

Godhead Q & A # 5

Preservice Comments

Be Like Children

Bro. Lee Vayle - Dec. 2, 2000

1. Happy to see all you folk here and, as I say, trust the Lord's blessed you this last while and continues to bless you as time is getting shorter. Now, I was just thinking tonight, the last day or so, concerning the Lord in his appellation or how he addressed his disciples—how he talked to them and placed them in the community of that hour, the kingdom of God which was upon earth. And over here in John 15 we find Jesus saying something quite amazing. In the verse 14, he said, "You are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you." And, you know, they sing this song,

“Friendship with Jesus,
Fellowship divine,
Oh what blessed, sweet communion,
Jesus is a friend of mine.”

2. And that is a very nice song, but it doesn't really come forth as a Scripture. The Scripture doesn't say here that if you are one who is a pretty good student, and you're good at praying, and you feel you have this blessed communion... Like "I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and a voice I hear sounding on my ear," you know, and the Son of God is talking to me, and I'm talking to him, and we have this wonderful relationship. And on grounds of your feeling and sentimental thoughts you sing:

“Friendship with Jesus,
Fellowship divine,
Oh what blessed, sweet communion,
Jesus is a friend of mine.”

3. Well, you're wrong. He said if you do my commandments. So, friendship with the Lord is doing the command of God. And that's very simple when you understand that friendship with the world is absolutely against God. And Bro. Branham, what did he say? "*One word off is Satan's kingdom.*" And, you know, many people still don't realize it. They'll tell you, and all the theologians, I'm sure, and everybody that's the least bit versed in or not even necessarily steeped in Scripture, will tell you that Satan one time led in the worship of God. So, if he led in the worship of God, he was created to lead in the worship of God. And, of course, what did he do? He said, "I'll exalt myself above the most high, and I'll be up there, and I'll be the one that gets the worship." And of course, you know at the end time that he's going to demand worship. But until he is incarnated and demands worship, he's going to be what he always was, which is leading in worship.

4. Now I realize that even when I say that, it kind of rings hollow to me, and it really will be bitter Epsom salts in the mouths of those who will come against it, because they say, "Well Satan couldn't lead in the worship of God." Well, I want to ask you; who is?

Who's leading the Roman Catholic Church? Who's leading the harlot's daughters? Who's leading in the Buddhists' temples and the Muslims'? Come on now, answer my question. And the god of this world has blinded the eyes of the people. Well, if he blinded them, what has blinded them? How did Eve get blind? Well, she listened to the devil's word. Satan's word blinded her with, and opened her eyes to, pleasant perversity—the pleasures of sin or unbelief.

5. So you have this idea here that this friendship with Jesus is a lovely time of worship, and I have no problem with that. And it's a great time of, you know, getting together and singing his praises; and I have no problem with that. And it's a great time of speaking in tongues and prophesying and, maybe, just right on the button every single time. Bro. Branham mentions that. He never had it though in his church, but I'm not saying it's not available. It is, but certainly gifts are on the mantelpiece as it were. I mean I'll go right along with it, but I'll still go along with the fact that that picture of the supernatural—nine licks of fire at the altar—are all nine gifts, and he had them all. Every one: tongues, interpretation, prophecy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, discerning of spirits; right down the line, every single one.

6. And yet, it says they'll come in that day and say, "Lord, we've cast out devils, we've prophesied in your name, spoke in tongues, we did all of these things just like Mark 16 said. Hallelujah, you're the same yesterday, today, and forever," that's Hebrews 13:8 and is not Mark 16. It's Genesis 18. See now, we wouldn't know that except the prophet told us. So we're not wise in our own conceits as though we learned something ourselves, got it ourselves. We got it from the man that God ordained to be the vessel for this hour and the living Word of God made manifest, and God made manifest in flesh. And those are statements no one but us would ever believe.

So, you know, they can't believe that Satan's leading in worship. What does the Bible say: they're going to come in that day and God says I never knew you; depart from me you that work iniquity. And they won't tell you that iniquity is from the beginning when Satan was handling the Word, and he changed the word of it.

