

## Intellectual Conception or Spiritual Revelation

*"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).*

Now, do you know, we've had wars after wars, and rumors of wars? And if the earth stands, we'll have plenty more wars. **But do you realize that there is really only two powers in all the universe?** Of all of our differences between nations, and differences between each other, and everything, it all mounts up to two powers. **There's only two powers, and there's only two kingdoms; two powers, and two kingdoms.** All the rest, the little minor things, are connected with either one of those powers. **And those powers is God's power and Satan's power.** Every war, every disorder, everything that comes along, it's either **controlled by God's power or Satan's power**, 'cause that's the only two powers there is. And that is the **power of life and the power of death.** Now, that's the only two powers.

And Satan's power, he's got, is the perverted power of God. It isn't no real power. It's a perversion of God's power, everything that Satan has. Death is only a perverted life. A lie is only the truth mistold. And **we are, today, setting here, and one or the other power is going to control us.** So let's cast out the evil one. Let's take our position like the stars of the heavens (*II Cor. 10:3-6*). [1]

Now, remember, there's only two. Don't forget this. **There's only two powers. One is spiritual power, of the Holy Spirit. The other one is the Devil, working through intellectual power.** For, that's where he entered, in the garden of Eden, **through intellectual powers**, to make Eve believe **in intellectual conception, against the Word** (*Gen. 3:1-7*). Just as plain as it can be, the kids could get that. See? And that's the way it's been, all the way down.

And now we see the same thing, **an intellectual power weaving among the churches**, and it's raised up to an ecclesiastical head that don't care about what the Bible said. They got their own system. It's not what the Bible said. It's what the church said. And the Protestants weaved right into that, till all their little groups, like this, "Well, sure. Well, I know It says This, but I tell you, them days is gone." [2]

**"Form of godliness, and denying the power", denying the power of the revelation of the Word** (*II Tim. 3:1-5*). [3]

**The intellectual part looks perfect.** And it is perfect, it's exactly; but, **perfect, the inspiration of Satan.** [2]

God didn't say "give them some intellectual power," but He said, "*Ye shall receive Power from on High!*" (*Acts 1:8-9; Luke 24:48-49*). But we're getting away from It. [4]

That's what's the matter with our revivals today. **It's only the people are brought to an intellectual faith. If they would go on just a little deeper till that faith come from the intellectuals and soaked down into the soul, it would last** (*Rom. 10:8-13*). **That's the reason about eighty percent or ninety percent of the converts that comes in a revival is gone before six months is gone, is because they only have an intellectual conception. But when it becomes an experience of being born again of the Spirit of God, that anchors to eternity** (*John 3:3-8*). [5]

Now, speaking this, there is two different types of Christianities. Seems strange, but I would not say two different types: **the same Christianity, but two phases of it.** And one of them is an **intellectual or a mental conception of what God has said in His Word and of Jesus Christ by the way of knowledge.** And the other is an **experimental experience that God has given the man in his heart** (*Rom. 10:10*).

**The one, intellectually is hungering.** He's feasting on God, but his feast doesn't hold out. The other one seems to have **victory all the time** (*1 John 5:4*) There's nothing bothers them (*Rom. 8:35-39*). They're just as solid and anchored as they can be. **No trials, no storms bother them at all.** But they seem to have something about them that people who are Christians and trying to live for God, admire that type of Christian. And I've often wondered, "Lord, what is it that these people have that others crave so much for, and yet seem to fail to get it?"

But now, to see this hungering of people, and yet, not able to reach it. And many of our teachers and schools have brought in much theology of telling the people, "Well, it's because you didn't shout, because you didn't speak with tongues, or because you didn't have these kind of gifts," which I have nothing in part, or to say against such things; but altogether, you find these people, when they do shout or speak with tongues, or some other emotion, **they still don't seem to be the person that they should be.** Now, we know that to be true. And I've often wondered myself, just what could be done in that kind of a state of mind for the person. So finding it so simple in the Word of God, we're trying to explain it. And in order now to do this, after seeing the intellectual part of the mind and the soul, which is in the heart...

Now, **you truly have two different mental faculties.** You have one of them that's in your **head by your brain, and the other is operated in your heart, which is called your soul: your spirit and your soul.** Now, they are

very much in disagreement many times. When the head seems to say something, the soul wonders at it if it's not right. But when it comes into the soul, the head seems to step back (*Rom. 7:14-25*).

There's been things that's happened to you that you knew was going to be, yet, **you could not explain why**. And there's no reason; you couldn't explain it out; but yet, you just accepted it, and it happened just that way. **That's when something happens down here.**

**The heart is the abode of God.** And in the Old Testament God dwelt in His glory over the ark (*II Chron. 5:11-14*); **heart is the ark. God dwells, not in the head; in the heart** (*Eph. 1:15-19*). God's not known by theology; **God's not known by mental conception; God's known by an old fashion, sanctified born again experience that's in the human heart** (*II Cor. 3:11-18*).

