

The Message

Paul, a prisoner of Christ

preached by
the late

William M. Branham

17th July 1963
at Jeffersonville, USA

“God’s Spoken Word is the Original Seed”

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In the Name of the Lord Jesus we have gathered, o Lord, to hear of the great and mighty works that You have done before, and now we stand with anticipation. It raises our faith and anoints us to believe, that what has been asked for tonight will be granted. Thou knowest each and every one of them (all that they have requested), and we pray for those especially, Lord, who are so near death. Bring peace to their souls if it isn't already there; and bring healing to their bodies. Grant it, Lord. Bless our coming together, we pray, Lord, on this Wednesday night prayer meeting as we have assembled knowing that, wherever two or more are assembled together, You'll be with us. And we ask You, Lord, to give us Your Word tonight. Speak to us, Lord, and warm our heart strings, that we would know how to discipline ourselves for the great time that lies ahead, since we believe that we're nearing the coming of the Lord.

We thank Thee for people who are now beginning to find faith dear to them and knowing what faith means, and know we are thanking You for services yet ahead, believing You're going to do something, Lord. We're waiting with anticipations as in the days of old, believing that the time is near when You're just going to open the windows of Heaven and pour out promises that God has promised for this last day.

Now, we ask You, Lord, to be with those all around the nations; for today we heard of so many everywhere that are in need. Grant them their requests, Lord. And we pray to see the great hand of God moving all over the world among those who are looking for this great thing. Forgive us of our sins. Chasten us, Lord, with Thy Spirit and Thy Word, that we might discipline ourselves to be obedient servants - obedient servants to the will of God. Let us remember and try to think in our hearts what the early Christians did, and what type of people we would meet if we met those who had personally been in contact with You. How their faces must have lit up with faith and joy! How their lives must have been the living Word of God out written epistles read of all men) as they walked among people! God grant it once more.

May our lives be so submitted to Thee, that the Holy Spirit will live Itself through us and speak through us, Lord. May we remember in our minds as we walk upon the streets and rub shoulders with the people of the world, that we're not supposed to be like them; and we step aside and give them the place, Lord, and their rightful position here on earth. We'll take the back seat, knowing that we are delegates from another world and that we have a kingdom that's coming into power, Lord. And our great King will soon arrive, and take over all the kings that are in His domain, and we shall rule and reign with Him here on earth a thousand years and be with Him for ever.

With this now in mind, Lord, we look forward to the answer of our prayer. We look to our confession, that if we have done anything, said anything, or thought anything contrary Your great will, let the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse us.

Lead us, Lord, as the sister said tonight about her seeing her husband on the road to Chicago. Lead them, Lord God, to the place where You can use them, that they might be beams of light to others who are groping in darkness and know not our Lord Jesus. Now we commit the service to You and are listening for Your Word of correction, that we might know how to prepare for this great hour. In Jesus' Name, we ask it. Amen.

This is a little bit unexpected. Being here at home, I felt that if I didn't really have to go anywhere in an emergency, I'd feel very bad to be sitting at home and not coming to the prayer meeting, and I just dropped in. This was unexpected to myself, even to my wife and family, since I'd just got in and now took right off. And so I said, "I'm going down to the prayer meeting." She didn't even have time to get ready to come, because she didn't know I was coming.

And so, I'm happy to hear that sister's testimony there, about that light up in South Carolina, or North Carolina, or somewhere. Greenville, was it? Southern Pines, yes. Brother Lee Vayle was here today. I baptized him today in the baptismal service here. Brother Lee Vayle, you know, is one of the ministers there.

I remember the time of that sister being shadowed. It was a great confirmation, sister, that the Holy Spirit sometimes will let us go ahead and test our faith to see what we'll do and test others' faith. When you're looking directly at something and see something and say it, and others look and don't see it, they say it's not there. See? But it is there.

Now there's no one that could see that Light that was hanging over Paul, but it was there. No one saw that dove coming down out of Heaven and that Light that formed and hung over Jesus but John himself. But it was there. See? And then later when I was telling the people about this Light being like a Pillar of Fire, no one wanted to believe it. But now the mechanical eye of the camera has identified It.

The evil spirit is dark. It's just as though our lives were shadowed. If we're a light and if our lives cope with the light of the day, we're walking in light. It's just like when you look out and say "I see the sun" in the daytime. You see the shadow of the sun. It's a reflection of the sun. It isn't the sun itself, but it proves there is a sun. It proves there is a sun.

And now when I see you - you may be sitting out there, or standing or talking - that means you're living. But it's only a shadow of life, because anything has got to have darkness in it to make a shadow. See? Because there has to be so much darkness and so much light to make a shadow. It can't be altogether dark, and it can't be altogether light. If it's dark, it's truly dark. If it's light, there is no shadow, and there's nothing to make a shadow. But if it's dark and light mixed, it makes a shadow. So we are really shadows of light.

Now you are reflecting a light from somewhere. If you are a Christian and this be your shadow, it only proves that there is a life where you can't die, because this life has death in it. See? But it is a shadow, because you're living, moving creatures with abilities to see, think, move, and talk, and you have the five senses of the

body. But yet you know that you're dying; and there's so much trouble. You know, it can only be a reflection (see?), that there is life and death mixed together. The physical has to die.

But if you are reflected by your mortal life, the light of Heaven, then you're reflecting the Eternal Life of God. Then when you die you can no more than go to that light, because that is what you have reflected. If you are the dark world, and you reflect that, then you can go no other way but to darkness. See? So, we are a reflection. We see that as surely as the Holy Spirit reflects light and life, so does death reflect darkness in here before God.

By the end of the week, maybe by Sunday, we're getting a small photograph blown up to a large size, so that it can be put on the notice board where your pictures hang out there on the notice board. I don't know whether you noticed it or not. And then, I found about a week ago in Jamaica where I was evangelizing (we send tapes all over the world) that the *Seven Seals* had got back into the interior of Jamaica. It's very primitive back there behind the Blue Mountains. And some of the natives have a tape recorder you got for them that you have to crank (like the old Victrola) and then let it play like that; and every few minutes somebody has to crank it.

This group had a little battery (a six-volt battery or something or other) playing this tape recorder, and they all were sitting together, as you are here tonight, listening to those Seals (I believe it was). And while I was speaking, they noticed coming into the room that same Pillar of Fire! It moved over to where the tape recorder was and settled down over the top of it, and they went and got a camera and took the picture of It. And It was just the same one. There it is, hanging right there over it. Now we're getting it blown up so that we can put it on the notice board out there, and you can see it.

We are so grateful for the grace of God that's brought us into His presence in this day. Now, we are grateful for many things. Now, I think I'll look in here and see if I can find some notes or something here that I spoke on. I've got some texts written out here in a book. If I can find one, maybe the Lord will give me something to say on something while we pray.

