

The Seal of Circumcision

“And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.” (Romans 4:11-12).

Now, Abraham, after he was called out, the land of the Chaldeans, the city of Ur, he become a pilgrim, a sojourner (*Gen. 11:30-31; 12:1-3*). And then God called him, after he had been proven that he was going to go on and take God at His Word. **Then, what God did then, was given him a sign, that He had accepted him, and He circumcised him. And he circumcised Ishmael and all of his household** (*Gen. 17:10-27*).

And now you see, when you are called out, **first you go through a trial, to see if you're going to really go on** (*Heb. 12:4-11*). **And then God gives you the Holy Ghost**, which is the sign that He has accepted your faith that you profess to have in Him. You follow me now? **He's going to accept it.**

I was talking to my Baptist brother. And he said to me, "Where do you get that baptism of the Holy Spirit being anything different than faith in Christ Jesus?" I said, "It is different, my precious brother."

He said, "Don't you think that when you receive Christ, you receive the Holy Spirit?" I said, "Correctly. But," I said, "you see, **you're only professing that you have received Christ, until He recognizes it.**"

He said, "Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness." I said, "Yes. **But God gave him a sign, that He had received his faith, when He'd given him the seal of circumcision, that He had recognized his faith.**" (*Rom. 4:11-12*). Amen.

Now, when we receive Christ as our Saviour (*John 1:12*), then, **if we're sincere in that, then God gives us a sign, that He has received our faith in Christ, by giving us the seal of circumcision, which is the Holy Ghost** (*Eph. 1:13-14*). **That's the seal of circumcision.** "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby you're sealed to the Day of your Redemption" (*Eph. 4:30*). Not to the next meeting; but to the Day of your Redemption (*Rom. 8:22-23*). That's right. Now, that's how we receive the Holy Ghost.

Now, if you say, "Oh, I'm a believer," and God has never given you the Holy Ghost yet, **He's never recognized it. You're just confessing that you believe.** I'm not saying you're not a believer now. In a certain portion, you are a believer.

But when **you found favor with God**, and He recognizes you to be His child, **and He knows your heart, and He sees your sincerity, He knows all things are cut away from you.** Then He seals you into the Kingdom of God, by the Holy Ghost, proving to the world **that He has accepted what faith you profess to have in Him.** [1]

Yes, you can accept it by faith; you have to accept Christ by faith; that's exactly right. And you accept the Holy Spirit by faith, but then let the Holy Spirit come and give the circumcision as a witness that He's accepted your faith (Rom. 4:1-12).

Abraham believed God and it was imputed to him for righteousness, **but God gave him the sign of circumcision as a confirmation He'd accepted his faith (Rom. 4:9-12). So that's the same thing we must do. We must wait on the Holy Spirit till It's done something**, not necessarily 'cause we spoke in tongues, not because we have danced, or we got emotional, we shouted: **until we were changed, until something actually happened. I don't care what form it comes in, just so it happened; that's the main thing.** [2]

I said, "You Baptists are all right, as far as you come, but have you received the Holy Ghost since you've believed?" (*Acts 19:2*). **Remember, God recognized Abraham's faith. He believed God**, and it was imputed to him for righteousness, that's true, **but then God gave him the seal of circumcision, as a sign, a sign to him.**" Not that his flesh, **circumcised, had anything to do with his soul, but it was a sign that God had recognized his faith.**

And He gives us the sign, of the Holy Ghost, that He has recognized us as believers. For, "Repent, and be baptized everyone in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you!" (*Acts 2:38*). [3]

Now, the Holy Spirit is the Seal of God. Now, if you say you believe and haven't received the Holy Ghost, **then God's never recognized your faith yet.** That's right. **Because the Seal is the recognition that God has completed and finished His work in you, that He recognized (Eph. 1:13-14).** [4]

You say you believe, and haven't received the Holy Spirit, **something wrong with your faith. God circumcises the heart the minute the believer really comes in full surrender.** Amen. **When the believer firmly believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, God's under obligation to give him the Holy Ghost: confirmation of his faith.** Say, "What's the matter, Brother Branham?" **Just your faith; that's all.** If you'd surely believe, God's there to give It to you.

"While Peter spake these Words, the Holy Ghost fell on them that heard the Word." (*Acts 10:44*). Is that right? All right, notice, **the Holy Ghost and Fire came from heaven, burnt out all the dross, circumcised the heart, cut off all the surplus, and become a new creature (II Cor. 5:17).** [5]

I John 2:15, God said, *"If you love the world or even the love of the world, the love of God is not even in you."* **The things that's out there are dead. You are circumcised**, cut off from it. **You don't want the things of the world, you're dead to.** They're dead. You don't want anything dead. It's rotten. It smells. How could a living something want something that's filthy like that? See, **you are alive in Christ. The Word makes you alive (Col. 3:1-4).** [6]

And that's where we are doing today. That's where the holiness churches are failing. We've got so much time, the Lord has given us a lot of money, we're building great big churches, and big spires, and putting plush seats, and pipe organs, **until we forgot the Seal of God, which is the baptism of the Holy Ghost.** True.

Circumcision, every male in Egypt--of Israel, that wasn't circumcised, was cut off. **And circumcision was the seal of the promise. And circumcision of the Old Testament is the baptism of the Holy Ghost of the New.** And every man outside the baptism of the Holy Ghost will be cut off. There you are. God, be merciful. [7]

Now, you say then, "Brother Branham, that sign of circumcision was given to Abraham **and to his seed.**" Yes. All right.

