked upon his tribulations, and gave them victory over death. Looked upon their poverty, and give them riches in Him. The Church of Smyrna passed through the fiery furnace of tribulations, but, was a sweet-smelling savour unto Him. That’s that Remnant now, not the whole Smyrnaean church; just the Remnant I’m speaking of. The great *ten days of tribulation* means “ten years of the bloodiest persecution.”

²⁸ I don’t know whether I can spell this name, or pronounce it, or not. This was the emperor at that time, I believe was the bloodiest one of all of them since Nero in 67, D-i-o-c-l-e-t-i-a-n. During the year of 303 to 312 A.D.

²⁹ God exhorts Smyrna to be faithful unto death, as He was, “And I will give you a crown of Life, as the Father has given Me.” God promised the overcomer (in tribulations) the victory over the second death, “Fear not them which can kill the body, but He that can destroy the soul, or, kill the soul.” It . . . The Smyrnaeans was to endure to the end, “Fear not men, and a crown of Life will be given you.” The persecution of Christianity in the ages are typed in the church ages, of Smyrna, are very important. We’ll want to get to it just in a little bit, the Lord willing.

³⁰ Now, if some of you miss some of these while . . . if I write them a little too fast for the rest of the class, then we’ll . . . we’re . . . you can certainly get them from us any time you want to, we’ll be glad to—to give them to you. (Excuse me.)

³¹ Now on the 2nd chapter and the 8th verse, we begin tonight. Now, what did we leave Him on last night? He was certainly . . . hated that Nicolaitane. Is that right? Now what does God do? What we have to have found out first? The revelation of Jesus Christ, Who He is and what He is. Now the next great thing, we find out that He hates anything that’ll put anything to rule over His Church besides Himself. He is a jealous God.

³² How I’d like to stop, ’cause we just got four verses here, just to quote a little something. How many can remember when the good prophet, Samuel, when all of Israel wanted to act like the rest of the world? Do you remember that? And the prophet told

them, said, “You’re wrong!” But they wanted to act like the Philistines, and like the—the rest of them. Well, that’s exactly what happened in this very first church age. It’s strange that people don’t want God to lead them. They want to follow. . . they want some man. Israel, made the greatest mistake it ever made, when. . . Grace had already provided them a prophet, a leader, provided them a lamb as an atonement, and provided them food from the heavens, and all the good things that grace had provided them, and still, in Exodus 19, they wanted a law. They wanted to make doctors of divinity, and have some men, they wanted to have something to do into It, too.

³³ Man’s always trying to outsmart the very Creator that made him, and he doesn’t do a thing but kill himself. As a few Sundays ago I preached on the—the *Hybrid Religion*. And that’s exactly. When you hybrid anything, it can never. . . it’s done! It’s finished, it can’t come back no more. A mule can never breed back and have another mule, because he—he’s a mule, he’s a hybrid. Fine corn, you can’t raise fine corn off of fine hybrid corn. It won’t even. . . It might come up, but it’s—it’s, oh, it’s no good at all. You can’t do it. Anything that’s hybrid is no good.

³⁴ And a hybrid religion is no good! As long as you’re trying to add something to what God said, or do something that God don’t want you to do, it’s a hybrid religion. It might look pretty. Oh, hybrid corn will outshine the natural corn. An ol’ mule will outwork two horses. Well, that’s. . . It ain’t working, brother, it’s grace that we’re saved by. “Not by works are we saved, but by grace.” So that might. . . I hope you don’t think these remarks. . . You’re—you’re setting under a strain, and I—I feel it up here. You see? Because there’s Presbyterian, Methodist, and all kinds in here. We know that. And so I—I feel it. And you have to relax yourself a little once in a while, get that shake off, like.

³⁵ Now, listen. Anything’s hybrid is no good. You’ve got to take the original, the way God made it, then you’ve got something that’s real.

³⁶ Now, we find out then that this church of Israel, as they passed on, God had fed them, and taken care of them, and done everything for them. And finally they looked over to the Philistines, and the Amorites, and the. . . and different ones, and said, “We want a king! They got something we ain’t got.”

³⁷ That’s the same thing the people does today. One of these, our sisters, will look over at the television and see Gloria

Swanson, or whoever they. . . some of them women with a certain kind of a dress on, and they just can't stand it till they get one. See? You see some woman downtown, "Oh, isn't that darling?" What do you care what she ate and could wear? People, they're just that way, I said it's the day of—of impersonation, somebody wants to impersonate the other. You take the. . . There's so many Elvis Presley's now, I—I tell you, you couldn't stack them up in boxcars, because he become popular in carnal comp-. . . impersonations!

³⁸ We have the same thing in religion. The. . . I was reading the history of Martin Luther, and any of you historians know. They said it wasn't a mysterious thing that Luther could protest the Catholic church and get by with it, but the greatest mystery, that he could hold his head above all the fanaticism that followed his revival and still stay with the Word. That's the miracle, how God kept him clear and straight.

³⁹ Now, so they come to this Samuel. They said, "Make us a pro-. . . or make us a—a king." And the Lord told him that He rejected that idea, just exactly what He rejected here with organization.

⁴⁰ Just like He rejected that, He rejects organizations. He don't reject organism, but organization. Organism, we have to have that. But organization we don't have to have, because it draws lines: "We are *So-and-so*." Are you a Christian? "I'm Methodist." Are you a Christian? "I'm Baptist." That don't mean no more than a pig in a pen. That has nothing to do with It, not at all. A Christian!

⁴¹ I asked a girl one night, on the platform, "Are you a Christian?"

She said, "Why, I give you to understand, I burn a candle every night." Like that had anything to do with Christianity!

⁴² Another man said, "Well, I'm an American. Sure!" Well, that's got nothing to do with It, not a thing. You're a Christian because you belong to another Kingdom. That's right. And you're—you're in another Kingdom, above.

⁴³ Now, what did Samuel do? Just the same thing that God did here. Samuel called Israel together, he said, "Now, listen to me. I want to ask you something. Has there ever been one time that I ever told you anything that wasn't true?" Said, "I—I'm God's prophet among you. Tell me one time I ever told you anything in the Name of the Lord that didn't come to pass." That's what Samuel said to them. He said, "And

hasn't God fed you and taken care of you and done all these things?" Said, "You're doing sin by trying to act like the other nations."

"Oh . . ." they said.

⁴⁴ He said, "I want to ask you something else. Have I ever took any money away from you? Have I ever begged you for an offering? Or have I ever told you anything in the Name of the Lord that didn't come to pass?"

They said, "No. You never took our money, that's true. And you've never told us anything in the Name of the Lord that didn't come to pass."

He said, "Then hear me! You're sinning by trying to act like the rest of them." But they wanted a king anyhow! Regardless of whether it was right or wrong, they—they wanted to carry out their idea.

⁴⁵ That's the same thing the church did right here at Ephesus, they taken the Nicolaitane doctrine. And when they did, it pushed them right in to convert paganism and Christianity together and caused a fifteen hundred years of Dark Ages. And when Luther pulled them out, if (the second round) the Lutherans didn't do the same thing they did back in Ephesus! Exactly.

⁴⁶ Now, if you'll notice, the candlesticks didn't set quite like *that*. They started down in *this* way and come up. Well, the highest one away from where He was standing was this one up *here*. And Christianity gradually smothered out as it went from where He was standing in the shape of the cross, as we'd see Him in the 4th chapter; in the shape of the cross like *this*. And *this* is His right hand, *that* was His left hand. Now, right *here*, He had His hand on *this* church and on *that* church. He was both Alpha and Omega and, of course, all was in between the two, all the other letters. But He specifically said, "Alpha and Omega." He had a rainbow over His head, which was His covenant.

⁴⁷ Now, if you notice, the light of Pentecost, where it started, gradually smothered out. These men, Irenaeus, Polycarp, all the rest of them sealed their testimony with their blood, until it finally squeezed Christianity into the darkest of days.

⁴⁸ Now look, the first age the other side of that great hump, coming over was a little bit of Light, more Light, then more Light. See how It begins to shine again, coming unto that day. And now at the end of *this* age, it's predicted here that it'd

come to a *Laodicean*, a “lukewarm.” Now, here it is. Why, if *this* thing here brought them to *this*, why would we want that down here in Pentecost?

