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Present Truth Ministries  
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## Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8

Several years ago, on a quarterly basis, I had written a teaching letter that was translated into Farsi and Urdu. I received many testimonies regarding these articles and since there are questions on so many subjects as well as a great desire to learn and grow, I have felt the burden and the inspiration to start it up again. My purpose is to stay with the teachings of Brother Branham and show them forth clearly from the Bible. Teaching and spreading the end time message is my burden and calling.

The June issue will three two important subjects:

1. Be Faithful to the Text
2. The Absolute of the Bride
3. Emotions vs. Logic

# Be Faithful to the Text

In my observation of some preachers and teachers around the message, there can sometimes be a lack of staying loyal to the text of Scripture. I want to write this very carefully because there are many gifted ministers who do a great deal for God. This section is not an indictment against false doctrine per se, but rather, an indictment of not being careful to stay strictly with the exact meaning of the text of Scripture.

It is the duty of every minister to be faithful to the text of Scripture and show forth what it means and not what they want it to say to fit in with their subject. There is power inherent in the Word of God, and it takes the Spirit of God working in a minister to bring him into unity with the Word of God and in that union between the Word preached and the Word written there is transforming and supernatural power.

2 Timothy 2:15-16 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

The phrase “rightly dividing” comes from the Greek word “orthotomeō” and it means “to make a straight cut, that is, (figuratively) to dissect (expound) correctly.” As we study the Scriptures and seek to explain it to people, we must present it accurately. To expound means to explain the meaning of a text. Paul is making a call to all ministers of the Gospel to account for the meaning of the Scriptures correctly. The “word of truth” refers us to the Scriptures. The fact that we are to explain the meaning of the Scriptures accurately is further bolstered by Paul writing that we are to “shun profane and vain babblings.” Shun means to get away from, profane means heathen or wicked and vain babblings means fruitless discussion. It is fruitless and wicked because it is not in line with Scripture. The result of the unscriptural discussion is increasing ungodliness. If you read further in the context of 2 Timothy 2:14-19 it emphasizes the importance of remaining faithful to the straightforward meaning of the text of Scripture, not coming up with fanciful interpretation. Brother Branham tells us,

Now, you must not misinterpret the Word. You say, "Well, I believe It means this." It means just what It says. It needs no interpreter. And you must not misplace the

Word. And you must not dislocate the Word. And if we would do either of these, it throws the whole Bible in a confusion and in a chaos.<sup>1</sup>

To make my point more tangible, I want to show a few instances that I have heard well-meaning preachers do this.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

An evangelist comes, reads this verse and then begins to preach about having the freedom to worship in the Spirit and that to manifest the freedom of worship in the Spirit of the Lord we must get excited and shout. Now, that is the truth, we need to worship God with our every faculty, including our emotions, but this verse has nothing to do with shouting, dancing in the Spirit or worshipping with emotion. But time and time again it is used that way. This way of viewing this Scripture is a misinterpretation. You cannot take a Bible verse and separate it from its context to use it to say something that you want it to say. To understand a verse, you must read the surrounding context. So, what is the proper understanding of this verse?

Read all of 2 Corinthians 3. It is a comparison of the ministry of the Law and the ministry of the Spirit. He tells us that the ministry of condemnation that came to us through Moses was glorious, how much more glorious will the ministry of the Spirit exceed in glory. Moses had to be veiled because of the glory that radiated from his face, and now those very people that received the law are blinded because a veil is upon their hearts and then this is what is written next.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. 17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

So, when the heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away so that we can now see the glory of the Lord and be changed into the same image of the Lord as we behold

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<sup>1</sup> 65-0822M - Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

Him. The liberty that we have is to see the glory of the Lord with an unveiled face. Previously, the glory became veiled from us, but now it is openly revealed to us face to face.

Another example of this is from this same chapter, the letter killeth and the Spirit giveth life. Many preachers take this verse to mean that the Bible kills, but the Spirit gives life. It would be like telling us that the Word of God kills us. This explanation is wrong. The rest of the Bible says that God's Word IS life.

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

Let's look more closely at the verses mentioned.

2 Corinthians 3:6-8 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. 7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: 8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

The correct context is a comparison of the Law and the Gospel. The letter is not the Bible itself, as a whole, but rather the Law of commandments as contained in ordinances. It is not even the Law itself that kills because the commandment was ordained to Life.

Romans 7:10-11 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

The commandment was ordained to give eternal life, but it became death because of the weakness of our flesh since we are dead in sins and trespasses. In that

sense, we call the Law the ministration of condemnation because of our sinfulness. The letter kills because of sinful nature, but the Spirit gives life. The Gospel is the ministry of the Spirit through the Word of God bringing the new birth.

