

## Courtship Stage

**MATTHEW 5:1** And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

**LUKE 18:9-14** "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."  
This beatitude is the foundation of the Gospel. It is the beginning of the first work of grace.

Jesus takes his disciples up the mountain just as Moses went up the mountain to give the New Testament covenant. But notice the contrast. The Law of Moses could not give eternal life; if it could, Christ would not have needed to come.

The Law was given to reveal God's holiness and man's sinfulness, to show us that we are incapable of achieving righteousness on our own. Israel made a fatal mistake in Exodus 19. Instead of accepting Grace, they asked for the Law. They said, "Tell us what God says, and we will do it." They trusted in their ability to be like God without having the nature of God. This produced a people who were "Rich in Spirit" the Pharisees. They believed they were righteous because they kept the rules, observed the dress codes, and attended the feasts.

Jesus begins His ministry by shattering this delusion. He says the Kingdom is not for the "Rich in Spirit" (those who trust in their doing), but for the "Poor in Spirit".

### Defining the Term: *Ptochoi*

The Greek word used here is *Ptochoi*. The word is pronounced TOH-khoi, means "the poor," specifically those who are utterly destitute, dependent, and lacking resources

This doesn't refer to a man who is poor because he must work hard for his daily bread (that would be *Penes*). *Ptochoi* describes a bent-over beggar. It describes someone who is completely bankrupt, who has no skills, no craft, no ability to work, and no resources. He is totally dependent on the gifts of others. He is so ashamed of his condition that he crouches and covers his face. This is the condition God requires for entrance into the Kingdom.

You must realize you are spiritually destitute, with nothing of value in your hands to trade for salvation.

### *Pistis* (Faith):

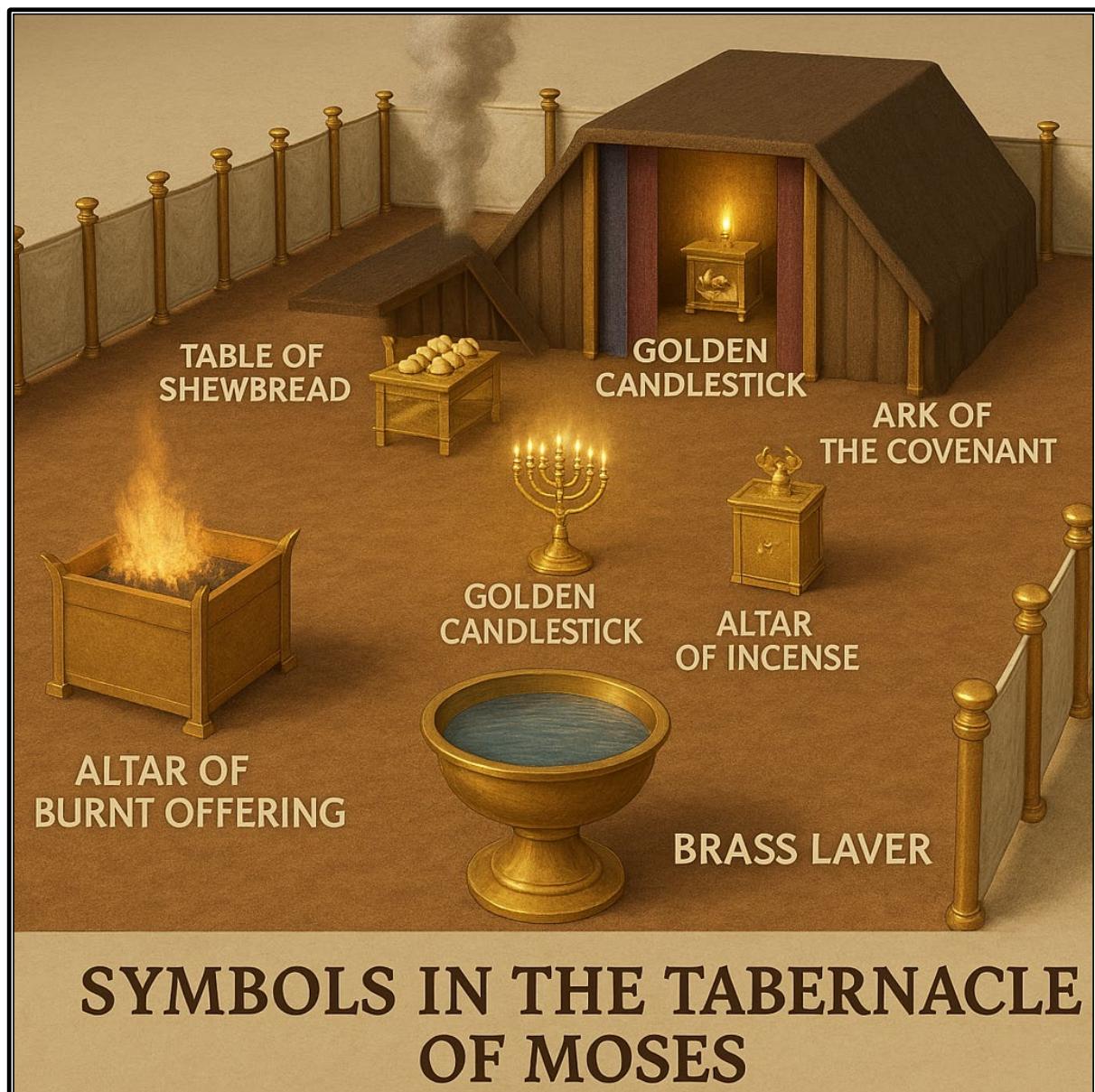
This is where true *Pistis* begins. Faith is not just mental assent; it is the reliance of a bankrupt soul on a wealthy benefactor. You cannot trust (have faith) in Christ if you still trust in your own "Message works."