7. So what's friendship with Jesus? Well, we are just got to knuckle down to it: you're a friend of him if you listen to his commandments and obey his commandments. Now you've got to listen first and understand, or you certainly aren't going to obey them. Now there's such a thing as obeying a lot of things that God said with a wrong motive, a wrong understanding, a wrong division of Word, and it's not going to work, because you've got to worship in spirit and in truth. You've got to have both.

8. So, "Friendship with Jesus is fellowship divine" is good, but go all the way. You know, if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have friendship—fellowship, one with another. Bro. Branham said fellowship is two men in a ship or a boat, which is a very simple explanation. How can two walk together except they be agreed?

So you have here the perfect picture that Jesus said that all Scripture, a hundred percent, goes with it. If you're going to walk with him, you have to listen to him, and to listen to him is to listen to his Word. And the Bible said that if you don't turn your ear away from hearing my Word, I'll certainly keep my ear in tune with your lips; I will hear your prayers. Fellowship. Kinship.

9. So okay. Friendship with Jesus is right here on the grounds of obeying his commandments, "whatsoever I command you." Now remember, the great commandment

that came forth after Pentecost was, “Repent and be baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

10. So let’s go a little further now; and we’re going to go to John, and we’ll see something else in here, which I think is very, very interesting, and we can apply it today. What I’ve said now is across the board for Seven Church Ages as to the unidentified specific. And why I say unidentified specific, is because it just cuts right across and fellowship with him is obeying his commandments, walking in the light of His Word, which is a matter of conduct. And that’s goes without saying for Seven Church Ages. But we’re going to get a little deeper now, and we’re going to take something that goes across the Seven Church Ages but becomes ultra-specific at this particular time.

11. So, Jn 21:3-5: Simon Peter saith to them, “I go fishing.” And they say unto him, “We go also with thee.” Now I want you to notice, this takes place at the time of Jesus’ resurrection—he’s risen from the dead—and the time of his ascension. Now remember that Jesus is raised from the dead, and the proof is the fact of God Himself down here now with the same ministry that Jesus had when he was here upon earth in the flesh before his death, proving His appearing to the Gentiles. And He’s here until He takes us up in the ascension. Right? When that spirit that’s in our midst becomes incarnate to us, we crown him King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And that spirit is God; shout, voice, trump. Right? And the voice is the raising people from the dead and the trumpet is the calling to the Marriage Supper. Right?

12. So, all right. Here’s a period in there that is just like ours, and Peter says, “Let’s go fishing. I don’t think I can take any more. I know he’s here somewhere. It’s been attested to. But now we’re left in limbo, and so we just go fishing.” Well, that’s pretty good, because Bro. Branham said, “*You and I are to just plant potatoes and hammer nails and...*” you know, do haircuts, for the men, not for the women, and, you know, iron pants—long pants for the men but not for the women. You’re not with those things, you know.

And so, there’s a point here that though Peter was right, he was still wrong. He was impetuous again. And he was sort of just throwing his hands up. Okay well, he shouldn’t have done it, but anyway going fishing’s okay. Now watch, this fellow’s a leader, and so a lot of folk go with him. Now I’m not saying this is bad. I’m just drawing a parallel. You follow me? The Bible doesn’t say this is bad. “We’ll go with you,” they say.

13. Now somebody says, “What is this promise of His Presence, now?” What are you going to do? You going to go along with them? Well, some will I suppose. I don’t know. You’ve got to answer the question now. As for me, I can’t, because I’ve been fried in oil already. You don’t have to boil me in oil any more. I’m crystallized. I’m crisp to the point where I can’t think anything else.

14. Now, if I don’t make it, that has nothing to do with God and His Holy Word, because what He’s doing is sovereign, and He’s doing it apart from me. I believe He’s doing it for me and with me, the same as you believe. So we’re going on.

