

TEMPTATION OF JESUS
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1. Prayer: ...experiences of the saints who have walked with Thee, and have sung out their hearts to Thee, and now we share with them in what they have left as a deposit and testimony of Thy grace, and of Thy love, and we sing our hearts out with them and ask that as we sit here, as we look into Thy Word, Thou wilt be pleased to break some bread to us, that we shall not be the same people any more, because every time we hear Thy Word and Thy message and Thy Truth, we want it to have power over us to change us and to correct us, to encourage us, to refresh us. Therefore, give us listening hearts, open minds, so that as we listen, we shall have a fresh new picture of Thee, and not be afraid of Thee, but loving Thee and desiring to come nearer to Thee. We will understand Thee better maybe, because we look a little bit more into these wonderful pictures. You have left stories and incidences in Thy life, and as we look into them and study them, be more wonderful, be more precious and beautiful to us until our hearts cleave to Thee and desire only Thee. Bless the Word as we speak. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

Yes, these lovely hymns...somebody else has had the experience, and they like to share it with us. Isn't it kind of them to leave something for us, and even though, the Bible says "They are dead, yet they speak," and so they speak down through the ages. Some of these hymns are old, but we never wear them out.

2. I hardly know what to bring to you tonite, but I may bring you a little message that you have heard before, but as I say, I never write any messages out, so I never guarantee to tell them the same. Now, I could speak tomorrow on the line that I had today, and probably wouldn't speak just exactly the same. The general Truth is there, but I always handle it a little differently. I want to give you a picture of Jesus tonite to help us, so that as we come along in His pattern, and as we are being conformed to His image, we have to learn to partake of very much that was in HIS life, and that's the work of the Spirit of late, is the CONFORMING TO THE IMAGE OF THE LORD. And we have been working along that line for these days, over and over from different approaches. That's what the Holy Spirit is seeking to do, a TRANSFORMATION IN US, a conforming. He takes the material that we have to offer Him, and Jesus is ever before us, and then He begins to conform and shape and recast and remodel and give reassurance or illumination or correction until we can BEAR HIS IMAGE. And everytime I read of the Lord and see Him, and I love Him in His gospels, it's always more or less a challenge, and at the same time it's an encouragement to me to know that since He has gone ahead of me, and has lived the life, I have the right to it IN HIM. For He is made unto me ALL THINGS because of His victory. Not only the fact of His salvation, but ALL the victories which He has won. They belong to ME now. Why? Because I am IN HIM, and He has won them for me. them, take them, and live in them, and not struggle too hard. He has made it possible for us, and He teaches us by His way. I want to talk about the Lord in the hour of His temptation. It's a very old story of Jesus in His temptation, but I think there are some lessons for us that we might have refreshed to our hearts. If you have your Bibles, and you want to follow, now wait! Wait. You may do so, but when I give any exposition, I would rather you wouldn't read when I talk. It's a temptation, I know, and sometimes at a convention I ask them to please leave their Bibles at home, or leave them in their room, because they are tempted when I am talking...we go along, and that annoys me, and at the same time I don't know, but some of them have strange minds. They can read and write and do forty things at once, and I can't. I have a one tract mind, and when I am reading, I want to read and when I am listening I want to listen. I can't listen to somebody preaching and be reading, all around reading. I don't know, my mind doesn't work that way. But a lot of people do that way right when I am talking. They will...I want to say now, "Listen. What are you doing? Are you listening to that, or to this?" So look and follow along with me if you like, but when I am speaking, I would rather you would leave the Bible alone, and read it when you are home. Now, I have the same Bible you have, and if I quote a verse, don't start leafing right away to find it. It's the same in your Bible as it is in mine. And that's very trying. Nothing like being a "fussy, old bachelor!" Well, God bless you, and that's what I am, and I am very happy. Ha. So we will take the story as it is recorded in Matthew 4.

Then was Jesus lead up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil. And when He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He was afterward a hungered. And when the Tempter came to Him, he said, "If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." And He answered and said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Then the Devil taketh Him up into the Holy City, and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down. For it is written, 'He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee, and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest Thou dash Thy foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'Thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God.'" Again the Devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them. And he said unto Him, "All these things will I give Thee if Thou wilt fall down and worship me." Then said Jesus unto him, "Get thee hence, Satan! For it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.'" Then the Devil leaveth Him, and behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.

3. Now we will put our Bibles down. I want to ask you a question. Have you a good memory? How did this story start? Afterwards...? He was lead by the Spirit...? Well, that isn't the way it STARTED; that's IN there, but that's not the way it started. "And it came to pass, Jesus..." No. "After these things..." "Then He was lead immediately..." No. Shhh. Now wait. I don't want to be amusing, but how many know it's amusing to read, and afterward you do't know what you have read? Now, don't look. How did this story start? "And it came to pass..." No. "And Jesus was lead..." No. "And the Devil..." No. After that, after...then was Jesus lead...? No. After this, then... now let me read it again to see how good listeners you are. I am not going to "play" with you, I just want to see if you are good listeners. Now LISTEN to it. "THEN was Jesus lead up of the Spirit..." Now, why in the world do you start a story by saying, "THEN was Jesus lead up of the Spirit?" You see, there has to be a PREFACE in there to hook your "THEN," on, or don't you see that? Well, now when you study the Bible with me, that's the way I work. I don't just say, "Then He was lead, and then I get up in the mountain..." I want to say, "How do you get up here?" You see. It starts with, "THEN." And you can't understand this unless you see what the "then" refers to. No, you don't. "THEN was Jesus..." Well, WHEN was THEN? When WAS "then?" Well, in order to get that, read the verses before. Now, I'll read you the verses preceeding it which are the last verses of the third chapter of course. It was at the baptism in the Jordan.

And Jesus, when He was baptised, when up straightway out of the water, and lo!
The heavens were opened unot Him, and He saw the Spirit of God decending like a dove and lighting upon Him and lo! A voice from heaven saying, "This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased. THEN was Jesus lead up of the Spirit..."