⁴⁹ And you know the Bible said, “There’d be a beast.” And we know that’s the Roman papacy. That’s exactly right. And then they would form an image to that beast. What is an image? Something made like it. And that’s the confederation of churches, and Pentecost is in it. It’ll come a time where you’ll either belong to an organization or you can’t keep your door open. Now you see if that isn’t true! That’s the reason we pound it to death. Yes, sir. You’re unable. . . Lower than that, they’ll try to stick you so bad, till they try to. . . won’t let you buy or sell unless you’ve got that organization mark on you. It brings it right in.

⁵⁰ Just exactly like that day, they burned them, they. . . I stood there in that arena; wept like a baby when I’d look up there where the gladiators would set in that old arena there. And—and see them things, and know that many of my Christian brethren was eaten by lions and—and tore to pieces on the ground there, and women and little children and things. And I think, if they all went down in faith, would I let them down now? No, sir, brother! God, let me stand for the Faith that was once delivered to the saints! That same Thing, no matter how unpopular. . .

⁵¹ Somebody’s always wanting to say, “Well, . . .” Someone said not long ago. . . Oh! How many great ministers on the field has called me and said, “Brother Branham, if you don’t stop that, every organization will be against you.”

⁵² “Why,” I said, “there’s One that won’t be, that’s the One that’s in Heaven. That’s the One I’m looking for.” See? Now, I love people in every organization. Sure. But have I ever told you anything that the Lord. . . in the Name of the Lord, didn’t come to pass? See? Has everything been said and been done right? Have I ever begged you for money? Then stay out of the organizations! You stay free in Christ, let the Holy Spirit always move in and out the church.

⁵³ The only thing the matter, get all these little differences away from you. Little isms, and little funny feelings around you for brethren, and things like that, shake it away! Don’t let no root of bitterness ever get into your soul. If you do, it’ll canker you. Right. Keep love! I don’t care how much people hate you, you love them anyhow. If you can’t do that, you need. . . the. . . you the ain’t. . . you ain’t sealed, you got a loose place

yet. So come on, on back, and get that sealed up right good with the Blood of Christ. It'll cleanse you from all roots of bitterness. Yes.

⁵⁴ Now, see, but we're trying again. The Pentecostal Blessing fell about 1906, somewhere in there. There's a minister setting with us tonight, a missionary from Tibet, one of the fi-. . . I don't say it because it's his presence; I hope he didn't go home. I think he's still here, was going to speak for us a little before I come down. And that man remembers the first of Pentecost. There wasn't any organization, everybody had things in common. Oh, how easy it is to take the wrong step right there, and how good it looks to the intellectual.

⁵⁵ Look, little did Israel know when they was standing out there on the bank, shouting. . . Now, you say, "This kind of religion is something new." Why, it's the oldest there is. Sure. Even before the world was ever made, they were shouting and praising God. God said so, asked Job, "Where was he when the—when the morning stars sang together, and the sons of God shouted for joy." That's before the world was ever created.

⁵⁶ But now look at Israel, had seen miracles. That's the early Pentecost; Israel, the Pentecost of that day. Now they had been brought up out of Egypt, God had blessed them, give them all kinds of great signs and wonders, and delivered them. And when they stood upon that bank and had a Pentecostal meeting. . . They did! Now listen. Moses sang in the Spirit, and Miriam took a tambourine and run down the bank, beating this tambourine, dancing in the Spirit; and the daughters of Israel followed her, dancing in the Spirit. If that ain't a Pentecostal meeting, I never seen one. Little did they believe that the—the promised land was forty years ahead of them. It was only about forty miles. But it'd take them forty years to get forty miles is because they chose the wrong thing. They chose to have a law instead of letting the Holy Spirit lead them, the Pillar of Fire take them on through and lead them. They wanted to have something to do themselves; they wanted to have certain priests, and certain dignitaries, and a little theology they could fuss about, instead of just going on and letting the Holy Ghost lead them. They were in the Spirit; God had provided everything, but they had to have something to do into It.

⁵⁷ Just like hybreeding again. Let the cow alone. Let the horse alone. Let the food alone. They. . . Science claimed, in *Reader's Digest*, the article of it, if they keep on hybreeding food, and people eats it. . . Like chickens, they got that poor chicken till it

ain't got no wings or legs. And if it lays, it lays itself dead, they can only live a year. And the tissue is so soft you can't hardly eat it. And people eating it, it's perverting people. That's right.

⁵⁸ You know, homosexual is on the increase about forty percent in the United States, over the year ago. And did you know that science claims that women are getting wider in their shoulders and narrow in the hips, and men are getting narrow in their shoulders and wider in the hips? You're eating a perverted seed, you're eating perverted stuff. Your body was made to thrive on the natural thing. And what's it doing? It's changing even the natural course of men and women, till Hollywood, even our government, and everything is full of perverts. What's he doing? They're bringing it on themselves by their own tree of knowledge, killing themselves.

⁵⁹ Go back to the beginning! Let nature alone. Let God alone. Keep the Church in the Holy Ghost; and get away from all these bishops and popes with all kinds of doctrine. Go back to where we started at. Go back. Jesus would come tonight, you'd say, "I'm a Methodist."

He'd say, "It wasn't so from the beginning!"

"I'm Presbyterian."

"It wasn't so from the beginning!" What was at the beginning? A Pentecostal Experience of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. That's the way It began.

⁶⁰ But, see, we had to pervert it. Oh, it makes prettier. Sure. That little church standing around there dancing, and shouting; and down on the street, and people throwing rocks at them, making fun out of them, and everything like that. That ain't very pretty. "But now we got the great Doxology, and the Apostles' Creed, and, oh, Doctor Ph.D., L.L. double L.D., *So-and-so* for our pastor." And come out and say, "Ah-man," like a calf with the cramps, and go on like that, all those kind of things.

⁶¹ Excuse me, I—I didn't mean to say that. Forgive me, I didn't mean to say that like that. See? I didn't mean that. That ain't becoming to a servant of God.

⁶² But, look, all them, I . . . it just come upon my mind, see. But stand and say all them different things like that, practice before the . . . you know, say, "Now, no, you don't say that right. 'Ah-man.'" I like a good, old Pentecostal meeting where the power of God is falling, and you're just screaming and shouting and praising God, having a great time. That's the way;

the Spirit's got a hold of the people. But we . . . You can't hear a "Amen!" hardly anymore, it's a "Ah-man." However, that's where we get, you see. These organizations stiff, pride . . .

⁶³ Now did the apo- . . . Was there a prophecy concerning that? You remember Paul's prophecy last night? "I know that after my departure, grievous wolves shall enter in among you, and men of your own class, your . . . right in the own church (them Roman Catholic Church, coming up) will raise up among you and pull away disciples after them." And Paul's wolves, we find out, become Nicolaitanes.

⁶⁴ Listen at the Spirit speak through the prophet again, "In the last days perilous times shall come, for men shall be lovers of their own selves, ('I'm Doctor *So-and-so*, don't you tell me what about It, now. I'll give you to understand I'm a Presbyterian. Hallelujah!' Or, 'I'm a Pentecostal.')." What difference does that make, if you ain't Pentecostal by nature? The experience of it, see. Yes, sir. "I belong to the Assemblies." "I belong to the Church of God." Well that . . . what difference does that make to God? Got to belong to the Kingdom up there, see. That's right.

⁶⁵ Now, if—if you see, the . . . all these things just a conglomeration of—of gaity. Now, It said, "They would be heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." Oh, they can't go to church on Sunday night as long as there's some good television program on. Oh, my! Always they . . . Even the churches has got ball teams, and soup suppers, and cricket parties, and, "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, and despisers of those that are good." *These* despising *those*, see. *These* despising *those*, choking them out. Despisers of those that *are* good.

⁶⁶ Oh, you say, "They're Communists, brother." Oh, no. No, no.

⁶⁷ "Heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, despisers of those that are good, having a *form* . . ." Denominational experience, see. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the Power thereof."

⁶⁸ What would you be in this day? See, "Having a form of godliness." Go to church just as pious you can be, on Sunday, and put on the shorts on Sunday afternoon, mow the yard and have the Oertel's 92 out. And the pastor get outside and smoke a cigarette and come back, you know. "Having a form of godliness!"

⁶⁹ "Well, pastor, they got a church up there, they tell me that a lady got healed the other day from a can- . . ."

“Hmm. Hmm. Nonsense! Days of miracles is past.”

⁷⁰ “Well, you know what? I—I—I was up to a little church the other night, that little mission down on the corner, and there was somebody getting up there, speaking something, jab. . . .”

“Oh, honey, don’t you never hang around such like that. That’s mad dogs. My! Don’t you fool around that. That’s holy-rollers. Don’t you never. . . .”