Now, we're under anticipation for Sunday. I have been speaking in the messages, and Sunday I kept you here a long time on *Why criest thou unto Me, speak to the people and go forward*.

Now, Sunday is the healing service where the sick are to be prayed for. Now we get around to the sick, and there's got to be some reason when we pray for the sick if they're not healed! And I want, if the Lord is willing, to preach just a short sermon on Sunday morning, as I'm going to have a healing service and pray for all the people. And Billy Paul or some of them will be here Sunday morning about 8 o'clock (when the church opens) to give the people cards as they come in the door, or whenever they get in.

And now I believe the Lord has somehow given me a little insight into the reasons why there are some people that are not healed. And I believe it's lack of understanding; and I believe, maybe, we'll speak on that Sunday morning, the Lord willing.

Now the Wednesday night prayer meeting is just a short meeting where we get together and pray (as we have), and associate together. Sometimes I believe one of the great things that I find in this day is -a lack of sincerity in what we believe. If God, in the days of John Wesley, would have done in that day what He has done today, what would it have done?

In the days of Martin Luther or whenever, so what we see Him doing is proved by the Church, by the Spirit, and by science. And from every move we see that. It is in motion. We have to recognize it, And God's Word here is declaring it and telling it before it comes to pass. And then It's moving upon us and prophesying and showing the very things that He said would come to pass, perfectly, exactly as He said. And still we sit as though slothful, as if we wonder, "Well, can that mean me? I wonder if it could mean just the church as a whole, or whether I'm really included in this?" I think, Sunday morning, I'll try to talk on some of those principles that might enlighten us a little.

Now, tonight I found something and turned to it, here, before I came down. I thought, "What if Brother Neville, when I get down there, would happen to say, 'Get up and speak,' and just sit down." I thought I'd better write down a couple of scriptures, because I know he's such a lovely brother, and we appreciate him.

Before we pray over the Word, I want to recognize a brother. (I can't even call his name at this time.) There are two of them. They are dear friends of mine. They're ministers, and evangelists going out into the field. They heard these messages on tape, and they're out of different denominational churches, two young fellows, and one of them is so interested that he flew down to Tucson just recently at the close of a meeting. I believe I was in the Businessmen's Breakfast, and the young fellow, a fine young fellow, came down.

They are from Kansas, and they came all the way here for me to marry them. I appreciate that. To think that people would have faith in your prayers enough to believe that God would hear and answer! And that young people should start out in life like this! And when they got here for me to marry them yesterday, they found out that the state law of Indiana requires that, notwithstanding their blood test, they have to wait here in the state three days before they can be married. So they cannot be married until Friday morning.

And I ask the brother there on the end if he'll just stand up and tell us who he is, and his lovely little lady there, and the next brother. (The brother gives a testimony - Ed.)

Thank you very much. We certainly wish these young ambassadors for the work of the Lord Jesus God's blessings to speed them on their way. And as I'm wondering and waiting for the coming of the Lord and see young men and young women with a purpose in their hearts to serve Christ, that thrills me to see them rise up like this. The Lord bless you richly, my brother and sister.

Now, let us turn over to a little book that I never spoke out of before in my life. It is just one chapter, the Book of Philemon. I'm just a little bit Irish and I have a wire around my bottom teeth to hold a couple of them back in place. Sometimes I don't pronounce these names right, even when I do know what they are, and sometimes I can't pronounce them right for the lack of education. So, "Philemon," someone said back there (which I think is really the correct pronunciation).

Now, the first verse. I want to take just a word or two from it.

"Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ..."

And that's what I want to use tonight as a text, the Lord willing, namely: A PRISONER.

Now, you can hardly imagine Paul regarding himself as a prisoner, a BORNFREE man filled with the Holy Spirit; but yet, he calls himself A PRISONER. And now we find, when he's addressing the Corinthians, he writes: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ. " Another time it is "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ by the will of God, " when he's speaking to Timothy and different ones. Now, when he's writing here to Philemon he says, "Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ". "Paul, an apostle. " I'd like to preach one night on that, "Paul, a servant. " and then, "Paul, a prisoner. " But tonight, since it would take hours to consider just one of the subjects, I'd like tonight to take "Paul, the prisoner, " and consider what A PRISONER is. Now let us bow our heads just a moment.

Lord Jesus, any man that's physically able can pull back the pages of this Bible, but only the Holy Spirit can interpret it in the light that has been intended. We ask Him to come now and help us to understand this form of address by this great mighty prophet Paul, who yet called himself a prisoner. May the Holy Spirit reveal it to us as we wait on Him, in Jesus Christ's Name. Amen.

Now, I can imagine Paul when he wrote this letter to Philemon, how he was sitting in jail down there, in the dungeon of this city, a prisoner; and he could well know by his situation what the word meant. He was surrounded by bars, he could only be let free if someone would let him go free, and he knew what it was to be a prisoner. And then again, I believe that the apostle did not exactly intend to signify his present condition, that of a physical prisoner sitting here in this jail, but was rather, I believe, referring to his spirit, his will, being a prisoner to Jesus Christ.

Now, we're all born free moral agents to make any decisions we wish to. God justly does that, because He must put every man on the same basis, or He put the first man on the wrong basis when He made him a free moral agent.

See, we're exactly tonight just like Adam and Eve. There's no difference. Right or wrong sits before each one of us, Life and death. We can make our choice. It's up to you to make it. See? That's what Adam and Eve did, you see, and they made the wrong choice.

And now by that they put the whole human race under the penalty of death. And then God came down in the form of a man and took that death, that His subject that desired to be free could go free. Now if He took us without going the same way that He did with Adam and Eve, just pulled us up through something and said, "I'll save you whether you want to be saved or not" then He put Adam and Eve on the wrong basis. But each one of us has to choose this day between death and life. We've got to do it.

As I just expressed, your life will prove exactly what side you're on. I don't care what side you say you're on. What you do every day proves what you are. You've heard the old saying: your life is so loud, I can't hear your testimony. See, your actions are just so loud.

I've always believed in shouting and jumping, but I've always said, "Don't jump any higher than you live, because the world is going to watch that, see?" You must jump just as high as you live, because somebody is watching you.

And now people won't come to church. They, many of them, just won't do it. And some of them that are not coming are sincere people. They see so much corruption in the church that they don't want to have anything to do with it. And many times they're speaking a correct thought about that; you can hardly blame them, on account of the way people that call themselves Christians act. They're the greatest stumbling block that the world's got, a man or a woman who professes to be a Christian and lives a life different from their profession. That's exactly right.

Now for the disappointments that'll be coming at the Judgment. Now the sinner, the bootlegger, the gambler, the adulterer won't be disappointed to hear his sentence read to depart into everlasting fire. He won't be disappointed, but that fellow who is trying to hide himself behind some kind of a church profession that's the boy that's going to be disappointed on the Day of Judgment, see? Each one, professes to be a Christian and lives some other way. It'd be better for him that he never even made any kind of profession, than to start and then live something different, because the greatest stumbling block we've got, is for that professor, that says he is a Christian, to live something different.