Yet men and women live a good life, and love God by a mental conception. **But the real hiding place is in the heart: hidden with Christ** (*Col. 3:1-4*). And when Christ the Holy Spirit comes into your heart, He is in you with your temperament, **and He's living His own Life through His own will through you** (*Col. 1:26-29*). Hallelujah!

**So yielded you are, that Christ speaks the kind of words He'd speak. He thinks the kind of thoughts He would think, through you.** He does the kind of works He would do through you. **You are yielded and resting.**

What a beautiful picture of a consecrated Christian: **yielded! Christ working through.**

Paul said, "*For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*" (*Phil. 1:21*). "*Not me that liveth any more, but Christ that liveth in me.*" (*Gal. 2:19-20*). **Christ living in the individual soul--surrendered. Christ speaks through the lips, and thinks through the mind, sees through the eye, acts through the temperament.** Hallelujah!

Then the things of the world has passed away. How can it be anything but sweet and pleasant all the time? **Christ has got control.** Amen. You see it? That's what it is. **It's Christ in you: Christ in you.** [6]

I'm astounded in this day, and have always been, when people profess to be Christians, and **the first little trial comes on, they fall by the wayside.** It goes to show that it was **an intellectual conception of Christ.** That's the reason so many doesn't hold out today, is because it's an intellectual conception. Intellectually you could believe it, but it goes further than that. **To accept Christ, is to accept the Person of Christ.**

Many of us accept religion of Christianity **upon the learning** of creeds. Other accept Christianity upon doctrines of baptism. Others believe that they are Christians because of some emotion that they have exercised, such as shouting, or dancing in the Spirit, or speaking with tongues, or having some

marvelous gift to present. All those things are good in their place. **But to accept Christ is to accept the Person of Christ, it's then these other things just automatically fall in line.** [7]

**So if you just only got a mental conception of the Bible**, if you say, "Well, I believe it because I read it." **God's got to reveal it to you by your heart.** No man can call Jesus the Christ, **only by the Holy Spirit** (*I Cor. 12:1-3*). The Holy Spirit deals in the heart. **So if a man really believes it from his heart** (*Rom. 10:8-10*), **he's not afraid to put it to a test.** But if you're just mentally, you'll reason it out, say, "Well, I couldn't do that. They might do it; this one might've done it. She might've got well, but I don't know about myself." **But if you've really based your faith on God's eternal Word and it's down in your heart, all devils out of torment can't upset you.** No, sir, you've got to stay there. [8]

The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible (*II Peter 1:20-21; II Tim. 3:16-17*), and it's written in such a way, **that there's no way at all for man in his mental conception to understand what it is.** No matter how well you get it written out, how well you can put it together, it's wrong to begin with. See? **Because He's hidden it from the eyes of the wise and prudent, and it's a spiritual revelation** (*Matt. 11:25-26*).

Look at the Pharisees and Sadducees of the days of our Lord Jesus, how that they had it all figured out just to the dot, how that Christ would come and everything; and when He came, He come vice versa from what they had figured out, just to show that He's God. He did not come contrary to Scripture, **He come contrary to their conception of the Scripture.** But He come exactly the way the Scripture said, exactly. [9]

Now, Jesus when He came down off of Mount Transfiguration, said, "Who does man say I the Son of man am?" (*Matt. 16:13-20*).

And some of them said, "Well, some say You're Moses: and some, Elias; and some so forth, the prophet."

He said, "But Who do you say I am?"

Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

And He turned to Peter and said, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona (the son of Jonas in other wise): for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you. **You never learned it by any reading. You never learned it by any seminary.** You never learned it by any scholarship. See? Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father which is in heaven has revealed it to you. And I say, thou art Peter, and upon this Rock..." What? **Spiritual revelation that Jesus is the Christ, not mental conception, but spiritual revelation.**

What is it? **A revelation. What is faith? Is God, by the Spirit revealing to you something that He's going to do or He's promised.**

Now, if you only hear: **"Faith cometh by hearing"** (*Rom. 10:17*), **but hearing is not faith.** A loaf of bread is purchased for twenty-five cents. But twenty-five cents is not the loaf of bread. See? **Hearing only brings the Word that produces faith.** But *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* (*Heb. 11:1*). **Then you see, you hear the Word, God reveals It to you, that It is the truth, and by Spirit revealed truth, confirms your faith to God.** You get it? [10]

And no man can call Jesus the Christ by intellectual conceptions (*I Cor. 12:3*). No man can call Jesus the Christ because he feels sorry for his sins and comes and repents. No man can call Jesus the Christ, **only by that revelation of the Holy Ghost making it known to him.** ***"Upon this rock I'll build My church, and the gates of hell will never prevail against it."*** (*Matt. 16:18*). **There's the revelation.** There it is, what He's built His church upon. [11]

**And as quick or as soon as you and I can realize that we are nothing, that's how quick God can go to work with us** (*I Cor. 1:26-28*). **When we get our intellectual conceptions out of it, and just say, "God, I believe. Help Thou my unbelief."** (*Mark 9:24*). That's it. If the Word says so, then it's true. God's behind His Word, and He's in His Word, and He is the Word.

