

# LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION

## SUMMARY

### PERFECTION IN THE BIBLE

#### 1. Called to Perfection

##### The Apparent Contradiction

- *In one sense we are already perfected, yet we are still called unto perfection*
- *Although the spirits of those gone on before are already made perfect, yet there is more*

##### So, Let Us Go on to Perfection

- *Paul both sought & taught it*
- *Let us not be as those whose hearts or works were not perfect*

#### 2. But How Can Such a Seemingly Impossible Goal Be Achieved?

##### By Sufferings & Trials

- *Just as the Son was made perfect*
- *So also are the sons perfected*

##### By the Five-Fold Ministry

##### By the Spirit

- *Although the Old Testament Law was perfect, yet it could not make perfect*
- *Although it was spiritual, the ministry of the OT Law could not impart the Spirit*
- *But New Testament ministry is the ministry of the Spirit*
- *And that Spirit is able to bring to perfection*

##### By the Blood & Intercession of our Great High Priest

In fact, Perfection is His Work from Start to Finish; Salvation is of the Lord

#### 3. When will His work of Perfection Finally be Completed?

- *The perfecting process will come to a final conclusion*
- *When? At the Coming of the Lord (i.e., in our day)*

#### 4. Some Examples of this Perfection

- *Perfect oneness with the original faith*
- *Perfect oneness with one another*
- *Perfect holiness*
- *Perfect faith*
- *Perfect love*

#### 5. The End Result of His Work of Perfection

##### The Dwelling-Place of God is Perfected

- *The nature of the true house of God*
- *In one sense we are already the house/temple/dwelling-place of God*
- *But in another sense that house is under construction*
- *Resistance to that construction is illustrated/foreshadowed in the OT*
- *The ultimate perfection of the building is also illustrated/foreshadowed in the OT*
- *Note what happened when the foreshadows were perfected*

### **The Body Comes to Perfection, to the Full Stature of Christ**

- *We are already individually members of the Body of Christ*
- *By one Spirit are we baptised into that one Body/into Christ*
- *Now that Body is the very fulness of Christ*
- *But to reach that fulness it goes through a maturing process, drawing from Him*
- *The End Time climax: come to full stature, to a perfect man & the fulness of Christ*

### **The Harvest Comes to Perfection**

- *We are God's field*
- *The seed is the Word sown in our hearts*
- *Patience is needed while waiting for the final End Time precious harvest*
- *But that harvest will finally come; the fruit will come to perfection*
- *What is that perfect, precious fruit? The same seed planted at the beginning, the Word, Christ*

### **The Bride Comes to Perfect Beauty, His Beauty**

- *Her garments are beautiful*
- *What are those garments?*
- *In fact, they are her wedding garments*
- *Not only is she arrayed in beautiful garments of salvation; she herself is also beautified with salvation*
- *That beauty is the very beauty of the Lord Himself*
- *It is perfect beauty*
- *No wonder the Bridegroom greatly desires her*

### **What is the Grand Climax of His Work of Perfection? The Very Perfection of God Himself**

#### **6. In the Meantime, While We Await the Final End Time Perfection...**

## **PERFECTION IN THE TEACHING OF BRO BRANHAM**

### **1.**

#### **Our Present Completed Perfect Standing**

- *Made perfect through the sacrifice of Christ*
- *Made perfect through the Blood of Christ*
- *Made perfect through baptism into the perfect/perfected body of Christ*

### **2.**

#### **Ongoing Progressive Perfection in the Experience of the Individual Believer**

- *Made perfect through suffering*
- *Made perfect through God-given ministries*
- *Two examples of ongoing perfecting*
  - *Perfect love, the love of Christ, which is the Holy Spirit*
  - *Perfect faith*

### **3.**

#### **The Historical Recovery of the Original Lost Perfection of the Church**

4.

**The Perfecting Process Comes to its Climax at the End Time**

- *The Church comes to prove the perfect will of God*
- *She comes to a perfect fit with the Spirit & the Word*
- *The Life of the original gathers in the seed for the final harvest*
- *The temple is completed, a perfect fit for the coming Cap/Headstone*
- *The body comes to a perfect man*
- *The bride becomes perfectly one with the Bridegroom*
- *She will also come to oneness with one another*
- *The bride comes to a perfect rapturing faith*
- *Perfected in love, she is so full of love & power that death is overcome*
- *In fact, the power of this perfection will bring about the resurrection*

**APPENDIX**

*Fuller Quotations*

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# PERFECTION IN THE BIBLE

## 1.

### CALLED TO PERFECTION

#### The Apparent Contradiction

***In one sense we are already perfected, yet we are still called unto perfection***

- Heb 10:12-14 he... offered one sacrifice for ever... For by one offering ***he hath perfected for ever*** them that are (*Greek = being*) sanctified
- Heb 6:1 ***let us go on unto perfection***

***Although the spirits of those gone on before are already made perfect, yet there is more***

- Heb 12:23 (ye are come...) to ***the spirits of just men made perfect***
- Heb 11:39-40 these all (*i.e. OT heroes of faith*)... received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, ***that they without us should not be made perfect.***

#### So, Let Us Go on to Perfection

***Paul both sought & taught it***

- Phil 3:12 ***Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect,*** but I follow after if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.
- Ro 12:2 be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, ***that ye may prove what is that*** good, and acceptable, and ***perfect, will of God.***
- 2 Cor 13:9,11 ***this also we wish, even your perfection... Be perfect***
- Col 1:28 teaching every man in all wisdom; ***that we may present every man perfect*** in Christ Jesus
- Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, ***let us go on unto perfection,*** not laying again the foundation

***Let us not be like those whose hearts or works were not perfect***

- 1 K 11:4 (Solomon) his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.
- Rev 3:2 (Sardis) Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for ***I have not found thy works perfect*** before God.

## 2.

### BUT HOW CAN SUCH A SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE GOAL BE ACHIEVED?

#### By Sufferings & Trials

***Just as the Son was made perfect***

- Heb 2:10 For it became him ... in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

- Heb 5:8-9 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered... And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him

#### **So also are the sons perfected**

- 1 P 5:10 the God of all grace... **after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect**, stablish, strengthen, settle you.
- Jas 1:2-4 count it all joy when ye fall into **divers temptations**; knowing this, that **the trying of your faith** worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, **that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.**

#### **By the Five-Fold Ministry**

- Eph 4:11-13 He gave some apostles... prophets... evangelists... pastors and teachers; **for the perfecting of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, **till we all come... unto a perfect man**

#### **By the Spirit**

#### **Although the Old Testament Law was perfect, yet it could not make perfect**

- Ps 19:7 **The law of the LORD is perfect**, converting the soul
- Ps 119:96 I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad.
- Heb 9:9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, **that could not make him that did the service perfect**, as pertaining to the conscience
- Heb 10:1 the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, **can never** with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually **make the comers thereunto perfect.**
- Heb 7:11,19 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood... what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec ...? ... For **the law made nothing perfect**, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

#### **Although it was spiritual, the ministry of the OT Law could not impart the Spirit**

- Ro 7:14 For we know that **the law is spiritual**
- 2 Cor 3:6 (God) hath made us able **ministers of** the new testament; not of the letter (*i.e. the Old Testament*), but of **the Spirit**. for **the letter killeth**, but the Spirit giveth life

#### **But New Testament ministry is the ministry of the Spirit**

- 2 Cor 3:6-8 (God) hath made us able **ministers of** the new testament; not of the letter (*i.e. the Old Testament*), but of **the Spirit... the ministration of the Spirit**

#### **And that Spirit is able to bring to perfection**

- Gal 3:3 Are ye so foolish? **having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?**

- 2 Tim 3:16-17 All scripture is given by *inspiration (= the breath/Spirit)* of God and is profitable ... **that the man of God may be perfect**

### By the Blood & Intercession of our Great High Priest

*Christ, our great High Priest, not only prayed for us on earth (Jn 17.9). He continues to intercede for us in heaven now (Ro 8:34; Heb 9:24).*

*On what basis? The Blood. As the OT high priest sprinkled blood on the earthly mercy seat in the Most Holy Place, so the slain Lamb entered the heavenly reality with the very Blood of God Himself (Heb 9:12; Acts 20:28).*