⁷¹ “Having a form of godliness and denying the power thereof, from such turn away. For this is the sort that goes from house to house and leads silly women led away with divers lusts, never able to learn or ever come to the knowledge of the Truth.” That’s exactly right. There you are, ladies’ aid society, *this* society, *that*. The poor church has got so many societies that it can’t even preach the Gospel no more. Pastor can’t have but twenty minutes, and he has to talk about something else then. See? If they don’t, the deacon board will meet him. Yes, sir.

⁷² Oh, brother, what does a good pastor have to do today? Just do the best he can to stand out and cut the limbs where they want to, and let the chips fall in where they want to; and sling it out there. That’s all. Yes, sir. That’s right. Don’t—don’t spare nobody, just preach the Word and stay right with It, just hammer right on away. If they throw you in jail, preach It in jail. If you’re put anywhere else, preach everywhere you go; just keep on going, preaching. That’s right. Now, that’s what’s happened. See, they’re smothering it out.

⁷³ Now we’re coming to the—the Smyrna Age. The 8th verse:

. . . unto the angel of the church of Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

⁷⁴ I want you to notice every time that He introduces Himself to a church age, He puts forth something of His Deity. That’s the first thing He tries to make known to the church, that—that’s His Deity. He’s God! You see the great issue back here that Irenaeus and them was fussing about? They tried to say that the God in three cosmys, and it’s a God in three persons, and God in *this*. He said, “There’s no such a thing! It’s titles of one Being, and that is the Almighty God.” That’s right. So you don’t. . . they’ve always had that. And God here in the beginning is introducing Himself of one of His—of His Deities. You see He’s introducing Himself, first over here, “I am He which was, which is, and shall come. And I am the Almighty.” Here He starts right off with the Smyrna Age now.

⁷⁵ Now listen to Him, “I . . .”

. . . unto the angel of the church of Smyrna . . . (And we believe that to be Irenaeus.) . . . write; These things saith the first and the last, . . .

See? Introduced Himself, “I’m God, now, of this church age. I don’t want no four or five different gods around here. I—I’m God. See, that’s it.”

. . . which was dead, and is alive; (Amen!)

⁷⁶ Now, that’s the—the introduction. Now—now *Smyrna* means “bitterness,” and it comes from the word of myrrh—myrrh. And the—the first church—the first church, and . . . had lost their first love, the Ephesian church. And this church had begin to have “a root of bitterness” coming up in them because that this church, the main church, the big part (the majority of them, always) was hammering against the Holy Ghost ruling in the church, and they wanted to rule, themselves. They wanted to set up a priesthood, they wanted to act like the Old Testament people did. They wanted priests. And they . . . If the pagan gods, back there, where they was converted, they had priests and so forth of the . . . of Jupiter, and priests of Venus, and so forth; they—they—they want to bring in them same thing to make *these* men. See, the whole thing is pagan to begin with. All pagans has those priests and things like that. But—but the Church of the living God, it’s foreign to them. Christ is our Priest, our High Priest. We have a High Priest, a table also that we eat at.

⁷⁷ Now, this church had begin to spring up “a root of bitterness.” Why? It was bitter against those who want to continue on with the Holy Ghost. The love had faded away, and they were trying to swap it to creeds and denominations, getting away from the Holy Ghost leadership. Think of that! That’s why the—the—the bitterness was in them. All right.

⁷⁸ Now, the first church, this . . . the bitterness started creeping in. The second church, a little more. And, finally, it crept right in because they were “making a better church”; they thought they were. Right here they had something dignified, the great Roman people could come in. Why? They had a pope, they had—they had great men, cardinals, and so forth. They dressed fine. They got away from all the noise and everything they had; very quiet. Showed they was dying. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. They were dying. And so they got dignified and they made a better body. The first thing up here, they had the whole thing in

a big ecclesiastical denomination, the Roman Universal church, the Roman Catholic Church in the Dark Age. Well, then, they had dignitaries, and they had class.

⁷⁹ Oh, it was much prettier than when they used to stand out on the street, “and have to walk in sheepskin as goatskins, and destitute, and sawed asunder, and—and laughed at, and made fun of,” and as Paul said in Hebrews the 11th chapter.

⁸⁰ Why, this great, big, fine-robed church, with underskirts on, and—and all this other stuff that they wear like that. Sure, it looked dignified, “Father, Reverend, Doctor, Father *So-and-so*.” Oh, my! They could put on some real “dog,” there.

⁸¹ But, you see, it was a hybrid thing. Hybrid! See, it didn’t have any Life in it. And they can not go back no more, that’s the reason they never rise. The Lutheran revival never did rise up again. The Wesley revival never did rise up again. The Nazarene revival did not rise up again. Neither will the Pentecostal revival rise up again. Why? Because you killed it. You hybrid it with the world, with the Nicolaitane idea, not let the Holy Ghost have Its way. That’s right. You hybrid the church, and it can’t breed itself back again. When you breed back, you get more Methodists; Baptists breed back, get more Baptists; Catholic breed back, gets more Catholic; get the same thing you’re shelling off the ear. But let me tell you something; when the Holy Ghost comes back, It brings *new* birth and *new* Life; conversion. Baptism of the Spirit; brings the Church back to itself again, puts Life back in it.

⁸² Hybrid corn don’t have life in it. What life it is, is just about sapped out. Now, we get that in that Dark Age there, “What little you have, hold on to it,” He said. They’d had all squeezed it out. Now, but it won’t reproduce itself again. Now, the . . .

⁸³ But the Body of Jesus Christ is not—is not an organization. The Body of Jesus Christ is a mystical Body, it is a Body of . . . in a Kingdom that’s a spiritual Kingdom that set upon the earth by Jesus Christ being the King of this Kingdom, the High Priest to offer sacrifices for the wayfaring in this Kingdom. He’s a Prophet (the Word) that preaches the Truth and brings the Light of God in this Kingdom; and He is both Prophet, Priest, and King, in this Kingdom. And how do we get in this Kingdom? by the denomination? by letter? by hand-shaking? But “by one Spirit we are all baptized into one Body” which is the mystical Body of Jesus Christ, and we’re baptized in there, not by water, not by sprinkling, not by pouring, not by any

kind of a water baptism, but “by one Spirit, Holy Spirit, we are all baptized into one Body,” First Corinthians 12. Yes, we are baptized into this Body by one Spirit, Holy Spirit, then we’re don’t belong to anything but Christ. You are Christ’s. It’s a mystical Kingdom of God that’s set up, that we come into It by Holy Spirit baptism. I love That! Hmm!

There are people almost everywhere,
Whose hearts are all on flame
With the fire that fell on Pentecost,
That cleansed and made them clean;
Oh, it’s burning now within my heart,
Oh, glory to His Name!
I’m so glad that I can say I’m one of them.

I’m one of them, I’m one of them,
I’m so glad that I can say I’m one of them,
Hallelujah!

One of them, I’m one of them,
Now I’m so glad that I can say I’m one of them.

Though these people may not learn to be,
(D.D.D. Ph.D. Sec.) . . . may not learn to be,
Or boast of worldly fame,
They have all received their Pentecost,
Baptized in Jesus’ Name;
And they’re telling now, both far and wide,
His power is yet the same,
I’m so glad that I can say I’m one of them.

Aren’t you glad? Yes, sir. Just one of them. That’s all.

⁸⁴ I remember walking down through Memphis, that little, ol’ colored lady with her head leaned over there. She said, “Good morning, parson.”

I said, “How did you know I was a parson?”

She said, “The Lord told me, ‘His parson’s coming down the street, be wearing a tan hat, packing a suitcase.’” Said, “I knowed you was him when I seen you coming.” See? Oh, she was one of them. That’s right! Oh, how God is good!

⁸⁵ Now I believe something. . . [Brother Branham reads a note given to him—Ed.] “The little girl you prayed for—for, Sunday night, from Bedford, is supposed to have just died. This cannot. . . Please have prayer.” A little girl that we. . . they prayed here for her here Sunday night, from Bedford, “has—has just died,” they said. Let’s have prayer:

⁸⁶ Lord Jesus, I pray that somehow, someway, Lord, let our prayers go through for that child. We commit the little thing to You, our Father, God. And we think of those people that were here and praying and asking prayer for that little girl. O Father, God, I ask that—that this report may not be so, Father; we don't know, but I pray that You'll have mercy and give strength and let the little thing be raised up and live for the glory of God. In the Name of Jesus Christ we ask it. Amen. May the Lord Jesus add His blessings.

