

Christian Life is a Continual Sacrifice

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom. 12:1).

So if we ourselves then in our ministry, and in our thoughts, and in our life, if we abide as we are, we can do no good. **We've got to also die at the altar, or we'll live alone; we'll live to some denomination or some creed; we'll live to some organization. But if we die to ourselves, then the Holy Spirit will be spread forth everywhere by our lips. We've got to die.**

We must realize that we've got to die in order to bring forth new life. So He said so much in this, **"If you want to see Me, you must die, die to yourself, and then you'll bring forth a new life."** (*John 12:20-26*).

Now, if we want to see Him, **if you ever expect to see Him,** you'll never see Him by some joining a church, some book of laws that you keep, some creeds that you serve. **You'll see Him when you die. When you come to Calvary and are crucified to yourself, then you'll see Jesus.**

Today we try to find Him in everything. We try to find Him in a church building. We try to find Him in a denomination. We try to find Him in saying some creed. We try to find Him by keeping certain days, by obeying certain rituals. **But we cannot find Him till we come to Calvary** (*Gal. 6:14*). **There we are crucified, fall into the dust of the earth, and die to ourselves, and then reborn again** (*1 Peter 1:23*). **Then we find Jesus.**

Oh, so many try today to hold themselves and maintain your own idea, "I've got my way of it. I believe this." **But you cannot find Christ until you die to yourself and accept Him, the Word, then you find Life.**

How different today. How different today with the churches, or the disciples of today. What did they do? If you come to disciples today... Them disciples, before they did anything, **they took these Greeks right into the Presence of Jesus. And if He's the same yesterday, today, and forever, He'll have to act the same today if you're brought in His Presence.**

Christ brought them to the cross. First, before He said anything, He pointed them to the place to find Him. Like all Gentiles or all people, you find Jesus at the cross when you're crucified with Him (*Rom. 6:6*).

And when you get a real disciple that'll point you to Christ, Christ will bring you to the cross where you are crucified with Him. And His

Eternal Life and your life meet together, and your life dies, and you take on His Eternal Life, and then you're a son of God. Amen. What a difference from the disciple of old and the disciple of today.

Christ Himself pointed people to His death and said, "*Except a corn of wheat falls into the ground, it abides alone.*" (John 12:23-25).

Oh, how different it is. Yes, sir. How different. But your life and His Life find each other, not at the church, not in a building, not in a creed, not in good works, but in the cross where you are crucified with Him. That's where you find Christ. You don't find Him by doing better, turning a new page, starting a new life, you don't find Christ. **You find Christ only in death, not in a manger, not in a confession.** To believe in certain creeds and fables, you don't find Christ there. **A true servant takes you to Him, and He is the Word.**

You say, "Then, Brother Branham, if Christ is on earth today, a real servant would take him to Him, Christ." **Well, Christ is here in the form of the Word; and the Word brings Life, because He is the Word** (John 6:63). **Christ is the Word. Yes, sir. He is the Word Himself. The true servant always takes you to the Word.**

Now, He is the Word. He is this Bible made living. And when you die to yourself with Christ like a corn of wheat, then the Word lives in you, brings forth the same results as It did in that living Corn of Wheat that had to drop into the earth. Amen. You're partakers in His resurrection. You're partakers with Him in all of His blessings, in all of His manifestations. You're partakers with Him in all that He did.

Now, He is the Word with Its true interpretation. Now, you say, "Oh, we believe the Bible, sir; we believe the Bible."

But now, if you believe the Bible, Jesus said this in the Bible, St. John 14:12: "*He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also.*" **That's the true interpretation of the Bible, for God Himself is in you speaking back His own interpretation. Glory. That's the true interpretation: God in you interpreting His own words. Amen.**

Didn't Jesus say, "*These signs shall follow them that believe*" (Mark 16:17). **God in you giving His own interpretation.** You don't have to look to somebody else. Say, "**The Word says this.**" **Believe It, and It'll interpret Itself, because it's God using you to interpret His own Word. Amen. Christ is the living interpretation of His own Word.** [1]

The Word Itself is Spirit; it's Spirit in Word form (John 6:63). And then, you see, when It is quickened or brought to Life, **the Spirit of the**

Word goes to work and acts. Now, look here: **A thought has to be a thought before it can be a word. And then when a thought is presented, it is a word.**

Now, **this is God's thought that He has placed in the Word, and then when we receive it from Him, it becomes a Word.** [2]

Now, these men claim they believe, but **the Holy Spirit** knew nothing about it, and **He's the only one can quicken It.** It's just like your body here, see, **your body is dead without the spirit, so is the Word of God dead without the Holy Ghost to quicken It.** The spirit quickens the body, and **the Holy Ghost quickens the Word.** You get it? Now, He ought to know.