*As the blood of Abel on earth had a voice heard in heaven (Gen 4.10), so that Blood speaks even more strongly in heaven for us (Heb 12:24).*

*For what does the Blood ask? Our perfection! It purchases a full salvation; it justifies (Ro 5:9), sanctifies (Heb 10:29), and makes perfect.*

- Heb 7:25-27 **he is able to save them to the uttermost** (= perfectly) that come unto God by him, **seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them**. For such a high priest became us... who needeth not daily... to offer up sacrifice... for this he did once, when he offered up himself.
- Heb 13:20-21 Now the God of peace... **through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect** in every good work to do his will

### In fact, Perfection is His Work from Start to Finish; Salvation is of the Lord

- Ru 3:18 Sit still, my daughter... for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing (*i.e. the work of redemption*)
- Heb 12:2 Looking unto **Jesus the** author (= beginner) and **finisher** (= perfecter) **of our faith**
- Phil 1:6 **Being confident...** that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform** (= perfect) **it**
- Phil 2:12-13 **work out** your own salvation... for **it is God which worketh in you** both to will and to do of his good pleasure.
- 1 Th 5:23-24 **the very God of peace** (= *shalom* = completeness/perfection) sanctify you wholly; and... your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless... **Faithful is he** that calleth you, **who also will do it**.
- 1 P 5:10 **the God of all grace...** after that ye have suffered a while, **make you perfect**, stablish, strengthen, settle you.
- Ps 18:32 It is **God** that ... **maketh my way perfect**.
- Ps 138:8 **The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me**

### 3.

### WHEN WILL HIS WORK OF PERFECTION FINALLY BE COMPLETED?

**The perfecting process will come to a final conclusion**

- Pro 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more **unto the perfect day**.
- Eph 4:12-13 for the edifying of the body of Christ: **till we all come... unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ**

**When? At the Coming of the Lord (i.e. in our day)**

- Phil 1:6 Being confident... that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform (= perfect) it **until the day of Jesus Christ**
- 1 Th 5:23 the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and... your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless **unto (NKJV = at) the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**4.**

**EXAMPLES OF THE PERFECTION WE LOOK FOR**

**Perfect oneness with the original faith**

- Eph 4:12-14 for the perfecting of the saints **till we all come in (NKJ = to) the unity of the faith...** (not) tossed to and fro, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men (*Which faith? The original one, the one once and for all delivered to the saints, Ju 3*).

**Perfect oneness also with one another**

*The exhortation*

- 1 Cor 1:10 I beseech you... that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be **perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.** (Cp Phil 1:27; 4.2)

*The prayer of our great High Priest*

- Jn 17:21-23,26 (I pray) **that they all may be one;** as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be **one in us...** that they may be **one, even as we are one...** that they may be made **perfect in one**

*Just as the first believers*

- Acts 1:14; 2.1,44-46; 4.32; 5.12 all of one accord

**Perfect holiness**

*The exhortation*

- 2 Cor 7:1 let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness...**

*It is God who will do it*

- 1 Th 5:23-24 **the very God of peace (= shalom = completeness/perfection) sanctify you wholly... Faithful is he that calleth you,** who also will do it.

*How? By the sanctifying, awesome fear of the Lord just as with the first believers*

- 2 Cor 7:1 ...perfecting holiness **in the fear of God.**
- Acts 2:42-43 they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship... and **fear came upon every soul**
- Acts 5:5,11 (*After the deaths of Ananias & Sapphira*) **great fear came upon all** them that heard these things... **great fear came upon all the church**
- Acts 9:31 the churches... were edified... **walking in the fear of the Lord,** and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost

**Perfect faith**

*It is possible*

- 1 Th 3:10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we ... **might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?**

- Jas 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his (= Abraham's) works, and **by works was faith made perfect?**

Such faith was present among the first believers (Acts 64,8; 11.24). It is His faith.

- Mk 11:22 Have faith in God (= literally, **Have the faith of God**).

### **Perfect love**

*It is possible*

- 1 Jn 4:17-18 **Herein is our love made perfect**, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but **perfect love** casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not **made perfect in love**.

*It is His love not ours*

- 1 Jn 4:12 If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and **his love is perfected in us**.
- 1 Jn 2:5 whoso keepeth his word, **in him verily is the love of God perfected**: hereby know we that we are in him.
- Mt 5:43-48 **Love** your enemies ... That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven ... **Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father** which is in heaven is perfect.

## 5.

### THE END RESULT OF HIS WORK OF PERFECTION

#### The Dwelling-Place of God is Perfected

##### **The nature of the true house of God**

- Isa 66:1-2 where is the house that ye build unto me? And **where is the place of my rest?... to this man will I look**
- Ps 132:13-14 the Lord hath chosen **Zion** (= the bride, Rev 21:2); he hath desired it for his habitation. **This is my rest for ever**: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.

##### **In one sense we are already the house/temple/dwelling-place of God**

- 1 Cor 3:9 ye are God's building
- 1 Cor 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
- 1 Cor 6:19 your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you
- 2 Cor 6:16 ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them

##### **But in another sense that house is under construction**

- Eph 2:20-22 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: **in whom ye also are (being, NKJV) builded together for an habitation of God** through the Spirit.
- 1 P 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are (being) built up a spiritual house

##### **Resistance to that construction is illustrated/foreshadowed in the OT**

*Inner accusation & condemnation overcome by the intercession of the Angel for the elect.*

- Zech 3:1-4 he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord and **Satan** (= *literally, an accuser*) **standing at his right hand to resist** (= *literally, accuse*) him. And the Lord said unto Satan, **The Lord rebuke thee**, O Satan, even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem (*cp Ro 8:33*)... Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments... and... the angel... spake... saying, **Take away the filthy garments from him**...

*Insurmountable external obstacles overcome by the Spirit*

- Zech 4:6-7 Not by might, nor by power, but **by my Spirit**, saith the Lord of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain (*cp Lk 3:4-5*)? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain

**The ultimate perfection of the building is also illustrated/foreshadowed in the OT**

- Zech 4:7,9 **he shall bring forth the headstone thereof** with shoutings, **crying, Grace, grace unto it**... The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it
- 2 Chr 8:16 Now all the work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it was finished. **So the house of the LORD was perfected.**

**Note what happened when the foreshadows were perfected**

- Ex 40:34-35 the cloud **abode thereon**, and the glory of the Lord **filled** the tabernacle
- 2 Chr 7:1-3 the glory of the Lord **filled the house**... and the glory of the Lord (was) **upon the house** (*cp 2 Chr 5:12-14*)

### **The Body Comes to Perfection, to the Full Stature of Christ**

**We are already individually members of the Body of Christ**

- Ro 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:27; Eph 5:30 members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones

**By one Spirit are we baptised into that one Body/into Christ**

- 1 Cor 12:12-14; Eph 4:4 by one Spirit are we all baptised into one body
- Ro 6:3; Gal 3:27 baptised into Christ

**Now that Body is the very fulness of Christ**

- Eph 1:23 (the church) is his body, the fulness of him

**But to reach that fulness it goes through a maturing process, drawing from Him**

- Col 2:19 **the Head, from which all the body** by joints and bands (= *ligaments*) having nourishment ministered, and knit together, **increaseth with the increase of God.**
- Eph 4:8,12,14-16 When he ascended up on high, he...gave gifts unto men... **for the perfecting of the saints**... for the edifying of the body of Christ... **that we... may grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, even Christ: **from whom the whole body... maketh increase of the body** unto the edifying of itself in love.

**The End Time climax: come to full stature, to a perfect man & the fulness of Christ**

- Eph 4:8,12-13 he...gave gifts... for the edifying of the body of Christ: **till we all come in** (= to) the unity of... the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ**

## The Harvest Comes to Perfection

The message before the 1<sup>st</sup> Coming was of the Husbandman coming to collect the ripened fruit of the field (Mt 3:12). The message before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is identical.

