

## TESTED UNDER GREAT PRESSURE BEFORE “ADOPTION”

By C.W. Wood

May 2009

A PERSONAL NOTE TO OUR READERS: *With all our heart, we love our readers. God bless those of you who write us and comment on the sermons. May He return to you pressed down and running over the financial support you send. When we cannot send a personal thank you to all, please know our heart goes out to you and we are truly thankful to you.* Br. Wood

Romans 8: 18-23, **“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

**19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.**

**20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,**

**21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**

**22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.**

**23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.**

Notice Verse 23. **“We ourselves (the Bride) groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit (or, which is, our body change) the redemption of our body.”** Can we see what is meant here? The body change can not come until we have been thoroughly tested in our faith. This process is called *adoption*. God adopts us when we have learned to love Him, and although most of us in the End-Time

Message are familiar with *three steps* of Salvation, our Prophet, William Branham, actually taught a *fourth step* to round out the Bride’s faith for the Rapture, *a fourth corner to turn*, so to speak. He called this fourth step “Adoption” and preached sermons on the subject in 1960. They are recorded in a book entitled “Adoption”. On page 43, he made a key statement concerning his teaching on adoption.

QUOTE: ADOPTION, PAGE 43, “Now what is “adoption”? Now let me get this now, I don’t know whether...I won’t have time to get through this, but I’ll hit it. Then, if there’s a question, you can ask me a little later on some-time in the message....?...Listen. Your adoption is not your birth. Your adoption is your placing. When you were borned again, John 1:17, I believe, when we are borned of the Spirit of God, we are sons of God. But we were predestinated. Now here’s what I’m trying to get you to, for this, sons of the last day, you see, to see. We were predestinated to (unto) adoption.

Now, now here we are. Now, this is what hurts Pentecostal a little. They say, “I got borned again! Praise the Lord, got the Holy Ghost!” Fine. You’re a child of God. That’s right. But yet that ain’t what I’m talking about. See, you were predestinated unto adoption. Adoption, it’s placing a son.” (End of quote)

Notice what he said, “Your Adoption is not your Birth!” We understand Justification, Sanctification, and The

Baptism of the Holy Ghost, but do we understand “Adoption”, which is a step past the New Birth, or a step past the Infilling of the Holy Ghost?

Many times in the “Adoption” book he said, “Adoption is your placing.” He meant being placed in a position of authority above that which we had before we are adopted.

QUOTE: ADOPTION, PAGE 54 (TRIED BEFORE ADOPTION), “Oh, that’s My son! That’s My boy. Well, You think He’s well matured?”

Yep. Sure do,” said the Holy Spirit. I’ve give him tests. Boy, tried him *this* way, tried him *that* way. I’ve throwed him down, sick, I’ve put him under. I stomped him, I let the Devil do everything to him he could do, he come right back up again. He come just the same. See, come up again. I made him sick. I done *this*. I throwed him in the hospital. I took him out here and I done *this*, I done *that*. I turned his wife against him, I turned his neighbors against him, I turned everything. That didn’t make a bit of difference. Said, “Though He slay me, yet I’ll trust Him.” I killed his family. I took *this*, I did *this*, I done all *this*, I did *this*, *that*, *other*. Still he stood right up. “Though He slay me, yet I’ll serve Him! He’s mine!”

“Oh! Well, I believe We ought to call him out somewhere to a little special place and have an adoption.”

Now, when the father, in the Old Testament, understood that his son was come of age, and had been seasoned out unto adoption, **Unto!** They’re

borned a child, but, when they're a son right then. But then they'll never be no more than just a child, just an ordinary son, until they mature and show what they are. **Then, he calls him out then.**

Now here we are, church. Are you ready? Now it's a little bit late, everybody bite your finger, pinch your soul, and pluck your heart, just for a minute. See? Now we're going to place the church. Now when the church gets to that place, He says, "Manasses, you belong over here. Ephraim, you over here."

Then he takes them out to a certain place, the father does, and he sets him up on a high place like this, and he has a ceremony, and they all come around. And he said, "I want everyone to know this is my child, and I adopt my son. And I want anyone to know, from henceforth, that his name....I dress him up, a special dress on him. And I want you to know that his name is just as good on any check as my name is. He's my child, I adopt him into my family, although he's been my son since he was born. Since he received the Holy Ghost, he's been My son. But now I'm going to place him positionally in authority. What he fires is fired, what he hires is hired.