⁸⁷ Now, a church. Now, the church name is associated with the nature of its character. Did you notice the *Smyrna* meaning "bitter"? And you notice each one of the church now, it's the church name has something to do with the character of the church. I could say something here; but I better not, 'cause you'd get me wrong. See?

⁸⁸ Your name does, too. You might not know it, but it does. Oh, yes. You say now, "It's numerology." No, it's not. When Jacob was born they called him *Jacob* which was "supplanter;" but when he wrestled with the Angel, God changed his name to *Israel*, "a prince." Is that right? Saul was "Saul of Tarsus," a mean fellow; but, when he come to Jesus, he was called "Paul." Simon's name was "Simon"; but when he come to Jesus, he was called *Peter*, "a little stone." Oh, yes, sir. The . . . Your name associates what you're . . . It has an impression upon your character.

⁸⁹ And this church was called Smyrna because it was dying. *Smyrna* means "bitterness." In other words, a root of bitterness was coming up and was choking it out, it was on its road out to myrrh. That's what they anoint bodies with, myrrh, see. It was myrrh, frankincense, as an ointment. Myrrh is used to— to anoint dead bodies after they embalmed them, and so forth. Associated with death, and the church was dying.

⁹⁰ And, oh, can't you see, today, friends, the great Pentecostal move that did have Life a few years ago, can't you see it's being anointed now with myrrh? See? The same ointment was in this church *here* has come plumb down and anointing this one down *here*; dying out because they're going back to ecclesiastical rags, and taking off their white robe, saints. The little people who stood out there, and a genuine Holy Spirit, spoke with tongues, and manifested God. And, brother, they was as honest and, "all wool and a yard wide." They—they absolutely were genuine, you could trust them anywhere. Now you don't know what

to trust and who to trust. See? There's something's happened. Something's happened. What is? They're being anointed with myrrh, of bitterness. Raising up. One . . .

⁹¹ What had caused it? One come in, there was a—a church called, the first, was a General Council. Then they called it the Assemblies of God. Out of the Assemblies of God come the Church of God. From the Church of God, then they begin to look across, say, "You're Assemblies." The other say, "You're Church of God." Then out of that come the United Pentecostal Church of God, on an issue. And then, the first thing you know, instead of accepting Light and walking in It, why, they done organized themselves till they couldn't accept Light.

⁹² Now, when the—the baptism in the Name of "Jesus Christ" was brought forth instead of "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" to the Assemblies of God, they had already anchored themselves so they couldn't change it. And they know It's the Truth! I challenge any of them to show that It's not right by the Bible. It's absolutely the Truth. But what can they do? They can't do it. See, they'd break up their creed, they can't.

⁹³ Then what did the Oneness do? Instead of accepting It and going ahead, they got starchy: "Bless God forever! We got the Light, and you haven't. We're the . . ." What'd they do? They organized it. You can't organize God. God is even without form, the Bible said. No, nothing formal about God.

⁹⁴ Now, then the Assemblies tried to organize Him and make them . . . their . . . theirs the—the—the real Church. And then the Oneness come along, tried to organize theirs, and they "had more Light." So what'd they do? They blowed it out by their own selfish, bitter way they went about it. Instead of giving it out with salt and sweetness, they tried to disfellowship the other one, have nothing to do with him. And that's what done it. It had swept on, then. The first thing you know, up come another one, they got *this*, and now they broke up. One said, "He's coming on a white horse." The other one says, "He's coming on a white cloud. Bless God, I'll start me an organization over here." See what the way they do? It spread myrrh—myrrh. What did it do? It shut off brotherhood.

⁹⁵ A many a woman, man, tonight, in the Assemblies of God, would like to come and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ, knowing that It's the God's Truth. They'd be excommunicated if they did it.

⁹⁶ And a many Oneness of the . . . Now, I'm not Oneness. I don't believe in the "oneness" the way they do. I don't believe in *Jesus* like they'll say, "*Jesus*"; there is a lot of Jesuses. It's the *Lord Jesus Christ*. That's right. Now, and I don't. . . I believe that differen from what they do. They baptize in the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus for regeneration, that "Being baptized (regeneration) brings in Christ to you for your water baptism." I don't believe that. I believe regeneration comes by the Blood of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. That's right. Baptism is only an outward act to the inward work of 'generation that's done been done. See? So, I don't agree with that. That's all right, but they're all my brethren.

⁹⁷ When I first started out as a Baptist preacher, they come around saying, "Brother Branham, you come over here, we—we—we got It and we carried It over here."

⁹⁸ I said, "Neither one of you, I stand right between the two groups and say, 'We are brothers!'" Don't care what, I don't care if a man disagrees, that don't make one speck of difference to me, he's still my brother.

⁹⁹ I got a brother that likes apple pie; I like cherry the best, but I ain't going to disfellowship him. He can eat his apple pie and I eat my cherry pie. And I put *calf slobbers* on top of mine, if he don't want it, why, he can have it. You know that . . . What is it? Whipped stuff they put on it, you know, "whipped cream." I like it. Getting too old now to eat it, but it's a . . . But I—I—I. . . That's what I like. If he don't like it, he don't have to eat it. That's all right, I'll eat mine. But he's still my brother! That's right.

¹⁰⁰ And so I—I like that, I like a fellowship. But when we draw lines like this, and say, "No, this is *our* denomination," and won't reach over and shake hands with the next man, and say, "Bless God, brother!" My! That's when you call fellowship. If you don't, you get that root of bitterness just like the Smyrnaeans got back there, and you cause the same thing. All right, so their name was "bitter."

¹⁰¹ The Nicolaitanes kept smothering them out until the Dark Ages. Luther's age brought out the first step of grace, a little Light begin to shine. Then come forth after that, come John Wesley with sanctification, grewed a little brighter. And then come the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the Pentecostals, bringing back again the faith of the fathers. But they could not keep it that way, thus they had to organize it, and then they started right back into Nicolaitane again. Just exactly what the Bible said they'd do.

¹⁰² Now, I have to watch here or I'll get it. . . too much time took up. Let's get to the 2nd verse, or the . . . that'd be the 8, 9th verse. All right, now the persecution, the 9th verse:

I know thy works, thy tribulations, . . . poverty, (but thou art rich) . . . (Oh, my!) . . . I . . . (Now He's talking to the Church now, the real Church, not the others; they hated those deeds of the Nicolaitanes.) . . . I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but they are the synagogue of Satan.

¹⁰³ Now, they were complaining. They were poverty-stricken. The . . . They had taken all they had. They had built up their little church like this, and being that they was such a little bitty group, they had pushed them out, the big church had, just smothered them out. And It said, "I know. I know you have to meet down on the corner, you meet in the alley, or anywhere else that you can." (And I've been in the catacombs where they have to meet; go down under the ground and meet, and things there.) "I know your tribulations, and I know your troubles, and so forth like that, but you're made rich through those tribulations." Oh, my! Tell me any time a persecution comes upon the Church, it strengthens It. Always it strengthens the Church, in tribulations. "I know your tribulations, but you're rich." Why? "You've held on to Me; you're rich. But your tribulations ain't hurting you."

¹⁰⁴ Now, the . . . Did you to notice? The Nicolaitanes had got themselves a synagogue now. The Bible said so here. Did you notice it here in the 9th verse?

Where . . . which . . . are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

¹⁰⁵ Uh-huh, the true Church had been pushed out. The Nicolaitanes had taken over, and the . . . they had pushed out the people that had the Holy Ghost, so therefore they—they didn't have no use for them. If Smyrna, in Asia, had only knew that the things . . . that martyr's crowns would have waited them, they would have shook. See? Now, in other words, what . . . when this prophecy was written and was sent down, and the church got a hold of it, and they seen they was the ones going wear the martyr's crown, why, they would . . . why, it'd have scared them to death. They was looking anytime for it. Didn't come in their age. Then maybe some of them said, "Well, you know—you know, I tell you, that prophet was wrong. John was wrong, he—he . . . because

it didn't happen to us here in Smyrna." Why, it was to be hundreds of years later. See? But when God speaks anything, it has to come to pass.

¹⁰⁶ There's where we sink our faith, right there on God's Word. God keeps every promise. No matter . . . You might think it has to happen right here, but maybe that's not God's time for it to happen. "But My Word will not return to Me void, but It will accomplish that which It was purposed for." God will always honor His Word, and in Its Own good time It'll reap.

¹⁰⁷ So these people was the one, the first church, but in that church was the characteristic that would come out in the Smyrna church later on. Now, then they was to wear a martyr's crown, many of them was to be killed.

