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

In 2010 and 2011, on a quarterly basis, I had written a teaching letter that I had translated into Farsi and Urdu. We received many testimonies regarding these articles. Since there are questions on so many subjects and topics as well as a great desire to learn and grow, I felt the burden and the inspiration to start it up again in the spring of 2016. My purpose is to stay faithful to the teachings of Brother Branham and make them clear from the Bible. It is my calling from the Lord to do this.

The November issue will cover three important subjects:

1. Specific Steps in Biblical Child Training
2. Who Are the Revelation 7 Saints?
3. Adoption

Specific Steps in Biblical Child Training

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
Ephesians 6:4

In our last PTM Contender, I discussed the necessity that fathers train their children. There is the overarching admonition not to provoke your children to wrath. This applies to the relationship you have with them. Unfortunately, in Christian homes, there is a tendency to assume obedience and understanding of biblical truth from your children. That is, they go to Sunday school and attend church therefore they understand. And we punish and nag them to obey the word of God in the flesh. We love them and cherish them, and unfortunately, we somehow assume they can obey in the flesh as children. This is impossible for them to obey the word of God in the flesh. We need to teach them and train them in the Word, but we have to understand they are sinners. They are full of wickedness, evil and lies. They must receive the Holy Ghost to have a circumcised heart to follow the commands of the Lord.

“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.” Proverbs 22:15

Solomon reminds us that foolishness is bound to the heart of a child. It is not merely that they sometimes act foolishly. Their heart is bound to it. It is the rod of correction that drives it far from them. Let's take this in its proper balance. We do not bring the rod of correction out of anger. When we correct from the standpoint of anger we “provoke our children to wrath.” Nothing good ever comes from correcting your children

out of anger. It is important to correct out of love. God corrects us because he loves us, not because he is angry. He destroys those he is angry with but corrects those that he loves. As the Scripture says, “As many as I love I rebuke and chasten...” Since foolishness is bound in the heart of a child, we cannot assume they understand anything. They need continual, consistent correction. We cannot correct them merely when we feel like it. We have to do it with consistency. It can be a spanking or a timeout or removing privileges, etc.

We do not merely correct them using a spanking, but we use the moment to teach them from the Bible. If they have told a lie, we bring a punishment and explain to them from the Bible how the Lord feels about lying. Use your Bible app to search the word liar, liars, lying, lie, lies, etc. Show them with love what the Bible says. The same goes for teaching them about modesty and holiness. We teach them out of the Bible and show them the foundation of the Word of God. This is not merely the duty of your pastor; this is your duty as a father or mother. Do not assume they know what the message is, teach them the message. I would recommend for every parent teaching them the fundamentals of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the necessity of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. What is the Gospel? What is the baptism of the Holy Ghost? Why do we need to be baptized in water? What name are we baptized in?

In Ephesians 6:4 we see that first there needs to be a relationship of tenderness and love, not merely correction and anger. Take a real and genuine delight in your child, love them, cherish them, have fun with them. We gather this from not provoking our children to wrath. They want your love, your time, your affection and care. So, give it to them. Then the

apostle says bring them up. This means to train them. To train them means to teach and instruct them. This responsibility falls upon the father. I'm sorry, but there is no way around this. It is not the Sunday school teachers job. We love Sunday school and Sunday school teachers, this is great, but it is not their duty, and you cannot rely on them for this. The Bible commands fathers to do it.

The training is to come in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The nurture means the education or discipline and admonition speaks of correction. The training is to come with education and chastisement. To chastise means to bring correction.

Since foolishness is bound up in their hearts, they need correction and education. There is an inherent power in the Word of God, and when it is taught and proclaimed to the elect in God's season, it quickens the seed of God in their soul to life. When a child disobeys their parents, they are disobeying the Lord, and as such, there needs to be a rod of correction that comes. That is that there are consequences for their disobedience to their parents.

For every age, there is a level of understanding the children can understand. Always start out with teaching them about the various Bible stories. The stories of the Bible give the children an impression of God's nature that will never leave them. Continuously read them these stories and help them understand at their level how they apply to their lives. Teach them how to pray with sincerity as soon as possible and be sure they see you praying consistently. As they get older teach them their need for the Gospel, show them that they are sinners according to the Bible, with tenderness and love show them the sins that they commit, as they happen.