Never judge your life by how much power you have to perform miracles. Neither do we judge ourselves by how much knowledge we have of the Word. But always judge yourself by looking back and taking an inventory of what kind of fruit the life that you presently live now is bearing, as I preached some time ago at a Businessmen's meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, on the reflection of Jesus, on reflecting Christian life.

I said that I was born up here in Kentucky where it's very primitive, especially earlier when I was a child. And this certain little boy never had a home such as we have here, where we have so many pretty ladies that have to look at mirrors all through the house to keep their hair in place, and so forth. But he had one little mirror (just a little piece tacked on to a tree) outside where the wash-bench was, where his mother and father washed and combed their hair, and so forth, in front of this little piece of an old mirror tacked on to a tree.

Frankly, that's the type of home that we had. If anybody wanted to see a mirror, we kids had to get a box and get up on the wash-bench and look at this piece of a mirror that I picked up myself in a dump. That wasn't down there in Kentucky; that was here in Indiana upon Utica Pike.

Now this little boy never exactly saw himself like that; so he came to the city to visit his grandma. And the grandma had a house that had a complete mirror on the door, and so the little boy ran into the room and saw another little boy in front of him; and that little boy was running also, so he thought he should stop a moment, and see what the little lad was going to do. And when he stopped, the other little boy stopped. When he turned his head, the other turned his head. He scratched his head; the other little boy scratched his. Finally, he walked

closer to investigate, and he turned around (and his mother and his grandmother watched him with amazement). He said, "Why, mother, that's me! "

So, as I said, we too are reflecting something. See, our life is reflected. And now, if we lived in the days of Noah, whose side would we take? What side would we have taken in those days that Noah lived? What side would we have taken in the days of Moses? What side in the days of Elijah, the prophet, when all the world was engulfed in a great mass of modernism, like the modern Jezebel, the church, who chases all of the servants of the Lord out into a whirling wind? And the priests were all bowing to her. Would you have taken the side of popularity, or would you have stood with Elijah?

Now, we think back to the days of the Lord Jesus, of this unpopular person, uneducated by the world. They could not find any schools that He ever went to. He had no seminary experience, was raised up with the repute of illegitimate birth, and then came out preaching a gospel that was contrary to what they'd been taught.

And He condemned the ministers and their organizations, and so forth. And the organizations had made a statement that if anybody even went to hear this so-called prophet, they would be put out of the synagogue. That was a mortal sin they had to be accounted guilty of. The only way to Worship was under the blood of the lamb. They had to come to this sacrifice, and now they were outcasts, and what a great thing it was. But this man ignored such as that, and yet He was perfectly with the scriptures, but not in a way they knew about.

What side would you have taken? See? Your life that you live now reflects just what you would have done then, because you still are possessed with the same spirit. If you take that side now with them, you'd have done it then, because the same spirit that's in you now was in people then.

See, the devil never takes his spirit, he just goes off from one man over to another. God never takes His Spirit either, It goes from one to the other. So the very Spirit that was upon Elijah came upon Elisha. The same one came on John the Baptist and so forth. The Holy Spirit that was upon Christ came upon the disciples, and on down, and is still upon the people.

See? God never takes His Spirit. So there we are left to make a choice.

And I can't see here where Paul was regretting anything and saying he was sorry he was a prisoner. But he was identifying himself. I believe that Paul, as he wrote this letter with that pen, was caused by the Holy Spirit to write that. So that maybe even this night we might call out the context of our text to show why Paul did this, because it's scriptural. And "Scriptural" is Eternal. And I believe that, sitting in this dingy old jail, Paul wrote to Philemon, telling his brother, that he was a prisoner of Jesus Christ, so that he could express it in seeing what was around him.

Now he was in jail, but that wasn't what he was' speaking to this servant of Christ, a minister with him. He was speaking that he was a prisoner to the Word of Jesus Christ, because Christ is the Word, and Paul had been a great scholar of the Word in his days. He had great ambitions. He was a man that had been trained by people.

A man by the name of Gamaliel, who was a great teacher of his day in one of the greatest schools that he could have gone to - for instance, as we would say, Wheaton, or Bob Jones, or some great fundamental school. He'd been taught as a minister of the Word. He was well educated and smart, and an intelligent boy with a great ambition such as, maybe, someday becoming a priest or a high priest to his people.

He had an ambition, and it was this great ambition that he'd been trained for. He spent all of his life, from maybe the age of about 8 or 10 years old up to about 30 or 35 when he finished college and graduated and had all of his diplomas and everything, and stood in good repute with all the clergy, even to the high priest at Jerusalem. He'd had orders from him, personal orders, written and trusted to this great Saul to go down to Damascus and to find all of those down there that worshipped God contrary to what he said, and to bind them and put them in jail, and if necessary call orders to put them to death if he wanted to.

He had great ambitions. Now, all that he had trained for, God had taken out of him. And what his objective was, and what his father had spent his money for, and the ambitions of his father and mother, had all been taken away from him, because God had something else for him. Therefore, he ceased to be a prisoner to his objective that he had in life, and became a prisoner to Jesus Christ, Who was the Word. That road to Damascus changed Paul.

Going down about 11 o'clock, perhaps, for the day, there he was stricken down; and he heard a voice saying, "Saul, *Saul, why persecutest thou me?*" He looked up, and being a Jew, recognized that Pillar of Fire was the Lord that led the children of Israel. He knew that was what It was.

Remember, this Hebrew would never have called anything Lord - L-O-R-D, *Elohim* - unless he'd been satisfied that that was what It was, because he was a trained scholar. And when he looked up and saw this Light - a Pillar of Fire - that had led his people through the wilderness, he said, "Lord" - *Elohim* L-o-R-D. "Lord, who are You?" And what a surprise it must have been to this theologian to hear "I *am Jesus!*" That is, the very One that he was so against. What an about turn!

Oh, it must have been something terrific for this man (with all of the ambitions that he had) to find out all at once Whom he had been persecuting! His ambitions had drawn him further away from the main thing that he meant to do; and what a great shock it must have been to this apostle, when He said, "I *am Jesus*" - the very One that he was persecuting. "Why *persecutest thou Me?*"

There is another little quotation we might drop in here. You see, as they made fun of the Church, they were not really making fun of the Church; they were making fun of Jesus. "Why *persecutest thou Me?*" How could Paul then, with all of his intellect, believe that this group that he was persecuting was the very God that he claimed to be serving?

I think that, without going into details, we're all well trained enough to know what I mean here. The same thing is happening today.