## The Laodicean Paradox

We must see the connection between "Poor in Spirit" and the Laodicean Age. The prophet ties this beatitude to Laodicea but in a negative way. Laodicea says, "I am rich, increased with goods, and have need of nothing." They are **Rich in Spirit**.

They believe they are spiritual because they have the Message, they have the prophet, and they have the truth. But God says to them, "You are wretched, miserable, poor (*ptochoi*), blind, and naked, and don't know it." This is the tragedy of the Message age. We started off rich in spirit. We thought if we learned the mysteries and obeyed the conduct and order, we would make the Rapture. But doing, keeping, and obeying the Word does not save you.

The Law (and the Message became a law to us) was meant to be a "Brass Laver."



**The Laver's Purpose:** When you look into the Laver, you are supposed to see your reflection your dirt, your inability, your need for washing. **Our Mistake:** But instead of seeing our filth, we make the mistake of looking in the mirror and admired our religious clothes. We said, "I look pretty good. I'm not like the denominations." We missed the purpose of the Law, which is to drive us to the Brass Altar—to Calvary. Unless you see yourself as a bankrupt beggar, Calvary has no power for you. You will never mourn for your condition, you will never be comforted, and you will never hunger for righteousness because you think you already have it.

### **Comparison to Courtship: The Need for a Partner**

Think of this in terms of **Singleness vs. Courtship**. The "Rich in Spirit" person is single and satisfied. They think, "I don't need anyone. I can provide for myself. I am complete." A person like that will never get married because they see no need for union.

The "Poor in Spirit" person realizes, "I am incomplete. I am lonely. I am bankrupt of love. I cannot make it on my own." This is the first step toward the heavenly marriage. You must realize that you are the Bride (female/receiver) and He is the Bridegroom (male/giver). If you are "rich," you are trying to be the husband. You are trying to be the provider.

You must become the *ptochoi*  
—the one who needs Him desperately  
—before the courtship can even begin.

### **III. The Two Spirits: The Rich Young Ruler & The Publican**

#### **The Rich Young Ruler: A Type of Laodicea**

Jesus gives us a perfect type of the Laodicean believer in the Rich Young Ruler. Note that he is a "ruler" —likely a synagogue leader, respected, and morally exemplary.

He comes to Jesus with the classic religious question: "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" This is the cry of the "Rich in Spirit." He trusts in his doing. Jesus, knowing he is not an elect, gives him a "saveable" answer: "Keep the commandments." The young man replies, "All these things have I kept from my youth up." He is claiming to be blameless touching the law. He is claiming righteousness by works.

But Jesus exposes his bankruptcy. He tells him, "Go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor and come and follow me." The young man went away sorrowful. He could not give up his "riches" not just his money, but his rich standing, his reputation, and his trust in his own ability. The rich young ruler, could not submit to the leadership of the Son of Man. He wanted an opinion, not an absolute. The person you plan to marry must be the only person.

Similarly, women want their independence and identity.

If you have an employee being paid to work but deciding to go to "Pick and Pay" (a grocery store) during work hours. "Ravi Zachariah, Jimmy Swaggart, TD Jake" are examples of charismatic speakers that young people might listen to instead of the message. Yet others threaten to leave the church to "stream from Namibia" or go to "Eagle Faith" when corrected.

Brother Branham told about a man in a bar who asked for a song ("Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone") to be sung, illustrating how the world has "gods" but the Bride must identify the true Jesus.

### **The Publican vs. The Pharisee**

Jesus further illustrates this in [Luke 18](#) with the parable of the two men praying. **The Pharisee (Rich in Spirit):** He stands and prays with himself, his prayer is all about what he is *not* and what he *does*. "I am not as other men, I fast twice in the week, I give tithes." The Rich young Ruler, he is trusting in his conduct, order, and doctrine. He represents the Message believer who strains at a gnat and swallows a camel, and he is proud that he isn't a "harlot" denominationalist.

### **The Publican (Poor in Spirit):**

He stood afar off. He would not lift his eyes. He beat his breast. He was *ptochoi*—a beggar.

### **The Theological Key: *Hilaskomai* pronounced *hee-LAS-ko-my***

- To propitiate — to satisfy or appease divine wrath.
- To atone for sin — to make reconciliation through an act of sacrifice.
- To be merciful / show mercy
- — to become gracious toward someone who has sinned.
- To conciliate — to restore a broken relationship.