¹⁰⁸ Now let's take the—the 10th verse, as we read this:

Fear none of these things (the synagogue of Satan) which thou shall suffer: behold, the devil shall cast . . . you into prison, that ye may be tried; and that you shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

¹⁰⁹ Oh, my! They were told not to fear when they were called on to die for their—their religion. Now, Sister Wood, wherever you are, I hope this helps you. Sister Wood was telling me, the other day, she couldn't hardly understand why that some could be delivered and others not. Sometimes you have to know . . . God told these people, "Now, don't you fear about it, 'cause Satan's going to cast you in there, because that this Nicolaitane outfit that's come and pushing you in, because I'm going to let you die for My cause. But I'll give you a crown of Life at that day." So don't . . .

¹¹⁰ Now watch, He said . . . Now, if you notice as we read this 10th verse. Let me read It over again:

Fear none of these things which thou shall suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and you shall have tribulation ten days: but be thou faithful unto . . . (Did you notice that's not until? Not until death, but "unto" death. You get it?) . . . be thou faithful unto death, . . . (See? And they did.)

¹¹¹ Now He said, Satan . . . Did you notice who He—who He classed as the one that was doing it? Now, this *synagogue of Satan* was the "Nicolaitanes." We know that. Wasn't it? Then it was an organization, a priesthood that was rising up that would make these people suffer, that would make these people suffer, and

they were to be faithful to the Gospel *unto* death. Did you notice in a marriage ceremony? not *until* death do we part, but “*unto* death do we part.” See? Now, *unto* and *until* is different. Now, they was to be faithful to Christ unto death. “Go right on down to death with it. Don’t be afraid, for I’ll give you a crown.”

¹¹² Now this “ten days” that they talk of here, the ten days. A day in the Bible represents a year. And the *ten days* was of the last “ten years” of the reign of this D-i-o-c-l-e-a-t-i-o-n, Diocletian. Diocletian. Diocletian, that was that great emperor that reigned in the last. . . Well, there’s several emperors reigned during the Ephesian Church Age. And Nero, I believe, was one. And this Diocletian here was the last one that reigned, in the last ten years, and he was the bloodiest persecutor of all of them. He just sided in with this group and they—they murdered the Christians, and killed them, they burned them, they—they did everything, and it was ten years of the most bloody persecution. And his time and his reign was from 302 until 312. That ended the Smyrna Age, with the issuing in of Constantine. And he come in at 312, Constantine did. That was the ten days of tribulations. And it started with Nero and ended up with Diocletian. And it started in of Nero, was about A.D. 64 when Nero took the throne.

¹¹³ Now, the 11th verse is a promise. Now we’ll have this just before closing:

He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

¹¹⁴ Now, I got to say something here, that in order. . . If I’m think it, my heart, and don’t say it, then I’m a hypocrite. See? I want you to notice something here in this Scripture, and I think it was one of the biggest puzzles to me for so long until I found out. Now let’s read that real close, now. See?

He that has an ear. . . (In other words, “has a ear to hear”; see, it’s “open to the Spirit.”) . . . let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; . . .

Now see, this same thing, this persecution and everything comes. Every part of it laps over in every church. The *churches*.

. . . Spirit says to the churches; He that overcometh. . . (In what church? Ephesian’s? Yep. All right. Smyrna? Yep, all of them.) . . . He that overcomes in all the churches shall not be hurt of the second death.

¹¹⁵ He in the Laodicean church that overcomes what? Overcomes the Nicolaitanes, overcomes the things of the world, overcomes

these denominations, overcomes these priesthoods, overcomes everything of the world and sells out, and loves Christ. You'll not be hurt of the second death. Why? He has got Eternal Life. Eternal Life can't die. Jesus said, "He that heareth from Me has Eternal Life, shall never die. I'll raise him up in the last day."

¹¹⁶ Now, now, there... Now, you're going to... Be many disagree with this, but I want you to think real hard before you make your decision. See? I'm going to say something now:

¹¹⁷ That's the reason I don't believe that there is an Eternal hell. There cannot be an Eternal hell. Cause if there ever was an Eternal hell, then there always was an Eternal hell, 'cause Eternal... There's only one form of Eternal Life, and that's what we're all striving for. And if you're going to burn forever and for Eternity, then you'll have to have Eternal Life burning, and then it'd be God burning. You can't have Eternal hell, and the Bible plainly says that "hell was created." And if it's created, it isn't Eternal. Anything that's Eternal never was created; it always was, it's Eternal. And the Bible says that "Hell was created for the devil and his angels." Hell was created, it isn't Eternal. And I do not believe that a person will be Eternally punished.

¹¹⁸ I believe that the Bible plainly states here, that, "He that overcometh shall not be hurt by the second death." Now "death." The word *death* comes from the... is this, is "separation." Now, when we are separated from God, in sin, we're already dead; the Bible said so. We're alienated from God, we're cut off, we're dead in sin and trespasses; we're an alien to God and to His commonwealth. And then when we receive God and have Eternal Life, we are His children and a part of Him.

¹¹⁹ My little boy there, Joseph, is part of me, no matter what I... he'd ever do. He... I might... He might not have... If I was a great rich man and had a lot of inheritance, he might, he even inherits anything; but still he's a son, he's part of me. Sure, he's part of me. Now, I can no more deny him than I can deny myself, because he's part of me. The blood test would show that he's mine. See?

¹²⁰ And the Blood test shows whether you're God's or not. See? You're God's children and you have Eternal Life. But the soul that sinneth, that *soul* shall be separated. Is that right? Then it will be no more. Now look. Anything that had a beginning has an end, because anything that had a beginning is a creation. But God was not created, He was always God. There's no place He was created. And the only way that we can ever have Eternal

Life is to be part of that creation. Glory! Oh, if we could see It! See what the Holy Ghost does for you? It's the Holy Ghost, the Creator Himself, God the Father in the form of a Spirit, called "Holy Ghost" because It was upon the body called Jesus, His Son; that He created Jesus, the body, that's the reason It had to die. God dwelled in this human flesh, and the blood cell was broke, and the Life from the blood cell come back.

¹²¹ That's the reason that the old worshipper in the Old Testament could not go away. . . he went away with the same condemnation that he had when he come. But in the New Testament, said Hebrews, that, "The worshipper once purged has no more conscience of sin."

¹²² Now, the Old Testament; they brought a lamb, he laid it down, put his hands upon it, the worshipper; priest cut the throat, he felt the bleeding, and heard the bleating of it. And it died, and he felt its little body stiffen out, and it was dead. He knowed that ought to be him; the lamb took his place. The priest took the blood, put it on the altar and—and the smoke went up, and it was a prayer of forgiveness for the wor- . . . [Blank spot on tape—Ed.] . . . and that animal life could not come back upon a human and coincide with the human spirit, because it's animal spirit. Animal life and human life, it couldn't do it. But when a . . . That's the reason he went out with the same desire to sin, same thing. Come in for committing adultery, and offer up his sacrifice, and go back out the same thing in his mind. That's right.

¹²³ But here when the worshipper. . . Oh, Church of God, don't fail to get this! The worshipper, once truly walks up to the Son of God and by faith lays his hands upon Him (Oh, my!), look there in His face with that spit hanging in His face, the Blood running down His face, feel the pains of "My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Oh, brother, when you see what a price that died for you, and Who It was, Emmanuel, God dying in your place.

¹²⁴ Then what happens? The worshipper then, when that Blood cell was broke in the Son of God. . . What made that blood cell?

¹²⁵ What are you? You're one little cell that come from your father. The female does not have the hemoglobin. The—the female only produces the egg; the incubator, she is to pack the—the—the brood. But the blood's comes from the male, that's the reason the—the child takes the father's name. And then, but, the woman marrying to a man, takes his name, on

account of the children; she becomes an incubator for the child that she shall bear for the man. But like as I said: a hen can lay an egg, but if she hasn't been with the male bird, it won't hatch.

¹²⁶ That's, I said, that's the reason we got so many old, cold, formal churches today. They got on this Nicolaitane idea, got a bunch of nests full of rotten eggs, and they never will hatch because they ain't. . . You could do anything to them (call them bishops, deacons, and whatever all), they'll never believe in signs following the believers, because they've never been with the Mate, Jesus Christ. If you ever get fertilized with that Mate of the power of God. . .

¹²⁷ When that Blood cell was broke there on Calvary, and that Life that was in there, teeny Jehovah. . . Oh, it ought to be striking!

¹²⁸ You know, everybody's looking for a sign. Aren't they? Everybody says, "Oh, show me a sign." The Jew said, "Show me a sign."