Paul did it through ignorance. Yet he was intelligent and smart, much smarter than the little uneducated Galileans he was persecuting that had already in their humility accepted this man at large. But Paul, in his great teachings, his intellect, could not accept that.

What an about turn it must have been to him on this road! And he was stricken blind, so that he could not carry out his commission; but he was led down into a place in a street called Straight, and to the house of one named Judas. Then came the prophet down there by the name of Ananias, whom he had seen in a vision coming down, to whom also it had been revealed where he was, who went in and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord that appeared to you on the road down has sent me, that I might lay my hands upon you for you to receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost." Do you see where it was?

What a thing it must have been for Paul! See, all that he had been trained to do was now reversed. So now, all the education he had had just become a thing of naught to him. Now he knew that he had had an experience. So here is another good lesson for us: that an experience alone isn't enough! It's got to be an experience according to the WORD of the Lord.

So he, once seeing this and knowing that it was a great something, and that somebody else had received it before him, spent three years and six months down in the desert in Arabia, taking the Bible as it was then (the Old Testament), and going down there to compare this experience that he had had and see if it was scriptural.

Now what if he had said, "Well, I reckon that wag just a little blow over," and went on, "I'm going to follow the intellect." Now he had to become a prisoner to something. So, after comparing it and knowing that, he could write the book of Hebrews in a type.

See, three years and a half down there, steeped in the Word and finding out that the very God that called him was taking him back and changing his whole intellect, changing all that he ever thought, all that he'd trained to be, all of his ambitions just wiped them away from him. And he became a prisoner.

The love of God had been so tremendous and such a revelation, that he **COULD NOT GET AWAY FROM IT!** That's the true experience of every real believer who meets God. You come into contact with something that's so great, that you become a prisoner to it. See, you get away from everything else to imprison yourself to this.

It was expressed when Jesus once said, "The kingdom of Heaven is something like a man buying pearls. Then he finds that Great Pearl and sells all that he has got to get that one." And that's all in here. You have an intellectual conception, you have a theological experience, but when it comes to a time when you truly find the real thing, you just cut out everything else, and you close yourself in to this.

Paul knew what it was. He found out that he was **HARNESSED** to something, as when we have a horse in harness. It is to pull something. And Paul, after this experience and three years and a half of typing the experience he had had with the Bible, realized that God had chosen him (and harnessed him) by the Holy Spirit. The experience that he had was to **PULL** the Gospel into the presence of the Gentiles. The Spirit Itself harnessed him.

And today, as servants of Christ, we've become harnessed hooked up. We can't go without It being with us. We're **HARNESSED** to the Word! No matter what anyone else says, you're harnessed to It. There is something about It that you just can't get away from It. You've been yoked up with It by the Holy Ghost, and It yoked you to the Word. No matter what anyone else says, it's the Word that is following you. You're harnessed up with It, put in the yoke with It, yoked to the Word by the Spirit. He was harnessed.

He had lain on the backside of the Arabian Desert there, when all the former things and experiences and ambitions had been stripped from him. Now that's where we find today that we must be stripped first, but people don't want to be stripped. The Methodist brother wants to hold to a little bit of his Methodist teaching. The Baptist brother wants to hold a little bit of his Baptist teaching. But you've got to be absolutely stripped of everything and just born again fresh and recommence from there as the Holy Spirit leads you. You can't say, "Well, my daddy said when he got in and joined the church, he shook hands with the pastor. He's a good loyal member." That might have been all right for his race but we're another race.

Now we must come back to the Bible times for this day. The priest was harnessed too; but, you see, they came over into another dispensation and they failed to strip off their old harness and put on a new harness. And the same thing we find today. We did come through a denominational age, as we proved through the church ages in the Bible, and so forth. But we come now to a Free Age where the Holy Spirit Himself comes down and vindicates Himself, and makes Himself known. He makes every promise that He promised come to pass.

Oh, my, what a great time! And, another thing, he knew he could not go to places being harnessed to this - that he would not, though he wanted to go. He knew that his ambitions drew him amongst brethren where he was invited to come, and yet, he was pressed in the spirit to do something else. He wasn't his own.

Maybe somebody could say, "Brother Saul," or "Brother Paul, we want you to come over here, because we've got the biggest church, we've got the biggest congregation. Your offerings will be great," and so forth. But being pressed in the spirit, he thought, "I've got a brother over there. I have to go over and save this brother - get him to the Lord." But yet the Spirit pressed him to go somewhere else. He was a **PRISONER**, that's correct.

Oh, God, make us prisoners like that: from our own selfish ambitions, from our own judgments, and our better way of thinking, to be a prisoner of Jesus Christ. I think that was a great statement: *I'm a prisoner to Jesus Christ.*

Remember, He is the Word. No matter what anyone else thinks, it's the Word. See, if you're a prisoner to the Word, no denomination can sway you from it. It's the Word. You're just a prisoner to it, that's all. You must act the way It acts.

Now, he could not go to certain places that he wanted to. Why? Because the Spirit forbade him. You remember that many times Paul was trying to go to some place, thinking, "There is where I could have a great meeting," but the Spirit would forbid him.

Now, does that clearly state and prove that Paul was a PRISONER? A prisoner to Jesus Christ, harnessed to His Word by the Spirit? Oh, I like that. He was BOUND. He was bound by chains, by fetters of love to do the will of God, and that only. He was a prisoner. He was in fetters of love. He was in the yoke with Christ. He could yoke up with nothing else. He was yoked with Him, and wherever the leading went, that's where he had to go, regardless of how green the path looked on this side or that side. He had to go the way the Leader and the yoke went.

Oh, tonight, if we as the Branham Tabernacle could only become prisoners, not to our own selfish beings, not to our own ambitions, but that we could completely surrender ourselves and be yoked to Him, no matter what the rest of the world thinks, or what the rest of the world does. We're yoked with fetters of love, we are prisoners! My feet are so yoked to Christ, they won't dance; my eyes are so yoked to Christ, that when I see these modern strip-teases on the street, it turns my head away; my heart is so yoked in love to Him, that I don't even know what my ambitions are. Just wherever You lead, I'll follow, Lord. I'll be a prisoner. See?

Paul was in truth a prisoner. He wasn't making any wrong statement. He was trained by the Holy Ghost again to wait on the Word! Now, he had been trained one way, but God had trained him another way now. He was trained by the Holy Spirit to wait upon the Lord. No matter what his ambitions were.

Now, I'm going to show you something (I hope) by the Holy Spirit. Now let's just take an instance. One day Paul and Silas came down a street in a certain city where they were evangelizing, and a little demon-possessed girl kept following them, crying out after them. No doubt Paul knew that he had the authority as an apostle to rebuke that evil spirit out of that woman; but, did you notice? He waited day after day until all,, of a sudden the Holy Spirit spoke to him: "This is the hour!" Then he said, "Thou spirit, come out of her."