Why? Because He is lead up in the atmosphere of that glorious testimony of God the Father. Now, when we take this story of Jesus in the wilderness, in this temptation, get Him in the right character which He bears. This isn't GOD being tempted. This is GOD INCARNATE IN FLESH, in the HUMAN CHARACTERISTIC of Adam. This is the LAST ADAM performing. The FIRST ADAM has his testing and his priving, and made a total collapse of the whole episode. And Jesus is the LAST ADAM. Therefore, He, in His conduct all the way through, before He reaches Calvary, is continually presenting back to God the desire that God had before He reaches Calvary, is continually presenting back to God the desire that God had in the original, first Adam. That's why He is called THE LAST ADAM. Because there was a FIRST one, and he utterly and absolutely FAILED. And God never had the joy of finding the satisfaction that He wanted in Him. Therefore, when Jesus comes, remember that the whole drama of His life has it's first fling toward God to satisfy His heart, give Him pleasure, and do the things which God expected Adam to do. In it, at the close, we have the glorious victory and triumphs of Calvary. But that is not the FIRST. His first attitude was always, "I do the things that PLEASE the Father." And "pleasing the Father," here is Calvary IN it. But we turn it around, because we over-emphasize an incident. We never can over-emphasize in one sense of the word, Calvary, but I want it kept in it's proper place. His first attitude, His first response to God is ALWAYS, "I am Your SECOND

ADAM, and I have come to completely satisfy Your heart and your desire and give you the pleasure that you had when you created Adam." Therefore He assumes, and takes upon Himself the FORM of MAN, unfallen, but a perfect Adam, as Adam was perfect in the garden. Now, you won't appreciate Him moving down through His whole life period unless you get that slant. He isn't "just God," dying in the flesh to redeem mankind. He is the Son of God becoming the LAST ADAM because the first one failed. And God is going to have the satisfaction and joy and pleasure that he first desired to have. God will have His way if it takes millions of years to do it. He will have His way, and I want Him to. Therefore when Jesus comes, His first response is always toward God the Father, "I do the things that please Him." As I said before, in your law of the offerings in the Old Testament, remember it's a little strange to people, but in the offerings, the first is not a sacrifice with BLOOD, of bloodshed at all. It's a MEAL OFFERING, representing man in his PERFECTION. That's your first offering. We always think of the SIN OFFERING. "Sin offering...." No, no, no. The very first offering offered at all was that of MEAL, representing HUMANITY IN IT'S PERFECTION. Jesus carrying THAT back to God. Then come back to your next offering where He brings redemption and peace offering and all this. Keep them in order; don't confuse them, because if you do, you spoil the whole thing. The Word of God is a very strange and wonderful thing, and you have to be careful reading it. That's all I can say. Don't confuse it with traditions, traditional reading that people have. Don't do that. I have often said, "Lord, I wish I could read this Word once without the traditional hangover of hundreds of years over me, and influences and thoughts and flashes that other people have given me, that when I read I am UNCONSCIOUSLY GOVERNED BY THEM." And wouldn't it be wonderful to have all that swept out and just once sit before the Lord and see what the Spirit would say to you without coming through a "screen." Well, I know that. I know very well, and I try to keep away from it. I try when I am working in a bit of Truth and revelation and light that God is working with me, I try all the time to keep away from the intruding lines of thought that others might have had to spoil it. I want to see what GOD said, and not have it all the time colored and tintured.

4. Now, like this in the story of this temptation. If you just think of Him as "Jesus being tempted on the mountainside," you lose the significance unless we go back and find out HOW HE got there, and WHY He got there. It's because he is taking the place of MAN WHO HAS FAILED. Adam who has failed. Jesus comes to be that LAST ADAM. And He was TEMPTED. Now, let me help you with another thing, and we will go along as quickly as we can. Don't confuse a temptation with a TESTING or PROVING. Don't confuse them. We say, "He is tested; He is tempted." Yes, He is tested and He is tempted. Now, they are both different things. Go back to the garden where the failure happened, where it all took place. WHO planted the tree that caused all this catastrophe? GOD. God planted it. But people are so afraid to own that. They say, "Well, the Devil climbed over the wall at night and he spoiled what God was doing and planted this tree." He did NOT! GOD planted it. Do you think God had any reason for planting it? I hope to tell! Certainly! So that He'd upset Adam? Oh, no, no, no! Adam is His choice product. But as I said today, GOD PLANTED THE TREE. GOD plants it. Now, get back to God. God is CAUSATION here. God plants the tree, and we have to learn to interpret a tree. The tree is in itself PASSIVE. It is a PASSIVE INSTRUMENT. It lies open to God, Devil, man, anything. It stands there; there it is. Don't blame the tree. God created it. Well, God created it as one of the bits of mechanism in His economy and plan to cause Adam to GROW. Because thus far, the only benediction God had placed upon him was that he was VERY GOOD, that is, as a CREATED CREATURE. The benediction came on him, he was very good. But this "very good" creature had not been tested out in anything at all; had not yet functioned to the glory of God; had not yet come under the will of God to demonstrate a thing. He just stood there a PERFECT CONCEPT of God's thought for mankind, a little lower than the angels. But in the category of the human creation, there is the DIVINE nature, ANGELIC nature, HUMAN nature, BESTIAL nature. Angel nature. There are FOUR. They are all distinct. And so as He made Adam with this human nature, it has a possibility now. The potentials are in there of a glorious development which will show the IMAGE AND LIKENESS of God. For he is created essentially with the same attributes, in "miniature form,"

and that's what gives him FELLOWSHIP. But you see, he doesn't grow, he doesn't function, he doesn't come out to display all of that. He has NO OCCASION to do it. So the benediction that God gave, "and it was very good," was upon an UNTRIED ADAM. How many can see that? He has not yet functioned, he has not yet had an occasion to please God. I have said it so many times, never confuse the idea of an EXPERIENCE that you might have with God as a sign of your GROWTH. No, no. Growth only comes under a divine LAW in the realm of our Spiritual living, given in the second chapter of Genesis. He starts creation with the very fact--what is it? CHARACTER is built, life is developed, personality finds the flowering under a LAW OF TESTING AND PROVING, in which you make your CHOICES, because we live in CHOICE. WE LIVE IN CHOICE. You and I, as I have said so many times, I stand here before you, I am the SUM TOTAL of 10,000 million choices I have made, because they all REGISTER IN ME. I am either RELEASED, or I BIND. That's the way we are made. Accept it; don't quarrel with it. If you don't like it, just say, "I don't like it, Lord, but I have it." And go on. But don't fight with him. Go on. Well, you are losing time. Be still. Say, "Thank You, Lord." Isn't it an "awful" thing, isn't it? He'll say, "Yes," and go on. You don't dare do that. That's the way I do all the time. All the time. But so many just mule around, you know. "It's so difficult...and why does God...and meooooow..." Well, I say, "You are a tom cat. Shut up, be still. You can't get anywhere that way!" No. The benediction was upon an UNTRIED Adam. Do you see it? Untried. He has not been tried in a thing. So it is God who places the tree as a MEANS of Spiritual development for life, released and set free under a LAW OF TESTING AND PROVING, and testing and proving. And every time you come through with a victory, how many know you won't have very long and He'll TEST it? As soon as you get through with that, here is another one. You are going to have that until He comes, so let's all cheer up. Don't think you will ever get an EXPERIENCE, a place in God where He will let you alone. We used to sing that song, "No, never alone, alone, no never alone..." I thought, "That's right. He never leaves me alone." That is what it says, "He never leaves me alone." I said, "That's right, Lord. You never leave me alone. I suppose they meant THEY never let HIM alone! "Oh," I said, "Lord, You never leave me alone. You are after me all the time. As soon as I get through with one mess, You get me into another one. Never." So the law of testing and proving in order to bring through to it's fulness His desire. Well, when he falls down, and he was a flat-out and a failure and the whole thing falls into a wreck, and that's wretched, broken humanity.