Listen to the Publican's prayer: "God be merciful to me a sinner." The word used for "merciful" here is not just a general cry for pity. It is the Greek word ***Hilaskomai. hee-LAS-ko-my.*** It means "to make propitiation." It means "to make an atonement." He is saying, "God, if you don't make an atonement for me, I am destroyed. I cannot pay this debt. I need a sacrifice to stand in my place." He is recognizing that without the shedding of blood (Calvary), he has no hope. The Pharisee didn't ask for mercy; he asked for recognition.

### **Comparison to Engagement: The Contract vs. The Ring**

**The Rich Young Ruler wants a Contract:** He wants to know the terms. "If I do X, Y, and Z, do I get eternal life?" This is a business arrangement. It is a legalistic marriage. "I cooked dinner, so you owe me a compliment."

In the context of marriage, be careful of marrying solely for looks ("chemical man") because one must be prepared for when the spouse "loses all his hair".

## The Publican wants a Union:

He realizes he has nothing to offer. He is not bringing a contract; he is pleading for love. He is pleading for the Groom to cover him. The "Rich in Spirit" live by the Law (The Prenuptial Agreement). The "Poor in Spirit" live by Grace (The Vow).

Until you stop trying to negotiate your salvation with your "good works" and simply fall on your face like the Publican, you are not even engaged to Christ. You are just a religious associate.

## IV. The Second Key: Blessed are the Meek.

### Defining Meekness: *Praus*.

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

We must correct our understanding of this word. In our modern Laodicean age, we think "meek" means soft, gentle, timid, or non-confrontational. If person, is meek, we think he's a pushover who never speaks up. But if that is the definition, then Jesus wasn't meek when He drove the moneychangers out of the temple with a whip. William Branham wasn't meek when he called the denominations "harlots" and "vultures."

The Greek word used here is *Praus*. It was used in the ancient world to describe a **Wild Stallion that had been tamed**. Think of a war horse. It is powerful, aggressive, and full of wild energy. But when it is "meeked" (*praus*), it is broken to the rider. It is not weak. It still has the muscle, the fire, and the ability to kill. But now, that power is under the absolute control of the rider. It doesn't run when it hears the trumpet of battle; it stands. It doesn't panic; it obeys.

Brother Branham spoke about the speaker riding horses. He thought it would be easy like in the movies, but later admitted, "After we got off that horse, that was another story".

### Strength Under Control

Meekness is **Power under Control**. It is a Spirit-filled mind that enables the Sons of God to endure injury, rejection, and hatred *without* irritation, resentment, or vindictive retaliation. It takes strength to be insulted and not insult back. It takes power to be robbed and not seek revenge. A weak man lashes out. A meek man controls his spirit because he knows God is the Judge. When people slander you and you tempted to get upset. Remember if, If they never asked for your side of the story, then the side they heard is exactly how they feel about you. And that tells you everything you need to know. People who truly care will seek the truth. They'll come to you, ask questions, and try to understand. But those who jump to conclusions, who accept rumours as facts, were never really on your side to begin with.

### The Bridle of Love

This is the **Engagement/Marriage** phase. **The Wild Horse:** Before we are saved, we are wild. We run after our own lusts, our own temper, our own pride. We are single and selfish. Never explain yourself to people who are already dedicated to misunderstanding you. Some people don't want the truth. They just want to believe what fits their version of you, what fits their narrative. No matter how clearly you speak, they'll only hear what they want. Stop exhausting yourself trying to be understood by those who choose not to listen.

You owe no explanations to those who never gave you the benefit of the doubt. Protect your peace. Guard your energy. The ones who truly matter won't need convincing. They'll see your heart, your intentions, and your truth without you having to defend it. So, let them talk. Let them believe what they want. You just keep walking in your truth. At the end of the day, the people who are meant for you will always make the effort to know the real you.

### **The Taming:**

When you get married, you are "meeked." You can no longer just do what you want. You have a rider—you have a spouse. You must submit your will to the good of the union.

### **The Submission:**

The Bride (the Church) must be *Praus* to the Bridegroom (Christ). It doesn't mean she is weak; she is a Queen! But she is a Queen under the authority of the King.

**Credo (I Believe):** This is where *Pistis* (faith) turns into *Credo*—"I believe and I obey." You trust the Rider so much that even when He guides you into the valley of the shadow of death, you don't buck or kick. You trust His hand on the reins.

### **Preparation for Sonship Dynamics**

God cannot trust a wild horse with the Third Pull. If you are vindictive, if your "blood is close to your skin," if you snap at every insult, God cannot give you the authority to speak things into existence. You would destroy your enemies. You would act like James and John wanting to call fire down on the Samaritans. Jesus rebuked them: "You know not what manner of spirit you are of." They weren't meek. Meekness reasons that God is in control of all things even the necessary evils. It turns misfortune into an opportunity to grow. It is the character required to handle the inheritance.

## **V. Conclusion: The Call to Preparation**

1. **Poor in Spirit (Introduction):** You realize you are a beggar (*Ptochoi*). You realize you need a Savior. Stop trusting your own works. This is the **Courtship**—realizing you are incomplete.
2. **Mourning (Repentance):** You grieve over your condition. You ask for *Hilaskomai* (Atonement).
3. **Meekness (Marriage):** You are tamed (*Praus*). You submit to the Rider. You accept the yoke of Christ. This is the **Union**.
4. **Inheritance:** "They shall inherit the earth." Only the Meek (the tamed, the married) get the title deed.
5. **Self-Examination**

These things are not for us to just learn about. Search yourself.