See, he knew how to wait on the Lord. And there is where so many people today bring a reproach upon the Word. They go out with an ambition. How many revivals have been left flat because of a thing like that, because the evangelist doesn't wait to see what the Lord's got to say?

Some of them say, "Come over here," and they go immediately because the association says "Go," though the Holy Spirit would say something different. Yet the ambition of the man to become the state presbyter or something or another, some elder, some bishop, or something, was pulling, "You must go," and yet he knows better. The Holy Spirit is saying, "Go here." See, he's yoked to his organization! He's a prisoner to the organization! But if he is yoked to Christ, he's led by the Holy Ghost! He's yoked, a prisoner. It doesn't make any difference what anyone else says. It's as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. He hears only the voice of God, and he speaks only when It comes out. He says nothing.

Somebody says, "Oh, Brother Jones, or Brother Roberts. - - " or to some of these great men in our land today like Tommy Hicks, or Oral Roberts, or Brother Tommy-Osborn, one of those great evangelists. If somebody would say, "Say, come over here, Tommy. You're a great man of God," or "Oral, I've got an uncle lying over here that is all bound and sick. I want to say, 'come over,' I believe you have the faith to heal him."

And maybe the Holy Spirit would say to him, "Not now." But yet for the friendship of that man, he's duty bound to go with him. If he doesn't, he becomes an enemy to that man. That man said, "Well, he went to So-and-so and healed that child or that boy, I know he did! And I've been his friend for years, and he wouldn't come to my place." But if he's constrained by the Holy Spirit not to go, he'd better not go, not if he's yoked to God. His friend he loves, but he'd better be led of the Holy Spirit to go there, because otherwise it won't do any good anyhow. I experienced that so many times.

But Paul just waited for the Spirit to tell him what to do. To wait on the Spirit is best.

He stood one night preaching and walked out there and saw a crippled man. And all at once the Spirit spoke to him. And he said, "I perceive." How? The same way that he perceived they'd be wrecked upon an island. "I perceive that you have faith to be healed. Stand up on your feet! Jesus Christ has made you well."

There you are, he was yoked. He might have held a week's campaign there and nothing would have happened, but yet he waited for the Holy Spirit to direct. See, he was yoked to that directive.

Now you say, "Brother Branham, you're condemning what you said Sunday, about your having been waiting all this time." But, you remember, it was the Holy Spirit that spoke to me up there on the road and said, "I'm sending you back amongst the sick and the afflicted." It's obedience to the Holy Spirit. Sure. I didn't go until He told me to do it. I was waiting for THUS SAITH THE LORD, till I got THUS SAITH THE LORD. Now, that's different, see. Now, that makes a difference.

Yes, he waited for the Word of the Lord. He was pressed in the spirit to do only God's bidding. Then he became a prisoner of Jesus Christ. Friends, if we could only become prisoners.

Now, I know it's hot, but I'd like to name a couple of other characters. I've got about 6 or 8 written down here, but I'd like to name just another character or two.

Let's take the character of Moses. He was born a deliverer, and he knew that he was born a deliverer. But before I say anything about Moses, I'd like to make this statement: that God always has to take any man that will truly serve Him to be His prisoner. A man has to surrender every ambition he's got, everything that he is, everything: his life, soul, body, will, ambitions, and everything else, and become a complete PRISONER to Christ, Who is the Word, to serve God.

You might have to walk contrary to your better judgment. Maybe you might think that in a certain organization they could lift you up and give you something great that you might flash. But where do you find yourself? You find yourself defeated after a while. So it is until God can get a man that's willing to become a prisoner to Him.

God is looking for prisoners. He's always done it. You might search this through the Scripture. A man has to be a prisoner to Christ, secure against anything else. Therefore, you cannot be connected with anything but

Christ, not even with your father, your mother, your brother, your sister, your husband, your wife, or anybody. You're connected with Christ, and Him only. Then God can use you. Until then, He can't.

Going out sometimes, I speak so roughly to people. See, I'm trying to get you to cut loose. You've got to have a starting place, such as sometimes calling about the women bobbing their hair, wearing these clothes, while holding and maintaining their Christian profession.

You say, "That's a little thing." Well, you've got to start somewhere. So begin right there with your ABC's, see? And cut loose the worldly looks, anyhow, and become a prisoner to Christ, and then just keep on cutting loose everything till finally the last links are cut loose. Then, you are a prisoner. Then you become in His grip. He's got you in His grip.

Now, Moses knew that he was born a deliverer. He knew that. And did you notice the ambition that Moses had? He knew that his mother had told him over there that she was his nursemaid.

No doubt when Moses, the little baby, was born, his mother said, "You know, Moses, when your dad, Amram, and I prayed constantly, we noticed (seeing the Word) that it was time for the coming of a deliverer, and we prayed: "Lord God, we want to see that deliverer." One night the Lord told us in a vision that you would be born, and you would be the deliverer. We were not afraid of the king's commandments. We didn't care what the king said. For we knew that you were born a deliverer. Now, Moses, we knew that we couldn't bring you up right" now, remember, they'd been down there 400 years in Egypt, see? - "and we wanted to get you the right thing, the right education, the right training. So, I took you and put you in a little ark and set you out on the Nile. I strained at the current which was taking that little ark down through the reeds and rushes, and brought it right down miles away and turned it right into Pharaoh's palace, where Pharaoh's daughter's bathing pool was. And I knew that you'd need a woman to raise you," (and in those days, of course, they didn't have these bottles to raise the babies on, and so they had to have a wet nurse) - "and I sent Miriam down, and she stood there and she said, 'I know where I can find a wet nurse,' and came and got me. And Moses," - (the doors were all shut) - "Honey, you're 16 years old and you're going to be Pharaoh's son. And someday you're going to be the deliverer that's going to take the people out of here."

Moses' ambitions began to grow. "I'll study, Mother! I'll study everything that I can! You know what I'll do? I'll study hard to be a military man, and I'll know how to take these people out of here. I'll be a great general, bishop, I'll know how it's done, and I'll take them out. I'll get my Ph.D. or LL.D. I'll do it."

Like Father Chiniquy (if you have ever read his book)! All right. He was going to deliver all the Protestants, you know, and he became one himself. So, years ago this great priest, Father Chiniquy - You ought to get his book and read it (*Fifty Years in the Church of Rome*, by Charles Chiniquy. - Ed.). They call him *Father*, but *Brother* Chiniquy is what he was. We don't call any man *Father* like that.

Thus we find that he was going to read the Bible, so that he could get out there and disprove the Protestant religion. But he lost out. I think probably he went to read the Bible, and the Holy Spirit took up for him. He got the Holy Ghost, and became one of them.

So then, notice this: that Moses got all the training, because he was so smart, so educated, so intellectual, that there was nobody like him. He could even teach the Egyptians. He could teach their psychologists. He could teach their generals what military might was. He was a great man, and people feared Moses because of his greatness.