5. Now, when Jesus comes, His very first vocation is GODWARD. It will come, redemption. But His first vocation is Godward, because He has to play the part of this Adam in His fulness, and so He assumes, takes upon Himself in the incarnation the unfallen, PERFECT Adam. Do you get me or don't you? That is the HUMAN content when we say He takes upon Himself the human nature. That's exactly what it means. He took all that that embraced. Now, there are two characteristic marks on that. God made Adam DEPENDENT, and He made him LIMITED. Just in His creation, He made him dependent upon God; He never made Adam to be an INDEPENDENT creature at all. He says, "You live by ME. Here's this TREE OF LIFE in the middle of the garden. Now, you partake of that. This is a symbol to you all the time. You have NO INDEPENDENCE. You can't live of yourself. You must live in Me. Here's your Tree of Life. Now partake of it as a sacrament almost, as something to keep in mind, 'In me dwelleth no good thing. I haven't anything in MYSELF. I live in HIM.'" Jesus taught it with the VINE AND THE BRANCHES. Same philosophy exactly. You can't live...keep the branches in the Vine. Truth is always ONE wherever you see it. Never contradicts itself. It strengthens. So when Jesus comes through, you see in His first moving toward God, he is this Adam that God wanted moving. So He is called THE LAST ADAM. Now, he is dependent, even though He is God incarnate in flesh. He never, never, He never "banks" upon the fact that He is the Son of God. Did you know that, or didn't you ever know that? He never does. He lays it aside. He lays it aside. He is ETERNALLY the Son of God, wrapped up in a HUMAN CONCEPT, that's all. But essentially, He is still the Son of God. But he has been pleased in His heart to say, "I will lay that aside, and I will assume this to the glory of God, and I will carry it through to it's consummation." Now, that was His life pattern. That was His little pattern that He had to follow. He was DEPENDENT upon God. He prayed because He HAD to. He couldn't

say, "Well, I am God anyway!" No, no, no. Well, people have that idea that He was "just God," running around, and that He could just...No. That is silly. They don't know the Bible. They know "fairy tales," and Sunday School charts, and a lot of other things that ought to be corrected. That's what they know. They don't know the Word. The Word never features Him that way at all. He is ETERNALLY THE SON OF GOD, God incarnate in flesh, but of HIS OWN ACCORD HE LIMITS HIMSELF to a human, normal, healthy, wholesome concept of MAN. That's what He limits Himself to. That's the HUMILIATION of the incarnation. He HUMBLED HIMSELF to do it.

6. Now, what has that to do with tonight's story? Because tonight's story is showing that Adam coming through in His testings and trials to the very thing that that first one had, and fell down in. Do you see it now? When did it come? The verse before this is where God accepts Him as His Beloved Son in Whom He is well pleased. That's a lovely testimony, "This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased so far." Will He be pleased all the way through? Surely, but how many know it has to go step by step to unfold? It has to go step by step. It has to unfold. He must pass through every vicissitude of life, every experience of life, and continually maintain that fact: This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased. Now, that's God's vindication, and God's testimony as to WHO this Son is. What does Jesus do? I always like to think of it this way it comes to me. He took it like something He could wrap about Him for His security and His safety So He says, "Thank You, Father," because there are going to be sometimes that the Father isn't going to break through to Him like that. There are going to be sometimes when the Father is very far from Him. HAS to be. But isn't it good that He will have THIS as a shelter? And He takes that testimony, "Thou art My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased," "Thank You, Father. Thank You." And He is sheltering Himself under the power of the testimony of God, "a Son in whom I am well pleased. A Son in Whom I am well pleased." THEN--was He lead of the Devil to do what? Dash that and test it and prove it and tear it apart and ruin the whole thing. It shows it. The Devil stands there ready, and it distinctly said He was taken there FOR it. Who put Him up in there? The SPIRIT. "Then was he lead of the SPIRIT..." Wasn't the Devil got Him up there. No. How many can see this? He was in DIVINE ORDER. Can you see the testing and proving is a part of the scheme? Well, then next time don't say, "The Devil, the Devil!" Let the Devil ALONE. Are you under the Devil or under God? What's the matter with people? Everything that's wrong, it's the Devil, the Devil! "And the Devil said this, and the Devil said that..." Don't you ever talk to anyone else besides the Devil? "And the Devil, and the Devil..." Really, I mean that. How many know, there is sort of a "Devil-consciousness," a wrong, NEGATIVE aspect? Now, I am not in mental science. But they have something in there too, by the way. That's right. No. A positive attitude. "This is My Beloved Son." "Thank You." And He wraps it about Him like a garment. Now, He got Him up there because God the Spirit lead Him PURPOSELY TO PROVE HIM. So you see, this episode from God's side is doing what? Test and prove and confirm and bring to a strong, strong manifestation the WILL in there. The Devil uses it as a means that he can DEFEAT him, and DEFEAT Him, and DEFEAT Him. I have said so many...as in the garden, LEARN HOW TO INTERPRET YOUR TREE. Don't QUARREL with it, INTERPRET it. GOD planted the tree. God has arranged that everyone of us shall have testings and provings. From God's side, it is unto VICTORY, from the enemies side, it is unto DEFEAT. The Devil, it says, has come to seek to kill, to destroy to harm. All that's NEGATIVE. That's destruction. Therefore, if it is the tree, he is using it as a MEDIA, as a means to kill, to destroy, to confuse, to bring to naught. Jesus says, "I have come that you might have LIFE." There is your POSITIVE. "And so when I bring you to this, this is that there should be LIFE out of it. You go through this, but you COME OUT WITH LIFE. Go through this with Me, and you will have LIFE. There will be fiber in your Spiritual being. But his is the only way I have to build it." So, immediately, when that lovely testimony comes, "My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased," instantly He wraps it all about Him, and the Devil says, "Come on. I'll get a hold of you." So, that's just a little setting. Get your stage scenery right. When you see this, it is like a little drama. One character act. It's plenty, isn't it? But you see, this as a "drama." And here is this marvelous "actor," and here is the Satanic, moving power, the Devil.