### We are God's field

- 1 Cor 3:9 **ye are God's husbandry** (= cultivated field, tillage)

### The seed is the Word sown in our hearts

- Mk 4:13 **The sower soweth the word.**

### Patience is needed while waiting for the final End Time precious harvest

- Mk 4:26-28 So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground... and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; **first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.**
- Jas 5:7 Behold, the husbandman **waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.**

### But that harvest will finally come; the fruit will come to perfection

- Eccl 3:1-2 **To every thing there is a season...** a time to plant and **a time to pluck up that which is planted.**
- Ps 1:3 that bringeth forth his **fruit in his season**
- Mt 21:34 when **the time of the fruit drew near**, he sent his servants... that they might receive the fruits of it.
- Mk 4:29 But **when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle**, because the harvest is come.
- Lk 8:14 that which fell among thorns are they, which... **bring no fruit to perfection** (i.e. that which fell in **good soil does bring its fruit to perfection**).

### What is that perfect, precious fruit? The same seed planted at the beginning, the Word, Christ

- Gen 1:11 let the earth bring forth... yielding seed **after its kind, whose seed is in itself**
- Jas 1:18 Of his own will **begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.**

Since we are born of the Word by receiving it into the good soil of the heart, we are the End Time harvest of that fully matured Seed. When it comes to perfection, it must bring forth after its kind, manifesting the self-same life as the original, Jesus, the Word.

Cp Jn 12:20-24. Some Gentiles who asked to see Jesus were told He must first die. How then could they see Him? By seeing the fruit of His death, His spiritual seed (Isa 53:10; Heb 2:13). The Gentiles would indeed see Jesus, but in the flesh of His Church, not in His own flesh.

## The Bride Comes to Perfect Beauty, His Beauty

Before the 1<sup>st</sup> Coming, a messenger was sent with a message to prepare the spiritual bride for the heavenly Bridegroom (Lk 1:17; Jn 3:29). So also before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

*A bride prepares herself for her bridegroom.*

- *Just as the natural bride, Esther, spent 12 months beautifying herself with oil of myrrh and sweet perfumes (Esth 2:12) preparing herself for presentation to the king;*
- *So also, the spiritual bride is sanctified and cleansed by the Word for presentation to Christ without spot, blemish or wrinkle (Eph 5:26-27).*

*The End Time bride is making her final preparations. The finished product will be perfect, both her garments and herself.*

### ***Her garments are beautiful***

- Isa 52:1      *Awake, awake... O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments*

### ***What are those garments?***

- Isa 61:10a    *he hath clothed me with **the garments of salvation**, he hath covered me with **the robe of righteousness**...*

### ***In fact, they are her wedding garments***

- Isa 61:10b    *... **as a bride adorneth herself***
- Rev 19:7-8    *the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be **arrayed in** fine linen... for the fine linen is **the righteousness of saints**.*

*NB Jesus not only **grants/freely provides** our beautiful wedding robe of righteousness, He Himself **is** her righteousness (1 Cor 1:30). He is her robe (cp Ro 13.14).*

### ***Not only is she arrayed in beautiful garments of salvation; she herself is also beautified with salvation***

- Ps 149:4      ***he will beautify** the meek **with salvation***

### ***That beauty is the very beauty of the Lord Himself***

*Since Jesus is our Salvation, not only our Saviour (Lk 2.30), the beauty of salvation of the bride is His/Him.*

- Ps 90:17      *Let **the beauty of the Lord our God** be upon us*

### ***It is perfect beauty***

- Ezk 16:13-14 *thou wast exceeding beautiful... **thy beauty... was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee**, saith the Lord GOD.*
- Ps 50:2      *Out of Zion (= *the bride*, Rev 21:2), **the perfection of beauty**, God hath shined.*

### ***No wonder the Bridegroom greatly desires her***

- SoS 6:4      *Thou art beautiful, O my love... comely as Jerusalem (*i.e. Zion*)*
- Ps 45:11     *So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty*

## **What is the Grand Climax of His Work of Perfection? The Very Perfection of God Himself**

- Mt 5:48      *Be ye... **perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.***
- Col 1:28     *that we may present every man **perfect in Christ Jesus***

## 6.

### IN THE MEANTIME, WHILE WE AWAIT THE FINAL END TIME PERFECTION...

- Phil 3:7-14 what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him... that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection ... ***Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect, but I follow after*** if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but ***this one thing I do***, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ***I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.***

So then,

- Gen 17:1 ***walk before me, and be thou perfect***
- Ps 101:2 ***I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way... I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.***
- Heb 6:1 ***let us go on unto perfection***

# PERFECTION IN THE TEACHING OF BRO BRANHAM

*The abbreviated quotes are of Bro Branham.*

*They are taken from compilations, listed more fully in the Appendix, collected by The Midnight Cry Group (The Table) & Gert Rodewald (Spiritual Building-Stones).*

*Summary headings, emboldened & italicised text and Italicised verses in brackets are my own & are not part of the original quotes.*

## 1.

### Our Present Completed Perfect Standing

- ***God, before the world, ordained we should be*** holy and without blame and ***perfect in the sight of God.*** (27/2/55)
- ***Through that perfect Man, each one of us*** imperfect ... ***becomes the perfection of Him*** (10/11/63)

#### ***Made perfect through the sacrifice of Christ***

- let's go on to perfection... First ... ***“Could we be perfect?”*** ... ***Jesus said that we had to be just as perfect as God was*** ... Then we found out that we was every one borned in sin ... So ***how could we ever be perfected?*** ... Jesus, ***by one sacrifice, perfected forever His Church.*** We are then ***perfect through Christ*** (8/9/57)
- ***stop looking at yourself and look at your Sacrifice*** ... if you find no fault in that, then you're perfect (26/3/57)
- ***I'm not trusting in what I am, I'm trusting in what He is.*** I cannot, I cannot go to heaven; Jesus said I had to be perfect to get there. “Be ye therefore perfect ...” How can you be? ... ***Look not at you but at your Sacrifice.*** (8/6/63)
- You got to go on to ***perfection, that's into Christ. How can we be perfect? Through the death of Christ... We're perfected through Christ.*** (8/9/57)

#### ***Made perfect through the Blood of Christ***

- ***The blood of Jesus Christ perfects the bride.*** (19/7/64)
- ***the perfecting comes between us and God. The Blood of Christ is what perfects us in the Holy Spirit. ... the perfecting belongs to Christ.***
- when He died and shed His blood, ***the perfect life of God was liberated to come back upon the sinner*** (7CA, Smyrna)

#### ***Made perfect through baptism into the perfect/perfected body of Christ***

- in the sight of Christ ... every born again Christian is perfect ... ***just as perfect in God as Christ was*** ... For it's not my holiness. It's His holiness ... I come in Christ ... by faith. And, by Christ, ***I'm in Him and perfect in the sight of God.*** (26/3/53)
- ***As long as I'm ... in Him, then I'm perfected;*** not in myself. In Him; not my perfection ... it's His ... therefore Jesus didn't make a mistake when He said, “Be ye perfect even as ...” And how could a human being be perfect? ... ***by His perfect faith, resting in Him, saying, “He paid the price for me.”*** (6/10/56)
- Jesus Christ ... ***makes the worshipper perfected by the baptism of the Holy Ghost.*** (16/5/54)
- there's only One that is perfected; that's Jesus. ... “How do we get into that Body?” ... ***How do we get to perfection? ... Christ is perfected ... That's the Body we want to get to ... “How do you get into it, preacher?” ... “by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body”... (8/9/57)***

## 2.

### Ongoing Progressive Perfection in the Experience of the Individual Believer

- No matter what kind of a position God put you in. ***you're still growing – going on towards perfection. And we'll never reach it until Jesus comes. (13/3/60)***

#### ***Made perfect through suffering***

- Think it not strange that fiery trials come, because it's only done ***to perfect your faith (29/7/51)***
- "Think it not strange that these trials come." They're only working out for our good and ***to perfect us ... where righteous men are moulded into saints (5/7/64)***
- The very character of ***Jesus was perfected by suffering (Smyrna Ch Age)***
- "let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect ... "God's will for us is perfection. And ***that perfection is patience***, waiting on God and waiting for God. ***This is the process of character development. (Thyatira Ch Age)***

#### ***Made perfect through God-given ministries***

- He set in the Church ... apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, pastors ... ***to perfect the saints (20/12/59)***

#### ***Two examples of ongoing perfecting***

- May He lead us into that ***perfect faith, perfect love*** for one another ***(6/3/54)***