I Oh, such a scholarship! My, he was an archbishop, or maybe like a pope. He was a great fellow, and he was a mighty man! He knew that he was born to do this and had trained with great ambitions to do it.

Just like today! I don't say that men should be training in these schools. I don't say that. But here in the West, now, they're going to build a 150-million-dollar school of theology. See, Pentecostal. A 150-million-dollar school! To me, that should be spent on missionaries in the field.

But what do they do when they come out of there? What are they? A lot of "Rickies," just exactly. And then that's how they come out. That's all we've had from the rest of them, and that's the same line.

Now, we find out that with Moses in all of his training. And today with all the training (making big bishops and so forth with great high ambitions), what do we do? Our ambitions become just about like what Moses' were. See? God, before He could get the man in His hand, had to strip him of his ambitions He had to strip him of all of his training.

He did go out to deliver. He killed one Egyptian, and when he did, he found out that he was in the wrong. He couldn't do that. That wasn't the way. God had to take him out into the wilderness, into the desert, a desert place.

You notice, it is somehow strange what befalls these men that God's got a message for. He takes them into a desert. He took Paul into the desert to train, to tell him all his great vision. "Go out into the desert. Go out to a certain desert." And he stayed there until God fully made known to him what to do.

In Moses' time, He took him out into the desert. Took him out there for 40 years and stripped him of all his theology and all of his ambitions. Oh, what a time for him to be able to look back and see his failure! And how we, tonight, ought to do the same thing, when we behold our ambitions.

Look at the healing campaigns, and see if the Lord did something a few years ago to start restoring healing to the sick and so forth. Everybody, every organization, because it didn't come into their organization, had to get themselves a healer.

And what have we done? Let's look at it just a moment. We have done the same thing that Moses did! We've gone out and tried so hard to manufacture some kind of a miracle ("I smelt a disease" - "I've got oil on my hand"), manufacture a miracle! And what have we got?

Some of the men in such hard strains have broken up and become regular drunkards, or neurotics. And they've got their minds switched all the way back from the Pentecostal objective to making an organization and things again!

See what we have done, slain about one Egyptian! That's right. And we've tried, we've strained, we've pained, we've laboured all night long in prayer meetings till we have no voice, and try to manufacture something, and brew up something, and all these kinds of things, but find it to be a total failure. We need a going back to the desert. That's right. Yes, sir!

Why those camp meetings and struggle? Why not just give up? That's what you ought to do. Go back and give up. Why, we have done the same thing they did, the same thing Moses did. It doesn't do any good. After forty years, he found himself a prisoner to the Word of God. What were we trying to do when the great blessing came out, and the manifestation of all these great things that God had told us about, how that we must be born again, and how we receive the Holy Ghost, the Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ, and all of these things here? You see, people, instead of staying with that Word, harnessed to It, what did they do? They started with their own denominational theory, which had already failed, and tried to manufacture something to look like the truth.

I'd better cut off right there. I'm sure you're wise enough to know what I mean. See? But look what it's done! Think of it! What have we got tonight but a nation full of organized people who deny the Scriptures of God, who would call the Life of the Holy Spirit a mental telepathy, who would refuse such to come into their church. And they wouldn't permit you to mention one word of serpent's seed, eternal security, and of things that the Holy Spirit has revealed and proved to be the Word.

I've made challenge after challenge to come and prove it wrong. What have they got? The same thing that Luther had, and the rest of them. See?

Moses slew an Egyptian. What was it? Maybe it made some man stop stealing or maybe live true to his wife, but what did you make him to be out of that? A church member. "Come and join our group."

See, that STINKING DEAD MAN was the only thing he could point his fingers to as his success from 40 years of training - a stinking Egyptian lying there, rotten and dead.

That's about the way it is tonight. The only thing we can point to in this revival (so-called), is the stinking body of church members that know no more about God than a Hottentot would know about an Egyptian night! That's right. If one would tell them about the Word of God, they say, "I don't believe that. I don't care what they say, I don't believe it." That's an awful thing to have to point back to for all the strains and struggles and everything we have experienced.

Maybe we could point to a big school, but it's DEAD! We can point to an organization, but it's DEAD! It's stinking! It's just like the first thing that we pulled out of. It's like a hog going back to its wallow and a dog to its vomit, when we return back.

One dead Egyptian! No doubt somebody said: "Moses, have you got no more feeling for the people? You were called for this!" (Somebody that knew Moses, and that he was called for that).

"Have you lost the feeling for the people?"

"No, Sir."

"Well, why aren't you out doing this? Why aren't you out trying that? Why don't you go out with the rest of them?"

Moses is out there getting stripped until he had an experience with the burning bush that declared the Word. "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I remember My promise; and I come down to deliver them; and I'm sending you to do it."

That was it! He'd seen the Word, not the ambition of the people or the desires of the people. Then what did he become? He did not want to face the Egyptians any more. He didn't want to face this thing any more, but he become a prisoner! Amen.

All of these years of running and stripping down, but then he became a prisoner at the burning bush! The mighty Moses with all his intellect! The Bible saying that Moses was a mighty man in word and in deed down in Egypt!

But watch what the mighty theologian did in the presence of the burning bush! He only confessed his inability. When he saw the genuine purpose of God, he confessed his inability to do it. Yet he was trained in all the theology that they could give him, trained in their best schools. But yet, what could he do when that Pillar of Fire was hanging there in the bush? He said, "I can't even talk."

"Lord, who am I that I should go?" "Get your shoes off, Moses. I want to talk to you. Get yourself down, take off your shoes. You fall down on the ground, I want to talk to you." He couldn't even talk. Finally, he was an elected PRISONER, an elected PROPHET; just like Paul, who was elected.

Moses was an elected Deliverer, and then finally God had His elected subject a prisoner to Him. Oh, my! He could only move as the Word of God moved him.

"Who shall I say sent me?"

:'I AM."

'How will I do?"

:'I'll be with you."

'Yes, Lord, just as you say. Here I am."

Oh, my! He's a prisoner. He goes against his better thinking.

Now, he'd been trained to command an army. "Shoulder arms! About face!" He was trained to go, the chariots all- in order. "Spears forward! Charge!" That's how he was going to take over. That was his training. But he said, "What am I going to use?"

God said, "What have you got in your hand?"

"A stick!" God sometimes does things so ridiculous to the human mind. There was Moses with a stick in his hand, his whiskers hanging down, 80 years old, his wife on a mule, his child sitting on her hip, his little old

flabby arms hanging down with a stick, lifting his head straight up, though he had THUS SAITH THE LORD. What? He finally got anchored! He was a prisoner.

"I only move when the Word moves. I only speak when the Word speaks."

"Where are you going?"

"I've got a commission to stand before Pharaoh and show him by this stick that God sent me."