"Then was Jesus lead up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil." And you could add, "and PROVED BY GOD." You could add that very well, because that was the OBJECTIVE. He is to be TEMPTED of the Devil, but PROVED OUT by God. They are both going to work. Both of them. But it is instituted here that the enemy is going to deal with Him this way. "And when He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He was afterwards a hungered." Very normal. Very normal, very natural. Wouldn't ANYONE be hungry? Is it WRONG to be hungry? No. There is nothing wrong about it. NONE of these things are vulgar and bad and wicked at all. All normal situations. They are all normal things. "And when the Tempter came to Him, he said...", right away he is tearing at that garment, "If Thou be the Son of God...", the very thing He has wrapped about Him. Do you get it, or don't you get it? He has wrapped that about Him, "the Son of God in Whom I am well pleased." He has got that wrapped about Him. That's the first thing the Devil tampers with. And he comes and says, "If You think You are the Son of God; I know what You are thinking. It's all wrapped about You. You are sheltering Yourself under a testimony of God the Father. Alright. And You have power...IF you are this 'Son of God,' and You are hungry, a LEGITIMATE proposition--hunger. And you have the POWER, then change these stones to bread, and satisfy hunger. And you HAVE the power. Then change these stones to bread and satisfy Yourself! There's nothing WRONG with it!" How many see he asked Him along LEGITIMATE lines? He doesn't ask Him to go and get drunk, or do anything vulgar or a bad thing, or steal or murder. He doesn't ask Him that. He merely wants an ordinary, proper thing displaced and OUT OF ORDER and MISUSED. That's all. So he says, "If you are this Son of God, as You think You are, You have this power, and You have come as the Messiah Who will display it. Then make these stones into bread, and get through with this. You are hungry!" And isn't His answer wonderful? I think it's so rich! I like the philosophy back of it. He puts the whole thing in it's proper perspective. He says, "Man is not to live by bread alone..." What does that mean? "Man is not to live under the impact and power of the earth-consciousness, of a life HERE, but he is to live by something higher than that, from every Word that proceeds from the Father." Do you get that or don't you? How many see correct SPIRITUAL ADJUSTMENT for the individual coming? Now, that's what I want you to get a hold of. And He says, "Man was not originally made just to live on the earth and eat and possess. That's wasn't the objective at all. But he is to live by the Word of God, the vision, the Truth, that which God conceives and desires." The PHYSICAL has it's place, but that's not the chief objective. Man was not made to live primarily on the earth level. He is here for the time being, but it is to push THROUGH that and come up into SPIRITUAL LIFE and LIGHT and LIBERATION. How many follow me? Do you get it? Well, I want you to see how clever He is. He attacks the very thing that God has said. He is attacking this lovely testimony that He wraps about Him. So Jesus answers and says, "Man was not to live by bread alone, but by the words that proceed out of the mouth of God." Well, that silenced him. But it was just enough to let the Devil know that He is ? by and protected and shielded by something besides just ordinary living. He is talking about GOD. He is talking about some forces and place and position the Devil doesn't have any acquaintance with at all. No. He says, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word, contact, that proceeded out of the mouth of God."

7. So the sly Devil...isn't he sly? I will be glad when he is GONE. He is so SUBTLE. So subtle. So the Devil...now keep this in mind, and he takes Him up to the Holy City. Now do you see the extreme between the BREAD question, and the BODY question, and this which is so materialistic, to the PINNACLE OF THE TEMPLE? How many know, that's the highest RELIGIOUS CONCEPT to have? How many get it? he is now going to tempt Him in another department of His life. So it is symbolized in this idea of the temple. But this is the RELIGIOUS, SPIRITUAL ASPECT. The Devil has dealt with man down from Adam, but he never found one like this One. He has always been able to make an appeal to mankind purely on the FLESH level, and gained the victory every time. All the sins of of the Old Testament, how many know, they all rested in the flesh level? All of them, all those sins always rested in the flesh level, and of course he appeals to the Lord as though He were David, or some of the rest of them that he got into a snare. He finds Him, Oh no. He doesn't work on that level. He is talking about another level, a

Spiritual level. Something of God. So, he takes Him up, as we say; his appeal will be in another department of His life. It's symbolized by the temple, but it is going to be in another level, another place. He takes Him up to the pinnacle of the temple and said unto Him, "If Thou be the Son of God..." How many see he is wanging at the same old thing? He is possessed to break that lovely testimony which is shielding the Son of God. That's all Jesus has to hang on to. Because God doesn't come down and say, "Now, be...now, be..." No. How many ever know that from your own experience, when some of the most terrifying things come, the Lord always DISAPPEARS out of the picture? Yes, really! Some of the most terrifying things, and I can't find God any more than if there never was one! Is that bad or isn't it? No. It think it's sometimes quite the way God deals with you. Yes, it is. The temptation, so terrifying, and so he takes Him up here and he stays right on the same old bangs, and says, "IF Thou...", that's DOUBT, you see. "IF...IF Thou be this Son of God, God that You think You are...You got by the other testings, cast Thyself down from the pinnacle, you see, and he shall give His angels charge over Thee concerning Thee, and in their hands they shall bear Thee up lest Thou dash Thy foot against a stone." Now let me help you with two things there. You know what he is getting after? There was a tradition at the time when Jesus was here, that when the Messiah would come, He would win the confidence of the people with some supernatural doings, because Israel is always the "sign people." Remember? Paul says Israel desires a SIGN, they want miracles and signs. Greece wants WISDOM, but we desire what? The Son of God, that lovely Christ, CRUCIFIED. We have neither one of the other fields for our defense mechanism, but we have the lovely Christ on the cross and He is enough. He is the answer to every bit of it. The others have these other two approaches. So when Jesus came, the common, ordinary, Jewish expectation was to have a Messiah who could do these strange spectacular things, prove His identity as such, and win the confidence of the people through that method. Now do you see why they accepted the miracles so wonderfully? Oh, as soon as he worked a miracle, they just, "Hummmmm...goody, goody, and more goody!! THIS is what we want! A Messiah Who can do things like this!" Remember? That was always their response. "Hummm..." Let's go back a minute. It crops out all the time. Afterwards they go up and have a wedding feast. Do you remember? Wedding feast at Cana, and Mary was there and Jesus and His disciples. Poor, dear Mary! The lovely mother, but she was AMBITIOUS to have her son vindicated, you know. She loved Him; she wanted to prove it too. And so when there wasn't anymore wine, WHO took the initiative to suggest anything? Mary, wasn't it? We all love her greatly, but how many know she was very HUMAN? How many can see that she found the psychological moment in which she could spring this thing? Yes, she did. Yes, she did. And so she turns, you know, "They have no wine!" And Jesus said, "What's that to our business. we are not the host nor hostess." It wasn't any of Mary's business! She was a GUEST. But she saw a good occasion, a grand occasion, when Jesus... it's the first time He could demonstrate it. "The Messiah...dear, messiah a little for us!" Don't you get that, or can't you see that? Surely. That's all that ailed that picture. Don't get these Sunday School, "They filled the pots with wine, and Jesus with a white dress on..." Ha. Oh, dear, I always think it's like a lot of children in a primary department. Get out of that, please. Don't you think this is MORE like the reality? I think so. And so she says, "They have no wine." How many know the gentle suggestion? Wasn't it a little rebuke? "What is that to us, to thee?" It wasn't our concern. And He didn't function. But what she wanted was THAT. So here would be an occasion for a miraculous display to win their confidence. That's always been, always was.