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

It is through the preaching of the Gospel that we are saved. So, the Scriptures coming forth under the power of the Spirit and the hearing of faith brings eternal life.

Romans 10:13-17 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The letter does not kill in the sense that the Bible without the Holy Spirit kills, rather, what kills is our sinful nature, under the effects of the Law of Commandments. The Bible, brought forth, through God-ordained means brings forth eternal life. The Ministry of the Spirit gives life, but the ministry of condemnation brings death, not because there is anything wrong with the Law of God, but because there is something wrong with me. It is my sinful nature that kills, not the Word of God. Let's read more Scriptures speaking of the glories of the Law.

Psalms 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

It is not the Law that has a problem with it. "The Law is weak through the flesh...", that is, our sinful nature cannot keep the Law, and therefore it brings death.

It is important that we do not use Brother Branham's statements to bring forth a fanciful interpretation. We should say what he means within the context of his sermon, his life and even the subject he is referencing. To do that properly, we must go back to

the Bible with what he said, to see it in the Light of the Full Revelation of Jesus Christ. The same applies to the Bible; we review its immediate context, the full scope of the letter or book that it is in and then the full scope of revelation contained in Scripture. We do not put our interpretation upon what is written, but we teach it as it is written.

# The Absolute of the Bride

When we speak of the Absolute, it brings forth all sorts of passionate feelings and emotions. It is important that we look squarely at the Word of God to see this subject properly. I have heard some say that Brother Branham is the Absolute and others say that the Bible is the Absolute, but why don't we look at the full scope. If we look towards the Reformation and the work of God through Martin Luther, the very first teaching that he brought back to the church is that the Bible, not councils or the pope, is the highest authority of the church. The Word of God was restored to its rightful position. Then because of that, the Gospel, that the just shall live by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ at Calvary, was restored.

Now, let's define the term "absolute." There are three definitions of it. As an adjective, it means "not qualified or diminished any way; total" and "viewed or existing independently and not in relation to other things; not relative or comparative." As a noun, it means "a value or principle that is regarded as universally valid or that may be viewed without relation to other things."

The statement "Brother Branham is our Absolute" leads us to ask a few questions. Does Brother Branham exist independently and not in relation to other things? The existence of Brother Branham's ministry is dependent upon the Bible and the revelation contained within it. Is Brother Branham "not qualified or diminished in any way"? Well, Brother Branham told us on several occasions that he taught things differently earlier in his ministry and even stated that the Bible became a new book to him after the seven seals were opened. Is Brother Branham "a value or principle that is regarded as universally valid"? On the one hand, Brother Branham's ministry was vindicated by God and is universally valid, but this does not cause his teaching to rise above the Bible. On hundreds of occasions, Brother Branham informed us that his ministry was subject to the Bible.

Notice, what Brother Branham tells us below;

"Well," he'd say, "now, let us see. Why, here the book says that we're to be baptized using 'Father, Son, Holy Ghost.'" If that church is the ultimate, that settles it. He don't care about what anything else says; that's his ultimate. 50 Well, every denomination is an ultimate to their believers. But, to me, and to the ones that I hope that I'm leading to Christ, and by Christ, the Bible is our ultimate. No matter... Cause, God said, "Let every man's word be a lie, and Mine Truth." And I believe that the Bible is God's ultimate. No matter what anyone else says; It's the ultimate.<sup>2</sup>

The Bible is our Ultimate, not matter what anyone else says; we stay with the Bible. And yet, let's look at what Brother Branham says below.

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<sup>2</sup> 65-0822M - Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

Because you get two men, you got two opinions. And it's got to come to one final absolute, and my absolute is the Word, the Bible. And as a pastor here of the church, my absolute is the Word, and I want... I know you, our brothers, you kind of look to me to be your absolute to what... as long as I follow God as Paul said in the Scripture, "You follow me, as I follow Christ."<sup>3</sup>

The context of this sermon is Church Order and how to handle things in the Branham Tabernacle. In general, this exhortation is for us to follow Brother Branham as he followed Christ and he did not rebuke them for looking to his as an absolute. Let's examine this more carefully. On the one hand, he tells us the Bible is the Absolute and on the other hand, he says we look to him as an absolute. Even Brother Branham would check his revelation with the Bible. He said,

But when it begins to come, and I'm satisfied it comes from God, then I go to the Scripture. See, That is, ought to be the confirmation of every spiritual thing that's done, because the Bible is the complete revelation of Jesus Christ; see, It is His Body.<sup>4</sup>

Even Brother Branham checked his revelation with the Scriptures. Many times over the years he requested that his listeners do the same. Clearly the Bible is not the complete revelation of Brother Branham; it is the complete revelation of Jesus Christ. Therefore, when we speak of Absolute, we can certainly say that Jesus Christ is THE Absolute. As any other prophet from history, Brother Branham is an absolute, pointing us to THE Absolute, Jesus Christ.