"What are you going to do after that?"

"He'll provide the next thing to do after we do this."

There you are. I've only got one thing to do. The first (that's right), surrender! Become a prisoner! Don't think of yourself or something else. Become a prisoner.

Moses became a prisoner. He confessed he couldn't even talk. Finally, God got him into His hands where he could only move where God moved him. He told him the Word. He knew it was the Word. Then, when he submitted himself to the Word, and the Holy Spirit there, God harnessed Moses to the will of God.

That's the same thing He did to Paul. Is that right? He harnessed Paul, the little crooked-nosed, sarcastic Jew - Paul, with Ph.D.'s, LL.D.'s written all over him. But he said, "I'm going to show him what he's going to suffer for My Name's sake."

And as Paul was sitting there and seeing the Word and seeing that that was Jesus, he raised up his hands and became harnessed to Him! The love of God harnessed him to the Word. He is going to bear His Name before the Gentiles. There he went.

"Moses, I am the God of your fathers, I'm the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob. I remember, I promised them, and the time of the promise is near. And I see the affliction of My people! I remember My promise! And I have come down to harness you."

You know what the Word says. "I harnessed you to go down there, harnessed you with power to go down there and deliver My people. Take that stick in your hand as a witness, because you saw a miracle done by it," (like David with the sling shot).

He harnessed himself, and he went down. Finally, God had a man that was subject to Him, harnessed to Him, and could not move until the Word of God moved him. If only people would do that today!

Then he was His prisoner, a prisoner of love, yoked up in the bond of love with God, as Paul was yoked up in the bond of love to God. He was just like Paul. Both of them were trained the same way. Moses was trained, you know, to deliver the children of Israel by military might. Paul was trained to take it out of the hands of the Romans and make them free by great ecclesiastical force in the world of that day. Great schools of training had come up under Gamaliel. Both of them went to the desert and came back different men.

Both of them saw the Pillar of Fire, and both of them were prophets! Is that right? Both of them were prophets, and they both were talked to by the Pillar of Fire (exactly right), coming for deliverance. There they were, they went through a desert, left their homes and went to the desert to find out, left their people and everything to find the will of God.

They were trained in one way: God changed them to another. And they had become complete prisoners not to act in the way that they wanted to act, but to act in the way that God wanted them to. He's the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Have we got another ten minutes? I'll get to another character very quickly: I see one before me now. His name is Joseph. He was an elected son. He was a perfect type of Jesus Christ. He was born a prophet. He also was a prophet. And now, he could see visions, and when he was yet a little boy, he saw a vision of himself sitting on a throne and his brothers bowing to him.

But watch. He rather felt he was a great person. See? But what did God have to do? He did the same thing that He did to the rest 'of them, because Moses was a deliverer, Paul was a deliverer, and now Joseph was a deliverer. He saved his people from the famine. What did God have to do to him? Put him in prison! Right, straight to the prison.

Yes, sir! Remember he was sold by his brothers to an Egyptian, and they sold him to Potiphar, and Potiphar gave him a little bit of liberty. And the first thing you know, that was taken from him. And there he sat in the prison crying, crying. God had to strip him.

Now notice! But all the time in that prison I believe he remembered the vision that said that he was going to sit on a throne, and that his brothers were going to bow to him; because he knew that his gift came from God, he knew that it had to come to pass.

If we could only keep that in our minds: that, according to the Word of God, in these last days He's going to have a Church, going to have a people; and these things that He promised, He's going to do them. He said He would, and we're living in the TIME with the Word! He's just trying to get us to be real prisoners now; locked in with Him.

Do you know the old song we used to sing: "And then I am shut in with God; I want to be shut in with God?" Now when I thought about that, "Shut in with God," nothing else! You can only move when God says move. You can only do as God says do. Then you're shut in with God.

Now remember, he was thinking he had also become a total failure to himself. In all that he knew, all that he understood, and everything, he'd become a total failure. It didn't work. He was put under a situation where nobody would listen to him. He was a prisoner.

He was put into a situation where unbelievers would not believe. Do you see what I mean? His ministry was of none effect, the people turned their heads. They wouldn't pay any attention to him in prison. What good would his ministry do? He might I shout through the prison bars and preach to them, but they'd walk on down the street, see? But he'd become a prisoner. God took him a prisoner until the wheel got rolled upright.

Notice, Joseph was a failure. Finally, God came to him in his prison. As to Paul, as to all the rest of them, He came to him and He used the gift that He'd give him to get him out of there. Exactly. He brought him from his prison. What did he do? As soon as He brought him from his prison, he was given power by the king. He

was changed. He sat on the side of that which he was under. He was brought from the prison house and given power, so that whatever he said had to happen. Amen.

Any prisoner who constantly remembers he was born for a purpose - he was born to sit by a king, and all the rest of them were going to bow the knee to him. His vision told him so. Amen! But before his vision could be completely fulfilled, he had to become a prisoner! Amen. Then he became a ruler. And when he came from his prison house and became a prisoner of the Word of God, so that he could only say what God put into his mouth to say, then God moved through him!

Notice, Moses had power to bind Pharaoh's prison at his own will. If you say to this mountain, "Be moved." He had power to bind Pharaoh's prison, whether they were deacons, presbyters, or whether they were state representatives, or whatever they were. He said, "I'll bind you!" So they were bound, and that was it. He could do it at his own word and his own pleasure! Amen! Glory to God!

Oh, I've just got about three more minutes, to keep my word. Now, we find out that he became a prisoner to God, from being a prisoner to the world; for Paul it was the same way, and Moses the same way. From a prisoner to his own thinking to a prisoner to God. And when he came out, he had the power of God.

As when Saul became Paul, so when the own thinking of Moses was surrendered and he was stripped of it, he became a prisoner to Christ's Word and he could only move wherever You say, "Christ?" Yes, he esteemed the reproach of Christ greater treasure than that of Egypt, so he was a prisoner to Christ just as Paul was.

And remember, all three of them were prophets. And they had to be stripped of their own thinking in order to become a prisoner to the will and the ways of God. And you remember now, that he had power to bind at his own word; he had power to loose at his own word. He could say, "I loose you in the name of my king." Amen!

Pharaoh made Joseph his son. Christ makes His prisoners of love His sons; and He gives them power, the same thing He had - St. John 14:12: *"He that believeth on me, " (see?) "The works that I do shall he do also. " "Even more than this shall he do."*

Now, the prisoner of the love of Christ becomes empowered by his King, Who is Christ. Amen. "And verily I say unto you, if you say unto this mountain, 'Be moved,' and don't doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass; you'll have what you say." "If ye abide in Me, and My Word in you, . . ." (if you're yoked to Christ, because He and His Word are the same), *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God... "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. . . " "... The same yesterday, and today, and for ever." "If ye abide in me. . . " (not here and there) " . . . abide in ME, and My Word in you, ask what you will," (or say what you will) "and it'll be done." He has power.*

Notice, before he came out, he had to be taken out and shaved. A few things had to be shaved off, before he could meet his king.