"And verily, verily, I say unto you, if you say to this tree, if you say to this mountain, 'be moved,' and don't doubt in your heart, but believe that what you've said will come to pass, you can have what you've said." See? There you are; there you are. See? He's my son. How many knows that the Adoption, that the...they adopted the son after he had proved to be a...Anybody ever read the Bible, placing a son." (End of quote)

We have been looking for a Bride Revival and I do not say it is not already in progress, but we do believe it will pick up in tempo. We have looked for miracles of all kinds, and it is very scriptural for these things to happen. However, our Prophet said, "We need a good "killing" before we can have

real revival. Not that our heart should stop beating, but that our "flesh-man" our self, must be crucified.

How many of us knew that this "killing" must take place before the true revival? The testing of our faith, through manifold tests and trials, must come before our name will be as good on the check as our Father's.

CONTINUING THE QUOTE: ADOPTION, PAGE 54 (TRIED BEFORE ADOPTION), "Anybody ever read the Bible, placing a son.

Now, God did the same thing to His Son when He took Jesus up on Mount Transfiguration. He took Peter, James, and John up there, that's three witnesses of the earth. There was Jesus, Moses and Elijah, and God, up on the mountain. There they stood up on the mountain. And, first thing you know, they looked, and Jesus was glorified before them. Is that right? How many knows that's the Scripture? What'd He do? It dressed Him in the robe of immortality. And he said, "His raiment shined like the sun." Is that right? And a cloud overshadowed Him. Peter and John and them, fell on their face. And they looked, and there stood Moses and Elijah, talking to Him. And Moses had been dead, and buried in an unmarked grave for eight hundred years. And Elijah took a chariot ride to heaven, five hundred years before that. My, but they were still there! There they was talking to Him. See, He had taken Jesus up to see them, to see what it was all about, see that, show Him these things. And they talked with Him, had a conversation with Him.

Then as soon as Peter looked back again, and the glorification was off of Jesus, they seen Jesus only, and a Voice come from that cloud, and said, "This is My beloved Son, hear ye Him! His Name's just as good as Mine now. Hear ye Him!" That's it, adopted, or a placed son.

Now, there's where God is trying to get the Pentecostal church in the Book of Ephesians. See? Do you, do you

understand? We got to close because it's getting too late, see. the kiddies getting sleepy. And I wanted to get down here to this verse right here, but I can't do it, till the—the 13<sup>th</sup> verse, see, the last part, "sealed by the Holy Ghost of promise." We'll get that Sunday, see. Look. Now, how, what brings us in, and how we're keep by This.

But now to "place," how are you? You are first born into the Kingdom by the Holy Ghost. How many know that? All right. The next, you are predestinated unto the what? Adoption. What is that? You are predestinated unto the placing." (End of quote)

Now, to get to the point of the sermon. In my own personal experiences, and from listening to the testimonies of others around the nation and over seas, I have come to a conclusion. The corner we have turned, which is to enter into the Adoption Age, has brought us into trials such as we have not before experienced. As we have said, we have been looking for the Bride Revival, but as for this writer, I did not understand what must go on before said Revival could come!

As the Prophet and Paul said, we must experience the crucifying of our flesh-man. Brother Branham called it "a good killing." And the Scripture declares that this can only be accomplished through suffering of the flesh.

II Cor. 1:3-10, "**Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;**

**4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.**

**5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ**

**6 And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted,**

it is for your consolation and salvation.

7 And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.

8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us."

The prophet said "a squeeze" would come! The Bride must be squeezed into God's mold; we must be once again in His likeness and in His image. The rough edges must be trimmed away, all our desires must be directed toward our Jesus. We must be made Christ-like and have a God-like hatred of this world (Satan's Eden).

This can only be accomplished through suffering. Part of this suffering has to do with going on for God when all our good emotions have been held back. God does that in order to build into us true God-like faith. When we learn that we can not depend on our emotions, but on Word only, then we can be adopted!

We have now entered into the time frame when we must pay strict attention to the warning of Peter in:

**1 Peter 4:12-19, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:**

**13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

Not only was Peter speaking to the Bride of 2000 years ago, but also to the trembling Bride of the year 2009. Some of us have been made to wonder what news we will receive next when we answer the phone, or the door! It would seem to us that all hell has been unleashed and given directions to our door. "**Judgment has begun at the house of God** (the Message Churches)" and if it first begin with us, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? So let us who suffer according to the will of God commit our souls to Him in well doing.