[3]

Now, the approach to this birth, there is approach to it. And to approach this birth, **you have to go through a process,** just like anything that lives. **Anything that lives again's got to die first** (*Matt. 16:25*). **And you cannot keep your same spirit. You cannot keep your same habits. You cannot keep your same thoughts. You've got to die. You've got to die like He died** (*John 12:24-25*). **You've got to die on His altar,** like Abel did with his lamb (*Gen. 4:2-8*). You've got to die with your Lamb. **You've got to die, die to your own thinking to be born to His thinking.** Let the mind that was in Christ be in you (*Phil. 2:5-8*). **You've got to think His thoughts.**

And now, brother, sister, let me say this as intelligent as I know how to say it. How can you think His thoughts and deny His Word, and yet claim you're born again? Just ask yourself that question. How can you do it? You can't. **If you're born again, you got His thoughts. If the mind of Christ is in you, then you are a new creature** (*II Cor. 5:17*). The Bible teaches that. And if any brother would like to, where you find that creature, look that word "creature" up in the Lexicon, and you'll find out that the word "creature" there is interpreted or translated, "**a new creation,**" (*Gal. 6:14-15*) because you are a one creation, a human being born in sexual desire here on earth, and now you're a new creation born by Spirit (*John 3:3-5*). **Your own thoughts are dead.** They're so dead until they're crystal like the brass serpent, or like He died when the heavens and earth and everything witnessed He was dead. [4]

Unless anything dies and rots, life can't come from it. Unless a man dies and rots in his own thoughts, Christ can't get into his heart. When

you're trying to think for yourself, "Now, if I walk up to the altar and say, 'Yes, Lord, I'm a fine fellow, I'll take You. I'll pay my tithes. I'll do this,'" **you got to die and rot right there to your thoughts. Let the Holy Ghost take over and just do whatever He wants to with you.** Get kind of messy with it. That sounds horrible, not sacrilegious, but it's the Truth. It's the only way I know how to punch the thing out to make you understand It. [5]

Now, this case, the blood was the token. Literally, it had to be applied, because it was just chemistry is all they had, because it was a lamb's blood, an animal (*Exod. 12:1-28*). So the life that was in the blood, the life that was gone out, so the blood was shed. See? The life went out, but it couldn't come back on the believer, because it's an animal. But it only spoke of a good conscience (*Heb. 9:9-15*), **that there was coming One, a perfect Sacrifice** (*Heb. 10:14*).

And, to make it a perfect One, the whole Judge, the God of Heaven, become the Sacrifice; Judge, Jury, and Attorney. See? **He become the Sacrifice.** And then when His Life went out, which was God... And the word there, where it comes, "And I'll give unto them Eternal Life." Now, the word in the Greek there, is Zoe. Z-o-e, which means, "God's Own Life." "And I will give unto him Zoe, **My Own Life.**" **Christ and God was One.**

Then, the Life that was in Christ is the Holy Ghost, not the third Person; but the same Person, in the form of the Holy Spirit, coming upon you, as a Token that your life and your fare is paid, you have been accepted. Until that token comes, you're not permitted on the highway. And **now It shows that the Blood has been shed and been applied to you, the price has been applied to you, and you have the Token that the Blood is applied to you and you're accepted.** Get it now? [6]

I believe that Christian life is a continual sacrifice. "*He that will come after me, let him deny himself daily* (every day, not forty-six days, but every day), *take up his cross and follow Me,*" said Jesus. **Christian life is one continually Lenten.**

Oh, how the Christian loves to do it. He doesn't do it with a grudge; he does it with a feeling that he loves God; and he's glad he can do it. It's a joy to serve the Lord Jesus. It's a joy to sacrifice. It's a joy to worship the Lord. It's a joy to be called a fanatic for the Kingdom of God's sake. It's a joy to take a stand for the right, and move from the wrong. **Joy to praise Him. It's a joy to abstain from the things of the world.** It's in their heart. **God's Spirit comes into you and changes your desire.** [7]

He's my objective, and **my motive to Him is to sacrifice everything that I have to follow Him.** I don't care for the things of the world, and I don't believe any Christian does. **We want to follow Christ** (*Mark. 8:34*). That's my objective: **Follow Him; lift Him up** (*Luke 9:23*). **That's what we need today, is people of that--willing to sacrifice.** [8]

And this man, when he said, "How did you get in here, friend?" (*Matt. 22:11-14*).