### **Are you "Rich in Spirit"?**

Do you have confidence in your own holiness, your knowledge of the mysteries, or your history in the Message? If so, you are trusting in "filthy rags." You are the Rich Young Ruler walking away sorrowful.

### **Are you "Meek"?**

When you are injured or insulted, do you want revenge? Do you buck against the reins of the Word? Or have you been broken to the Master's will?

### **The Goal**

We are following the breadcrumbs to make sure we are in position for the dynamics. God will only exalt the humble. The highest exaltation is to give you equal status and power as a manifested Son. But He will not force the dynamics before we are ready. We must be tempered. We must be broken (Poor in Spirit) and then harnessed (Meekness) so we can handle the power without destroying ourselves or others. Let us focus on preparing ourselves with these necessary requirements. We are on the march. We are moving from the dating phase of "knowing about" to the marriage phase of "knowing and being known."

### **The First Commandment as the ultimate Marriage Vow**

**EPHESIANS 5:32** This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. To understand our existence, we must view history as a divine production where God is the Principal Actor.

God is Spirit and dwells in unapproachable light, He cannot be seen by His creation unless He assumes a role.

He puts on a mask

—a veil of flesh or office

—to act out His attributes.

In the Old Testament, we see Him playing the role of the Diplomat in Daniel, the Judge in Elijah, the Lawgiver in Moses, and the King in David.

These were not different gods; they were the One God acting out different facets of His character to reveal Himself.

He is the Great Actor who steps onto the stage of time to manifest the "Great Mystery" of Godliness. If we are His children, created in His image (*Imago Dei*), then we are called to be actors in this same drama. We are not here merely to exist; we are here to play a specific role in the reflection of Christ and the Church.

Every believer has a script

—the Word of God

—and a character to portray.

For the man, the role is Husband, Father, Priest, Warrior, and Provider. For the woman, the role is Wife, Mother, Nurturer, and Helpmeet. These are not social constructs; they are divine assignments. When you accept your gender and your position in the body of Christ, you are accepting a role in the greatest story ever told.

We are all auditioning for God's "Academy Award." The world has its Oscars, where actors walk the red carpet to receive a golden statue for pretending to be someone else. But we are running for an **incorruptible crown** at the Bema Seat Judgment. On that day, the Great Director will not ask if the set design of your life was perfect. He will not ask if the supporting cast (your spouse, your boss, your pastor) performed well. He will ask only one question: "**Did you play your role?**"

Consider the actor Yul Brynner in *The Ten Commandments*. He played Pharaoh with such conviction

—his walk, his voice, his demeanour

—that you believed he was a king.

Even if the lighting crew failed or the other actors forgot their lines, his performance stood on its own merit. This is the attitude of the Bride. You may have a husband who is terrible at his role—he may be selfish, lazy, or spiritually immature.

But **Ephesians 5** commands, "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*"

This means you play your role of submission and reverence **regardless** of his performance.

You are not reacting to him; you are acting for God.

You are saying, "*Lord, I am playing the role of the Church so perfectly that even if my husband fails to be Christ, I will not fail to be the Bride.*"

This is the "**Great Mystery.**" When you play your role perfectly despite a bad supporting cast, you prove that you are a star in God's Kingdom, qualifying for the rewards of the just.

The world is full of "gods" and "husbands." The Baptist church preaches a Jesus; the Methodist church preaches a Jesus; the Catholics preach a Jesus.

But the Bride must fulfil the First Commandment: "**Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.**"

To do this, she must possess the spiritual intelligence to identify **which** Jesus is the true Husband. This identification is not intellectual; it is genetic. Just as a crow cannot mate with a dove because their natures (genes) are incompatible, a false believer cannot mate with the True Word.

God has placed a "Gene" in the Bride which is a seed of God—that recognizes its Mate.

When Adam saw Eve, he didn't need an introduction. He said, "*This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh.*" He recognized his own substance. Similarly, when the Bride hears the Message of the Hour, she doesn't argue with it. She doesn't say, "Well, the Methodists say this." She says, "**That is my Husband! That is my DNA!**" The God of William Branham is the One who came down in a Pillar of Fire, who discerned the secrets of the heart, who created squirrels, and who spoke the storm out of existence; **He is the True Husband.**

We are not following a man (William Branham); we are following the God who identified Himself *through* that man. This is where *Pisteuo* (the verb "to believe") becomes *Credo* ("I give my heart"). The Bride recognizes the True Husband by His characteristics (the Word, the Power, the Discernment), she gives her heart totally to Him. She cannot sin (disbelieve) because the Seed of God remains in her (1 John 3:9). She is predestinated to keep the First Commandment because she is biologically (spiritually) incapable of worshiping a false god. She knows who her Husband is.

The denominational world has "another Jesus" (2 Corinthians 11:4) and "another spirit," but the Bride has the Original. She has identified the Husband who keeps His appointments, the One who promised to return as the Son of Man and has done so.