Oh, God sometimes takes His people out like that and shaves a few things of their own wills off. He shows them that they can't do just what they wanted to do. You know what I mean. They're not at liberty to do what they want to do. Before they can come into full power and be a love-slave to Christ, they have to be shaved off and then presented. Sometimes He takes them into the deserts to do that - to shave them off and then bring them out, the anointed ones, to fulfil the purpose that He's ordained them to be! D'you see what I mean? Brother, we're at the end time.

Remember all other times what He's done. He's always had to take a man and make him a prisoner to Him and forsake his own. He had to forsake everything that he knew, forget all of his training and everything in order to know the will of God and to follow God. He can't follow anything that man's got to do and God at the same time. It's too contrary, the one to the other.

You can't be going east and west at the same time; you can't be going right and left at the same time; you can't be doing right and wrong at the same time; you can't be following man and God at the same time. No sir, you're either following God or following man.

Now then, if you're following God and have submitted yourself to God, then you've become a prisoner to that God, to that Word, to that will. No matter what anybody else says, you become a prisoner to It.

Listen, we're at the end time, and I would say this with reverence and respect as the last couple of minutes is floating by. Look! What God, to my opinion, will do and must do in these last days, is to find a tool for the harvest. He's got to find a tool to thresh the floor.

Any farmer, when he goes to his harvest, has to have a tool to do it with. Certainly. He's got to have a sharp sickle or something; some instrument to thresh out the grain. And the harvest is ripe.

"God, take us in Your hands. Make us bond servants of Your love. Use us for tools to bring the realization to this sinful cursed earth that we're living in today, that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

For myself: God, let me be a prisoner. If all my brethren turn me down, if all my friends turn me down, I want to be a prisoner of Jesus Christ and His Word; that I might be harnessed to His Word by the Holy Spirit, to see the Holy Spirit make the Word of God to be confirmed by the same things that He said would be done. I want to be a prisoner of Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

I wonder tonight, with our heads bowed, if that ambition that we have of being something else, or maybe something that we might think, is a selfish thing. I wonder if we couldn't, as it were, just lay that aside?

I wonder if some young boy here tonight will look around and say, "When I get big, I'm going to be a certain, certain thing." I wonder if you could feel the will of God move in your life and say, "No, no, my ambitions are lost, now. The last few days the Holy Spirit has been speaking to me. I want to yield myself to God to be a threshing instrument of this last day."

Some young girl that might have ambitions to be a fine lady character, or maybe be a pretty little miss, or maybe some day make Hollywood your career - I wonder if you're not willing now to submit your ambitions in the presence of God and His Word, and hear the call of God in your own life? God knows who you are.

I wonder if there'd be a minister close, a servant, or worker somewhere in church. (I just get in here once in a while; I don't know one-third of the people sitting here tonight. I know just a little handful that's here.) But I

wonder if there'd be such a person that would be willing to say, "I don't care what anyone says; I'm God's slave now. I'm going to preach His Word regardless. I don't care if my organization turns me out, I'm still going to stay with that Word. I'm going to do it. My will is God's will. God's will is my will. I'm going to be a prisoner to Jesus Christ. By His grace and help, I'll do it." Think of it while we have our heads bowed.

How many have got that ambition tonight? Would you raise your hand? That's mine too, I surrender all. With our heads bowed - slowly, now, as you think it over - now, as you pray:

"I surrender all,
I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour,
I surrender all.

I surrender all..."

(Do you really mean that? I want to be a prisoner. Take me, Lord, take me down to the potter's house tonight and break me all up and mold me over again.)

"... All to Thee, my blessed Saviour,
I surrender all."

Heavenly Father, as the song continues to play, I thought it most profitable at this time that I'd break in on the song and talk to You just a moment. As the people are thinking, "I surrender all," Father, may we do this as though this is our last opportunity to do it. Let us come with sincerity. Come unto the table of the Lord, as it were, with washed garments, washed souls, washed wills, washed ambitions to surrender ourselves; and let God take His Word, and yoke us up together with Him, with God's Word. And may the Holy Spirit take us, now, as we hear the yoke prick around our hearts, from tonight on. I take You at Your Word. "Now, don't think your own thinking; think My thoughts. Think My will. I will lead you."

God, grant that it'll be an experience to every one of us. These young people sitting here, husband and wife, and some going to be husband and wife. There are older men sitting here that are ministers. They're along the road. Lord, here are Brother Neville and I, that are getting a way up on the ladder. Our days are being numbered now. Our steps are made more carefully than how we did make them. We watch where we step. We're not as sure-footed, physically speaking, as we once were. But, Lord, we see that mortal life is fading out, and no one's footsteps are sure without Your having got our hand.

Now, God, take us, will You? Take our hearts and our wills in Your own hand, and let us become prisoners, tonight, to the Word, to Christ. May we live godly lives here. May these women, these young women, these young men; boys and girls, surrender their lives, Lord. And may their ambitions become the ambition to serve Jesus Christ; and let us become a prisoner of His divine grace and will. Grant it, Lord.

That's all that I know to do, Lord, these little broken-up words. And I trust that You'll put them together rightly, because it's hot in here. And people want to listen, but it's really warm, and many have to go home and go to work early. But may those seeds just drop into their hearts - a prisoner!

Go home and say to the wife, before you get ready to get down and pray this afternoon or this evening by the bedside, look across to one another and say, "Dear, what about that tonight? Have we really become prisoners to Christ and His will, or do we work through our own will?"

May young men and young women everywhere, especially those who heard this message tonight, ask themselves that same question. "Am I willing to become a prisoner, forsaking my own life?" "He that saves his life shall lose it, but he that will lose his life for My sake, shall find it."

Father, we know that means to become a prisoner of You, lose our own ambitions and our own desires to find Yours. Then we have Eternal Life. Grant it, Lord.

The only thing that I know is to commit it now into Your hands. And may it become fruitful and bring forth great tools for the last-day harvest, men and women, boys and girls, surrendered to the complete will of God and become prisoners of Jesus Christ and to His love - shackled with fetters of divine love through Christ. We ask it in His Name.

"I surrender all (Let's stand),
I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour,
I surrender all."

Let's just say that again with our eyes closed and our hands up.

"I surrender all,
I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour,
I surrender all."

Now, if we'll bow our heads, and before the dismissing song is sung of "Take the Name of Jesus With You," I'm going to ask that this brother here (I forget his name) - The sister testified about the vision of darkness coming over her, who was healed. And remember, looking back, the veil was gone. Her faith did that. You dismiss us in prayer, will you, brother? And ask God's blessings upon us.