It showed he come up some other way, and come in a window, come in the back way, **but not through the door; not through the Door** (*John 10:7-9*), **the way that Jesus came, through self-sacrifice; giving your all to God, and walking to Calvary and be crucified with Him. And rise again, to wear His garment of sacrifice and death to the things of the world.**

"If you love the world, or the things of the world, the love of God is not even in you." (*I John 2:15-17*). If you still have the love of the world, want to act like the world, and do like the world. Yet, you're in the church, but a cocklebur in the patch with the wheat; shout with the rest of them, rejoice with the rest of them. All the **spiritual blessings** are right upon you.

You say, "Well, I prophesy." So did Caiaphas; so did Balaam (*Numbers 24:1-17*). That has nothing... **"I got the baptism of the Holy Spirit."** **That still has nothing to do with it. That's just only a temporal gift for you. The real gift is your soul down in there that was born of God, and that controls the whole thing to the Word of God and the will of God; and there you grow up. See? Then you are a son and daughter of God. You are a child of God.**

If you don't line with that Word, there's something wrong. Then you see, your real father ain't God, because that real start in your soul, before there even was a spirit, it was your soul. **That soul didn't come from God, then it wasn't a germ of God to begin.** You're deceived. You're in a patch of weeds and bearing the world's record of the weeds, coming forth acting like the world, loving the world, **is because the love of God's not in you** (*Rom. 5:5*).

And now, there'll be false anointed ones in the last days, not false Jesus; they wouldn't stand for that, **but false anointed. They are anointed.** Yes, sir. **But they are antichrist. They are anointed with the Spirit to do the signs and wonders that Christ did, but won't line up with His Word** (*Matt. 24:23-24*).

"Many will come to Me that day and say, 'Lord, have not I prophesied and cast out devils in Your Name?'"

He'll say, "Depart from Me, you that work iniquity, I never even knew you." (*Matt. 7:15-23*).

"I was Pentecostal, Lord. Glory to God. I shouted; I spoke with tongues; I laid hands on the sick and healed them, cast out devils.

"Depart from Me, you that work iniquity, **I never knew you.**" [9]

The same God was with Elijah on Mount Carmel (*I Kings 18:20-40*). **When you lay your soul upon His brass altar of judgment, what takes place? If He's the same God, He'll take the sacrifice. You've offered it in sincerity upon His altar, He'll consume that sacrifice, and the world will be gone out of you. Just the smoke will fall away. The sacrifice will be gone.** Yes. [10]

That's Him standing, saying, "*I stand at the door, in the Laodicean age and knock. And if any man will hear My voice, and open, I'll come in and sup.*" (*Rev. 3:20*). Will you sup with Him? **Will you make Him Lord? Will you let Him rule your life? Will you let Him guide you and direct you? If it's against your thoughts, you sacrifice your thoughts. Let the mind of Christ be in you** (*Phil. 2:5*). [11]

Now, God so anointed Jesus with the fulness of Himself... **He was God's Gift to the world.** The wise men are clearly identified, that they're offering their gift to Him; showed that in their heart they knew who He was, and what He was going to do for them (*Matt. 2:1-12*). So no wonder, the first thing they did, they fell down, perfectly in order, **and worshipped Him. Before they could even understand it, they fell down and worshipped Him and then presented their gifts. Worship Him, then present your gift; presenting your body as a living sacrifice, wholly and acceptable to God** (*Rom. 12:1*). [12]

First, look into it. **See what Calvary did for us, and now what must we do in regards to it. What must you and I do?** Now, we say, "Well, I appreciate that. That's very fine." **But we've got to accept it. And to accept it is to accept His Person, Christ, in our heart** (*John 1:12-13; 17:3*). **Then we are free from sin** (*Rom. 8:1-2*). Therefore, there's no sin shackles hanging on us at all. **Just like we had never sinned...** (*Rom. 6:15-18; Gal. 3:13*).