¹²⁹ Let me give you a sign. God gave you a sign one time. They asked for a sign. The Israel asked for a sign. He told the prophet, "I'll give them an everlasting sign: a virgin shall conceive. A virgin shall conceive and shall bring forth a Son." (Amen.) "He shall be called *Immanuel*, 'God with us.'" The greatest sign that was ever given.

¹³⁰ When God, the Creator of heavens and earth, made the solar system. Stand out there at Mount Palomar and look through that scope yonder, and you can see a hundred and twenty million years of light space. Break that down in miles, and beyond that's still moon, and stars, and worlds, and He made them all. Just blowed them off His hands, like *that*. Yes!

¹³¹ And that great Creator became my Saviour. Come down to a little Blood cell, not through a man, but come virgin to a woman; and took this little pollen from the woman, and formed Himself a little house and lived in it. Oh, it—it—it ought to be striking! Jehovah! Jehovah, over a pile of manure in a barn, crying. Jehovah, in a manger of straw. That's an everlasting sign, some of these big-headed people! Jehovah, God, a crying Baby (Hallelujah!) in a stinking stable. And then we think we're somebody, stick your nose up; it'd rain, it'd drown you; and then go along thinking you're somebody. And Jehovah laying in a stable, over a—a pile of manure, crying like a little. . . any little baby. It ought to be striking! That's a sign. God said, "I'll give you an everlasting sign." That's a real sign. Jehovah, playing as

a boy. Jehovah! Jehovah, working in a workshop, sawing wood like a carpenter. Hallelujah! My, oh, my! Jehovah, washing the feet of fishermen. "I'll give you a sign."

¹³² "Oh, but we have to have the clergy, you know, with the robes and all the cords, collars, and . . ." See? Oh!

¹³³ "I'll give you an everlasting sign." Jehovah, standing in the courtyards with spit on His face. Jehovah, stretched up naked, in a body, between heavens and earth. He despised the shame of the cross. We have His statue there with a little rag around Him; course that's just the sculptor did that. They stripped Him naked, embarrassed Him! Oh, that bunch of hypocrites when that hour come! This is the day of man, the day of the Lord's coming. Jehovah! Jehovah, dying, yes, nothing happened. Jehovah, praying, nothing happened. Hmm. That's right. It ought to be striking! That's an everlasting sign. That's the sign that all men would know. Then He died, Jehovah died. Then the earth begin to shake. Oh, my!

¹³⁴ Then He rose up from the grave and ascended on High. Jehovah, returning in the form of the Holy Ghost to live in His Church, among His people. Glory! Jehovah, walking down through the church, discerning the thoughts of the mind. Jehovah, healing the sick. Jehovah, speaking through lips till the man hasn't got no control of hisself. Jehovah, coming back in English and translating it. You want a sign? Amen! That Jehovah come down to a prostitute, rise her up, where she's so—she's so low-down till the dogs won't look at her, and wash her white as snow and give her a heart as pure as a lily. Oh, my! Jehovah, taking a drunkard laying there in the alley and the flyblows all over his mouth, and making him preach the Gospel . . . ? . . . The Blood of Jesus Christ cleansing us!

¹³⁵ When He was on earth, He went to the lowest city there was, and to the lowest people there was, and they give Him the lowest name there was. That's right. They treated Him the worst, and called Him the worst name that could be called, "Beelzebub," a devil. The lowest they could give Him, man give Him.

¹³⁶ But God raised Him up, and He give Him a Throne so high till He has to look down to see Heaven. Amen! Glory! And give Him a Name above every name that's mentioned in Heaven and in the earth, and all the family in Heaven and earth is named after Him. That's what man thought of Him; that's what God thought of Him. O God, let my thoughts be like Yours, Father. Yes, sir. O precious Name!

¹³⁷ Now, “He that believeth on Me has Eternal Life.” Now, if there’s only one form of Eternal Life, and you get it and we’re seeking for it through Jesus Christ, that’s God’s Life. Then when that Blood cell was broke on the Son of God, and that little Jehovah that was bottled up on the inside of this Man called Jesus (when in Him dwelt the fulness of the Godhead bodily), and now when we accept *that* Blood for the remission of our sins, that Spirit that was on not a man, but on God. . . . Glory! The Bible said, “The Blood of God.”

¹³⁸ Somebody said, “You remember, He. . . Don’t say nothing about the Jews, ’cause He was a Jew.” He wasn’t a Jew. He was neither Jew nor Gentile, He was God. That’s right. He was a created Blood. God made it special. It was His Own, and through that created Blood we accept It as our pardon because He died the death for us. That Blood cell broke, releases that Holy Spirit to come back on us, and now we are sons and daughters of God through a birth of the Spirit. Then the Life that was God’s, which didn’t have no beginning or neither will it ever has an end, is mine and yours by the grace of God in Jesus Christ. There you are.

¹³⁹ Now, “hell,” we’ll go back to that awhile. I tell you that—that there cannot be. . . I do believe in a burning hell. Yes, sir, the Bible said so, the lake of fire. Now, but that cannot be an everla- . . . it cannot be an Eternal. It could be. . . The Bible never says it’s Eternal, It says “everlasting” hell. Don’t say the word Eternal, it says an “everlasting” hell. Now, it’s prepared for the devil and his angels; an everlasting hell, not an Eternal one. Now, after. . . That soul may be tormented there for its doings for ten million years, for all I know. I don’t know what *everlasting* might be in God’s sight. It might be for five minutes, it might be for a million years, it might be for ten million years, but there will come a time when that soul will cease to be.

¹⁴⁰ Here’s what the Bible said, see. See:

. . . He that overcometh shall not be hurt by the second death.

¹⁴¹ The first death is separating from our loved ones. We’re go in the Presence of God, never out of His Presence. See? Now, if there’s a second death, then it’d have to be the death of the soul. And then he that overcomes the world, or overcomes the things of the world, has Eternal Life and shall not be touched by the second death. There you are, Eternal Life. But the—the sinner. . . The Bible said, “The woman that lives in pleasure is dead while she

is alive.” That right? “The soul that sinneth, it shall surely die.” What is *die*? Completely “separate,” “no more.” See? Now, it’s cut off, is right. It’s cut off, there’s no more to it. How long will it be to take that? It’ll go down through the same process it come in, and it’ll come to a place till there will neither be nothing left of it. It’ll just go back from ever what it’s made out of.

¹⁴² We could take the cell, and break the cell to one cell, to another cell, till you’d come down to the first cell; break into that cell, then you got the chemistry of the blood; you come into different chemistries of the blood, and then you come down to a little part in that cell: that’s life. They can’t find that. They don’t know nothing about it. Now, that life will finally come to a spot till it is no more; whatever the chemistry of that life, I don’t believe it has any chemistry. It’d be spiritual.

¹⁴³ And then, in that, finally it’ll completely separate and be no more. That’s what the Bible said, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.” “And they that overcome in these church ages here shall not be hurt by the *second* death.” The body dies first, the soul dies next and it will be no more. See? That’s . . . do you believe that’s the Bible that says that?

¹⁴⁴ Now remember, if hell is Eternal, then the Bible’s wrong when it said “hell was created.” And then if a man’s going to burn for Eternity, in hell, then he’d have to have Eternal Life to be conscious, to burn. Is that right? Well, how many forms of Eternal Life is there? One. That’s right. Just one Eternal Life.

¹⁴⁵ Now, don’t go away and say, “Brother Branham don’t believe in hell.” Brother Branham does believe in hell. The Bible teaches there’s a hell. Just as sure as there’s a— a place for rest, there’s a place of— of punishment. And God will certainly make a soul that sins against Him be punished. And for rejecting Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you’ll certainly will be punished for it. But there’ll be a time when you’ll be no more. But how many million years that’ll take for you to go back to that, I don’t know. But sometime . . .

¹⁴⁶ You’re a time being until you’re born again, then you’re a Eternal being. And the only way you can get It is have part of God in you, being Eternal Life. Can you see it? Certainly.

He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; . . .

¹⁴⁷ I love Him. Don't you? I'm so glad to have Eternal Life. That doesn't bother me anymore, because that we have Eternal Life now. And I know that, and I trust that everybody will have It, all of us.

¹⁴⁸ Irenaeus, yes, I had a note here on Irenaeus, about, "to read this history." That the reason Irenaeus was chosen is because that he had the signs of the Pentecostal (original) Church following him.