They need to know based upon the Ten Commandments that they are sinners and they need salvation. Show them the solution. Emphasize the Gospel with them, show them how Jesus saves them, show them it is only through the blood of Jesus at Calvary that they can be saved. Start having them memorize important Scriptures like John 3:16, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38. As they receive the Gospel and wish to apply it in their lives in the form of water baptism, make sure they understand what they are doing. Teach them something and then ask them. Why do we need to be saved? Why did Jesus die on the cross? Why do you want to be baptized? Be sure they understand that baptism doesn't save them, but the blood of Jesus does.

As they have been baptized and start to grow start to teach them about Malachi 4:5-6, Luke 17:30, the church ages, etc. We start with the fundamentals and then build upon them so that they can grow properly in the Word.

The steps to child training are these;

1. an overarching atmosphere of love in the home
2. training in the form of educating (teaching) them the word of God
3. training in the form of correction for their disobedience

Who are the Revelation 7 Saints?

“⁹ After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; ¹⁰ And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which

sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. ¹¹ And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, ¹² Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen. ¹³ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? ¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” Rev 7:9-17

Are they the Bride or are they the foolish virgin?

I want to review some very notable features that reveal who they are. Notice the position that they are standing. They are before the throne and before the Lamb. Next, they have white robes and have palms in their hands. They have come out of great tribulation and washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. They had robes, but they needed to be washed and made white. Their position is before the throne, day and night serving him. Now, let's review the description of the Bride of Christ.

“⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. ⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” Revelation 19:7-8

“⁹ And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;” Revelation 21:9-11

Let's review the book of Revelation's description of the Bride. The wife made herself ready, and she was granted fine linen, clean and white. Next, the Lamb's wife is described as the New Jerusalem, having the glory of God. She is reflecting the very presence of God. Let's compare.

The Revelation 7 saints washed their robes to make them white vs. the Bride is granted fine linen, clean and white. The Revelation 7 serve and stand before the throne. I want you to notice in Revelation 3:21 it says, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” The Bride is the overcomers. The Bride sits on the throne of the Lamb, and the Revelation 7 saints serve before that throne.

The Revelation 7 saints are told that the Lamb will feed them and lead them to living fountains of waters. The Bride is a great city where the dwelling place of God rests in so much

that she has the glory of God.

Let's look at another example.

“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.” Revelation 3:4

Here in the Sardisean Church Age, we find there are Christians who defile their garments because they did not walk worthily with the Lord. They are Christians, but they have spotted garments. The Bride is granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white. Fine linen is quite different than a white robe. A white robe is wonderful and a blessing, but it is not at all the same as fine linen. Fine linen is very difficult to make, and it was only for the wealthy to wear at the time of the writing of the book of Revelation.

This Revelation 7 group of saints is purged by the blood of the Lamb through the great tribulation period. This is the foolish virgin.

What Brother Branham said in the Seventh Seal message...

“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest... (John didn't know them. See? All kindreds, tongues, and nations)... And he said unto me, These are—he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation... (in other words, the great tribulation)... and have washed their robes,... made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and they—he that set upon the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither shall they

thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them—sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water: and God shall wipe all tears from their eyes.

141. Now, we open the—get to the Seal. Did you notice, they were... First, we start now, Israel, and then we see the purged church, not the Bride, the purged church by tribulation (See, see?) coming up here, great number of real sincere hearts that come up out of—of the great tribulation. Not the Church, it's gone on—the Bride. There's the church. Now, we find out over a little later, Jesus said that the throne would set and how the—they'd stand in the judgment, each one. Now, we find now that these people were sealed with the Seal of the living God (Is that right?), these Jews. What is the Seal of the living God? Now, I'm not calling any—hurt any feelings, I'm just saying it. See? Do you know that reading after many of scholars who write on this, claim that this group here, Blood-washed, are actually the Bride? Did you know that many scholars also claim that the hundred and forty-four thousand is the Bride? What a... There's something got to fit out here wrong—in here right, 'cause there's something wrong now. We see they wind up over here in Revelations 7, between the 6th and 7th chapter here, that she had been purged, and she'd been given her robes.