But see, He taken something, was nothing, to prove that He is God; that He can make something out of nothing. [12]

Now, notice. **If the Body of Christ is only to be controlled by intellectuals, theology, mental conception, then we are wholly depending upon the intellectual knowledge of man.**

Now, I want you to get this and never let it slip. **If we only need the intellectual conception of man, we don't need the Holy Spirit. If the church is to be run and governed upon the intellects, the educational program, and upon the intellects of mankind, we do not need the Holy Spirit. And if It's to be run by the Holy Spirit, we do not need the intellectuals. It's either one or the other.** [13]

But, brother, **it's a lot more than intellectuals, it goes beyond that. It goes to a genuine birth, not just a mental conception or in an emotional work, but a birth, an experience** (*I Peter 1:23; John 3:3-8*), **something that goes plumb down deep into the heart and changes the innermost being, that makes you do things that you would not have done other words. It makes you love those who are unlovable** (*Matt. 5:43-48*). It makes you act different than you ever thought that you would act. **And when situations arise, it's your anchor.** You don't have to wonder, "Will I make it?" Oh, no, **it isn't whether I'll make it, it's already made for me. Christ in me has made it Himself.** And I just trust in His anchor alone. What a wonderful thing! [14]

**Deny what you're thinking (Luke 9:23); deny your mental conception; just believe what God's Word says is truth and march on with it! Keep moving! Get sicker, just keep moving, just keep going! After while you'll break through the barriers, then you'll be free! Then you can see Him; then He will reveal Himself to you; then that Son of God Who made the promise will be real to you. Do you believe it?** [15]

God made His program at the beginning, in the garden of Eden, where the place He would meet man, **and that wasn't upon intellectual understandings**; if it had, Eve was exactly in line with His program. But we know that her accepting **Satan's intellectual conception**, "Surely, God will not" (*Gen. 3:1-7*), but God said He would! **And so then He chose the place of redemption, and it was by Blood, and not by intellectual conception.** [16]

Was not Cain just as religious as Abel was? Did not Cain offer an offering just the same as Abel did? Did not Cain build an altar unto the Lord the same as Abel did? Did not Cain get down and worship just the same as Abel did? **Did not Cain sacrifice just the same as Abel did? But one come by intellectual conception; he brought the flowers and the fruits of the field and made his altar beautiful: intellectual.**

**But Abel, by faith, chose a lamb, for it was blood and life that taken it, and he drug him to a rock and hammered his little throat until he bled to death. God said, "That's righteous Abel." (Gen. 4:1-8). That's right. How did It come to him? By revelation, not by intellectual. Through his heart he knew it.**

Jesus said, "*Upon this rock I'll build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against It*": **spiritual revelation, spiritual conception. "Man looks upon the outside," says the Scripture, "God looks on the heart." (I Sam. 16:7).** [17]

So just polishing, and joining church, **and reading a whole lot, and knowing a lot of books, and authors, and so forth, doesn't mean that you're converted. Because you have an intellectual mind that makes you have a mental conception that there is a God somewhere, still, you're not a Christian yet, until, actually, you become personal in contact with Christ that changes your heart and nature. Then you become God's child. And old things are passed away, and all things become new again (II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15-16).** [18]

When once that faith comes down into that compartment down here, **it'll never question this up here, at all. It's absolutely a fact, and it'll agree with every Divine Word of God.**

There's the reason people don't get where they should be. **It becomes a mental conception of God. But when that mental conception, you believe**

**Him by an intellectual faith, but that won't do it. It's got to be a born again experience (*I Peter 1:22-23*), where your faith is brought down into this compartment here. And no matter what it looks like, faith says it's so anyhow.** [19]

Now, you can express it by mental conception, **but if it becomes a real revelation of God, that you see it before it happened, and express it in word form, that word takes a hold and becomes material: a thought expressed. If your heart and your mind is so, and infilled with God's Spirit, until your thoughts become His thoughts... Amen. There you are. When your mind, and your leading, and your guiding, becomes a direct place, or a direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit that's moving your mortal being... Oh, my.**