¹⁴⁹ Now, if God . . . How many believes that the Church begin at Pentecost? All right. How many believes that God endorsed the Church at Pentecost? All right, sir. Then if that was God's first Church, and that's what He called a "Church," and He's the Vine now, we're the branches, if the Vine ever puts forth another branch, what will it be? Pentecostal. Yeah! Now, maybe not by name. Now we got *names* of Pentecost, but that's no more than Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal. That don't mean a thing, see, that's just a name. But as long as you got a Pentecostal Experience in your heart, Pentecost in your soul, giving you Eternal Life, then God has promised you that, "You'll never be touched with the second death;" that, you got Eternal Life and *can't* be touched with the second death. See? You got . . . you're . . .

¹⁵⁰ "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God." Now, don't grieve It (do things that's wrong). If you do, you'll pay for it; 'cause the Bible said, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby you are sealed until the day of your redemption." Is that right? "Grieve not the Holy Spirit."

¹⁵¹ Oh! It's going to be a wonderful day, some morn, some of these times. To show you that the resurrection's going to be universal, "There'll be two in a field, and I'll take one; and two in the bed, and I'll take one." See, it'll be a night one place, and daylight on the other side of the earth; be a universal resurrection, that Rapture. The trumpet of God shall sound, and every one of these, of this little church *here, here, here*, and even that little bunch that went through *there*, and come out *here, here, here*.

¹⁵² When that virgin, that virgin when she seen in the seventh watch that . . . Now, remember, there were seven virgins. Is that right? Or, I mean, five virgins went out . . . Ten virgins went out to meet the Lord, five was wise and five was foolish. Is that right? And now, in the watches though, there was seven watches. And at the end of the seventh watch (some slept from *this* watch, *this* one, *this*

one, *this* one, and *that*, . . .), the seventh watch, there was a voice went out, “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him.” And they rose and trimmed their lamps. And all these others rose down through *here*. Oh, won’t that be a wonderful time!

Oh, we used to sing a little song:

It’s a wonderful time for you,
 What a wonderful time for me;
 If we all prepare to meet Jesus our King,
 What a wonderful time it will be.

Here, let’s see if we can sing that:

A wonderful time for you,
 A wonderful time for me;
 If we all prepare to meet Jesus our King,
 What a wonderful time it will be. (Won’t that
 be wonderful?)

Oh, won’t it be wonderful there,
 Having no burdens to bear?
 Joyously singing with heart-bells all ringing,
 Oh, won’t it be wonderful there?

¹⁵³ How many of you knows that you’ll get home? How many knows you’ll go out that door? You don’t know. How many knows if you do go out you will come in again? You cannot tell. So don’t let this night fail; don’t you fail God in this night, for this might be the last night that you’d have a time or a chance. Who are you, anyhow? Where’d you come from? Where are you going? The only book in the world can tell you what it is, is this blessed old Bible here. And that’s the Bible that we believe in, that’s the God that we believe in.

¹⁵⁴ And if you’re not into that Bride, into this little bunch of minorities, way down *here* today being squeezed out by creeds and denominations, and so forth, if—if you’re not in that little group . . . Now, you don’t have to join this tabernacle, you don’t have to join anything, you just have to be born into that Kingdom. Now, if you want your fellowship in the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, wherever you want it, that’s up to you. See, you put your fellowship with anybody you want to. But I’ll tell you one thing: when you’re born again, you know, “birds of a feather . . .” My!

¹⁵⁵ Someone asked me one time, said, “Brother Branham, you told them people, ‘Go on back to Methodist church.’”

I said, "Sure. Let them throw them out, and they have no place to go." So then we'll see. . .

That's all right, go on back, it won't be very long, you see. It won't be very long, they'll be right back again.

¹⁵⁶ You know, one time in the. . . Noah. . . ark, the place of safety, Noah, there was a big flood come. And so Noah turned the crow out of the ark, and he just went on cawing and looking around. Why, he was satisfied, 'cause he was a vulture to begin with. He could fly from one old dead carcass, and eat a bellyfull off of this mule, and go over there on this—on this old sheep and eat a bellyfull off of him, and something else, where there was just all kind of old dead carcasses laying around.

¹⁵⁷ So the crow will just set down there and caw around, "Boy, I'm having me a jubilee all by myself!" just cawing away.

¹⁵⁸ But when they turned the little dove out, he was a different nature. That stink, he "couldn't stand it. Hmm!" Why? A dove hasn't got any gall; he's the only bird that doesn't have a gall. He couldn't digest it, so the only thing he could do is get right back to the ark and beat on the door.

¹⁵⁹ Just go anywhere you want to. Only thing I'm asking you to do is just come into the Kingdom, and I know where you'll go. You won't be able to stand it anymore, brother, you'll say, "I've crossed the separating line, I've left this world behind." Yes, sir. It sure is.

Oh, they were gathered in the upper room,
All praying in His Name,
They were baptized with the Holy Ghost,
And power for service came;
Now what He did for them that day
He'll do for you the same,
I'm so glad that I can say I'm one of them.
(Aren't you?)

One of them, I'm one of them,
I'm so glad that I can say. . . one of them,
Hallelujah;
One of them, I'm one of them,
I'm so glad that I can say I'm one of them.

How many's glad of that tonight? Oh, my!

Come, my brother, seek this blessing
 That will cleanse your heart from sin,
 That will start the joy-bells ringing
 And will keep your soul on flame;
 Oh, it's burning now within my heart,
 Oh, glory to His Name,
 I'm so glad that I can say . . . one of them.
 I'm one of them, I'm one of them,
 I'm so glad that I can say . . . one of them,
 Hallelujah;
 One of them, I'm one of them,
 I'm so glad that I can say I'm one of them.

¹⁶⁰ Now while we sing this next verse, I want you to shake hands, like you do each night, all the Methodist, and Baptist, and Presbyterian. Shake hands with one another, and even be friendly enough to chew each other's chewing gum, if you can. Now just be real, real friendly, being sociable now while we sing it:

I'm one of them, one of them,
 I'm so glad that I can say I'm one of them;
 One of them, one of them,
 I'm so glad that I can say I'm one of them.
 Though these people may not learn to be,
 Or boast of worldly fame,
 They have all received their Pentecost,
 Baptized in Jesus' Name;
 And they're telling now, both far and wide,
 His power is yet the same,
 I'm so glad that I can say . . .

Now let's really sing it:

Oh, one of them, one of them,
 I'm so glad that I can say . . . one of them,
 Hallelujah;
 One of them, one of them,
 I'm so glad that I can say I'm one of them.

¹⁶¹ Would you be willing to be a martyr for Him with Smyrnaeans? If it come to the spot that you had to face death or take it back, would you face it? Yes, sir. O God, it would be a pleasure. Yes, sir. That's the way I want to go, right in the pulpit. That's right. I thought I got it and they was going to get it in Germany here not long ago. Oh, they was going to shoot me through a night scope, and German soldiers run all around

me and held back like *that*. I thought, “What a wonderful thing it would be to die for my Lord right here on the field.” Oh, my! What a—what a wonderful thing.

¹⁶² Well, let me sing you a little song. Can I? Have you got—have you got time for just a little bitty one? All right. I can’t sing it, I talk it. Oh, I’ve always wanted to sing. And some of these days when you get over to your lovely big home up there in Paradise, way down at the end of the woods down there, where Russell Creech and I will be for this hunting, you know. Way down at the end of the woods there’s a little cabin over there that Brother Neville sings about, *Build Me a Cabin in the Corner*, (I thought he was talking about my place). . . *in Gloryland*. One of these mornings when you walk out onto your great porch over there, and look around like that, way down there in the corner you hear somebody singing:

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!

¹⁶³ You say, “Well, bless God, ol’ Brother Branham made it. There he is, I hear him standing over there right now, singing *Amazing Grace*.”

¹⁶⁴ It’ll be amazing grace that brought me there. That’s right.

But it’s dripping with blood, yes, (That’s
why I’m preaching This.) it’s dripping with
blood,
This Holy Ghost Gospel is dripping with
blood,
The blood of disciples who died for the Truth,
This Holy Ghost Gospel keeps dripping with
blood.

The first one to die for this Holy Ghost plan,
Was John the Baptist, but he died like a man;
Then came the Lord Jesus, they crucified Him,
He taught that the Spirit would save men
from sin.

There was Peter and Paul, and John the
divine,
They gave up their lives so this Gospel could
shine;
They mingled their blood, like the prophets of
old,
So the true Word of God could honest be
told.