388. Now, she's not the Bride, but it's the church, the pure people that—that—that didn't have the opportunity, maybe, to receive the message, or in some way that they were blinded by these false prophets, and they—they didn't get a chance, and yet they're really sincere in heart, and God knows their heart, and here they're purged during this time.”

Adoption

Does the word adoption in the Bible carry the same meaning as our word for today about adoption? Is there another experience besides the new birth and the resurrection that is coming to the Bride at the end time?

The term “adoption” is used five times in the Bible. It is in Romans 8:15, 23, 9:4, Galatians 4:5 and Ephesians 1:5. In Ephesians 1:5 and 9:4 there is very little context given as to the meaning of this term. In the Greek language, the term is *huiothesia*. It’s meaning is the placing of sons. The term “adoption” in English obviously means the act of adopting. Adopting means “to take by choice into a relationship; especially: to take voluntarily (a child of other parents) as one’s own child.” It is granted that this word *huiothesia* is used for the actual act of adopting someone into your family in Greek history and literature. Many theologians have written extensively about this subject in this manner. God takes us, who were not his children and makes us his children. However, does the context of the Scriptures gives us the same picture. I want you to view the context of Galatians chapter 4 to illuminate my point more clearly.

“²³ But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. ²⁴ Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. ²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in

Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:23-29

“¹ Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; ² But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. ³ Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: ⁴ But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, ⁵ To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.” Galatians 4:1-5

Paul is writing that before we came to faith in Christ, we were kept under the law, our schoolmaster. The word is pedagogue in the Greek. A pedagogue is what we consider a nursemaid in the English tradition. They were the servants that the father hired to watch over the children, to teach them and guide them early in life and to care for them. The law acted as a servant that protected and cared for us. Then in verse 26, he says that we are all huios “sons” of God by faith in Jesus Christ. If we belong to Christ, then we are heirs of the promise. In chapter four and verse one we see that Paul continues his illustration. He writes that the heir, which means the person that will inherit leadership, as long as he is a child. The word child is nepios in the Greek, and it means a “minor.” In other words, someone that hasn’t reached the age of maturity yet. The word nepior even suggests “not speaking” or “silent.” In other words, he has no say and no official position, though he is master of all the servants. He continues to be under guardians and agents until the time that has been fixed for him to enter into his position as an adult son with authority in his home. The law here is called “the elements of the

world,” that is the ABC’s, the alphabet. We were in bondage to the very basic principles of things. Christ came to put us into a position where we could become adult sons.

It is clear that adoption is being spoken of in the sense of the ceremony wherein a child becomes a man with the right of an adult son. Paul speaks of the heir being a minor and the time appointed. Let’s review what Brother Branham spoke about the subject.

“Then the father taken him out into the public street, and then he put a special clothes on him. And then the father had a ceremony and adopted this his son into his family. Paul saying here, "Having predestinated us unto the adoption (See?), unto the adoption." Moses a prefigure of it... And then this son after he came out there, was given no longer—no longer was he just like the servant under a tutor. He was the boss. Amen. I hope this soaks real deep. Going to leave you in a minute.

47. Let's get way down deep. This son was no more under a tutor but he was like his father. And his father give him certain things to do. The father might've told him, "You take care of this field over here, or you do this over here. You take care of the slaves; you take care of whatever it was." He was in full possession (Amen.), for he was adopted into that family. And his name on a check was just as good as his daddy's.”¹

“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” Galatians 4:6

¹ 55-0116A, The Believer's Position In Christ, Rev. William Marrion Branham
<http://table.branham.org>

This further bolsters our understanding regarding this subject. Because you are huiois God has sent forth the Spirit of his Huiois into your hearts whereby ye cry Abba, Father. We do not become sons; we are always children of God by election. God chose us before the foundation of the world. Therefore we are always his children, but then when we come to the age of maturity, we receive the Holy Spirit and now we are in a position of being sons (and daughters) of God.

Now, let's review the two instances in Romans 8 to see what else we can glean from this idea of the placing of an adult son.

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” Romans 8:15

We haven't received the spirit of slavery, we've received the Spirit of placing of sons. Here the receiving of the Spirit of his Huiois (as in Galatians 4:6) is referred to as the Spirit of huiiothesia. Before I comment anymore on this verse, I want to refer you to the second instance of adoption in Romans 8.

