

**Unveiling of God no 52**  
*The Character of Christ no 6*  
*Predestined and Tested*  
September 26, 2018  
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This evening we will finish our mini study of 6 sermons concerning the Character of Christ that I was hoping to finish last Sunday but which we did not get through the notes. So this evening we will examine the rest of this study that we did not finish Sunday morning.

From his sermon **Identification 63-0123 E-28** Br. Branham tells us how we get the character of Christ in us. "You cannot no way ever produce a Character like that, only accepting that Character in you. A church cannot do that. A creed cannot do that. A denomination cannot do that. An education cannot do that. It must be a birth. It's got to be a dying out, and let God in it. By the grace of Christ, mold this type of character in you, that you become Him. And your life and His is the same. Then you are sons and daughters of God.

Therefore according to God's vindicated prophet for this age, you cannot produce the Character of Christ in you by going to 1) the right church, nor can you produce the character of Christ in you by 2) believing in a creed (which is a certain doctrine). Nor can you produce the character of Christ into yourself by 3) Educating yourself into it.

So what is he saying here? It doesn't come by any outside influence but simply by a new birth, because the character of Christ is the nature of Christ and that can only come by receiving His Spirit and nature into you. And how can you prepare yourself for receiving His Spirit and nature into yourself? There is only one thing you can do and that is to die to yourself.

You see, the Character of Christ is not an ability that we can attain to. Nor is it a mental cognition we might develop. But simply put, we receive it by Receiving the same Spirit that lived in Jesus Christ, and therefore it is by Grace that we are able to die out to self, and let go and let God birth His own character into us. "*For by One Spirit we are all baptized into one body.*"

Notice he said, "By the grace of Christ, mold this type of character in you, that you become Him. And your life and His is the same. Then you are sons and daughters of God", And that is perfectly scriptural. Because the apostle Paul said in **Ephesians 4:15** *That ye may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

So it is all about growing up into him. Because if you do not grow up into him, you will never reflect His Character.

And then in his sermon **Identification** tells us how to test ourselves whether you have that character of Christ expressing itself in us or not.

He asks us in **Identification 63-0123 P:83** "*Do you love the praises of them people more than you love the invitation you're give to mold your character into the image of the Son of*

*God? What about it? How can we do it? Oh, my. Can you see yourself identified, (or) popular-loving?"*

And the Apostle Paul said in **II Corinthians 4:16** *"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."*

So this renewal comes by the Word of God living and abiding in us, adding cell upon cell to our glorified bodies.

He also said in **Ephesians 4:21** *"If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

So brother Branham said in his sermon **Thirsting for life 59-0613 P:21** that the life we live actually molds the character that we will project. He said, *"Life molds your character."*

And then we hear brother Branham say in his sermon **Explaining Healing and Jairus 54-0216 E-37** *"The devil's just trying to scare you out of something. He's trying to put something off somewhere else, say, "Some of these days you'll be this." You are now. Now, we're sons of God. Now, we're seated together in heavenly places. Now, we have all powers in heavens and the earth. See? Now, we have it. Not in the millennium, we won't need it then. We got it now. We're... Right now we are the sons of God. "It does not appear what we shall be, but we know we'll be like Him." What you are here is a reflection of what you are somewhere else. "Those who He called, He justifies." Is that right? "Those who He justified, He has glorified." Already in the Presence of the Father, we have a glorified body. Whew! Wasn't that deep? All right. We'll find out whether it's right or not. "If this earthly tabernacle be dissolved, we have one already waiting." Is that right? That's right. So right now, and what we are there, is a reflection. Here, what we are here, is a reflection of what we are somewhere else. So if your deeds are evil, you know where it comes from. You know where your other body's a waiting."*

So the apostle Paul said in **Ephesians 1:11** *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, (the praise of His doxa, the praise of his opinions, the praise of his values, and the praise of his judgments) who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

So you see, Ephesians parallels Joshua in that it is dealing with the placing of the people.

Now, the earnest of our inheritance is actually the down-payment showing us that it is ours.

And you cannot even get into the realm of inheritance until you are in the family, and therefore you must be born into the family, "*for by one spirit we are all baptized into one body.*" And therefore without being born by the Spirit of God you are not even his.

**Romans 8:9** *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

And if you were not foreknown by God to be there, then you have not even been justified, and if you have not been justified then you could never be glorified.