### **The Mark of the Beast vs. The Mark of God (Service)**

The First Commandment warns: "*Thou shalt not serve any other gods.*" Service is the evidence of who you belong to.

In Revelation 14, we see two marks: the Mark of the Beast and the Mark of God (the Seal). These marks represent ownership and service. To receive the Mark of the Beast in the **forehead** is to accept the doctrine of the system (denominationalism, feminism, rebellion). It is to think the thoughts of the enemy. To receive it in the **hand** is to serve the system by supporting it with your time, money, effort, and influence. The Bride, conversely, has the Mark of God (the Father's Name) in her forehead. She thinks His thoughts (the Message) and her hands serve His purpose. This spiritual reality plays out in the marriage roles. Satan knows that if he can pervert the roles, he can destroy the image of God. If he can make a man act like a woman and a woman act like a man, he destroys the testimony of Christ and the Church. But he also works subtly within the home. When a wife manipulates her husband by using silence, withholding affection, or emotional blackmail to punish him, she is stepping out of her role (Submission/Church) and stepping into Satan's role (Accuser/Judge). If a husband acts selfishly. The wife decides to "punish" him. She goes to bed, pulls the covers over her head, and turns her back on him. She wakes up the next morning, burns his bacon, and serves it with a cold stare. Satan stands in the corner confused, saying, "*Hey, that's MY role! I'm the accuser. I'm the one who brings condemnation and punishment. Why is this woman doing my job?*" When you act outside your role, you are playing the part of the devil. You are not "standing up for your rights"; you are aligning yourself with the nature of the Beast. The Beast system is all about power, control, and forcing the will. The Christ system is about submission, love, and service. To avoid the Mark of the Beast is not just about refusing a chip; it is about refusing the **nature** of the Beast in your daily life. It is refusing to usurp authority. It is refusing to serve the god of self. It is saying, "I will serve only the Lord my God," by playing the role He assigned to me with humility and grace.

**JUDE 1:3 KJV** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. 5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

This is a crucial warning for the End Time Bride.

**2 PETER 2:1 KJV** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; {The greatest danger is not the atheist, the Muslim, or the obvious denominationalist. The danger comes from the "Twins", which are the false brethren who look like the Bride, talk like the Bride, and sit in the pews with the Bride.} 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude describes them as "ungodly men." Do not be misled; Dathan and Korah were "ungodly" not because they smoked or drank, but because they challenged the Headship of Moses (the Word). They were sanctified men in their lifestyle, but they were rebels in their doctrine. They turned the grace of God into lasciviousness. They were using the Message as a cover for their own agendas. They denied the "only Lord God" by serving a different spirit. These twins are the "false apostles" Paul warned about in 2 Corinthians 11. They transform themselves into ministers of righteousness.

**2 CORINTHIANS 11:13 KJV** For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

They are part of the Message, but they have a different understanding of the Godhead, a different view of Marriage and Divorce, a different spirit regarding the Presence of God. They are "clouds without water."

**JUDE 1:11 KJV** Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. 12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

But they have the form (the Cloud, the photo, the quotes) but no rain (no Life/Doctrine). We must discern the difference. Just as Isaac had to discern Jacob from Esau (the twins), the Bride must discern the true Word from the intellectual interpretation. The "Twins" are necessary; they test the elect. They force us to study, to pray, and to secure our election. But we must not be deceived.

We contend for the Faith by holding to the Absolute, the vindicated Word of the Prophet, and refusing to compromise with "false brethren" who come in privily to spy out our liberty. We separate from them, not out of hate, but out of fidelity to the First Commandment. We can have no fellowship with devils, even when those devils are dressed in the vestments of the Message. We keep the covenant pure.

### Transitory Faith

**JOHN 8:30** As he spake these words, many believed on him. 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;** {You believe, but that's not good enough. If you continue, then you are my disciples.} 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. {The same ones who believed became offended.} 33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: [They believed.] how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34 Jesus answered them, [The same ones who believed.] Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. [Now they are very upset.] 37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; **{The question is Abraham's seed.}** If you are not Abraham's seed by faith, then God is not your Father.} **but ye seek to kill me**, {This the believers who just testified they believe and yet they want to kill him.} **because my word hath no place in you.** {How many people have followed this ministry? Then you taught something, and they become murderers. They will kill your influence; they hate you for no good reason. They don't know why they are doing it. The reason is they have transitory faith. They say, "Oh, we agree with the doctrine, we agree with this." Until you hit a spot that affects them, then their attitude changes. Brother Branham said when that spot is hit, it's like stroking the cat the other way. A wife can have transitory faith in their husband. "That's my husband. Oh, look at him, he's got a good job. Look, he's smart, he's wise." He must implement his headship on a certain thing. Suddenly, she can't go there. She can't obey or submit to that. Because she doesn't know the word "believe" as a covenant word. How can the word have no place in them, when they believe? They were believing because of the testimonies he gave, concerning what he did and what they saw.

