

## PEACE AND REST FOR THE BRIDE

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In the midst of Satan's Eden, and while the Bride of Jesus Christ is being made to pass through the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual, there is a peace and a rest reserved for Her. This rest is contained, for the most part, in two major revelations that our Lord gave to the End-Time Prophet, William Branham. In this sermon, we want to touch on both these powerful truths, and pray that the Holy Ghost will tie them together. Revelation number one is the teaching on the Sovereignty of God, and revelation number two has to do with God's Elective Love.

Since our last monthly sermon dealt with God's total Sovereignty, we will ask you to review it in connection with this one, and with this sermon deal mostly with God's Elective Love. If the Lord will be gracious and reveal both these powerful truths to us, it cannot help but move us into the place of peace and rest that we speak of. When we understand that our God is in control of every detail concerning His Creation, ordering every circumstance that touches our lives according to a plan He made before the world was, and add to that the revelation that He also decided who He would love before He ever created, then the result of these two powerful revelations bring a Faith that cannot be overcome.

This would be a Perfect Faith, would it not? And, is this not the

place that the scriptures and the Prophet say we must reach in order for the Rapture?

QUOTE: PERFECT FAITH, PAGE 28, "He is here, He does this to create a perfect faith. I feel Him. I know He is here now. I know that His Spirit is here. I know that He knows all things, Amen. And I know He wants to do something, to create the perfection of faith in the people.....The word made flesh. Hallelujah! The word operating in human flesh, by physical signs, by material signs, by scriptural signs, perfectly. To bring to you a PERFECT FAITH, FOR A PERFECT RAPTURE." (End quote)

Col. 1:27-28, "**To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**" Verse 28, "**Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.**"

Since we know that the perfection spoken of here does not refer to the flesh, then we must conclude that it speaks of perfecting the Inner Man, our character, which includes our Faith. Let us now look at revelation number two, the fact of God's Elective Love. Brother

Branham taught that the proof we need concerning the fact of God's Love, lies in the truth that He elected (decided) to love us before He created the world.

QUOTE: ADOPTION - PART TWO, PAGE 46, "There you are, entering into this Promised Land. How do we get into it? We are predestinated to it, the church, by the foreknowledge of God. Has been predestinated to what? To His honor, by His grace, to the glory and worship and glory of God. Papa, sitting back there in the beginning, self-existent, nothing around Him, wanted something to worship, so He foreordained and predestinated a church, and before the foundation of the world, and put their names in the Lamb's Book of Life when they was slain before the foundation of the world, that they might appear to His glory and to His praises at the end of time, when He will gather all things in that one Man, Christ Jesus. Whew! Glory! That's it. That's just.....And that's it right there, my Brother, Sister. Don't you never move from that." (End quote)

In the preceding quote, the Prophet points us to the fact that God decided who He would love in the beginning, before there was an atom or a star. Then he said, "Don't you ever move from

that.” Or, “Don’t you ever forget that the proof of His loving you is that He elected to love you. We know that God never changes His mind once He has made a decision. His decision to love those He elected is an eternal decision. That is why the Holy Ghost could say in Rom. 8:35-39, that there is nothing (nothing at all, anywhere) that can separate us from the Love of God!

In our daily walk before God, there are many things the enemy points to trying to use them as proof that God no longer loves us. But, because of the teaching of a Prophet, we know better. Our sins and failures, our wretchedness in this flesh, are all things the Lord saw BEFORE He chose us as His Beloved. He saw the end from the beginning, and after that He chose those He would love with an eternal, everlasting love. The powerful revelation is this; God cannot be made to change His mind concerning His love for the Elect. It is forever settled in Heaven.