**Romans 8:29** *For whom he did foreknow,* (to whom He God knew before hand) *He* (God) *also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate,* (predetermine) *them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.* So it is an already done deal. God worked out all the details for your selection and fulfillment before you even came to the earth for testing.

That's why William Branham could say in his sermon **Future Home 64-0802 34-3** "*You wasn't saved on any day. You was always saved. Amen. Jesus just come to redeem that, but you was saved from the beginning, because you had Eternal Life to begin with.*"

And the word redeem means to *buy back* or *recover* that which was lost. And you could not be redeemed if you were not his to begin with.

**James 1:2 ¶** *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers testings; 3 Knowing this, that the testing of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

And from his sermon called **The Entombment - 57-0420** brother Branham said, "*Our own life is just a pattern. It's just a shadow, and not the real thing. It's the negative side. It takes death to develop the picture, to put us back in the theophany we come from.* Then in the resurrection we come in His likeness, a resurrected body, what a beautiful, not only beautiful but it's the real, solemn truth of God's eternal Word, that we'll be like Him."

And again from his sermon **Q & A 54-0103E 143-191** "*What you are here... Get this in your mind now. I'm going to close. But what you are here is a sign that you are something else somewhere. You've always wanted to be in perfection, you Christians. There is a perfection, and that perfection is not in this life. But every man and woman here that is a Christian, every person that is a Christian here now is already glorified in the Presence of Jesus Christ. And you've got another body. You won't have some other time; you have right now. Right now there's another body waiting for you if this one should perish. Could you think of that. Study that just a minute.*

In the book of **Romans 8:29** we read what the apostle Paul said here, ¶ "*For whom he did foreknow,* (notice he is speaking in the past-tense language here, so it is already a done deal, and he says to those he already has known beforehand) *he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son,* (which is another done deal, He ordained it so it has to come to pass.) *That he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

30 Moreover whom he did (past tense) *predestinate*, them he also called (again it is in the past tense) : *and whom he called* (past tense), *them he also justified* (past tense): *and whom he justified* (past tense), *them he also glorified*(past tense). Therefore it is finished. It's a done deal. You can't change the outcome, no matter how hard you try.

Now this word conformed comes from the Greek Word, "*summorphos*" and it means "*conformed to*," "*fashioned like unto*" "*having the same form as another*," "*similar to*," and describes what is "*the essence in character*" and thus "*complete*" or "*durable, not merely a form*" or "*outline*."

we also read in **I John 3:2** *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear,* (when he shall unveil himself) at that time *we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.* Notice he said, *now we are.* Not in the future, but already we are sons of God.

From br. Branham's sermon **God Rich In Mercy 65-0119 42** he said, "*Now, if you've got Eternal Life tonight, if we have Eternal Life, then we always were, because there's only one form of Eternal Life. We always were. And the reason we were, because we are a part of God.*"

Now, we are still talking about the order of the resurrection, but what I want you to see is that you have already been quickened. You have already received a spiritual resurrection which is the earnest of your body change. Paul said, "*Them without us cannot be made perfect.*" Why? because they've got to have what we have, and that is this message of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Now, the thing I want to focus our thoughts upon this evening is that brother Branham said what we are here is a reflection of where we are going.

From his sermon "**Explaining Healing and Jairus**" 54-0216 E-37 "*What you are here is a reflection of what you are somewhere else. Those who He called, He justifies." Is that right? Those who He justified, He has glorified." Already in the Presence of the Father, we have a glorified body. Whew! Wasn't that deep? All right. We'll find out whether it's right or not. If this earthly tabernacle be dissolved, we have one already waiting.*" Is that right? That's right. So right now, and what we are there, is a reflection. Here, *what we are here, is a reflection of what we are somewhere else. So if your deeds are evil, you know where it comes from. You know where your other body's a waiting.*"

Then what is it we have here that is the same over there? Notice, he said what *we are* here. So we need to know what this means. *What we are here is a reflection of what we are over there.* I do not believe what he is saying is that our body here reflects that body over there, but he is saying is that our character, our nature here is what is reflecting over there.