**QUOTE: SHALOM, PAGE 35,** "Suffering for His Name's sake see, is growing pains of His grace. Yes, sir! Just remember, it's the grace of God has been given to you. Oh my!

Like Paul said, hallelujah, he had an infirmity, something was bothering him. He'd...The Devil would—would buffet him, blow after blow. And he consulted the Lord three times,

to take it away from him, said, "I don't want this, Lord. Take it away from me!"

And then one night the Lord spoke to him, said Saul, or, "Paul, my grace is sufficient."

He said, "Then I'll glory in my infirmity. I'll glory in it. I know You're the Healer. I've seen You heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out devils, open the eyes of the blind. But if I've consulted You, and You tell me it's Your grace is sufficient, then this Devil that bothers me is—is the growing pains of Your grace. Then I'll glory in my infirmities. Why? If lest I get exalted above the abundance of the revelation." See?

See, he—he had something the other disciples didn't have, he saw Him after His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. He saw Him. Some of them say, "Well, I walked with Him." So did everybody on the street. But after He was dead, buried, rose, and ascended up, and returned back in the form of a Pillar of Fire, He talked to Paul. That was more than any of the rest of them had. Amen.

He said, "Except I get exalted and want to build great big seminaries and everything else, and great big something another, lest I get—get exalted above the abundance of this revelation, God let a messenger of the Devil keep me beat down." He said, "Then when I'm weak, I'm strong." Amen. Amen. Growing pains of grace! Amen. We could stay on that a long time; an hour and forty-five minutes has passed, and—and we're suffering His grace pains.

Oh, He may permit crossroads. He may permit crossroads to try us, to perfect us for His service. He may permit that now, church, both here and on tape. He may permit the crossroads for our service.

Like He did Daniel. He give Daniel a little crossroad one day. You know, he was a great man down in Babylon. He did, He let the king turn against him

and throw him in the lions' den. It only perfected him. Sure did!

Let the Hebrew Children go into the fiery furnace. They was determined to stand for His Word!" (End of quote)

This is a message that has not been much preached in our churches, yet we have turned a corner and the *Adoption of the Bride* is on. To preach "Come to the Lord and suffer" is not a message that is liked by church natural. Neither does the flesh of any man like it, but it is most important for the Bride in this very late hour. It is the "strong meat" that Paul spoke of. It is the squeeze Brother Branham spoke of! It is for those who have been weaned from the milk who are chosen to leave very soon in a Rapture. The suffering must take place before the Adoption, as the Prophet taught!

God is leading His Bride through different kinds of suffering. He knows every detail about us all and is in full control of every trial He leads us through! We are being asked to trust Him by raw faith, often with no good feeling to help us through the trials. It is one thing to trust God when His joy is flowing in our hearts, but quite an-

other thing when our joy (good emotions) has been with-held!

Real Bible Faith is that Faith that will stand and trust God when His Promises are all we have left! When all good feelings are gone, it is then that the real test of faith is on.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, where our Lord's sweat was as great drops of blood, it was there that all good feelings had departed from the man Jesus, and the greatest trial of His life was on. The man part of Him was making the final decision to suffer the horrible death of His flesh on the Cross.

The Bride is now making her final decision to suffer the crucifixion of her flesh also. It is a crucial time in the Bride's life. We can hardly bear the cross that we are being asked to carry. In fact, were it not for Grace, we would fall under the load.

This writer believes that the final trying of our faith is now in progress! It will be a short, but powerful revival that God is producing in His Bride. Though we do not even like to think about it, it is the suffering that will soften our hearts, give us compassion for the lost and dying, and produce the

God-kind of faith that we need for this short but powerful Bride Revival.

The faith produced by suffering, which will cause the Bride Revival will also give us our body change and catch us up to be with the Lord. We pray hourly for His Grace to hold us up. We have His promise, "**My Grace is sufficient for thee for my strength is made perfect in weakness.**" (II Cor. 12:9)

The time of the resurrection is upon us. Our separation from our Lord and our loved-ones because of our flesh is now very temporary! Any day now we will meet them face to face again. We will know them and hold them and there will be a time of rejoicing such as we have not seen before. Perhaps we will be on Earth 30-40 days before we all go up. What a day! What a time! We believe we will be ministering to people during this time period! If not, God knows. He already has it worked out.

We say with the Love of God in our heart for the people, we say to the lonely, to the depressed, to those whose joy has been held up by the Lord Himself, hold on, hold on tight to His Promises, it is about over! God loves us and will beyond any question prove it.

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