**JOHN 6:1** After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias. 2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

**JOHN 8:38** I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. 39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. {If you Abraham children, would have believed who God sent.} 40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. {Second time Jesus mentions this.} 41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, we be not born of fornication; [serpent seed] we have one Father, even God. {The claim God is their father. Jesus said to them, "If Abraham was your father, God is your father. But if Abraham is not your father, then look what works are you doing. The characteristics you have, is to kill somebody who told you the truth. The same thing Cain did. Abel told him the truth and Kill him. Cain's father was the serpent. So, they are connected to the serpent class."} Jesus said unto him, if God were your father." {The whole Christian world will be, "God is my father." Everybody praises the Father, "Our Father who art in heaven..." If this was true, it means that God gave birth to a whole bunch of heathens and allowed them to remain unconverted and call Him Father. The whole Christian world wants you to believe that, often quoting, "For God so loved the world." But the world that God loved is Adam, Eve and Eden. The world He loved was Noah and destroyed everybody else. The world He loved was Israel and considered every other tribe heathen. 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. [Understand]}

**JOHN 8:30** As he spake these words, many believed on him.

These people started off as believers. That's called transitory faith or transitory belief. It has no power in it. They say, "I believe," but there's no power in it. People say, "I believe the messenger. I believe the prophet. I believe the Message." That's just transitory.

### **59-1216 WHAT.IS.THE.HOLY.GHOST**

27 Now, there is a vast difference between just a Christian and a Holy Ghost filled Christian. And now, we're going to get this from the Scripture and place it just exactly in the Scripture. The first place, there is a Christian, professed to be a Christian. But if this Christian has not yet been filled with the Holy Ghost, he's only in process of being a Christian. See?

He is professed to believe it; he's working to it; but God has not yet given him this Spirit of the Holy Ghost.

He's not yet reached that goal with God, that God's recognized it.

**JOHN 8:44** Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, {Cain was the murderer, and Jesus is Saying that's your Father. He is not telling people who rejected Him but people who are following and saying they believe him.} because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. {Jesus is saying, I am telling the truth, if the gospel I preach is the truth, to hate me for that, then your father is of the devil.}

If you hate the messenger, William Branham, for telling the truth, then your father is the devil, because God does not change. To hate Moses, for what Moses was bringing to Israel, means those who hate Moses was of the Devil.

So, in the whole Message world, the whole Christian world, God did not fathered everybody. God is a Father to His own seed. God is a creator of everybody else. He is your Lord by ownership. He purchased everything. When you purchase a land, the diamond, gold, silver, copper, everything is in it. He purchased everything. But what He really wanted was the pearl of great price. The Bible says he came to his own, and his own received him not. The Son of Man came for His own.

**JOHN 8:45** And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not. {They believe, and then they don't, they choose. It's something about them. **They believe you until you hit a spot in your doctrine.** In a marriage the sister hit a spot when their husband put some kind of headship on it or say a certain thing. Once they hit that spot, their colours come out because it's transitory faith, "That's my husband. I believe he's, my husband." It's not even passive, really. It's not pisteuo, it's not a verb. It's just transitory. It's very fragile relationship. **46** Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? {Jesus is saying, you can't convince me, you cannot prove it's wrong. You can't prove it's not working yet you hate me for saying the truth.} **47** He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God. {But they start off believing. When you read this John chapter 8, you would think he was talking to the scribes and Pharisees who hated him and this.

He was talking in John chapter 8 to people who were following him, who believed. This is the proof: He started off by saying, "If ye continue in my word... You believe, I know you say you believe. But if you can continue, then you are my disciples." {Brother Branham, at the opening of the third pull, he said, if you are a believer, talking about the third pull, he said, you will be in the Word all the way.} **48** Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

So now they want to murder him. They don't believe him. And now they are blaspheming him and calling him names. Now that's exactly the process that happens in the ministry today. They start off well. Then suddenly, they wish they could kill you or they hate you. Then they start to speak evil of you. Then they blaspheme you. The pattern is the same when it came to Paul's ministry.

**GALATIANS 4:11 ASV** I am afraid of you, lest by any means I have bestowed labor upon you in vain. 12 I beseech you, brethren, become as I am, for I also am become as ye are. Ye did me no wrong: 13 but ye know that because of an infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you the first time: 14 and that which was a temptation to you in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but ye received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

**GALATIANS 4:15 ASV** Where then is that gratulation of yourselves? for I bear you witness, that, if possible, ye would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me. 16 So then am I become your enemy, by telling you the truth?

**JOHN 8:49** Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. {They are calling him a devil, because of what he taught. We see the same with Brother Branham. Denominations associate him as a cult. The doctrine of Christ is hated by the Oneness churches. 50 And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. {They did the same thing to Moses. They said, "Moses, you are the only one God speaks to. You think you are the only one to have pre-eminence. Dathan and Korah said the only important one in the assembly. That's the same thing they are saying to him. Transitory believers: Believers who believe until he strokes the cat the other way. So now they are accusing him saying you are a devil. Then they are blaspheming him, "Oh, you take too much on yourself." Just like the same thing with Moses. "Same thing with the Ephesian church. When we say you can listen to the tapes and read brother Branham's books, you still need the pastor to break it down. In the mind of the transitory believer he thinks the pastor and apostle wants to have importance. They don't know why they are saying it. It's a spirit on them.} 51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. {When you see God's Word propagated, and you see God's Spirit working with people and you see them blessed ; growing and maturing if despise that or find something negative with that, that is not the spirit of God. Christ is with it and if you are working against it, thinking against it, speaking against it. **It tells you what spirit is on you.**} 52 Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. 53 art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? 54 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: {How can a man do, teach or say anything that is of any spiritual benefit if it's not given of God? How can he do anything spiritual if it's not of God?} 55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. 57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? 58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. 59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

So, you have passive faith, you have active faith, and you have transitory faith. If they are seed, their transitory faith continues on in the Word. If it's not, it will hit something.