8. So he says, "Cast Thyself down..." Well, why? "Because it's in Bible, a scripture, that IF YOU ARE this wonderful Son, the Bible has already said you could have all this performance and God will take care of You! Get it right in the Bible!" How many know, that's IN THE BIBLE? In the Psalms. Yes, it's in the Psalms that, "He would give His angles charge over Him, lest He dash His foot against a stone." How many know that is a beautiful scripture verse? Well, if it's in the Bible, and it's a scripture verse, why don't you claim the Bible scripture verse? Come on, all you folks that are hang-

ing on scripture verses and "claiming" promises, beating the Lord over the head with one of them, saying, "Come around, come around! HERE is Your promise!" How many know, that's HIDEOUS, vulgar thing to do? But you see, it's the Devil taking Jesus in His same term, for Jesus talks about God, you know, living thus and so...Spiritual level. "Oh!", the Devil says, "He is a religionist! He's got religion! He believes in the Bible!" Let me tell you something: The Devil can QUOTE SCRIPTURE better than some of GOD'S PEOPLE. He CAN. He is NOT a fool. He knew this scripture. But it the person isn't wise to it's significance, how many know, he can throw him, just like that? Trip him right up, and wouldn't he have been happy for Jesus to say, "Yes, that's in the Bible, that He would give His angels charge over Him. And now, if I jump, well, He will give His angels charge..." How many know, if He jumped, He would have broken His neck down at the bottom of the hill? Yes. Yes, he would. But how many know He would have done it, "because it's in the Bible?" Well now, I meet people all the time like that. They come out of these big meetings where they say, "Claim the promise! Isn't it true? Here's the promise!" They come out of these meetings, and I have to go around the temple and "pick them up!" They have all, "jumped off of the pinnacle." It's true just as sure as you live. I wish I had a dollar for everyone I have picked up. I said, "How did you get busted like this?" Well, they say, "I jumped off of the pinnacle!" What for? Well, they quoted the scripture saying if you believe God, "If you believe, brother, if you believe! You believe? You believe, brother?" And he says, "Yes!" "JUMP!" And he said, "I jumped!" Maybe I'm exposing too many things, but you know, that's the truth, between you and me and the grape poet. That's the truth. They come out of these big campaigns so many times where they have been just envigled into believing when they don't believe at all. They don't know what it's all about. Like handing them a promise out of the Bible. "Here it is! Right THERE! The Lord says....do you BELIEVE it, brother?" "I think so..." Do you believe it!? BELIEVE it!!" "Yes..." "JUMP!!" And how many know they JUMP? How many know this is Truth, or don't you know Truth when you hear it? You sit and take it pretty good. It's real. I know it because I have to pick them up. I wish, as I said, I had a dollar for every broken experience that I have had, to get healed of people who have done that very thing. Not a "bad" thing, but a FOOLISH thing. Religious. They have taken a promise, and because it was a promise, they start to stand on it. Well, the promises are ALL TRUE, but they don't always all APPLY. That's right. That's right. Here is one

How many know the promise is GOOD? How many see it has nothing to do with this APPLI-CATION at all? Not at all. Can you see how DANGEROUS it would have been to apy your promise? Now some people can't see that. They think I am fanatical or I don't believe in the precious promises. They have held me for all these years, and I still believe in them, but I don't believe in them the WAY half of the folks do. I can't take it that way. As I have gone along, how many of you know I have gotten through pretty well so far? Well, I won't go in these RELIGIOUS HABITS, and so these strange these strange RELIGIOUS PATTERNS, just because "it's in the Bible."

9. And so he is repulsed. He says, "Cast Thyself down...HERE is Your promise right out of the Bible!" And here he quotes the scripture, "He shall give His angles charge over Thee..." He can't get away from it. It's IN the Holy Bible. How many know, hell and damnation and all that is in the Holy Bible? That doesn't give you any proof to believe. Jesus said to him, "It is written also again something too, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord Thy God.'" I thought, "Well, that is good." A lot of these people who move in that, how many of you know, they are TEMPTING GOD? A HORRIBLE thing to do. And God says, "You have NO BUSINESS to do that." To "tempt" God in that sense; it doesn't mean to "tempt Him to DO." It 's to "torment," or to "tease," or to HAMMER at God. That's the real meaning of it. We have no business to just TORMENT GOD, to PROVOKE Him is a better word. "Thou shall not PROVOKE God." If God speaks and you don't like...don't do that. And some of our own people would think it was terrible. You are provoking God. Now, let up on that. You are PROVOKING God. Don't do that. Let God take the initiative and get the thing through whatever HE wants. If he wants to take you to heaven, then GO to heaven. I don't know, some people are very difficult to help. You can't provoke God that way.