“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.” Romans 8:23

We have already received the Spirit of huiiothesia, but in verse 23 we are waiting for huiiothesia. This huiiothesia speaks of the redemption of our bodies. This shows us that huiiothesia is ultimately future. What is the redemption of our body? It is when this body is changed to be like unto Christ's glorified body when this mortal shall put on immortality. At our

new birth we receive the Spirit of huiiothesia and when we receive our immortal body, we are huiiothesia. We have the down payment given to us of our huiiothesia. We are in the process of sonship. We are always heirs because of God's sovereign plan for us since we were in the mind of God before the foundation of the world and therefore a part of his life. We weren't in the position of sonship. At our new birth we enter into the position of sonship, yet, this is still not the final act. We enter into full sonship when we get our body change.

There is another sense wherein we are now being trained and taught by the Holy Spirit in preparation for entering into our position as kings and priests in the millennium. He has made us kings and priests now, but we enter that position as kings and priests in the millennium where we will rule over the nations with the rod of iron. (Revelation 2:27)

“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.”²

² An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Four - The Smyrnaean Church Age, Rev. William Marrion Branham
<http://table.branham.org>

Is there a third experience distinct from the new birth and the transformation of our body called adoption in the New Testament?

There are times when we read Brother Branham's messages when that seems to be the case, as though the manifestation of the sons of God comes sometime at the end time before the rapture. However, I want to show the obvious references that the prophet gives showing this is not the case. He did not teach the latter rain manifested sons doctrine.

"Now, the trees does not have it, nature does not have it, but yet we are still groaning with them because as yet we haven't received the fullness of our adoption. But we have the earnest of it, that we were picked up from the things of the world and now become sons and daughters of God. What kind of people should we be? Oh, my, when we think of that! Think of it! Now we have the earnest, our spirit's groaning for the full adoption, but now we have the earnest of it. As we receive the Holy Spirit, it is the earnest of our complete adoption or complete salvation. Oh, how beautiful! I just love that. All right. 108 We are waiting for the fullness of adoption. This will take place when? At the first resurrection. That's when our bodies will be changed from these vile creatures that we are and we'll have a body like His Own glorious body, "For we shall see Him as He is, and we will be like Him." When He appears, we appear in His likeness. We will have a body like His, a glorious glorified body, and all the trials and struggles of life will fade off into a little mist and blow away to never be no more." ³

³ 61-0611, Revelation, Chapter Five #1, Rev. William Marrion Branham
<http://table.branham.org>

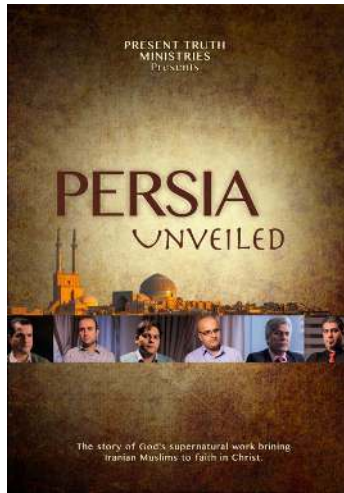
“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 77 Oh, my, oh, my. Don't that make us old folks feel good? It ought make us all feel good, waiting for this hour. We understand this will take place at the first resurrection. See, nature is groaning; we are groaning; everything is groaning, because we realize there's something not right. And the only way you can groan and wait for it, is because there has been new life come in here that speaks of a new world.”⁴

In coming issues of PTM Contender I will go into the manifested sons of God doctrine that some people are going into. For now, we will close this section on adoption.

Middle East Missions

If you'd like to learn more about the missions work in the Middle East, my personal testimony and the work of God in Iran, Persia Unveiled the book and DVD documentary are great introductions. The book is \$7.67 and the DVD is free, you just need to pay for shipping. They are both available at ptmresources.org and on amazon.com. If you're from a country they are not available on Amazon go to our website, ptmresources.org and order your copies.

⁴ 63-0317E, The Breach Between The Seven Church Ages And The Seven Seals, Rev. William Marrion Branham
<http://table.branham.org>



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