#### **a) Perfect love, the love of Christ, which is the Holy Spirit**

- ***Love is perfection. (15/9/57)***
- when ***that which is perfect*** come, ***which is love ... the love of Christ.***
- ***That's the kind of love that Christ had, "Father, forgive them ..."***
- ***It's Jesus Christ the love of God***, that God wants us to see. ... ***Love is the greatest, most powerful weapon that this world has ever seen or knowed of. It's a dying-for love.***
- ***Christ and the Holy Spirit's the same thing.***
- ***love, which is the Holy Spirit ...***
- ***What is love? Is God.***
- the love of God that's ***shed abroad in our hearts ... by the Holy Spirit***
- No matter how right I am, and ...how much I know about God's Bible, if I haven't got ***the Spirit of God of love*** in my heart for the whole human race and all, then I'm wrong to begin with.
- When perfect love has come into the human heart, all the demons in hell will never be able to upset it. ***(28/3/53)***
- If you can get a perfect love of God in your heart ... there's nothing can harm you. ***(29/8/54)***
- Paul looked and seen it (*i.e. Acts 28.3, a serpent*) ... There was not a speck of fear ... If you fear, Satan steps in. Satan's fear. But perfect love casts out all fear. ***(12/12/53)***

#### **b) Perfect faith**

- When I can get that patient up to a place till their faith comes to this (*i.e. trusting Bro Branham after seeing the gifts in operation*), that's what gives me a perfect faith. I've never seen it fail. ***(1/50)***

- If we love God, then my confidence becomes perfect in Him **(21/11/53)**
- If we had love, we'd have faith ... You're scared He won't keep His Word. **(24/7/54)**
- Then I have Thus saith the Lord ... When He tells me what He's going to do, then it makes a perfect faith
- At first the disciples didn't have this perfect faith ... they'd had Christ, walking with Him; but then afterwards, Christ was in them. **(25/8/63)**

### 3.

## The Historical Recovery of the Original Lost Perfection of the Church

- He started on the Day of Pentecost to build another masterpiece, the original Seed, Word. Started in **the first Church ... the Word manifested**, the promise that had been given (*i.e. Joel*) ... **it started out as the original ... The Seed was the Word** ... And this Seed, that perfect Church, fell into the ground at Nicaea ... The Church died at Nicaea ... But you can't hide a germinated Seed ... **(5/7/64)**
- The seed falls into the ground, and it rots, to bring forth new life again. ... Why does all that's around that life ... germ that no man can find ... has to die? ... everything around it must die and rot, before it can spring forth life.... From there grows the germ of Life unto a new life... **It cannot grow to that perfect image of Christ until every Word of God is received into you and then you become the Word.** **(17/1/65)**
- The same Holy Ghost that fired the piston back there that brought them out by faith, justification, same One gave sanctification, the same One give the baptism of the Holy Ghost, **that same power, the same Holy Ghost, can move the Church to perfection, and It will do it ... (9/54)**
- Through the age of Luther ... Wesley ... and in this latter day with the baptism of the Holy Ghost, **perfecting His Church in 3 stages** of the journey **(21/1/56)**
- **There is ... three stages to perfection** ... justification ... sanctification ... baptism of the Holy Ghost... Then the rapture. **(21/2/65)**
- This Church has come from justification under Luther, sanctification under Wesley, into the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and **coming to the perfect Church without spot or wrinkle** ... And **we're becoming more Christ-like ... all the time (4/6/63)**
- Justification made a way for sanctification; sanctification made a way for the baptism with the Holy Ghost; the baptism **made a way for the Holy Ghost Itself to come right down in perfection**, back to the Word again, to manifest Itself. **(5/7/64)**

### 4.

## The Perfecting Process Comes to Its Climax at The End Time

- It's evening time now ... **Christ is** coming out and **perfecting His Church.** **(13/7/62)**
- God is going to **call a Church to perfection** by His Word. **(21/2/65)**

### **The Church comes to prove the perfect will of God**

- be transformed by the renewing of our mind to do the perfect and acceptable will of God. Now, that we have been saved ... and that we have been filled with the Holy

Spirit ... we want the mind that was in Christ to be in us, **that we might be transformed** from the natural things of life, **and be brought in to do the perfect will of God by transformation of God's Spirit by His Word.** (31/10/65)

- God has sent His transforming power, His Word ... by the renewing of your mind. And there's only one thing that can quicken the Word, and that is the Spirit. (11/9/62)

#### ***She comes to a perfect fit with the Spirit & the Word***

- He's going to restore It how? Four death messengers killed It; then four Life messengers will restore It. **What was the fourth (i.e. the final stage of perfection)? The Word.** (22/4/62)
- made a way for **the Holy Ghost Itself to come right down in perfection, back to the Word again** (5/7/64)
- I believe **there's a Church coming into that perfection**, that ministry of perfection, where the offices ... for the perfecting of the Church ... **will be so with the Word** until the whole thing will work right up to the coming of the Lord. (8/6/62)
- **He's fixing to bring forth the perfect Word** ...and the Word is coming for the Word Bride. As a woman is the part of a man ... so **the Church will have to be a Word-abiding Church, every Word** ... nothing added to It. (24/1/65)

#### ***The Life of the original gathers in the seed for the final harvest***

- They'll never be able to curse what God has blessed (*cp Nu 23.8*). Why? It's a living Seed. It's a Word of God. **It'll grow to its perfection.** (25/8/63)
- Now the ear can't look back and say, "Tassel, I have no need of you, or blade, either one," because it taken blade and tassel to make the ear... now the ear's ripe... ends at the time of the end. I know we got a lot of fungus on this ear, but it's still a ear ... but God will shave that all off some of these days, and **He will have a perfect ear of corn...** The same Holy Spirit that fell at Pentecost is bringing it all about. (14/2/58)
- After the stalk has been formed; after the tassel is formed, after the grain has come onto the cob; **then it has to come to perfection, back to a regular grain again, ...** the same Life ... in the stalk is in the grain. It's just maturing itself right back. He revealed Himself, the Son of man, the grain that went into the ground.... Now what did He reveal Hisself next (*i.e. after the original corn of wheat*)? In a different form; stalk and tassel, and so forth, and all the leaves and everything. He revealed Hisself then ... same Spirit but in a different form. But **what's the last of that corn? It comes back to the original grain.** His ministry comes, from them reformations, **back to the original Word again.** (14/6/64)
- the Life that was in the ... stalk and in the tassel, in the husk, all gathers in the Seed. (5/7/64)
- God will take the Church **right back to Pentecost of the beginning**... God... is going to bring His original planting back to original seed. He's doing it... by the teaching or "former" rain. Next will come the harvest rain or rapturing faith. (**7 Church Ages, p 377-379**)
- The 3 stages ... first, it's a little blade, Luther ... next come the tassel, the pollen, the Methodist age. Then come the Pentecostal ... just so perfect ... looks like it's perfect ... grain of wheat. Open it up, there's no wheat there, at all. It's a shuck, a carrier of It, but that Life is working on through. ... Don't stay in the stalk. ... **Go on out to the perfect part. ... the Seed (is) coming,** forming under the husk ... it's got to lay in the Presence of the Son, to ripen into the glorious grain like the One that went into

the first. ***The real Church ... is coming right back up... The life ... will come into the grain, and go out forming the perfect Body of Jesus Christ. (5/12/65)***

- The husk or chaff is formed to cover the seed ... At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> C ... there was a widespread belief that the Holy Ghost was falling exactly as He did at Pentecost. But I have walked in the grain fields many times, and ... plucked the heads of wheat and rubbed them ... to get some grain, when ... there wasn't any corn of wheat ... though it surely looked as if wheat were there. ***This is a perfect picture of the Pentecostal move ... instead of being the real seed they were the chaff or protecting cover for the wheat seed which should come. (Sardis Ch Age)***
- That Life leaves the stalk, to make the tassel; from the tassel, It makes the husk; and from the husk, ***It goes into the Original again.*** ... and the thing that it passed through dies ... ***It goes on to its perfection.***