But each age has its part of the Gospel already predicted. This Bible is the complete revelation of Jesus Christ. There can be no more added to It, or anything taken away from It; the person who does it is cursed. We cannot add nothing to It, take nothing from It. We must look in Here and see what's promised for this age, and then see it happen. That's God interpreting His Own Word. When It said, "A virgin shall conceive," she did. That's God's interpretation of It. What He promises, that He does.<sup>5</sup>

The message of Brother Branham is the opening of the word, to reveal the hidden mysteries of the Bible. The Bible is the complete revelation of Jesus Christ and is, therefore, our Absolute. But in each age of the church, God sent men to restore the truth of the Bible for that age. They were not above the Bible, rather they were subject to and brought the elected church back subject to the Bible. This should be very simple for everyone to understand. We do not diminish the need for a prophet, in the spirit of

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<sup>3</sup> 63-1226 - Church Order, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

<sup>4</sup> 64-0802 - The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

<sup>5</sup> 64-0206E - God's Provided Way For This Day, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

Elijah, as the Bible promises. Yet, we cannot take this thought and dismiss the Bible. That prophet told us repeatedly the necessity of basing all doctrine upon the Bible, basing our walk of faith upon the Bible and to live according to the Bible.

# Emotions vs. Logic

When looking at the emotional or logical side of the Word of God, it is a subject which causes people to choose sides. Our purpose is not to go out of balance towards the fanatical side or towards the dead side.

On the one hand, anything without emotion is dead. On the other hand, we do not go by feeling, but by the Word of God. In fact, we cannot go by logic either. Logic fails unless it is submitted to the authority of the Word of God. We are commanded to cast down reasoning's, and yet my people perish for lack of knowledge. These are all statements thrown out by various factions in a number of ways. The tendency is that an individual church or group of ministers is more focused on an extreme Pentecostal style of worship and therefore emphasizes "emotional" worship, shouting and clapping during the preaching, etc. Then there is another tendency of a more Baptist style of worship that stresses that we don't go by emotions, but by the Word and there is a heavy doctrinal emphasis and that we should not shout amen unless we have an understanding of what is said. The interesting part about this is that both sides have Scripture and quotes from the message to prove their points.

A proper balance is needed to avoid extremes. On the extreme Pentecostal side of the coin, there is a tendency to identify their passionate worship with the only proper worship. Which then becomes, "if you don't worship with emotions, dancing, etc. you are not "free" in the Spirit." The Baptist side of things tends to say, "worship has nothing to do with emotion, but is in the proper revelation of the Word."

So, this is a quiet place. And I always was afraid of anything quiet. It sounds dead. So, I—I'm not much for dead things. So, anything without emotion is dead. The scientific research will prove that: anything without emotion. So, if your experience has-n't got a little emotion in it, you better bury it and get something that has got some emotion in it. That's right. It's exactly true. <sup>6</sup>

In many ways, prayer and worship are an emotional response to the power of God's Word in action or a deep-seated need. Emotions often alert us to something being wrong in relationships or situations in life, and they also are an expression of our innermost feelings. If we always suppress our emotions, it can lead to various mental and physical health conditions. At the same time, feelings can lie to us. Our absolute is not how we feel, but the Word of God.

**Psalms 66:1 To the chief Musician, A Song or Psalm. Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:**

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<sup>6</sup> 64-0619 - Perseverant, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

The word “noise” is from the Hebrew word which speaks of splitting the air, in other words shouting loud with joy. There are seven times in the Psalms we are instructed to shout with joy. This is an emotional response to the greatness of God. King David danced for joy as they brought the ark of the covenant into the city of David. At the very same time, you can manufacture these emotions, and even a well-meaning song leader can force everyone into a particular mold in a church using subtle manipulation. Some people are emotional and very expressive, others are emotional but non-expressive. Some people dance, others cry, some people raise their hand and weep, others do not. The point is for us to be submissive to whatever the Spirit is trying to do within us at the moment, not to fit in with the shouting crowd.

You know, the sheep isn't asked to manufacture wool. No. He can't manufacture it. These gifts cannot be manufactured by emotion.<sup>7</sup>

Because of these things some churches shun all emotions at the door. This should not be so either. If we have a whole church that is emotional or a whole church that is non-emotional, then we have people trying to fit in and picking up one another's spirits instead of the Spirit of God. Let's review many, many Scriptures that speak of how the people of God worship.

Joshua 6:16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

Ezra 3:11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

Psalms 32:11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Jeremiah 31:7 For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.