- (3b) They went forth into ship immediately and that night they caught nothing. (Now see where you’re going to end up? You’ll have nothing. Nothing. Now God’s gracious, and these were real disciples, so He’s going to get them back.)

- (4) And when morning was come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not it was Jesus. (Now, you've got that right today. People don't know that Jesus is back here in the form of the Holy Ghost, which simply means that God Himself is come down to put all things under the feet of Jesus—God manifest in human flesh once more.)
- (5a) Then Jesus said unto them, children (Now it's not 'friends'; it's 'children'.) have you any meat?

15. Now, back that when Jesus was thirty to thirty-three and a half, which we believe he was in those years of his leadership of the disciples, he calls them 'friends'. And, I have no doubt, but I don't know--I got this feeling that Peter was older, and I got this feeling that there were people older than Jesus, although Bro. Branham quotes Josephus in saying he looked fifty-five years old or so. He looked like an old man, and he could well have done that, because Isaiah said there's no beauty as we behold him, and nothing to make us desire him. So, he was a rather strange fellow perhaps, and very odd, unusual, you know, like prophets are. And he said, "Children, have you any meat?"

16. Now being older, and this is in his resurrection. This is no longer in the human flesh where he was associated with those same ones born of a woman like he was. But, of course, theirs was natural birth; his was supernatural. He called them 'friends', but now, completely reverting back in a glorified body to his former pre-incarnation, you might say, going back where he was before Abraham—he was that beginning one—he now calls them 'children'.

17. So, what I'm looking at is this man, thirty-three and a half years old, calling these people (apart from that time from the resurrection to his going up, down back to that area) 'friends'. But now in this area where he is ready to ascend—and it's in the hour of the resurrection (he is resurrected); and also, we note that others rose with him (we haven't come quite that far yet, but we're in this period—parallel)—he says to them, "You are 'children'." Now the point is, he's calling these older people 'children', though it could well be that one of them might be old enough to be his own father. We don't know how old they were.

Now, I was in Jeffersonville when Bro. Branham stood there in a meeting on a Sunday morning. And I don't know how many of you remember old Daddy Wright, but maybe you've seen him; I don't know. He that time was very slight, very ill. His body was so racked with cold that he would sit out in the car to let the sun warm him up. And that morning as a frail little man... (Mitch [Oden], were you there that morning, do you remember? Can't remember. Okay.) This frail little fellow with his hair almost like feathers and white, with a shawl on him, stood before Bro. Branham for help. And here was a man, hardly fifty, looking at a man I think was eighty, and it just looked like a father talking to his son. And I thought, "How strange." This man, like a child, eighty years old, perhaps. And he talked to him, and Bro. Branham prayed for him. And that impressed my mind; and this is the first time I've really talked about it.

But I can see Jesus in the resurrection attain to his full maturity as a man, ready to take his place in the kingdom of God in heaven and, then subsequently, on earth. And he stands before these people ready to provide every thing for them as a father would do, and they could be older than he. And he called them children at that particular time, the time of the Resurrection preparing for the Millennium.

18. Now let's go to Matthew 18 and check this out about children. Now, in Mt 18:1-4.

- (1) At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus saying,
Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

Now we're in that parallel position with the Father Himself; and He, in the Pillar of Fire, is right here somewhere on earth. Don't make any mistake about it. He hasn't gone back to heaven as far as I know, although heaven is just an elevated place, and a matter of what you might call a dimension. I'm not going to argue the point, whether heaven's way up above the sun a billion miles. I don't see it. I can't go by people's visions and things. I only can go with the vindicated Word of God brought by a prophet. And I don't know whether Bro. Branham ever said that he was caught up and went way above the sun and the stars, the moon, to utter blackness and then hit brilliant light. I know he talked about a certain fellow doing that but Bro. Branham didn't say that's a hundred percent. So, I'm not going to worry about, you know, the point of God is. I believe that He is right here on earth in the Pillar of Fire. He hasn't left us. He hasn't gone up to come back, to go up and come back and so on. He is right here somewhere. He could be right in this building for all I know. I don't expect it, because I look at myself, and I say, "Well, I wouldn't be able to attract that great attention." But He's somewhere here on earth.