From his sermon **351-3 Laodicean Church Age - Church Age Book CPT.9** Brother BRanham said, "*Listen to me, Naked (physically) we came into the world, but naked (spiritually) we will NOT leave it.*" Oh no, *we are going to take something with us. What that something is, is ALL we can take with us, nothing less and nothing more.*

*So we had better be real careful now to see that we take something that will make us right before God. So, then, what will we take with us? We will take our Character, brother, that is what we will take with us. Now what kind of character will you take with you? Will it be like His Whose character was molded by suffering in the fiery furnace of affliction, or will it be the softness of this character-less Laodicean people? It is up to each one of us, for in that day every man will bear his own burden.*

What a tremendous question that he lays before us this evening. So what are we going to take with us? There is only one answer to that question and that is "**our character.**"

Therefore, what we are here is what we will be over there. And that speaks of the character, not the body, but "**our character.**" That's it. That's all we are going to take with us is "**Our character.**"

Therefore we want to find out about this character we take with us, and our own character, and what character we must have to enter into the presence of God. And then we must answer the great question, "**how do we get this character, or how do we develop this character?**" And our answer is simple. "**Your Character is a reflection of your nature.**" Your spirit.

And there is only one thing that will stand in your way as to whether you will ever develop the Character of Christ or not. And that is if you have ever been born again or not. Because if you have never been born again, you will never develop the character of God's only begotten Son. Because it comes by His Spirit, His nature living itself out in us.

As children in this world, our parents work with us to develop our character. They mold and fashion us. They child train us, and teach us what is right from what is wrong. When we err, they correct us in a way that we certainly will remember. And yet today we live in this time of Laodicea which is a "**characterless time**".

The emphasis of Laodicea isn't character development, but rather a getting of material possessions, and no focus is placed upon **developing our character** to be Like His. And since character is the only thing you can ever hold onto throughout your entire life and the only thing you can take with you to the grave and then over onto the other side.

Then how do we develop that character? That is what we are here for this evening. And we develop our character in us the same way we develop our bodies.

In fact the word **develop** tells us it is already there but needs to come forth and mature. I develop a picture, it is already there on the negative. It just needs to be placed in the washing of water and then exposed to the light, no different than you wash the negative in the solution and then expose it to the light to bring it forth onto the image on the negative.

From the **117-1 Smyrnaean Church Age - Church Age Book CPT 4** brother Branham said, "**Romans 8:17-18, "And if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. 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." Unless we suffer with Him we cannot reign with Him. You have to**

suffer to reign. The reason for this is that character simply is never made without suffering. **Character is a Victory, not a gift. A man without character can't reign because power apart from character is Satanic. But power with character is fit to rule.** And since He wants us to share even His throne on the same basis that He overcame and is set down in His Father's throne, then we have to overcome to sit with Him. And the little temporary suffering we go through now is not worthy to be compared to the tremendous glory that will be revealed in us when He comes. Oh, what treasures are laid up for those who are willing to enter into His kingdom through much tribulation."

And so we see in **Romans 5:1** ¶ *Therefore being justified by faith, (by revelation) we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith (revelation) into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope (the earnest expectation) of the glory of God.* (We earnestly expect the glory, the doxa of God to bring forth an output. And that is we expect to value what God values, to hold to God's opinion, and to His judgments) **3 And not only so, but we glory in testings also: knowing that testing worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; (dokime) which is tried Character) and experience, (Dokime) produces hope: 5 And hope makes us not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

You see, Peter tells us that the trial of our faith is what actually develops our character. And your character, if it is the character of Christ. will reflect or project the doxa of God, which is God's opinions, God's values, and God's judgments as we see in **I Peter 1:6** ¶ *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

So Peter tells us here that our Faith is tested in order to bring approval of it. We do not test a first grader at the end of the year to disprove what he has learnt, but rather to ensure he has learnt what he was taught. And so each year he is tested and then upon the basis of the test he is promoted to the next level of education. And so each year he learns and then each year with what he learns he is tested to make sure he has retained what he has learned.

And that is exactly what the Wuest translation tells us. **1 Peter 1:7 Wuest Translation** "*In which last season you are to be constantly rejoicing with a joy that expresses itself in a triumphant exuberance, although for a little while at the present time if perchance there is a need for it, you have been made sorrowful in the midst of many different kinds of testings in order that the approval of your faith, which faith was examined by testing for the purpose of being approved, that your approval being much more precious than the approval of gold which perishes, even though that gold be approved by fire-testing, may be discovered after scrutiny to result in Praise, Honor and Glory at the time of the Revelation of Jesus Christ;"*

Now, notice that Peter is speaking to us of "**The Trial of your faith**" which is "*the testing of your faith*", or "*the testing of your revelation*."