### ***The temple is completed, a perfect fit for the coming Cap/Headstone***

- He's honing off the people and making it such a perfect way that ***when the Headstone, Christ, comes, it fits the building together,*** and then a resurrection of the whole thing, the Church is gone up. ***(2/4/60)***
- But *(the pyramid)* will be capped ... then ***those stones that fit around that Headstone will have to be stones that'll be so completely like that Stone, that'll fit it,*** joint and ... everywhere ... ***the Church has got to be so perfectly like Christ until Christ and the Church can unite together, same Spirit. And if the Spirit of Christ is in, It makes you live the life of Christ, do the works of Christ ... we got a ministry coming that's just exactly like the life of Christ. (22/5/60)***
- But now, if we're getting closer and closer, and the Spirit of God has come from justification, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Ghost, that Church will have to be so close and ***the Spirit of God so perfect working in that Church that when the Headstone comes, it'll cap it together*** and the resurrection will come, and away will go the Church. ***(2/8/60)***
- ***has to get to such a perfect place, until when the Headstone finally comes it'll fit so perfect, the Church will ... have to be in such a perfect shape until when Christ comes, He fits right into it (18/3/61)***
- the Church ... has got to get into a place until it's the same kind of ministry that this left ... ***when the pyramid Cap does come, the pyramid itself, the Body of Christ, will have to be honed ... It'll have to be so perfectly like Christ till when He comes, He and that ministry will fit right smack together.*** Then will come the rapture ***(14/10/62)***
- *(Re Laodicea)* He's got to have a Church to make that capstone come on. It's got to come on there perfect. And ***the Church has got to draw into perfection. (11/2/61)***
- When that Church gets ***honed into the perfect image of Jesus Christ,*** He will come ***(8/6/63)***

### ***The body comes to a perfect man***

- The Church of the living God, that's built up into this perfect man ... ***the Holy Spirit is ... building a perfect Church ... this is a perfect man of God when he possesses these virtues*** ... and these other things is added to you ***till you're a perfect living image of God (14/10/62)***
- Now this last great step must come into the perfection, that ***the Holy Spirit has to live in the Church so perfectly, it'll make Head and Body unite together... Now we find that he promised, in these last days, that that would be done. (13/11/63)***

### ***The bride becomes perfectly one with the Bridegroom***

- The Church will come through justification ... sanctification ... baptism ... and go ***right on into the perfection of the Son of man, when Husband and Wife will be same-self persons. God will be so manifested in His Bride, His Church, till both be the same.*** They are one. (25/4/65)

### ***She will also come to oneness with one another***

- ***I know*** there's coming a time. There's coming something that's going to take place. I see it in the near future, the Spirit of the living God falling fresh on His Church, ***there's going to be something take place.*** I hear a sound in the mulberry bushes. ***Something just spoke to my heart and said, "Fear not, preacher. They'll be one one of these days.*** They'll believe." It may take persecution and things to drive us together, but ***God will drive His Church together*** just as certain as I'm standing in this pulpit, under one, that's Christ. Christ will be the Head. No denomination will be the head. Christ will be the Head of every believer. Hallelujah. (26/3/58)

### ***The bride comes to a perfect rapturing faith***

- I'm working out something ... to ... raise faith in a bracket where you've never noticed it that way before. ***Not a faith but a perfect faith ... We're coming now to the perfection,*** because the people has to come to this in order for the rapture. That's what's holding it away right now, is ***waiting for that Church to come into that perfect raptured faith.*** It's a perfect place, calling you to that perfection, and ***you have to be perfect to get there.*** The Bible said so. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Mt 5:48). ***Not a faith, but a perfect faith,*** built it up in here. And watch a perfect God, with a perfect heart, keep a perfect promise, by His perfect Word. (***"Perfect Faith", 63-0825E, par 184***)
- When a man lives by faith and walks by faith, he ... becomes a new creature in Christ. There now you're getting into Bride material ... ***into rapturing condition ...*** you're baptised into this Kingdom ... Now ***you're coming to perfect faith,*** perfect perfection that cannot fail. That faith never fails. ... He's here, does this ***to create a perfect faith.*** I feel him ... And I know ... He's been doing something to create ***this perfection of faith*** in the people. (25/8/63)

### ***Perfected in love, she is so full of love & power that death is overcome***

- ***I was just inspired to speak them words and say that,*** "Some glorious day ... the Holy Spirit Himself will just take the Church ***in such a control of divine love until the sick will be healed,*** the blind will see, the lame will walk, without being hands laid on them. (7/4/57)
- The Church that is imperfect now will be ***perfected in love and the power of Christ, even till death itself won't have any power over the Church any longer.*** (20/11/59)

### ***In fact, the power of this perfection will bring about the resurrection***

- Them who lived back there ***was not perfect until this Church be perfected, the Bride group in the last days*** to bring them in and all together be taken up (Heb 11.39-40). (***"Desperation" (63-0901), par 21-23***)
- Those sleeping saints back there, they cannot be made perfect without us ... (Heb 11.39-40), and when they come together, they unite with the living ones. The Church

uniting with the Word ... coming one. The dead saints with the living saints uniting together to be one; and all going together to unite with Christ ... (18/8/63)

- **Jesus cannot come until the Church ... and the ministry He once left will have to be the same** ... as it was then ... “Them without us is not made perfect, “Paul said, Hebrews 11, “Without us they cannot be perfected.” **They must have this ministry to raise up the Lutheran, Wesleys and all of them down through their ages. (23/8/64)**
- Now the Church has got to a place, from Luther, Wesley, and the revival is on to Pentecost, and now into this age that we’re coming to, by the same Holy Spirit, just more of It. Now, when them Lutherans back there got saved, they got a portion of the Holy Spirit. When the Methodists got sanctified, that was the work of the Holy Spirit, it was a part of the Holy Spirit. “They without us are not made perfect” ... **Now this age that we’re now living ... it’s beyond Pentecost** ... The Same Holy Ghost that saved Luther, sanctified the Methodists, baptised the Pentecostals, is now setting in order the Coming of the Lord Jesus. When, **It’ll be so powerful, that Body ... will come ... a Church that’ll draw the rest of them from the grave. There’ll be a resurrection.** That’s what the Holy Ghost is for ... “Without us they cannot be made perfect.” (17/12/59)
- These people who died ... are depending and waiting on us. So **this Church has got to come to perfection in order to bring the resurrection** ... they’re ... **waiting for this Church to come to its perfection. (14/10/62)**

# APPENDIX

## FULLER QUOTATIONS

*(The Bible references have been added by Gerhard Rodewald)*

### End time perfection

The Holy Spirit so beautifully coming down and bathing us in His great beauty, I was just inspired to speak them words and say that, "Some glorious day that all of the gifts that's in the Church, will just be set aside on the mantle, as it was. And the Holy Spirit Himself will just take the Church in such a control of Divine love until the sick will be healed, the blind will see, the lame will walk, without being hands laid on them. It'll just be one great unity." **"Then Jesus Came" (57-0407E), par. E-5**

Do you get it? Amen. For God said, "I will restore It." He's going to restore It how? Four death messengers killed It; then four Life messengers will restore It. What was the first? Martin Luther, justification. What was the second? John Wesley, sanctification. What was the third? Pentecost with the restoration of the gifts, the Holy Ghost, baptism of the Holy Ghost. **What was the fourth? The Word.** What? The Word! **"The Restoration of the Bride Tree" (62-0422), pg. 75**

These people who died in Christ are depending and waiting on us. So **this Church has got to come to perfection in order to bring the resurrection** (Heb. 11:39-40; 12:1), and they're souls under the altar, **waiting for this Church to come to its perfection.** ... the Church ... has got to get into a place until it's the same kind of ministry that this left ... And ... **when the pyramid Cap does come, the pyramid itself, the Body of Christ will have to be honed** (II Peter 1:3-11), not only just some creed, or doctrine, or something we've come through. **It'll have to be so perfectly like Christ till when He comes, He and that ministry will fit right smack together.** Then will come the rapture, the going home. **"The Stature of a Perfect Man" (62-1014M), pg. 53**