QUOTE: ADOPTION, PART 2, PAGE 46, “God, by His election grace, called you. God by His election grace, sanctified you. God, by His election grace and His power, baptized you and put you into this land of Rest. They which have entered into this Rest has ceased from their going astray. They ceased from their works like God did from His. They have joy unspeakable, and full of glory! The Tree of Life is blooming in them. They have long-suffering, gentle, goodness, patience-made faith, faith, meekness, gentleness, and so forth. The Tree of Life is

blooming in them because their hope is anchored in Christ Jesus, the witness of the Holy Ghost bearing record with signs and wonders following the Believers. **‘These signs and wonders shall follow them that believe.’** As they go along, they heal the sick, they cast out devils, they speak with tongues, they see visions. They...And they walk with God, they talk with God. No Devil can move them; they’re steadfast, looking for Eternal Life. Forgetting those things in the past, they press towards the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus. There you are. There you are. That’s the Church.” (End quote)

Now, let’s ask the Lord Jesus to help us tie these two powerful revelations together. First, we are to understand that our Great Jehovah controls everything that He has created. Nothing that happens in Heaven, on Earth, in Hell, or anywhere in between is ever beyond His full control. Everything is moving according to the plan He made before Creation. How could it be otherwise, since He has promise that, **“All things work together for good to those who love the Lord, and who are the called according to His purpose.”** (Rom. 8:28) According to our Prophet, and the scriptures, not even a leaf can move without His permission, and a hair cannot fall from our head without His approval. The Bride is now receiving this revelation, and it is the foundation for that Perfect Faith that is now looming on the horizon.

Revelation number two is the fact of God’s choosing to love a certain group of people, a people

that He saw in His Mind before Creation, and that this love was, and is, unconditional. It had not one thing to do with any merit He saw in them. As He looked, He saw “no difference in the clay.” (Rom. 9:21) All would be born of sex, and therefore have Adam’s fallen nature in them. All would be guilty and deserving death. But as He looked, that Grace that we preach about but can’t understand, began to move. The Bible declares God to be “LOVE” and that LOVE reached out to claim some of those lost ones for Himself.

Some will question His choosing of those to be saved, while others were not so chosen. But, those who question God are those who do not really know Him. Those who know Him understand that He can do no wrong. There is no degree of sin in Him. Whether we understand it or not, He can do no wrong, He has never done a wrong thing. The revelation is that our God is *perfect* in Love, Power, Knowledge, and Wisdom. Therefore, while we don’t understand it, we accept the fact that He chose some to love above all others, and that it was not wrong for Him to do so! It was not wrong because the Perfect God did it!

We read what He declared in Eph. 1:1- 8 and believe it. Let’s read, **“Paul and apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:”** Verse 2, **“Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”** Verse 3 **“Blessed be the God and Father of our**

**Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"** Verse 4 **"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"** Verse 5 **"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"** Verse 6 **"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."** Verse 7, **"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."** Verse 8 **"Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;"** Verse 9 **"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself."**

Yes, it is eternally true that our God and Father has chosen some, out of His millions of created people, to be a peculiar people unto Himself. The preceding scripture declares that He made this choosing, **"Before the foundation of the world."** They also declare that **"HE MADE US TO BE ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED"** (Made us to be accepted by Himself). They tell us that His choosing was according to His own good pleasure, meaning that there were no circumstances outside of His own will that caused Him to choose them. He tells us that it was the **"RICHES OF HIS GRACE"** that motivated Him, and that alone.

Now, we will state the powerful revelation found in the doctrine of Election, and try to do so in simple terms. To have been *elected* by God means that the most powerful force in the universe, God's love, surrounds us at all times. We are enveloped in it, and nothing can penetrate it that would not be beneficial to us spiritually. To have been ELECTED by God means that He will, **"Finish the good work He has started in us."** (Ph. 1:6) It means that He will see to it that we leave this Satan's Eden in the Rapture (I Thes. 4:17) It means He is purifying us now, and we will have no need to go through the Tribulation. (Eph. 1:4)

It means that having seen the end from the beginning, God saw every sin and failure we would ever make, and after that, chose us to receive His love, throughout our life here, and on through Eternity. Having been elected means that nothing can ever change God's mind concerning the love He has for us. (Rom. 4:35-39) We can't understand it, but we must believe it. What man, or what Devil, will tell Him He shouldn't have done it? He made a difference between the Egyptians and the Israelites (Ex. 11:7) and who has proven Him wrong in doing so? He was showing in type that He would make a difference between His Bride and all other people. Israel is a type of His Bride.