Psalms 98:4 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Luke 19:37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

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<sup>7</sup> 63-0112 - Influence, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

Acts 4:24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

Revelation 5:12-13 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

It is clear that heaven is a loud place, the place where believers worshiped on earth was loud as well. Notice, what we see,

1. they shouted
2. they lifted their voices in rejoicing
3. they rejoiced and praised God with loud voices
4. they raised their voices to God in prayer
5. in heaven they screamed out in worship, and John responded with the same
6. they shouted for joy in heaven because of the works of God on earth

But many times, we find in our own ranks of Pentecost, that sometimes our atmosphere becomes an emotion instead of a worship. And that soon dies out, and the members become one thing and another. But if we could ever get a group of people together where was genuine Holy Spirit atmosphere, a sacredness and sincerity and worship, and the men and women setting in there are God conscious, and know that the great omnipotence of God is present, ready to do all things without one shadow of doubt, it'll even have an effect upon the unbelievers that's setting in this evening. You can never come into that atmosphere without something happening.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> 56-0129 - The Supernatural, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>  
Let's break this down based upon the order we have in the church. Before the service, there is a sacred quietness, not speaking to one another, but quietly praying and reading the Bible. Then the worship begins, and it is a time for shouting, dancing, clapping, and rejoicing. Everything has its place and order.

But there's only one of them and that's the religion of Jesus Christ can prove that He is a living, not by psychology, not by emotion. We clap our hands and shout, and so does the Mohammedans, so does the Buddhists. The Mohammedans work themselves in such a frantic, till they can take splinters and run through their fingers, don't even feel it.<sup>9</sup>

Our faith cannot be based upon emotion, but solidly upon the Word of God. Emotion is not a sign of true faith. True faith produces emotions, but it is not a guarantee of true faith, because Muslims, Buddhists, etc. have emotions in their religion.

What is faith? Oh, it's been so misinterpreted. Many call faith emotion, oh, jumping and shouting... I believe in shouting; I believe in praising the Lord. I believe there's a gift of speaking in tongues and interpretation. I believe in everything the Bible says, but we can't go to seed on one thing. See? Get the Giver, and the gift will take care of itself.<sup>10</sup>

A cocklebur can count just as much as any the rest of them. I've seen heathens raise, and shout, and speak in tongues, and—and drink blood out of a human skull, and call on the devil. See? So, you don't... Any of them sensations and things, forget it. It's your heart in that Word, and that's Christ. Bring in there, and watch It make Itself known, just as It opens up like any other seed, and declares Itself for the age It's living in.<sup>11</sup>

It is very clear from these verses and quotes that our faith cannot be based on fleeting emotions. Faith must find a resting place, and that resting place is the Word of God. And when we have faith in the Word of God, our lives have been change; then we get excited and emotional over it. Think about people that attend a professional sports game. They scream and shout when something amazing happens. They cheer on their team to victory. They cry when someone on their team is hurt. They clap and shout encouragement. They dance and stomp their feet to the music during a timeout. They completely get into the spirit of the game. What will a Christian do when he gets into the Spirit of worship and rejoicing? He'll shout and scream, clap and stomp his feet, dance and cry. Notice what Brother Branham says;

Go at the ball game, somebody knock a homerun, or something another, set and look, and say, "Well, guess that's pretty good." Nah, you wouldn't be a baseball fiend, you wouldn't be a real... you wouldn't be in the spirit of baseball. When somebody knocks a homerun, you raise up and holler, "Whew! My! Win!" Knock somebody's hat off his head like that, nobody says a word about it. Then in the church when you get in the Spirit, raise up and holler, "Glory! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!" Somebody turn

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<sup>9</sup> 57-0106 - Jehovah-Jireh, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

<sup>10</sup> 57-1212 - The Door Of The Door, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

<sup>11</sup> 65-1204 - The Rapture, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

around, say, "Holy-roller...?..." I'm going to ask you a question. If we're holy-rollers because we do that, then there's unholy-rollers out there. I'd rather be a holy-roller (Wouldn't you?) than an unholy one. My! Certainly! The unholy-rollers. 141 Now, he was in the Spirit. He got in the Spirit, then things begin to take place. 142 Maybe he was dancing, jumping, running all around the island. He was having a good time, he was in the Spirit. So, and he... That may sound sacrilegious, but I don't mean it that way, see. He could! That's... well, he might have been doing that. I believe he was having a good time in the Spirit, just praising God, because that's exactly what happened when the Spirit fell on them at the first place.<sup>12</sup>

I want every good and perfect gift from God. I want to feel His Spirit upon me, I want to know Him in truth, I want to see Him manifested by the gifts and I want to walk in complete surrender to Him, living and walking by faith, I want to worship Him with joyful shouts and dancing. I don't want to hinder Him in any way by forcing away any emotional expression and yet I know my faith cannot rest upon emotion, it must rest upon the Word of God!

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<sup>12</sup> 60-1204E - The Patmos Vision, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

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