We are coming now to perfection because **the people have to come to this in order for the rapture.** That's what's holding it away right now, is **waiting for that Church to come into that perfect raptured faith.** It's a perfect place (2 Cor 5:1-8; Jn 14:1-3), calling you to that perfection, and **you have to be perfect to get there.** The Bible said so. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Mt 5:48; Heb 10:14). Not a faith, but a perfect faith, built it up in here. And watch a perfect God, with a perfect heart, keep a perfect promise, by His perfect Word. **"Perfect Faith" (63-0825E), par. 184**

Them who lived back there was not perfect **until this Church be perfected, the Bride group in the last days** to bring them in and all together be taken up (Heb 11:39-40). And we do have today, by God's help, the perfect interpretation of the Word with Divine vindication (I Cor 13:9-10). **"Desperation" (63-0901), par. 21-23**

Notice, here the Life that was in the husk. In the stalk, and in the tassel, in the husk, all gathers in the Seed. And the Life that was in the stalk, went, one went to make the other. Justification, made a way for sanctification; sanctification, made a way for the baptism of the Holy Ghost; the baptism of the Holy Ghost, **made a way for the Holy Ghost Itself to come right down in perfection, back to the Word again,** to manifest itself. ... That Life leaves the stalk, to make the tassel; from the tassel, It makes the husk; and from the husk, It goes into the Original again ... life ... in the corn of wheat, it goes up from the original stalk ... through the stalk, tassel and husk; and the thing that it passed through dies ... It's no use anymore. It goes on to its perfection. **"The Masterpiece" (64-0705), par. 136, 142-143**

The stages of the eternal purpose He had in His secret has now been revealed. Notice, **there is still three stages to perfection.** Just like He redeems the world; same way He redeems His Church . He redeems the people in three stages. Now, look, first is justification like Luther preached; second, sanctification like Wesley preached; third, baptism of the Holy Ghost. That's right. Then comes the rapture. **"Who Is This Melchisedec" (65-0221E), par 113**

### **When that which is perfect is come**

"Where there's tongues, it'll cease. Where there's knowledge, it'll vanish." Where there's faith, it'll fail, and all these things here. "But when **that which is perfect** come, **which is love** (I John 4:7-8,16), it will never pass away." That's right, **the love of Christ.** **"The Unpardonable Sin" (54-1024), par. 118**

That's why I want to put all my life for the Lord Jesus, everything that I can do for Him. And I can only serve Him as I serve His people. **You can only love Him as you love each other.** I can only love Him as I love you and you love me. And together we love God. And we become His children, in that I serve you, you serve me. And that's we're serving God. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you have done unto the least of these little ones, you have did it unto Me." (Matt. 25:40). So if we want a blessing, let's be a blessing to someone else, and a blessing will return. Like casting your bread upon the water, it'll return. And that's true. In all walks of life you'll find that. You usually reap just as you sow (Gal. 6:7-10). So let's do good. Talk good and be kind. And people talk about us, we'll say good things and kind things. And good things will come our way, if we'll give them out. **"Law" (55-0115), par. E-17**

Now, you like me to tell, what I think is the greatest, most powerful force there is on earth? The mightiest force there is on earth is love. That's exactly. There's nothing that will break down love. No matter what it is. Whatever you are, or what you might've sang; you might've danced in the Spirit; you might've spoken with tongues; you might've shaken the elder's hand; you might've been baptized three times, this a way, backwards, face-forward, anyway you want to; but until love anchors in your heart, you're still out of God. That's right. You've got to have love. The Bible said, "God is love." The love is the strongest force. **"Do You Now Believe?" (55-0610), par. E-26**

**God has to give it.** Then love produces a fellowship. The day that sin had separated that Divine love, God told Adam and Eve not to eat these certain fruits, and they did, and sin brought separation. And sin by separation brought hatred, malice, strife, envy. Is that right? What happened? They separated from Divine love. And when you separate from Divine love, then you can't overlook your brother's mistakes no more. You got to bawl him out for it (I John 2:10). That's right. You can't overlook sister's mistakes no more. Because you've got away from that Divine part, that love part. But if you really love the Lord Jesus, if sister or brother, does something to you, "Oh, well, that's all right, they didn't mean to do it." **That's the kind of love that Christ had,** "Father, forgive them; they don't know what they're doing." (Luke 23:34). **"The Way To Have Fellowship" (551009), par. E-33**

And, brethren, we have drawn little circles of laws and different things, and we're still never come to the real kernel. **It's Jesus Christ the love of God,** that God wants us to see. What a pity. **Love is the greatest, most powerful weapon that this world has ever seen or known of. It's a dying for love.** The church is perishing for love, the love of God's waters of grace to flow one to another.

When confidence is restored, when justice is restored between us, the love of God that's shed abroad in our hearts by the denomination... Something sounded wrong there, didn't it? ***The love of God is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Spirit*** (Ro 5:5), God's love to us ***"Hear Ye Him" (57-0322), par. E-51***

"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor ... though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it prevaleth me nothing." See, all your good works, all your good deeds, all the spiritual things you have, all the gifts you have, all the sensations you have, all the joy you have, all the peace you have has nothing at all to do with it to begin with. Think of that just a moment. Look at all those gifts, all those good things. "I feed the poor, I've got a good heart about me. I do this. I do that. I go to church. I speak with tongues. I prophesy. I heal the sick. I preach the Gospel (Mt 7:21-23). I do these things." Paul said, "Still I am nothing." All those things can be carnally impersonated. Charity; love. ***What is love? Is God.*** How does God come to you? By birth. See? (John 3:3-8). ***"Corinthians, Book Of Correction" (57-0414), par. E-24***

Now, Paul said it in I Corinthians 13, the next, he said now, that, "Though I speak with tongues of men and angels (that's both kinds) and have not love, I'm nothing. Though I have wisdom..." Now, he's talking about these gifts up here in the body, having gifts without the Giver, Love. See? Though I have wisdom and understand all knowledge of God, all the Scripture, can put them together like any great theologian, and have not ***love, which is the Holy Spirit***, I'm nothing." Now, we know that the Holy Spirit is God (John 4:24). We have to admit that. See? That's God. Well then, God is love (I John 4:16). See? So you can have any of the gifts of God without having God. God is love, and Satan can impersonate any of those gifts. See, he can impersonate pretty near anything 'cause he perverts. Sin is righteousness perverted. ***"Debate On Tongues" (60-0807), par. E-7***

Now, here, no matter how much you are right, here's one thing that we fail and miss, my brothers. No matter how right I am, and how Scriptural I am, and how much I know about God's Bible, ***if I haven't got the Spirit of God of love in my heart*** (Rom. 5:5) for the whole human race and all, then I'm wrong to begin with. So if I know all the mysteries of God and can unroll them and make them all hit together, and I don't have love, what good does it do? ***"The Godhead Explained" (61-0425B), par. 36***

I am nothing until charity comes in, which is love. Love is grace. The grace of God that does all. ***"The Message of Grace" (610827), par. 145***

But brother, if you do speak with tongues, and then you continue to live the life that you once lived, then there's something wrong with your experience. Just only thing you're leaning upon is speaking with tongues, don't you try that. You'll go over the falls, and that boat will never stand up to it. Where there is tongues they shall cease. Where there is prophecies it shall fail. But when ***that which is perfect*** is come... ***Oh, that love of God*** so rich and pure, fathomless and strong... Then these other gifts will work right in with it. See? That's gifts of the Holy Spirit that's given to you, speaking in tongues, prophesying and whatmore, interpretations. That's to edify the Church, for the edification of the body (I Cor. 14:12). But first receive the Holy Ghost, that you see that your life is changed (I Cor. 12:13). ***"The Unchangeable God Working In An Unexpected Way" (62-0120), par. E-92***

See, the main thing is, love God, and humble yourself with it. ***"Humble Thyself" (63-0714E), par. 93***

***Genuine love*** is corrective, and ***brings you back to the Word*** of God. ***"Possessing the Gate of the Enemy after Trial" (64-0322), par. 148***

So all these little things of jumping up-and-down like a kid, trying to talk in tongues, and all these other things, when that which is perfect... And ***we do have today, by God's help, the perfect interpretation of the Word with Divine vindication.*** Then that which is in part is done away with. "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child; but when I become a man, I put away childish things." (I Cor. 13:11). Amen.