It will hit the personality of the person, or he will step on their toe, or there will be a doctrine, something that, you know. You can't tell them they were not born again there in those denominations. You can't tell them that they were blind and didn't even know it. They were wretched and didn't even know it. They were deceived and didn't know it. They were worshiping at another door and didn't know it. They were never gathered to Christ. You can't tell them that, even in the lodges. Just like you can't tell them, these believing Jews, even though they're following Jesus, you can't tell them that.

He's literally telling them, even though they were following what Moses said, they were in bondage. You need the Son, not the servant Moses. Servant Moses, you're still in bondage. But the Son, if you abide with him now, his household, his kingdom is freedom.

## FAITH IN CHRIST=Faith: Transitory

**JOHN 8:30** As he spake these words, many believed on him.

**JOHN 8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

## 63-1124E THREE.KINDS.OF.BELIEVERS

186 Now, remember, in there stood all three. Now, we find now, they do just exactly like their father does, Judas.

There was Peter and the rest of the apostles, believers.

There was the seventy, unbelievers.

187 And there was Judas, hung right on, he was a make-believer. What do they do? This is the kind that holds on until they can find something, a fault in It. They are looking every time to find a loophole, see how it's done, see if it's a trick, if it's a gimmick. They're waiting to be sold out. They're looking for that.

188 The unbeliever, he don't even wait around. He's condemned It, and walked out.

189 The believer, no matter what happens, he believes It, anyhow, for It's the Word.

There is your three classes.

We must look closely at the word "believe." That word is *pistis* as a noun and *pisteuo* as a verb. We may distinguish faith by categorizing it as passive, active, or transitory. In the Gospel of John, the noun form (*pistis*) is absent, asserting that John is focusing on the **active nature of faith**. Faith can be passive, active, or transitory.

Real faith involves action terms:

**Come:** John 6:44 "No man can come to me..." Coming to Him happens because God calls you to believe.

**Receive:** John 5:43-44 No man can receive Him unless the Father has allowed him to receive.

**Abide:** (John 15:4) This means to continue with Him. Even though one believes, there is a sovereign work of God required to continue.

Therefore, faith implies action.

## Vindication and Transitory Faith

Vindication is the power of God identifying a man and his ministry, proving by power that God sent him with a message. However, vindication and transitory faith can be humanistic by themselves. Consider Moses. Moses came from God; he did great things. Look at the powerful things he did. Many people came out of Egypt with Moses—a mixed multitude. Every single one of them was a "believer" in the sense that they followed the sign. Similarly, in **John 8**, there was a mixed crowd. They were caught up with His ministry of power and vindication. When you have faith in a man and his ministry solely because of miracles, you are using **transitory faith**.

It is humanistic because you are relying on your senses: you are seeing miracles and hearing miraculous things. Anything dealing with the senses is humanistic. This is why they could fall away.

**JOHN 8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.

With transitory faith, you might say, "I believe the prophet. I believe the Message.

I believe it." But if you do not **continue**—which means to continuously learn—you are not a disciple. If a man says he believes but does not understand the Message, that man does not have faith. His faith is transitory; it cannot save him. **Believing must lead you to continue so that you can know and understand.**

It tells me right then and there that the Son of Man comes to make a certain kind of disciple. From those disciples, some are called apostles (the first level of discipleship), and from apostles come disciples who end up being members of the Body, the Church.

**JOHN 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

## The Danger of Signs without Discipleship

Let's examine their faith. It was a result of gifts, signs, and wonders. This is often why people choose a church today. They choose a church because of a testimony: "God healed me," or "I prophesied," or "I had a dream." They follow that church because of these experiences. That is called transitory faith. It is a faith that cannot save you.

Signs are intended to point to God's identification and authentication of Christ in every age—the messenger for the age. However, believing in the Message and messenger merely because of signs is like believing in Moses only for his miracles. Power, signs, and wonders are meant to fortify one's faith in God's leadership and His Message. These serve to strengthen the believer's commitment and courage during persecution.

When you say, "I believe the prophet and his ministry," outsiders may say, "Oh, you're a cult, you follow a man." Because of the signs and wonders, you can stand up and say, "No, I know it is of God" because of what you witnessed.

**But if you do not have the element of continuing in the Word, you are not safe.** This is why people feel safe in church without true commitment; they think they can just "believe" without a life of dedication.

**We live in three realms:**

1. **Humanistic Realm (Carnal):** Subject to natural laws. This deals with the flesh and senses. When people see supernatural things, they believe it must be God because it defies natural laws.
2. **Revelation Realm (Spiritual):** Subject to spiritual laws.
3. **Prophetic Realm (Mind Realm):** Subject to no laws. This is really the mind of God—how God thinks. God is not subject to anything.