10. Now again, this is your third. "Again the Devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain..." This is VANTAGE point, shows Him all the kingdoms of the world, not all the LOCAL kingdoms, those that are about Him. Do you see this vision projects itself over ALL TIME, shows Him all the kingdoms of the world. But now, these fussy ones, who want to know so many intricate things and loose the vision and say, "How could he show Him that, Brother Follette? What did He see? Did He see Greece? Did He..." Oh, caty-did! How many get me or don't you? Do you bear with me? Am I fussy, or am I not? I can't take time to fuddle with that. It merely said the Devil had power to suggest taht and show it like a flash. Well, then I believe that. Well, how could he do that? Just like a man in the middle of a bridge going, and says, "I don't know if the bridge will hold me or not. Shall we go back or shall we go on? If I go back it's a failure, and oh, God! The bridge is going down! We go down..." That's the way I feel with them. The bridge is cracking up. Don't stand there! "Will it hold me?" No, you are going to be drawn in in about ten minutes. I am horrible, I know. But you know, that's the way I am made. I can't take what most people take. I don't know how they live. "Sweet things"..they are beautiful, I just love them. They are all going to heaven. A lot of them bother me so. They torment me. I say, "Sing a little song, let's all go." That's the only way you can handle folks like that. The Lord is patient with me. He knows I am a "terror," but I can't help it.
11. Now He says, this is his last approach, and see what he is asking. Notice the character of his desire. "Again the Devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain and showeth Him,."see, that's EXALTATION, and this is the expansive outlay, outlook; quite universal, shows Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. Get the GLORY in there! And he says to Him, "All these things will I give Thee if Thou wilt fall down and worship me." How is it he asks for THAT? You know why? Because he is coming back to the first desire that caused his fall. He desired the WORSHIP and the GLORY that belonged to God, and had it diverted to HIM. Do you remember way, way back before we have anything down here, in the heavenlies. We don't know when or how, but that was it. He was the covering cherub in the beginning of creation of God, who LEAD the worship. But he saw how God was receiving it, and a subtle, strange thing in his heart, that he desired to have it reflected to HIMSELF, and he sought the glory of God and the worship of God, and a lot of angels followed him which, of course, caused this terrible catastrophe. He has never been satisfied, for he has never had it. Now he says, "Here's my chance. Here is a being that I have never dealt with before. I can't handle Him on my level down here where I have handled hundred and thousands and thousands and thousands of humanity on those levels. He is on another level, and I, if I can, if I can get Him to worship me, I have got the whole thing in a bag. How many can see he's got the whole thing in a bag now, if he can do this? And isn't it wonderful, how clever Jesus is in His reply? This is the first He showed any AUTHORITY. Why? Because every testing and proving gives STRENGTH. You are tested and proved out to strengthen you. Well, then that strength will have to be tested and proved, and so here He is, and the third temptation, and what happens? He has authority. He has built up strength. He has AUTHORITY now to turn and rebuke the Devil. He doesn't rebuke him in the first or second, but here He can. He just turns around and He says, "Get thee hence, Satan! For it is written..." It is WRITTEN. What's written? "Thou shalt worship the Lord Thy God and, old Devil, you didn't add THIS to it, but it's in the scripture..'And Him ONLY shalt thou SERVE.' You didn't TELL Me that!" You know that, or don't you notice that? When the Devil wanted Him, he said, "If You will just WORSHIP me, I will give you this." But Jesus said, "God says HE is the One to be worshipped, for SERVITUDE follows where your WORSHIP is." And he knew it too. You get that or don't you get it? Get it straight. The Devil says, "Worship me." "Yeah," Jesus said, "But finish it. If I worship you, My hands are tied, and I SERVE YOU. SERVITUDE goes where your WORSHIP is." And so he wasn't so brilliant. He wasn't so discreet, you see. He just puts it, "WORSHIP me and I will give you." "Will you? Alright, Devil, I'll tell you something. Where My worship is, My SERVITUDE automatically follows. And if I worship you, you have Me BOUND. I am a SERVANT, and won't have it. Get thee hence! Get out of this picture! Get out of this thing!" And

so He rebukes him, rebuffs him, puts him back. "Then the Devil leaveth Him." This is the sweet part of the whole thing, "And behold, angels came and ministered unto Him." And here were these wonderful, dear, ministering spirits, and God wouldn't let them comfort Him or help Him, or do a thing for Him UNTIL He had gone through. And when He comes through, and His poor dear heart is sore, and His body is tired from the awful strain, God said, "Angels...He went through marvelously. God and feed Him." And the angels came and fed Him. Don't you think God's heart must have been wonderfully pleased? Why? Because He found in His Son, Who is the LAST ADAM, the PERFECTION that He wanted in the FIRST, and never found. But He found it in this wonderful man Who is not only Jesus Christ, the Son of god, but He is the LAST ADAM, bringing through to it's perfection, all that God ever desired. And that's why every time it says, "My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased...This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased," meaning "I am getting the pleasure out of this life that I never got in Adam." Did you ever notice He always says, "In Whom I am well pleased," because man was originally MADE to please God, and give Him pleasure. Whatever it may be that pleases God, that's all He asks. But we want to do everything else under the sun but that simple thing. There are times when all God wants is an outpouring of our love and devotion to Him, and some people would rather raise dead and do something strange, and He says, "I have all the power to raise the dead anyway, but I want something that I can't get, only from you. Only from you. Do you love Me with all..." Why? Because the heart of Jesus longs for that. Strange, isn't it? But I know it. There is something we can offer that no one else can offer in the world, and something He can't get any other place. he can get all the service; He has got millions of angles to wait on Him. and you think down here, the way people serve Him as though. my! The Lord is "stuck in the mud," and He is having a terrible time, and if it wasn't for US and our church, and our committees, and our great effort, God would never get through!! Oh, dear. Sit down, dear. He is going wonderfully. He is going so fast I can't keep up with Him. He is not stuck in anything. He is just going, going, going. And so I like that, that the angels were waiting. A little encouragement. Is your hour of testing and proving hard? Is it? Mine has been sometimes very hard. But I have often found that when I get through, God always has some angels to minister to me. Something from His side that soothes my heart that's tired or broken. He always has something, because that's the way He lives. That's the way He lives.

12. Anybody get anything tonight? Do you have some things to think about? Now, when your testing and proving comes, remember this one of Jesus'. That was a DIVINE ARRANGEMENT in the purposes of God, and not a MISTAKE, not because you are "bad," you are having this terrible testing and proving. It's because God loves you and He sees you are GROWING. Don't get the wrong interpretation. "I wouldn't have such a temptation if I were RIGHT," but you say, "I must be WRONG." Oh, no, no, no, you ARE right and He wants you to get MORE right. Ha. Do you get me? That's what He is after. You are in a RIGHT POSITION, so don't let the Devil trip you up. Don't let him trip you up, and always remember, down here somewhere God has angel, and he will minister to you.
- Precious Lord, take this little broken bread tonite, in which we have seen some lovely thing in Thee, our Lovely Lord, our Wonderful Christ, this has all been actually demonstrated, dramatized in Your life while You were here on this earth. But it lives even now, thousand, two thousand years later. It's still living because it is living again in those who love Thee, and who are being conformed to Thy image and being transformed. And since You have gone this way, help us not to be afraid to follow in Thy footsteps, that where You lead we may be glad to follow. Bless the Word to these dear, precious hearts, and in the days to come, may it be a comfort, and bread and inspiration and help. For Jesus' sake, Amen.
13. Have you any question? Are there any little questions concerning this phase of your Christian experience, that of TESTING AND PROVING or temptation. Maybe I can help you. Are you stuck and have a little question? If I can help you, I WANT to help you. How many have been helped already tonite? To interpret some of these things? Learn to