19. So that time, now, Jesus, the anointed one in whom God was dwelling, said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

- (2) And Jesus called a little child unto him and set him in the midst thereof ,
- (3) And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, (that's born again, full of the Holy Ghost) and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.
- (4) Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

20. Now, in the seventh church age, this is where those who are waiting for us to be made perfect, and we are made perfect. We do not even die. I'm eighty-six now, and I don't have any hopes of dying. It'd be nice to have, you know, both sides of the equation. But, as far as my health is concerned, which is not the best; but as far as my vitality's concerned, I have tremendous inward vitality. I got a bunch of loose bones and knuckles and joints and can't keep up with it. And that's all there is to it. And you know, I can think rapidly on my feet. I seldom forget anything, especially when it comes to what I'm talking about here in Scripture. I can degress. Over fifty years of preaching, I've never lost my way six times in deviating. So I have a lot of vitality, you know, as far as I'm concerned, and I'd like to have a few spare parts that I could trade in. But what I'm trying to get across to you is that we are in an hour, in an age, which the Scripture distinctly tells us in 1 Jn 3:1.

- (1) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: (that's the born ones of God) therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knoweth not him.
- (2) Beloved, now are we the born ones of God, and it hath never yet appeared what we shall be: but we know that,

when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

21. Now this is the time, actually approximates what Jesus is doing here in Matthew 18, the time of the kingdom. And It says, who is the greatest? And, if you haven't seen the pushing and the shoving and what's going on soon as Bro. Branham died: "Who's going to be the great one?"

One self-appointed leader divided up the world. He's split the world up into about four or five places. He was going to have America, and Galdona was going to have South America, and Ewald Frank was going to have Europe, and this fellow, Sidney Jackson, was going to have Africa. I think they forgot New Zealand—I'm not quite sure—and Australia. No, he gave Reg Searle Australia and New Zealand. But there was a jockeying all the time, and they're still jockeying: "Who is the great one? Who knows this, and who knows that?" In other words who is shining? See? You've got an exact parallel.

22. Now, he said, "Except you become as a little child." And then he says, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Now what humbling did this little kid do? Why he just heard the voice of Jesus and came right up to him. He let Jesus have his way in his life. And this Jesus was God manifest in flesh. Now, you've got to be converted, born again, and be like a child; which means you don't know anything, and you've got to be taught. And if you think you know something, you're wrong, because you don't know, as a child, unless somebody teaches you.

Of all the animals—the mammals—we're the dumbest. At least animals have instinct; we don't. Did you ever notice your cats? I've got a couple of cats, and I never noticed before. Now if I go outside, "Kitty, kitty, kitty." Cross the floor? Ho, ho, no, no, no. They'll go to the nearest wall. They'll go right against that wall so that nothing can pounce on them. They go around the wall. What about mice? You don't put your trap out on the floor; you put your mouse traps along the wall. Animals have instincts. They know things. We're just dumb—stupid. We've got to be taught.

So therefore, except you become as a child and can be taught in the presence of God—because this is the presence of God—well, where you going to be? You're not a little child.

23. Well now let's go to Rev 3:14.

- (14) And unto the messenger of the church of Laodiceans write;
these things saith the Amen, the faithful, the true witness,
the beginning of the creation of God;

Now God beginning to form Himself in human flesh was turned down flat in the body of Jesus. Will He be turned down flat when He comes in the body of a prophet? And the answer is yes! Yes! The prophet with God in him, will be the presence of God. Not that the prophet's God, but the presence is there. And when the prophet is gone the presence is still here. Now, he said here:

- (15) I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would you were cold or hot.
- (16) So then, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I'm going to spue you out of my mouth.

- (17) Because thou sayest, I am rich, increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, miserable, poor and naked and blind.