***Please explain I Corinthians 13:8-12. Now that the perfect Word is restored to the Church are these verses fulfilled?*** Now, I think I just went through that, didn't I? "And when that which is perfect has come, that which is in part shall be done away with." Paul said, "Though I speak with tongue of men and angels, and I do all these things here... But when that which is perfect is come..." Now, is there anything perfect but God? No, sir. Is God the perfect? In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1). The Word's still God. See? All right. When that which is perfect is come, that which is in part is done away with. ***"Q&As" (64-0823E), COD p 1005, 1030, 1017***

I would that every member of my church spoke with tongues. I would like for them to do that, and I believe if you ask God, God will grant it to you. But let me tell you; I know plenty people that speak in tongues and haven't got the Holy Ghost. And there's not a minister that's true with himself and with his congregation but what will tell his congregation the same. The devil can impersonate that. Paul said, "Though I speak with tongue of men and angels, though I give my body to be burned as a sacrifice, though I understand all the mysteries of the Word, though I give all my goods to the poor, and all these things, and have not charity, I still am nothing. I have faith that I can move mountains and so forth; I'm still nothing." Then he said, "That which is in part will be done away with when that which is perfect is come," or when that which is perfect is made known. ***"Q&As" (64-0823E), COD p 1005, 1030, 1017***

So get Christ in your heart; that's a real... ***Christ and the Holy Spirit's the same thing.*** Holy Spirit, "Christ" means "the anointed One." And the Holy Spirit is that Anointing, and you are the one that's anointed. See? And it's Christ in you anointing you. See what I mean?

Then you got the right thing. Then He can use you to anything He wants to use you in, 'cause you're in the body and subject to any of those gifts (I Cor. 12). But see, to have one of the gifts outside of the body, it would do you no good. Don't depend on those things. The Holy Spirit is a Being; It's God, God in you, the Person, God, that's lit your whole entire being. You're changed; you're a new creature (II Cor. 5:17). Any little thing that's wrong, He'll tell you that's wrong, then quit; don't do it. "Father, I didn't mean to do that, You forgive me." See? And that's the Holy Spirit. ***"Q&As" (64-0830M), COD p 1079***

### **Perfect through & in Christ**

Paul said, "Let us lay aside all those things now." (Heb 6:1-3). "That's all right, but we'll do this. We'll baptize the people, and we'll lay hands on them for their healing and so forth." We could take it verse by verse, each one of those things. Baptism, we believe it. "There's one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism." (Eph 4:4-6). We believe that there's a baptism. We believe in the resurrection of the dead: absolutely. We believe Jesus died and rose again. We believe that. Laying on the hands for the sick, that's what it said: "These signs shall follow them that believe. If they lay their hands on the sick, they shall recover." (Mk 16:18). We believe that. But what is that? Paul said, "Not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works." It's something that you do. Now let's go on to perfection. Oh, my. We're coming into the Tabernacle, not the foundation, the Tabernacle, the Tabernacle Itself. That's the foundation: the law, and the righteousness, and joining church, and being baptized, and laying on of hands. Them's all orders of the church, but now let's go into perfection. And ***there's only One that is perfected; that's Jesus.*** Now, I Corinthians 12. ***How do we get***

**into that Body?** "By shaking hands?" No, sir. "By joining the church?" No, sir. "By being baptized backward, forward? In the name of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost? the Name of Jesus Christ? the name of Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley, Morning Star? anything that you want? That has nothing to do with it, just an answer of a good conscience towards God (I P 3:20-21). And yet we fuss, and stew, and argue, and split, and make differences. That's right. But all those are dead works. We're going to perfection. That's things that I done. A minister baptized you. Whether he baptized you face forward, backward, or three times, four times, or one time, or how he did it, that has nothing to do with it. You're just baptized into the fellowship of that church anyhow, proving to that church, you believe the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Laying on of hands to heal the sick, that's wonderful. But it's all natural, and that body will die again just as certain as you're living. It'll die again. Now, let's lay aside all those things and go on to perfection. **How do we get to perfection?** That's what we want to know. **Christ is perfected** (Heb. 5:7-9), "God laid upon Him the iniquity of us all. He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace upon Him; with His stripes we were healed" (Isa 53:4-7). **That's the Body we want to get to.** That's the Body. Why? If you're in that Body, you'll never see judgment (Rom. 8:1); you'll never taste of death. You're free from all of death, judgment (Rom. 5:9), sin, and everything else, when you're in that Body. **"How do you get into it, preacher?** By joining this tabernacle?" You're lost yet. Couldn't join it anyhow; we don't have any book. "How do we get into it? By joining some church?" No, sir. "How do you get into it?" You're born in it (I.P 1:23). **"For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body"** (I Cor 12:13). By the Holy Spirit baptism, we are baptized into that Body and are free from sin. God doesn't see you no more; He only sees Christ. And when you're in that Body, God can't judge that Body. He's already judged it. He took our judgment and invited us in. And by faith, through grace, we walk and accept our pardoning (Eph 2:8-9). And the Holy Spirit brings us into this fellowship with Him. And we walk no more after the things of the world, but we walk in the Spirit (Ro 8:1-7). Quickened, the Word came to us. He died in my stead. I'm made alive. Here I am, who was once dead in sin and trespasses, been made alive (Eph 2:1-5). All my desires is to serve Him. All my love is to Him. All my walks want to be in His Name that wherever I go, whatever I do, I glorify Him. If I'm hunting, if I'm fishing, if I'm playing ball, ... Whatever I'm doing, I must be "Christ in me" in such a life that'll make men long to be that way: not tattling, backbiting, and fussing about your churches. You get it? "By One Spirit we're baptized into that Body, 'and when I see the Blood I'll pass over you.'" (Ex 12:13). **"Hebrews, Chapter 5&6" (57-0908M), p 184-186, par. 104-107, 113-118**

Now: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to perfection..." (Heb 6:1). I like Paul saying those things. Paul never was a person that liked to stay too long in one place; he liked to move on deeper. One time in the Scripture he said, "Forgetting those things which are in the past, I press towards the mark of the high calling." See, he keeps pressing on (Phil 3:13-16). Here he said: "Now forgetting the principles of the doctrine of Christ... (Who He was, What He was) ,... let's go on to perfection ..." First we wanted to find out, **"Could we be perfect?"** And we found out in the Scriptures, Matthew 5:48, that **Jesus said that we had to be just as perfect as God was, or we wouldn't go in.** Then we found out that we was every one borned in sin, shaped in iniquity, come to the world speaking lies. And there was not one sound thing about us (Ro 3:9-18). So **how could we ever be perfected?** Now, here's what we find out then (reading, taking Scripture with Scripture) that Jesus, **by one sacrifice, perfected forever His Church** (Heb 10:14). We are then **perfect through Christ** (Col 1:26-28). And we are free from judgment through Christ (Jn 5:24). We shall never die through Christ (Jn 11:25-26). We have lost death and found Life through Christ; not through any church, not through any denomination, not through any fantastic, not through speaking with tongues, not through shouting, not through shaking, not

through dancing in the Spirit, but by grace! (Eph 2:8-9). **“Hebrews, Chapter 6” (57-0908E), p 206-207, par. 244-249**

*Brother Branham was asked about the Scripture of Ephesians 4:11-13: **Do we get all the perfecting of saints through the tapes, or should we be here, where the gifts of the Spirit are operating and the different offices of the church to help perfect us? Our hearts have believed all the Word of the Lord.*** No. They want to come here to the church for the perfecting. That we get fellowship one with another here at the church, but **the perfecting comes between us and God. The Blood of Christ is what perfects us in the Holy Spirit.** So we have some of the gifts operating among us, and we'll be very glad to fellowship with any of you, that has a way, that you're working, or wants to come and fellowship with us, anything we can do, we're very happy about it. But now **the perfecting belongs to Christ.** **“Questions & Answers” (64-0830M), COD p 1109-1110, Q-No. 355**

### **Perfect through the Blood**

We want you saved, friend. We want you filled. Remember, you are saved, of course. When you accept Christ you're saved (Mk 16:16). But you're not converted until you receive the Holy Ghost. Now, you know that. That's right. Jesus told Peter the night of the betrayal... He was already saved. Said, "Now, after you are converted strengthen your brethren." (Lk 22:31-32). That's right. Oh, sure. You accepted Christ as your Saviour. But when you're converted is when you're really changed. That's right. He wasn't changed yet. He cursed before the Lord, and denied Him, and everything. But after his conversion... "After thou art converted, strengthen your brethren." That's right. Is that right? It's what the Scripture says anyhow. And that makes it right. Jesus told Peter, that had followed Him, and cast out devils (Mt 10:1), and done miracles, and everything, said, "You're not converted yet. But after you're converted, then strengthen your brethren." That's right. It's true. **“God in Simplicity” (63-0412E), par. 138-139**

When you're separated from your first union by spiritual death (Ro 7:16). Now, you are born again (Jn 3:1-8) or remarried again to the new spiritual union of, not your natural life of the things of the world, but of Eternal Life. That germ that was in you at the beginning, found you.