INTERPRET your trees, don't QUARREL with it. As I said in one of my articles...I think I have written an article on this line...whenever we discover a tree of that kind in our experience, and it is very difficult, and we sense the enemy is in it, right away we dash for request for prayer. Then all the saints come, and they all bring their axes and we are going to cut this tree down and get RID of it! How many know that theory? Yes. Oh, I have been in prayer meetings where the chips flew! I really have, because not knowing what God is doing, they think the best thing to do is to get the Devil out of here, and we will take these precious promises and the axes and "whittle this old tree down!" Now, let your tree alone. The tree is a PASSIVE thing. You learn how to INTERPRET your tree. Sometimes I have walked around one of these trees for several days before I got anywhere. I had to look at it. I said, "Ehe, TREE...I am suspicious that something is moving in this tree, and I am suspicious because I sense it in my spirit. There is something in here that wants to defeat God, and defeat me." And I take it to the Lord. I don't say, "Lord, kill that snake in there! Kill it!" No, no, no, no. "Lord, teach me how to MEET this. Teach me how to INTERPRET it. Teach me how to INTERPRET it. And may I see Thee, and by Thy grace get the victory YOU want out of it." I'll tell you something. You will get through that tree, and I have found I have a whole forest of them, so be encouraged. I don't have ONE tree, I have a whole FOREST of them. Have you several in your plot? Well, God bless you. Anybody want any question along this line? Yes?

Man in group: Is it possible that the tree could be planted by the INDIVIDUAL, and not by God?

Brother Follette: Well, in a sense. In one sense we make our own difficulties because we are our own greatest enemy. But God is always BACK of all that. God is always back of that. God is always back of that. You have to see God back of it. He is back of it. But we are our greatest enemy. I am sure we make a lot of trouble that God would like to eliminate, but in our own foolishness and lack of wisdom, we create a lot of conditions that God, I think, would eliminate if He had His way. But we provoke Him to it and we get involved. But this is the way out. This is the way out.

14. Anyone else have a little question along this line?

Woman in group: I was wondering, Adam, before Adam...about the tree, God gave him a warning for him not to partake of the tree, and with Christ he gave Him a word, "Thou art Christ, Thou art my Beloved Son." Does He always give them the word BEFORE the tree?

Brother Follette: He will in a sense. We know it automatically. Now, there are a lot of times when I know from the Word of God. I don't need Him to come and say, "Don't do that." I KNOW I shouldn't, and I know that certain verses can comfort me are there. What I like the Lord to do is to speak, lest I take the INITIATIVE in anything, and I want God always to speak FIRST. Never dare in your OWN STRENGTH. No matter what. Let God always take the initiative, THEN we follow. HE takes the initiative. Now with Adam, he had been forewarned. He said, "Don't fool around with this tree." "Well...it's nice to look at." "Now listen, don't play around here AT ALL." Well, that's a TEMPTATION right away to INVESTIGATE. "Why? Why couldn't I?" But that's the HUMAN. He had been FOREWARNED because it says, "In the day thou eatest thereof, our communion will be perfectly cancelled." He'll live; He didn't mean that he would DIE. He DIDN'T die and fall over a corpse. He lived 300 some years, but his SPIRITUAL contact perished, and we always lose something through our foolishness, whatever it may be. We LOOSE something.

15. Anyone else? Yes, dear.

Man in group: These tests that normally will be put upon us, if it's God-given, without our own initiative....

Brother Follette: Sure, there is plenty. That's why I say don't get up a tree that YOU make. We will have plenty that HE makes.

Man in group: Just living a normal, Christian life, doing the things as a Samaritan, involved in different things like that, you get into something that you wished you hadn't though, and you are glad you have the Lord. Would that be considered...and God works it out...

Brother Follette: Well, if your life is thoroughly dedicated to God, and you are walking just hte very best you know how, that doesn't exempt you yet from your testing. That's exactly when God WILL test you, and people don't know that, so they think just as soon as a testing is severe, when a trial of that kind comes, so many times they start right in and search themselves and think there is something dead wrong somewhere, or "This is the Devil! Let's KILL him!" Don't do that. Don't do that. If you are a child of God, walking with Him, then god has a right to prove you and to prove me. And the fact that He does isn't a sign that I am out of order with him. It's a sign I am IN order with Him. I am in order with Him. Because He wants to prove me. We will never get to a place where we are exempted. Just as soon as we get through with one tree, we will have another. But He does, He has moderation. He doesn't overwhelm us. He proves us, let we get lazy. And He gives us another test. But don't be afraid.

16. Man in group: Brother Follette, I always think of that passage in the Lord's prayer, "Lead us not into temptation." It comes in here...

Brother Follette: Sure. I will explain that to you. That is a scripture verse that had bothered me for many, many, many years. I guess over 50 years, I was waiting to get light on it. "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." For I know it distinctly says He DOESN'T tempt us. Do you remember that? Yes. He doesn't. "Neither does God ever tempt us." Well, then it says, "Lead us not into temptation," when I know all the time that He DOESN'T. It's like saying, "Now, Lord, don't LIE to me," when I know He doesn't. And that bothered me. Well, then...oh, the interpretations I have had of that down through all the commentaries. There are enough to make you tired. Some get by by saying, "The temptation is a PROVING." Oh, that isn't the point! It wasn't until, maybe two, three years ago taht I found light on it through a very strange way to have it to come. There was a nun in a Protestant Convent over in England, Protestant Convent under the Church of England. She was a very gifted woman; I have read several of her books. They are tremendous. She is a nun and a great scholar. She is a Master in several languages, just a Master in them. But, of course, being a nun, her name is not known. She always goes under the name of XYZ, (A Religious of C.S.M.V.), because in a nunnery, you cancel your own personality, as Mr. or Mrs., it's cancelled. Well, she also is a great student and we know that when Jesus was here He spoke Aramaic; the language that Jesus used was Aramaic. It was not Hebrew. They used it, but it was not the popular language. They spoke Aramaic and Greek. Almost all could, because the Greek influence was still over them on account of the, remember, the conquest that they made. The Greek came down, they left a deposit. Now, we will come back to this in a minute. I want you to see something good. All nations contribute to the culture of the whole civilization, to it's whole order. Every nation contributes. And it was in the processes of god that as Greece came down with her possessions, you see; we had Syria, Assyria, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, all those had conquered in Palestine. Do you remember how they came in and conquered? Everyone of them left a deposit of some kind of their culture. And when Greece came in she left her language, and the Greek language is the most perfect vehicle we have yet for thought expression. Do you know that? Yes, scholars will tell you that. The Greek language, in itself, in it's structure, the Greek language is the most PERFECT vehicle that we have to express our thought or teaching, because it has so many variations. Say for verbs, we have present, past, and future. They have FOUR, the aorist, that's still another tense, say of verbs, and nouns and pronouns and all. That is just multiplied until the language is the most colorful, most expressive. Well, when Jesus was here He spoke and taught in Aramaic. Now when the New Testament is written, it is written in Greek because that was the popular language for them, and our Greek Testament comes to us in Greek. Well, in order to get at the thing, our dear scholar went back to the Aramaic and found the language which Jesus would have