24. Now, I want to ask you a question. Where are the children of God in this hour? You've got your answer: sitting right here. I don't believe there's one person here that's puffed up. If you are and I am, we'd better look out. If we think we can't be taught, like I had some here for some time: like I was challenged by one man, he said, "Furthermore Bro. Vayle, I don't agree with your teaching of the last two Sundays."

And I said, "What's to agree, I own the pulpit?" And my answer's a stock answer. "You think you're going to tell me something when I don't even let God tell me anything?" Now that's not really true, but I want to get my point across. I have it very hard to listen to God, if indeed I could hear Him. Should I listen to anybody out here then in the congregation, or anywhere in the world when I'm in this pulpit? Forget it! I know my lesson not to get out from behind the Word.

25. How can the Laodicean age be qualified as children and inherit the kingdom of God? Can't do it; can't do it. The only ones that are going to be children are those in the presence of God, and He sets us all in front of Him. Yes He does. He sets us all in front of Him. He calls us His sheep, calls us by name, and all come in front of Him. And I'm going to tell you one thing: the sheep will hear the voice, and they'll be like little children. They'll be humble and sweet, and they'll say, "I want to learn; I want to hear."

When I study the messages and hear Bro. Branham, I have only one thing in mind: I want to learn. I have to learn, if I'm going to teach and help you, which maybe I can't. Maybe I'm not even doing it and never have. But I'm telling you my intent. My intent is not to know something for the sake of knowing something that I might have an upper hand on somebody, that I might be somebody I'm not; no way, shape and form. I really want to know. I really want to know. I believe I'm one of the children of God.

26. The next thing, how well do I qualify as His friend? I don't think I qualify as a friend near as well as I qualify as a child who wants to listen and to learn the things of God. Because I've known all my life, even though I believed I was surely full of the Holy Ghost, that I wasn't like these people here: rich, increased in goods, and have need of nothing. In fact, when I was in Pentecost and I heard a Pentecostal preacher say, "I'm proud I'm Pentecostal." I almost ducked under the carpet on the floor. I never heard of such going on.

Then I heard a man when I was with Bro. Branham preaching for him up in New England, Connecticut. In fact, it was, and he literally was preaching this wonderful sermon. He was a former FBI guy. And they were all so happy they had him, because he was a big wig. And his sermon was this: I'm a Pentecostal. I like being a Pentecostal. Wouldn't you like to be a Pentecostal? Won't you come join us and be a Pentecostal?

Now I'm not lying to you. I'm not lying to you. That's all it amounted to. Why don't I say tonight, "Would you like to be a Branhamite?" Forget it! Would you like to know the truth about God's prophet in the end time? I'll be glad to tell you. I'm happy to show you vindication and show you how the Bible stands out, that we have a God, and we know Who He is. Now the big thing is: we are born ones of God. Absolutely. We're baptized with the Holy Ghost, and we certainly know we are children.

27. Now, the Bible distinctly says to repent. Now He says here,

- (18) I counsel you to buy gold tried in the fire, you may be rich; and white raiment, and may be clothed, and the shame of your nakedness will not appear; and anoint thine eye with eye salve,

Now that Scripture is pretty wrong right there; it's sounds as though you've got the eye salve. You don't have it. The Pentecostals think you're baptized with the Holy Ghost. They're only anointed. Now that's the actual Greek. Says here in the English translation, "Listen, you've got it; now use it." No, no, no, no, no. You haven't got it. Come and get it. That's why Bro. Branham kept telling, "*Come receive the Holy Ghost, come and be born again.*" Now listen,

- (19) As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: (Now that has to do with Hebrews 12, which is teaching) be zealous therefore, and repent.

The zeal of this hour is to kick out of your brain and my brain every thing we ever knew. Kick it out. If you have retained your old doctrine, you are wrong—wrong as wrong can be, because nobody in this church right today, can stand beside me here, having read the books that I have read and been through what I have been through and know what I know, from spiritual experience piled on experience plus the Word of the living God. You have to take out of your brains that you thought you ever knew and did know, examine it, and you'll come up understanding you had flaws in every single thing that you thought you knew. Because the prophet was here to correct the error.