And that is how God develops the picture in us! Through the trials and testing's. And **those trials and testing's are for the purpose of approving us**. You don't do all that work with the negative just to wash it clean. You do all that washing and follow the process to develop that image that is in the negative with the purpose of bringing it into a positive.

In the Church age Book brother Branham quotes again from Peter concerning this **development of character**. 117-2 **Smyrnaean Church Age - Church Age Book CPT 4** *"Think it not strange concerning the fiery trials that are to try you."* That is what Peter said. *Is it strange that **God wants us to develop a Christ-like character that comes through suffering**? No sir. And **we all have trials**. We are **all tried** and chastened as sons. Not one but goes through that. The church that is not suffering, and is not being tried, hasn't got it--it isn't of God. **Heb. 12:6, "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."***

**224-1 Thyatirean Church Age - Church Age Book CPT 6** *"I know your faith."* Now he does not say here as He did to the church in Pergamos, **"you hold MY faith"**. He is not talking about **His faith** now, but He is commending them for **their faithfulness**. And as He does, He also mentions their **'patience.'** Now **faithfulness and patience go together**. In fact **patience is the outcome of faithfulness**, for it says in **James 1:3, "The trying of your faith worketh patience."** **There is absolutely no other way in which to gain patience. It has to come by the trial of our faith. Romans 5:3, "Tribulation worketh patience."** How highly God regards this outworking of our patience is seen in **James 1:4, "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire lacking nothing."** **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.** How highly God has commended these saints of the Dark Ages. Patient as lambs led to the slaughter, lovingly, faithfully they served God. That is all they wanted out of life, just service to their Lord. How great was to be their reward.

In this next quote we hear brother Branham refer to the resurrection Power of the Holy Spirit in our midst is to do one thing, and that is to bring forth a quickening that will **begin the process of character development**.

**Queen of the South 60-1127E E-80** *God, I pray that in this prayer line somewhere, or somewhere in the meeting, that You'll show that sign of the resurrection that You promised through Jonah. And may that hour, or that moment, **may the power of God seal them in their heart with the Holy Spirit and make them sons and daughters of God, that their character would be changed, their desires, and their objectives, and motives, and everything in their life would be changed.** Grant it, Lord. We're waiting farther on You; the service is Yours. It's in Your Name. And we're waiting to see what You will do. Save these Lord; don't let them leave this building, tonight without salvation. Grant it, Lord.*

We also read in **Luke 21:19** *In your **patience** possess ye your souls.* so we see that the patience under trial has something to do with our possessing our souls.

We also see in **Romans 2:6** the Apostle Paul tell us That God "*will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,*

**II Corinthians 2:8** *Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. 9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.*

So what is the proof of your obedience in all things? The fact that you can talk your way out of any situation? The fact that you can schmooze your way with people? Or is our proof the fact that you obey what God said you should do.

Now, brother Branham said in his sermon **Choosing of a Bride 65-0429E 28-2** "God chooses by character. Character, there never was a Character like Jesus Christ. It lives in Him, manifests in. We see it true. It's not worldly beauty of Him that attracts His Bride; it is His character, the character of the church that Jesus looks for; not whether it's big buildings; whether it's great denominations; whether it's big membership. He promised to meet with wherever two or three are gathered together. Truly. That's where the true believer rests his hopes, is upon that Word of God being vindicated in truth, what it is. Choose by His Word."

And from his sermon **Hear ye Him 56-1215 E-53** he said, "*Man is not measured by how much muscle he's got; that's beast. I've seen men that weighed two hundred pounds and didn't have an ounce of man in them: throw a baby out of a mother's arms and ravish her. That's not a man; that's a brute. Man's measured by character. There never was a man like Christ Jesus, never was a character like that. Man's measured by character. And I said, "Man's not measured by his big arms, but by the bags of the knees in his pants, whether he's been praying or not." That's right. And he said, "Aw, you preachers, you'll get next to yourself." And he...*

And so remember, we possess our own souls through patience and all long suffering. That means that when we are tried and tested, we learn to move on and get over the testing. Look, nobody likes to go through the testing, but it is the patience that we learn through being put to the test, that we learn how to mature and not look at each and every test, but rather look at the results of that test.