Now, your old book is gone with your old union. Now, your name in your old book has been transferred. Now, you say, "Do you mean to tell me, that my old book..." God put it in the sea of His forgetfulness (Mi 7:18-19). **You stand perfectly before God.** Now, your name is now in the new Book, not in the Book of Life, but the Lamb's Book of Life. What the Lamb redeemed, not the old book of your natural union, but you're new Bride. Hallelujah! Your new Life is in the Lamb's Book of Life, your marriage certificate (Hallelujah.) where your true eternal germ from the beginning takes hold. Now, you're not only forgiven, but you're justified. Glory. Justified: Romans 5:1 said, "Therefore being justified by faith..." Look up the word. The word don't mean forgiven. The word means justified. It don't mean you're forgiven. For instance, you heard that I got drunk and done some evil things and everything; then you come around saying to me... You found out I didn't do them. Then you come around and say, "Brother Branham, I forgive you." Forgive me? I didn't do it at the first place. Now, if I did do it, I'm guilty; but you could forgive me, and I wouldn't be guilty; but yet I'm not justified, because I actually did it. But the word "justified," as though you never done it. Amen. It's not even regarded at all. How's it done? In God's Book of the sea of forgetfulness, your old book and marriage is divorced and dead and is not even in the memories of God. Amen. You are justified. Therefore being justified... You were accused; you never done it in the first place. The old union's in the sea of God's forgetfulness. You wasn't married to it to begin with. He,

the Bridegroom bore your shame Himself for you in your place. He took your place, for you were predestinated for Him to be in His Bride before the foundation of the world. The Bible said so. You are the predestinated Seed (Gal 4:6-7). How did you come to do this? You were deceived into it by your first marriage--to your adulteress parent Eve. It's no fault of your own. By your natural birth, you come after Eve, who committed adultery. That's the reason you was born an adulterous. You were a sinner to begin with. That's right. You was deceived into it. No, it ain't your fault. You never did it, because that little germ that was in you, was to be you before the foundation of the world. God put your name in the Lamb's Book of Life. He, the Bridegroom took away your shame and put it in the sea of forgetfulness by the washing of the Water of the Word and the Blood of Life. That is what the Bible said. Your first husband that you were married to, the world, the anointed Bridegroom, which foreordained you, has washed you by the washing of the water by the church? That doesn't sound right, does it? You might find that in the almanac, but not in God's Bible. By the washing of the Water by the Word, and the Word (Eph 5:25-27). You are standing completely justified as though you never did it at the beginning (I Cor 6:11). This is my message to the church now. You are standing, if you're standing on God's Word and with God's Word, every amen, every jot, every tittle. Where you standing? I'm trying to tell you: Pull away from them shucks and get out here in the wheat where you can get ripe before the sun. I hear the coming of the combine. You're standing complete, justified like you never did it in the first place. Hallelujah. Talk about a Thanksgiving. I feel real good. I'm more thankful for that than anything I know of. You are the pure, virtuous, sinless Bride of the Son of the living God. Every man and woman that's born of the Spirit of God, and washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ, and believes every Word of God, stands as though you never sinned at the first place. **You're perfect. The Blood of Jesus Christ.** If I was supposed to die in the morning, and a man took my place, I cannot die for that sin. Somebody took my place. And Jesus, the Word took my place. He become me, a sinner, that I might become Him, the Word. Amen. Let me hold true to It, not the church; the Word, Amen. Oh, that spiritual union of Christ in His church now, when the flesh is becoming Word, and the Word is becoming flesh. Manifested, vindicated, just what the Bible said would happen in this day, it's happening day by day. Why, it's accumulating so fast out on those deserts, and things taking place, that I couldn't even keep up with it. We're near the coming of Jesus to be united with His Church, where the Word becomes the Word. The call of the Holy Spirit searching the hearts... You're standing completely. You never sinned in the first place. God don't even know... It's in the sea of forgetfulness. You never did it. You were accused of it by the accuser; but really from the beginning you were predestinated to be a son or daughter of God. You're standing there washed, and your old book of divorcement's put away and is dead, absolutely out of existence even in the mind of God. You are the virtuous Bride of Christ, washed in the Blood of Christ: precious, virtuous, sinless, Son of God standing with a pure, unadulterated Bride Word that He washed by the Water of His own Blood that become flesh and manifested that He might take you, which were predestinated in the bosom of the Father before the beginning, the same as He was... He was that great attribute of God called, love. Whatever you are, you're servants of God. Whatever God wants you to do, where your place is... God placed in the Church some apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors (Eph 4:11-16). He placed that by virtue of His own predestination. And you were that to begin with. Your first wedding was annulled. You never done it in the first place, because there's only one thing could do it and that would be God come down, Himself, and took your place in a form of the Son of God (Phil 2:5-11), Jesus Christ, and washed you by the Water,... of the washing of the Water by the Word. The Word, not the denomination, the Word washed you. But if you won't stand in the Water of the Word, how you going to be washed? You are still as spotted as Eve was. "Oh, dear dying Lamb, Thy precious Blood shall never lose its power till all the ransomed Church of God be saved to sin no more." (I Jn

3:4-6,9; 5:18). What is sin? Sin is unbelief (Jn 16:7-11), unbelief in what? The Word. Unbelief in God, which is the Word. Pure, unadulterated (Oh, hallelujah.), leaving soon for the skies. Amen. Standing ready... Think, your garments washed by the Water of the bleeding Word. The Word become Blood. The Word bled for you (Jn 1:1-3,14-18), and you're washed in bleeding Word. The Word bleeding, the Life of God in the Word, and the Word was bled for you, that you might be washed from the filth of these prostitutes and be cleaned and sanctified by the washing of the Water of the Word that makes your mind and heart stayed on God and on His Word. ***"Invisible Union" (65-1125), p 32-39***

### **A Perfect Place for a Perfect People**

Now, we find this life holds all kinds of evils; so therefore, the life that is to come won't have it. This one has lust, and sickness, death, because what is it? It's not the house that He's gone to prepare. This is a pesthouse. How many knows what a pesthouse is? Sure. Well, that's what you're living in. A pesthouse is where they put all the diseased people. Well, that's just what sin done to us: put us in a earthly pesthouse. They wouldn't let anyone else come in the pesthouse, because there was all kinds of germs flying around in there; and the people will take these germs and be sick themselves. And sin brought us into the devil's pesthouse (Ro 7:22-25). Oh, but the other one is called my Father's house. "I'll go and prepare a place for you, take you out of this pesthouse and deliver you unto My Father's house." (Jn 14:1-3). Amen. There you are. Take you out of this old earthly pesthouse...

He's gone to prepare a place, a perfect place, where no evil exists, no sickness exists, no old age exists, no death exists. It's a perfect place calling you to that perfection, and you have to be perfect to get there. The Bible said so. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect." And it's a perfect Kingdom, so it must be a perfect people come; because you have to stand and be married to a perfect Son of God; and you must be a perfect Bride. So how can you do it through anything else but the perfect Word of God, which is the Waters of separation that washes us from our sins. Amen. That's right. The Blood of Jesus Christ... Think of it. The dripping, bloody Word (Amen.), the Blood, the Word of God bleeding Blood to wash the Bride in. Amen. Yes, sir. She stands perfect, virgin, unadulterated; She never sinned in the first place. Amen. She was trapped into it. There's the Father's house that He's gone to prepare. ***"Things That Are To Be" (65-1205), par 61-2***