What kind of people should we be? **If the very Holy Spirit has you so embodied or empowered, that you don't use your own thoughts, you don't use your own mind, you don't use your own opinion; but the Holy Spirit has you so built, until your thoughts and your being is God's Spirit expressing Itself through you, what kind of a church would we be?**

What kind of a people would it be, if we were **so filled with the Presence of God**, why, when you didn't even use your own mind, didn't even use your own thoughts, didn't even have no alternative of your own, but just to be led by the Spirit...? [20]

Look, **Christ in you makes Him the center of Life of the revelation. See? Christ's Life in you makes Him the center of the revelation.** Christ, in the Bible, makes the Bible the complete revelation of Christ. **Christ in you** makes you the complete revelation of the whole thing, see, what God is trying to do.

**What is the new Birth then?** You'd say, "Well, Brother Branham, what is the new Birth?" **It is the revelation of Jesus Christ personally to you (*Col. 1:26-28*). Amen!** See? Not you joined a church, you shook a hand, you done something different, you said a creed, you promised to live by a code of rules. **But Christ, the Bible, He is the Word that was revealed to you.** And no matter what anybody says, what takes place, it's Christ; pastor, priest, whatever it might be. **It's Christ in you, that is the revelation that the Church was built upon (*Matt. 16:17-18*).**

You say, "Well, I'm a Lutheran. I'm a Baptist. I'm Presbyterian." That doesn't mean that to God, not a thing, not a snap of your finger.

What is it? **It's Christ being revealed, and He is the Word. And when the Word is revealed, It expresses Itself.** See? That's God's purpose for Jesus Christ, was to express Himself, to take His Own laws and live by His laws, **and fulfill His law, by death (*Rom. 8:1-4*). And Christ, God, died in flesh, in order to condemn sin in the flesh, that He might bring to Himself a**

glorious Bride, redeemed back, **that will believe only in the Word of God;** and not swap It, like Eve did, **for intellectual conceptions of man.** You see it? That's Christ's idea. **That's God's idea. The new Birth reveals this.** [21]

Now we can see why there were two vines, one true and one false. Now we can see why **Abraham had two sons, one after the flesh** (that persecuted Isaac) **and one after promise** (*Gal. 4:21-31; Rom. 9:6-13*). Now we can see how that out of the same parents two boys came forth as twins, **one knowing and loving the things of God, and the other knowing much of the same truth, but not of the same Spirit, and hence persecuted the child that was elect.** God did not reprobate for the sake of reprobation. He reprobated for the sake of the elect. **Elect cannot persecute elect. Elect cannot harm elect.** It is the reprobates that persecute and destroy the elect. Oh, those reprobates are religious. They are smart. They are of the Cain line, the serpent seed. They build their Babels, they build their cities, they build their empires, **and all the while calling on God.** They hate the true seed, **and they will do all they can,** (even in the Name of the Lord) **to destroy God's elect ones.** But they are needed. "What is the chaff to the wheat?" No chaff, no wheat. But at the end, what happens to the chaff? It is burned with fire unquenchable. **And the wheat? Where is it?** It is gathered in His garner. **It is where He is** (*Matt. 13:24-30*). [22]

Reference:

- [1] "The Greatest Battle Ever Fought" (62-0311), par. 52-54
- [2] "The Third Exodus" (63-0630M), par. 154-159
- [3] "Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word" (65-0822), par. 159
- [4] "Just One More Time, Lord" (63-0120E), par. 80
- [5] "God Provided a Lamb" (56-0614), par. E14
- [6] "Why Are People So Tossed About" (56-0101), pg. 11-12, 17-18
- [7] "The Communion" (57-0418), par. 27-28
- [8] "Faith In Action" (55-1003), par. E34
- [9] "Pride" (55-0807A), par. E10
- [10] "The Power of God" (55-1006E), par. E17-E18
- [11] "Discernment of Spirit" (60-0308), par. 101
- [12] "Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today and Forever" (61-0516A), par. E39
- [13] "The Impersonation of Christianity" (57-0120M), par. 72-73
- [14] "Corinthians, Book of Correction" (57-0414), par. E19
- [15] "Looking At The Unseen" (59-0410), par. E36
- [16] "Broken Cisterns" (65-0123), par. 43
- [17] "The Unity of One God in the One Church" (58-1221E), par. 80-82
- [18] "The Approach to God" (55-0123A), par. E17
- [19] "Fellowship By Redemption" (55-0403), par. 94
- [20] "The Word Became Flesh, India Trip Report" (54-1003M), par. 180-182
- [21] "Christ Is The Mystery of God Revealed" (63-0728), par. 233-236
- [22] "Laodicean Church Age", Church Age Book pg. 359

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