28. My little sermonizing tonight is this now: how do you stack up as a friend of Jesus? How is your friendship divine? If it's divine, it means you're walking with him, and no two can walk together unless they be agreed. But Jesus promised that agreement, and I believe we have it tonight. The only thing is now to obey what he said, and Bro. Branham talked a lot about that in the "Token," where he said what we should do. He didn't excoriate people. He just said now these are things to do, and he meant that we should do them.

29. So here we are as friends of the best of all, though, in what I'm looking at above every single thing is being that little child that Bro. Branham said would be the great one. And I'm not trying to be great. I'm just saying what God said about it. If you and I really want to be positioned, and we have that right, to seek God for His utmost as we give Him our utmost by getting out of the way. That is to get, number one, the greatest battle in the world starts in the mind, to get that mind under control of the Word of the living God, until Word upon Word is piled in that mind and the doctrine is so clear that all we can do is think in terms of the reality of the revelation,

which has been vindicated, and nothing else remains in our understanding.

30. So here we are as children in the Laodicean age, I believe with all my heart. And we are now literally set in the midst and the presence of God. You can say what you want, but He is here. And who is here? Now, let's be very honest, if Jesus had come and not been the tabernacle of God, even though born of a virgin, would he have been efficacious and fulfilled the plan of the Almighty sovereign God? By no means would it have been done. Because God had to be in him, reconciling the world unto God Himself. You reduce Jesus to a prophet otherwise—to a good, fine man. And don't see the true Deity of

the Lord Jesus Christ and see the fullness of the Godhead. But when you see that, you begin to realize now, the little child brought in; become as a child and repent. Get every thing out of your minds that you ever thought you knew. Nail yourself down to the Word.

31. If we are getting the truth from this pulpit, and I believe we are or I wouldn't be here, you better be assured. I am so happy for our young children who are growing up in grace and truth, and spirit and truth, and you will know that truth is the twin of the spirit and of grace. You only have three of them: grace, spirit, and truth. And truth is two parts of the whole. Huh? Now then, tell me that you judged the truth by the spirit; you're still wrong. You can only judge the spirit by the truth. And you can only judge grace by the truth. When you study your Scripture, you're going to find every place in the Bible: grace and truth, grace and truth, grace and truth. And you're going to find spirit and truth and spirit and truth and truth and spirit and truth.

32. So what is the major part of the whole message and the whole plan of God and every thing that has to do with God? It's truth. I am the way, the truth, and the life: the reality. And no man can come to the Father except by me. And here we saw Him who was that truth. Remember, there's only one true God. And there's only all-wise God, and that's all there is.

33. So that's a little thought I had tonight, and I've taken my time . And I hope you understand the hour in which we live and understand a little more of some of these things are in the Word of God that are very, very plain and very, very precious. And remember, we not only can aspire to it, but it is required that we do become it, because that is a part of the image. We are those who know the Word, and knowing the Word, now we can obey the Word. And remember, His Word is not grievous to bear. For he said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." And there he said "You'll find comfort and peace in your life." For he said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

34. You hear so many people complaining all the time, and yet the truth of the matter is, when you get as old as I am, and you look back, you will find that your complaints were stupid. They were worthless. They were not worthy of you. And you say, "My, it was really wonderful. Look what He did and what He's doing." Oh, the consequences of being born again and a born one of God, are amazing and wonderful. And we'll be praising Him for a great while—well, all eternity. We'll be praising Him, because there's no record of the lamb ever being off the throne. And there's no record of the Pillar of Fire being not above the throne. And there is no record of you and I and the born ones of God being anywhere but in the New Jerusalem, the new heavens and the new earth.

Well, the Lord bless you, if I don't come back... [Laughter] [Bro. Vayle returns to the side room as the song service continues.]