The perfect sacrifice made us perfect (*Heb. 10:10,14*). For Jesus said, "*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.*" (*Matt. 5:48*). Then there is no more to be done, **but we are made perfect in the Presence of God.**

Now, **there's where we lose our position.** If we don't watch, we try to **look back to what we were; and as long as we look back to what we were, the sacrifice means nothing to us.** Oh, can't you see it, church? I would not try the job; I can't, and neither can you. **There's no need of trying. You're lost to begin with, as long as you look to what you've done. But don't look to what you've done, look what that day on Calvary did to you** (*Matt. 27:33-53*).

It paid your price. **It settled the question. Your sins be as scarlet, they're as white as snow:** red like crimson, white like wool (*Isaiah 1:18*). **Then you have no sin** (*II Cor. 5:21*). **You are perfectly sinless. No matter what you've done or what you do, you're still sinless. As long as you've accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, your sins are forgiven. Anything that's forgiven is remitted and forgotten about** (*Jer. 31:34b; Heb. 8:12*).

Then what does it do? **It gives you, after that condition, His Spirit to follow Him and to do as He did, for others who is following on.**

He was just one Man, **the perfect Man. He gave His Life, and He made an example for you.**

Now, what must we do? Now, the first thing I want to say is: **Jesus never lived for Himself. His Life was spent for others. That's perfectly Eternal Life.** When you say you go to church and you do good things, that's fine. **But when you live your life to yourself, you haven't Eternal Life. Eternal Life is living for others** (*II Cor. 5:14-15; Matt. 25:31-40*).

It proved it when It come in **the Lamb of God** (*John 1:29*). **He lived and had Eternal Life, because He did not live for Himself. He lived for others. And you receive Eternal Life by receiving that day, and you don't live for yourself no more. You live for others** (*Rom. 14:7-8*).

"Well, I can live for this brother because he sure is a nice man." That's not it.

Live for that man who hates you (*Matt. 5:43-48*). **Live for that person who'd kill you if they could. That's what they done to Him. They killed Him, and He died that He might save them. That's Eternal Life.** When you get that in your bosom, you're facing heaven then. **But you sacrifice your own things, give them up like the sheep gives its wool. You look on towards Calvary.**

I hope this helps you to get in a place... That's what the Tabernacle, that's what all people have got to do, **is find out what you are and what's the purpose.**

Church isn't going to church just to play music, sing songs. **Church is a place where correction... Judgment begins at the house of God (1 Peter 4:17). We must reckon ourselves dead and alive to Christ (Rom. 6:11). Then He made the way that we could sacrifice ourselves to His service to follow Him. If we follow Him, we lead the life that He led. That's wonderful.** [13]

And I just come today **to present myself to You, Lord, as a living sacrifice. And I pray that You'll use this,** Thy servant, to pray for the sick, **to speak the Word out of the Bible,** or whatever You have need of, grant it today. I just pray that the Holy Spirit will do this.

Now, **I pray that He will circumcise my lips, that I'll only speak that which is Your Divine will.** And if I should try to say anything different, close my mouth like You did the lions' mouth with Daniel. And I pray **that You'll circumcise every ear and heart here to hear the Word and receive it.** And may, when the service is over, may the sick be well, may the sinners be saved, the backsliders reclaimed; **and may the glory of God be upon every person,** that when we go from here we'll go to our different places, **rejoicing and happy and weeping because the Presence of the Lord is upon us.** Grant it, Lord. [14]

Reference:

- [1] "Sirs, We Would See Jesus" (61-1224), pg. 15, 17-18
- [2] "The Fourth Seal" (63-0321), par. 67-68
- [3] "A Trial" (64-0405), par. 73
- [4] "You Must Be Born Again" (61-1231M), par. 64
- [5] "The Ephesian Church Age" (60-1205), par. 97
- [6] "Desperations" (63-0901E), par. 16-17
- [7] "All The Days Of Our Life" (59-0612), par. 23
- [8] "The Queen of Sheba" (60-0710), par. 64
- [9] "Things That Are To Be" (65-1205), par. 110-114
- [10] "If God Be With Us, Then Where Is All The Miracles" (61-1231E), par. 95
- [11] "Abraham" (60-0803), par. 54
- [12] "God's Gifts Always Find Their Places" (63-1222), par. 91
- [13] "That Day On Calvary" (60-0925), par. 80-90
- [14] "Preparation" (53-1111), par. 11

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There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]