Now, we are going to turn to Galatians 3:29 and see how that could apply to us, and just see **how this circumcision could apply to a Gentile**, if we are Gentiles, which by natural birth we are.

Galatians 3:16, "Now, to Abraham and his seed were the promise made..." **Abraham and his seed...** He said not, "And to seeds..." No. **To a seed.** Abraham's seed, not the seeds... as of many; **but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**

Christ was Abraham's Seed. Do you believe that? All right. Now, let's get the 28th and 29th verse. "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither is there bond or free, neither is there male or female: for we are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then ye are Abraham's seed, and are heirs according to the promise.*"

How do we take on Abraham's seed? **By being in Christ, then we are Abraham's seed.** And what was the seed of Abraham? As we might go on to Romans 4 and different places... Abraham never **received the promise** while he was circumcised. To show that circumcision was just a type, **he received the promise before he was circumcised** (*Gen. 15:4-6*). And it was a **type of recognition of his faith that he had before he was circumcised.**

Now, when we are in Christ, we become Abraham's seed and are heirs with Christ; therefore, no matter who we are, Jew or Gentile... **And the seed of Abraham has the faith of Abraham, who takes God at His Word.** Regardless of how ridiculous It seems, how unusual you act, how peculiar It makes you, you take God at His Word, regardless of anything.

So circumcision, the Holy Spirit today circumcises the heart; and it's a sign, a given sign.

Because that God made a covenant with Abraham after He'd called Abraham, which is a type of calling the believer today... He called Abraham, and Abraham moved out of his country (*Gen. 12:1-8*) and went into a strange land to dwell among strange people. And that was a type of when God calls a man to stop his meanness, **repent of his sins.** He turns then from the crowd that he was in, **to live in a new crowd, among new types of people.**

And then after God found Abraham to be faithful to the promise that God gave him (that he would have a child and through this child all the earth would be blessed), **then God confirmed his faith by giving him a sign; and that sign was circumcision. And circumcision is a type of the Holy Spirit** (*Phil. 3:3*). [8]

Now, I know many of you, disagree with that, because you go back to this Scripture... Now, here's where I say I have to nail it down. You go back to the Scripture: **Abraham believed God** (*Romans 4*), and it was imputed unto him or imparted unto him for **righteousness upon the basis of his faith to believe. But to prove to Abraham,** He gave him, that he was parted him from his sin, **because he had believed, He gave him a sign.** And there's where you fail to see it. See, **He gave him the seal of circumcision as a witness, as a proof, that He had received his faith in Him.** And that's why Paul in Acts 19:1-6 said to those Baptist brethren,

who had Apollos as their pastor, believing the Gospel as John had preached It, *"Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"* You see, they **had believed but had not yet been converted.**

Now, we take the wrong word of conversion today. We say that a man that's converted is a man that's stopped drinking and everything and goes to church, or joins the church. He might join the church, **but that's no sign he's converted. He isn't converted until his old life is dead,** and he is buried in Christ, and is risen with Him in the resurrection of newness of life (*Rom. 6:1-11*), **when the Holy Spirit has created in him a living hope of Eternal Life which only comes through the Holy Ghost** (*1 Peter 1:3-5*). [9]

I said, "That's right. Father Abraham believed God, and it was imputed for righteousness, **but He gave him the circumcision as a sign that He had recognized his faith.**" **That's right. And if God has never circumcised your heart from the things of the world, and recognized your faith, that you confessed in Him maybe forty years ago, and cut off the worldly things, and circumcised you from all the earthly things, and the doubts and scruples that you have, something's happened.** Your faith wasn't recognized before God, for He would've cut away the surplus. **"Circumcision" means "to cut off surplus flesh."**

That's what God does when a man comes to Him **upon the basis of the shed Blood of Christ** (*Rom. 5:8-9*), standing before Calvary, **recognizing himself condemned, and standing there with the Word in his heart,** saying, "God, I believe It." **God manifest His power and love to him, and cuts away the things of the world, and you're no more a worldly creature;** you're a heaven bound son and daughter of God **on the ladder to glory.** Amen. I know that's the truth. [10]

And every son of Abraham is circumcised today, not of the flesh, but of the heart. The Holy Spirit circumcises the heart, cuts away the things of the world, and makes you a new creature in Christ Jesus (*Gal. 6:15*), **"Circumcision" is "cut off surplus flesh."** [11]

"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." (*Col. 2:11-12*).

What a High Priest we have; what a priesthood that we're in: **the priesthood of the circumcision, not of flesh, but of the heart, the heart circumcised by the Holy Ghost.** That's right. Then you can offer praise and adorations to God, the spiritual sacrifice, your lips pouring out praise unto Him. [12]

Reference: [1] "And Thy Seed Shall Possess The Gate Of His Enemy" (62-0121M), par. 66-75 / [2] "The Fourth Seal" (63-0321), par. 76-77 / [3] "Token" (63-0901M), par. 153-154 / [4] "The Mark of the Beast and the Seal of God" (61-0217), par. E17 / [5] "Israel And The Church, Part 3" (53-0327), par. 36-37 / [6] "Power of Transformation" (65-1031M), par. 229 / [7] "Israel And The Church, Part 2" (53-0326), par. 143 / [8] "What Is The Holy Ghost" (59-1216), par. 39-42,36,28 / [9] "Questions&Answers" (59-0628E), par. 45-46 / [10] "Fellowship With God Through Reconciliation" (56-0120), par.E48 / [11] "He Swore By Himself" (54-1212), par. 123 / [12] "The Children of Israel" (47-1123), par.E59

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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]