There's souls under the altar, (These martyrs)
 crying, "How long?"
 For the Lord to punish those who've done
 wrong; (Listen! Quickly!)
 But there's going to be more who'll give their
 life's blood
 For this Holy Ghost Gospel and Its crimson
 flood.
 It's dripping with blood, yes, it's dripping with
 blood,
 This Holy Ghost Gospel is dripping with
 blood,
 The blood of disciples who died for the Truth,
 This Holy Ghost Gospel keeps dripping with
 blood.

¹⁶⁵ Oh, there's going to . . .

[A sister speaks in another tongue, a brother gives an interpretation. A brother speaks in another tongue, a sister speaks in another tongue. Blank spot on tape. A brother gives an interpretation—Ed.] Glory. Amen. Amen. Hmm. Hmm. Glory. Amen. Yes.

¹⁶⁶ Amen. "He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

I love Him . . .

Worship now, see what He'll do. If you have never loved Him before, would you want to love Him now? Would you stand up and recognize Him, take Him as your Saviour?

. . . me, (God bless you, brother.)
 And pur- . . .

Someone else will stand, say, "I want Him, right now, I want to love Him"?

. . . -vation
 On Calvary's . . .

God bless you, sister. God bless you back there, young lady.

I love Him . . .

He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the church.

. . . He first loved me
 And purchased my salvation
 On Calvary's tree.

¹⁶⁷ Our Heavenly Father, as You see these three standing to their feet, O God, I pray Thee to be merciful, O Eternal One, and to give to them pardon of every sin, and salvation, the Holy Spirit in their life, that they'll not be touched by the second death. They realize, Lord, tonight, as they stand there, that—that there's something near at hand. The Holy Spirit has given warning. To see the Spirit of God fall among people, see It work just according to the Scriptures, just the three messages and close off. O God, a message to each person.

¹⁶⁸ Now, Father, we pray Thee to be merciful. Let that precious Spirit stay in our midst. May we reverence It, God; grant it. Take these souls into Thy custody, Father, they're the fruits of the Message tonight, and of the message from the Holy Spirit that was spoken among us. And we ask, Father, God, that You'll be with them all the days of their life. And may "in the world without end" may we meet them in there, saved by the Blood and grace of Christ. We give them to Thee now, Father, fill them with Thy Holy Spirit. For we ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

¹⁶⁹ God bless you, my brethren. Ever who is near those people that were standing, Christians, shake their hands when they set down, give them . . . wish them God's speed.

¹⁷⁰ See how obedient the Holy Spirit is, how It does it right at the end? See? The Bible said, "Let the . . . them that speak with tongues be by two, or not . . . the most by three," you see. The message not while I was speaking, after It was all over. That's the way it's supposed to be, everybody real reverent and listen what the Spirit says. Then what happened? Sinners raised up to repent. Oh, think. The Holy Spirit Itself, not getting it . . . even through the Word, has come and made manifestation.

¹⁷¹ I know some of these people who's speaking in tongues, I know all three of them that spoke; and I—I know the ones that gave interpretations; I know their life is sinless before God. Brother Neville here, our pastor, a Methodist minister; that's a Methodist minister, setting here, received the Holy Ghost. Junie, over here, Brother Jackson, another Methodist preacher, received the Holy Ghost. That's right, with a gift of tongues and interpretations.

¹⁷² And you notice how we have the church, everyone reverent; God speaking. You see how He speaks just exactly according to the Bible; one; the message don't get over just right, He speaks it again, but He won't speak over three times; see, according

to the Scriptures there. See, He'll give that message; He never entangles it, "for the spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophet." Everything listens and quietly. . .

¹⁷³ Now that's the way the church should be in order. Now to you people that may be here from out, that's heard me speak it, that's the way it should be. See, the message goes forth. See the results? It happens right *then*. Something takes place, just exactly like discernment or any other spirit. Isn't He wonderful? Oh, I'm so glad to know that that same thing that was ordained by Saint Paul, right *here*, hasn't died down to right *here*. Still the same thing. Oh, I'm so glad I can say I'm one of them. Aren't you? All right.

¹⁷⁴ Now, tomorrow night at seven o'clock, we're taking the age of Laodicea, and that's the *marriage* age. I want you to come if you possibly can. I was just a little late tonight, because maybe the Holy Spirit speaking and so forth. But it's early yet, it's only about twenty minutes after nine. And usually I'm here ten or eleven o'clock, so that's really early down here. So do you enjoy the—the—the messages of the Lord? Do you really? It feeding your soul.

¹⁷⁵ God bless you, my children. You know, I love you with all my heart. And sometimes when the Spirit gets a hold of me, it cuts both. . . That's the way the Word is, It's sharp like a two-edged sword. It cuts coming, going, inward, outward, every way. But that's what circumcises us. Circumcision just cuts off the surplus flesh, the things that we oughtn't to have.

¹⁷⁶ Now, I want you to notice. Did you hear the Spirit on the interpretation tonight? "Stop that foolishness!" That circumcises. Be sincere! We all get off the line, but God knows how to shave the bumps off of us. Doesn't He? He certainly does. I'm thankful for it. Aren't you?

¹⁷⁷ Are you the little pianist here? I don't see. . . Is Teddy. . .? I don't see him here anywhere. Is—is this. . .? All right, sister, if you will. Is that your daughter, Brother Daulton? Daughter-in-law. All right. Mighty fine little lady, so glad that you're a Christian. All right, what's our good, ol' dismissing song? Let's try one, just before we do, now. Just a minute, sister, before we sing *Take The Name Of Jesus With You*.

¹⁷⁸ How many knows *Don't Forget The Family Prayer*? How many prays in your family, your family prays? Oh, that's good. Let's try it once, just like old times now:

Don't forget the family prayer,
 Jesus wants to meet you there;
 He will take your every care,
 Oh, don't forget the family prayer.

You like that? Let's try it again:

Don't forget the family prayer,
 Jesus wants to meet you there; (You got a
 date, now.)
 He will take your every care,
 Oh, don't forget your family prayer.

¹⁷⁹ [A sister says, "Brother Branham, could I say something?"—Ed.] Sure can, Sister. [The sister begins speaking. Blank spot on tape.] Sister Nash, that's very fine. Oh, if you'll just:

If we trust and never doubt, He will surely
 bring you out;
 Just take your burden to the Lord then leave
 them there.

Leave them there, leave them there,
 Take your burden to the Lord and leave them
 there;

If we trust and never doubt, He will surely
 bring you out;
 Take your burden to the Lord and leave them
 there.

¹⁸⁰ Don't you like them old hymns? Oh, I just. . . I believe them men picked up the pen and was inspired by the Holy Ghost to read that.

¹⁸¹ Like blind Fanny Crosby when them worldly people of that day tried to make her write worldly songs, said, "Why, you'll be a rich woman."

She said, "I have dedicated my life to Christ, and all my talent." She was blind, you know. Said, "I—I owe my life and all to Christ." She said. . .

¹⁸² And then they kind of got peeved at her because she turned down such an opportunity. She didn't sell her birthrights like Mr. Presley and them did, but she—she maintained her integrity. So she—she. . . They—they left her, said, "Then when you get to Heaven, if there is such a place," said, "if you're like you are here, you'll be blind." Said, "What if you *are* blind," said, "how would you know Him?"

She said, "I'll know Him. I'll know Him."

Said, "What if you're blind? What if you *are* blind?"

She said, "I'll feel for the prints of the nails." Then she turned around, she started walking back, and she said:

I shall know Him, I shall know Him,
And redeemed by His side I shall stand;
I shall know Him, I shall know Him
By the prints of the nails in His hand.

¹⁸³ O my Jesus, with those five precious wounds, bleeding for me yonder, how could I ever deny that precious One? Let me die, let me go the . . . Let me go the way of anything, but never let me deny that precious bleeding One yonder that died for me. Yes.

¹⁸⁴ And as you leave tonight, you want to: *Take The Name Of Jesus With You*. All right, sister. Shall we stand now, all together.

. . . the Name of Jesus with you,
Child of sorrow and of woe;
It will joy and comfort give you,
Take it everywhere you go.

Precious Name (Precious Name), O how
sweet! (O how sweet)
Hope of earth and joy of Heaven;
Precious Name (Precious Name), O how
sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of Heaven.

Now as we bow our heads, and softly sing:

At the Name of Jesus bowing,
Falling prostrate at His feet,
King of kings in Heaven we'll crown Him,
When our journey is complete.

Precious Name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of Heaven;
Precious Name, O how sweet! (How sweet!)
Hope of earth and joy of Heaven.



THE SMYRNAEAN CHURCH AGE

60-1206

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