**Saving Faith** is a sealed or preserving faith. It is sealed until the day of redemption. It acts as a guarantee.

**Transitory or humanistic faith** is not guaranteed. It is not sealed and lacks true commitment. It resides in the emotional and humanistic realm. These people get stirred but not quickened. They are moved by testimonies and signs, but their association and commitment to Christ, the Message, and the Ministry are limited. This is like marriage. A wife with "transitory faith" in her husband has a limited association.

She limits how far she is willing to go, to surrender, or to follow. After Brother Branham delivered the message, he started with the "Rich Young Ruler" in his first sermon in the Laodicean Pentecostal realm and ended with "Leadership." Between the introduction to Pentecost and the end of the age, he preached "Come Follow Me." This means discipleship. Without discipleship, which means to surrender, submit, and sit to learn and imitate—you are not really a believer.

### **The Outcome of Transitory Faith**

When the underlying reasons for a transitory believer's faith are challenged—by people, situations, necessary evils, or false teaching—they do not continue. They are tossed about by every wind of doctrine. Once transitory faith fails, love often turns to hate. They may want to murder the influence of the ministry they once believed in; they blaspheme or "pick up stones" to throw. After this, they become a lord to themselves, thinking, "I can follow God myself; I listen to the tapes." Eventually, as they begin to die spiritually, they often return to the fallen church systems they came from.

They find an enemy of your enemy, and that person becomes their friend.

**Example from Jesus' Ministry (John 6):** Notice the "Third Pull"—the opening of the Word.

**JOHN 6:56** "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me..."

When He began the opening of the Word, His teaching resulted in many disciples withdrawing and walking with Him no more. **They were "believers," but they hit a doctrine they could not accept.** Why? Because they never committed to submitting to headship.

### Example from Moses' Ministry (**Numbers 16**):

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram were believers of the highest order. They saw the Pillar of Fire; they saw Moses' call. But Korah he got into the flesh. He accused Moses of taking all the glory and influence. Their close family connection intensifies the tension in **Numbers 16**, where Korah leads a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. The conflict wasn't between strangers—it was a family dispute over leadership and priestly authority. This is the spirit of **nepotism**. Nepotism is granting advantage or position to relatives or friends. In the Message, we see pastors building a ministry and then handing it to a son who may not be gifted or called, simply because of family relation. God forbids this in the priesthood. Korah accused Moses of this, claiming the whole congregation was holy, but in doing so, he questioned God's leadership.

# The Path of the Covenant: From Bankruptcy to Inheritance

## PHASE 1: SPIRITUAL BANKRUPTCY (THE COURTSHIP)

### Ptochoi: The Spiritual Beggar

Recognising oneself as utterly destitute and completely dependent on the gifts of others.



### Rich in Spirit vs. Poor in Spirit

Archetype: The Pharisee



Rejected/Blind

Archetype: The Publican



Justified/Reconciled

Result

Trading "Message works" and legalism for the reliance of a bankrupt soul on Grace.

### The Purpose of the Brass Laver

A mirror meant to reveal one's "dirt" and inability, driving the soul to Calvary.



### Altar of Burnt Offering

Represents the transition at Calvary from legalism to reliance on Grace.

## PHASE 2: HOLY MEEKNESS (THE MARRIAGE)

### Praus: Power Under Control

Like a tamed war horse, possessing great strength but broken to the Rider's will.



### Qualifying for Inheritance

Only those "tamed" by the Word are trusted with the power of Sonship.



# The Blueprint of a Covenant People: From Bankruptcy to Union

## The Internal Posture

(The Courtship Phase)

### Ptochoi: The Spiritual Beggar

True faith begins with admitting utter spiritual bankruptcy and total dependence on a benefactor.



### The Purpose of the Law

Like a "Brass Laver", the Word reflects our faith to drive us toward Calvary.

### The Laodicean Paradox

"Rich in spirit" believers trust their own works; the "poor" rely solely on grace.



### Comparing Believer Types

	Core Characteristic	Final Outcome
Unbeliever	Rejection	Walks out immediately after being offended.
Make-Believer	Transitory	Holds on until they find a loophole or fault.
True Believer	Active	Continues in the Word regardless of circumstances.

## The Life Under Control (The Marriage Phase)



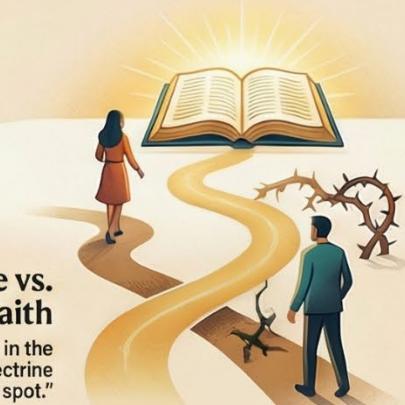
### The Test of Divine Roleplay

Believers must play their assigned roles (Husband/Wife) perfectly, regardless of their partner's performance.



### Praus: The Tamed Stallion

Meekness is not weakness; it is raw power brought under the Rider's absolute control.



### Active vs. Transitory Faith

Saving faith continues in the Word even when doctrine offends or "hits a spot."

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