Once we see that God's love for us is a choice He made before the world was, and that He has sworn to never change His mind concerning it, then we begin to rely on, and lean on that

undying love. It causes our love for Him to greatly increase, and the scripture comes to pass in us that declares, **"Love casteth out fear."** (I John 4:18) Verse 19, **"We love Him because He first loved us."** In looking at Election we must consider the Cross, which is undeniable proof that He gave His own life for us. Isa. 49:16 says, **"Behold, I have graven thee (Bride) upon the palms of My hands....."** The nails that the Romans drove into His hands, to hold Him on the Cross, also engraved our names there.

Look at Him hanging there between Heaven and Earth. Sharp, poisonous thorns pressed down into His scalp and brow, cramps tearing at the muscles in His arms, legs, and chest, and His bones out of joint. His heart was like wax because of the terrible pain, and His strength was dried up like a potsherd. His tongue was glued to His precious jaws from loss of blood and the thirst that results. (Ps. 22:14-17) Yes, look at Him hanging there, and never again doubt the Love that held Him there. He could have called the Angels to set Him free, but He had Elected a people to love and He was proving that Love with His last breath. Can we do less than devote every part of our life to Him?

Putting our two revelations together, we have every reason to put our all in the Hands of our Redeemer. He has total power and is constantly in control of all things that He has created. Do you believe that, in connection with our health, he is in control of every cell in our bodies? If he has the hairs of our head

numbered, then He also controls everything about this human frame of ours. He controls every sickness and pain and controls the degree of it all. Submit to God, resist the Devil and we will be healed.

It is His Godly love that compels Him to exert such control and watchful care over us. In all of our frailties, impurities, and failures He has never once stopped loving us. He cannot change His great Mind about it. That would be to violate His own Word, and that will never happen! How safe are we then Bride of Christ? We are as safe as if we were already with Him in that other dimension. All that remains is for us to play out our role here in Satan's Eden, and then be taken home (back to our Theophany).

This is the assurance that the Faith coming from these two revelations has given us. We are perfectly in the Hands of Him who controls all things, and who is guided in exercising this

control by an Eternal Love that will not fail. This means that we are constantly receiving exactly what we need, in the right amount, in the right places, and at the right time.

We will close with this thought. God's Elect Bride Children were born "**Children of wrath even as others.**" (Eph. 2:3) And if God had done nothing more than come down in a flesh body and die for us, leaving us sinners to decide, on our own, to serve Him, then all of us would have been lost, because every man born of woman by sex is at enmity with God (God's enemy). (Eph. 2:12) Therefore, a special work of the Holy Ghost had to be done in our heart. God had to COMPEL the Bride to come in. (Lk. 14:23)

Had we not been COMPELLED (moved upon in such a way that we would not continue to resist), then we too would have been among those who were "CALLED" but not chosen. (Mat. 22:14) The great

point is this: since God put forth His special effort (power) to see to it that His Wedding Supper would be furnished with guest, and we (The Bride) are those guests, how can we not trust that He will most certainly "Finish the work He started in us"? (Ph. 1:6)

God is sovereign in the exercise of His power, and as "**The wind bloweth as it pleaseth,**" so the Holy Ghost COMPELS whom He pleases to be the Bride of Christ! Therefore, the most important question on Earth is this, "Do you know you have been called, and have you answered the call?" If you can honestly answer "Yes" to these questions, you are among the most blessed people on planet Earth. If not, then fall on your knees and repent of all your sins, and be baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38) Amen!

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