The Apostle Paul said in **Philippians 3:13** *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, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 ¶ Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

What good is the test if you are always sidetracked by them. What good is it to be tested if you can never get over the test. If you can never look back at the test and see what good it did for you, then how will you ever overcome in order to take more testing?

I remember when I went to the United State Marine Corps Officer training camp the summer before my senior year in College. My brother Mark told me something that I have always remembered, and it help me get through the camp with flying colors.

He said, "**remember Brian, no matter what happens while you are there, or what they do to you, it is all just one big game to see what you are made of.**" And there were times that they pushed you until most men would drop, and some did drop out because they couldn't take the pushing any more, and so they folded. Those are the ones they run out of the Officer Training program because they didn't want men who would fold under pressure.

And God's boot camp for sons is no different. He tests your revelation using every tool in the Book to see if you are a true son or just illegitimate born.

**I have heard but now I see 65-1127E P:22** *Job, let's take a little of his life. Job was a prophet. He was a man that lived back before the Bible was written. It's been thought that Job was one of the oldest books of the Bible, because It was written before Genesis was written. Job, this great warrior and prophet, was a--a mighty man in his day. No doubt that he'd been brought up and had served the Lord all of his life. And had lived such a gallant life to the people, all had respects for him. But he'd come to a place to where he calls it here, being tempted of the Lord. But I'd like to use the word, "**being tested**" by the Lord. And truly, **every son that cometh to God must first be tested, tried, child-trained.** And then if the testing gets hard, and we think it's too hard and won't listen (take heed), then He said we become a illegitimate child, and not a child of God. Because there's nothing can move a real, born again child of God away from his Parent (See?); he's part of Him. You can no more deny it, you deny yourself. See? You've had the experience, you've been trained and tested.*

**Three kinds of believers 63-1124E P:36** *Sometimes believers put to the test, not sometimes, every time: **For every son that cometh to God must be chastened,** tried, child-trained. Remember the trials, the dusty roads, the hot sun of persecution, but the loyalty of your heart beats that material to she's ready to go into the mold. God's children is made up correctly on His Word, for they are living examples, and the Word of God living through them. See? The trial comes to shake you, to put you to the very bottom, to see where you'll stand. See? **Tested, tried, every son that cometh to God...**Job went through the trials and the tests: his children taken, and everything else taken. The church members come, accusing him being a secret sinner, and tried to say everything against him, but yet **he wouldn't listen to any of it.** He knowed he had met God's requirements. He knowed there's no need of Satan trying to tempt him. He knowed it was the devil. And as long as Satan can make him believe that his sickness was his God doing it, he had Job whipped. But when Job once struck that revelation that it was not God, he was only going through his trials to make him something. It wasn't God doing it; it was Satan doing it.*

So we see that the trials and testing is for one purpose and that is to mold into us the very character of the first born son.

In closing I would like to read the quote from brother Branham's sermon that we began with in **Identification 63-0123 E-28** where he said, "**You cannot no way ever produce a Character like that, only accepting that Character in you.** A church cannot do that. A creed cannot do that. A denomination cannot do that. An education cannot do that. **It must be a birth. It's got to be a dying out, and let God in it.** By **the grace of Christ, mold this type of character in you, that you become Him.** And **your life and His is the same.** Then you are sons and daughters of God.

**Calling Jesus on the scene 63-0804E P:39** They should've known that He knew that thing was going to happen. Do you believe that? Certainly, He knew it. He knew all the time it was going to happen. Why? **He only did it to prove to test their faith.** And **sometimes He does the same thing for you, me; He lets things happen just to see what we'll do about it.** Do you believe that? The Scripture said that **every son that cometh to God must be tried, chastened, proved.** Satan will make you prove every inch of ground that you claim; he certainly will. So **sometimes God lets those things happen.**

**Why? 63-0626 P:32** And then, you know, but behind all of it, no matter how much it seems that God has turned His face from the people, **He does that sometime to see what kind of an attitude you take.** **Every son that cometh to God's got to be tried and chastened.**

**Hebrews 12:5** And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, **nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:** **6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.** **7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?** **8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.** **9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?** **10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.** **11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**

Let us pray...