used had He been speaking, not the Greek. But the language which Jesus would use; and in your Aramaic language there are words, a word that has two meanings. Sometimes we have words that have 2 to 3 significant meanings, and this word is "lead." It is translated "lead." "LEAD," is a military word. It means "leading into conquest, leading into battle." It is a military word. "Lead us not into temptation," but that very same word can be translated, "Let us not FAIL..." How many commence to smell a rat in here? Do you? Uh, huh. So, when the difficulty came, Jesus taught them to pray, "Let us not FAIL in temptation, but deliver us out of evil." Now do you get it? "But deliver" is an alternative or something of that character right away. Right away it's the alternative. And Jesus said, "When ye pray, ask the Lord to do what?" DELIVER us. Keep us from FAILURE, keep us from wreckage, deliver us IN temptation, and get us out into the place of victory. And your Aramaic is the word for that. But you see, it's been put into Greek, and the Greek scholars were not careful enough to go back to the Aramaic and get your correct meaning, and so it comes down. And we have said over millions and millions and millions of times: "Lead us not into temptation," when He says HE WON'T. He WON'T lead us into temptation. It's the ENEMY who brings us into that temptation, but it is God Who LEADS US OUT. God who gives the VICTORY. And so when I found that, I was quite delighted. I think I have a note on that...goody, goody, goody! Amen. Ha. I didn't know I had it. Let me read it.

There is a verb in Aramaic, as there is in Hebrew, that means to "enter in, go in." That's the way you "lead." (It) also (means) "succumb" or "fail." Whoever first translated the Lord's Prayer into Greek knew only the FIRST meaning, and so the verb here, being causative in form---he rendered that petition, "Lead us not," that is, "Suffer us not to ENTER into temptation. But what our Lord said was, "Let us not FAIL in temptation." In the same way in Gethsemane, He said to the three apostles, "Awake and pray THAT YOU MAY NOT FAIL IN TEMPTATION." We have GOT TO ENTER into testing and temptation, for there is no other way of coming to the full-grown man. But we have NOT got to FAIL.

17. It's the same in Gethsemane where He says to His disciples, remember, "Pray, lest ye...", be WHAT? When they went to sleep? Yes, that's the same word. "Pray that in this little hour, when I'll have you with Me...and watch." It's exactly the same word, but you see, in translation, if you don't know your languages, sometimes you can make the most terrible blunders by giving a poor rendering of a word, one little word. Now there, that's how that came about. But how many can see you don't go to heaven or hell on it? Well, some are so scared that if you tamper with a little word...no, to me, I was very much relieved. I was talking to one of my friends who does quite a little translation; he is quite a student, and I was talking about the Aramaic. So he goes and gets an Aramaic New Testament. Well, I had done the same. Get a New Testament. Well, what will you find in the Aramaic? The Aramaic is translated out of the Greek. How many know, even the Aramaic Testament didn't yet have it? How many can see that? No, it won't. Because your Aramaic Testament is translated out of the Greek, and if there is an error in the Greek, the Aramaic Testament will have it. And it is. I had that thrashed out with a student who spoke and used Aramaic all the time. It was his own Bible and he showed it to me, and he said, "That's right, Follette." I said, "That's right." "Well," he said, "I'm glad you told me." You see, in my Aramaic Testament, this is copied or taken from your Greek, and if the greek has an error, it is naturally put right in with the rest. You have to go past your Aramaic Testament to the Aramaic language. Do you get me? To the LANGUAGE, and in the LANGUAGE, here's this word that has this variation of meaning. Is that what you meant, dear? And now, how many can see that clears up some of your cobwebs?

Man in group: Brother Follette, you have to "go to the original." ORIGINAL? What do you mean?

Brother Follette: Original Aramaic copy which was translated into the Greek. Well, they didn't have it, or Bible was written first in the Greek and then put over into the Aramaic. The language was spoken in Aramaic, but when they first made OUR translation, that's where the trouble is. You have a translation in Greek, and they made it into

Aramaic. That's where the fault is. If it had not been so, we would have had something else.

18. Now we are off from the temptation into Greek language! These meetings are very informal, aren't they? You don't mind it, do you? I am so glad you do this way, and let me not have to be stiff and proper with this discourse, "point one, two, and thirty-one!" But we can break this up, and somebody will get a little light on this tonight, and it might help you down the rest of your life. Get these things straightened out, because sometimes a translation is very misleading. Another one I like to help people with, that had bothered me of them, is that old one in Isaiah where it says, "Command the works..." Remember? "Concerning the works of My hands, command ye Me." Remember that one? Yes. And that seems like quite a challenge, and it is the Lord speaking. So He says to Israel, as it's in our English, "Concerning the works of My hands, command ye Me." Well, how many know that has gone down, till right in meetings people COMMAND, to "have the authority?" I have heard some of our Pentecostal people, they nearly drive me wild doing THAT. They say, "See how many have authority? You are Christians and God has given us the victory. We can COMMAND Him!" You can do NO SUCH THING. Now, sit down. That's like "wrestling with God." You DON'T wrestle with God. We wrestle against the principalities and powers of darkness. It's wrestling, but get your wrestling where it belongs. You will never find anything about WRESTLING WITH GOD. Your wrestling in prayer, in the Spirit, with the powers of the enemy, because it's a conflict, but you NEVER wrestle with God and make Him do something. But people do that, they do it right in their prayers, and that's one of the chief scripture verses they use, that they can command God, "because God says, 'Command Me!'" "Concerning the works of My hands, command Me!" Well, now, of course HE NEVER DID ANY SUCH THING. Well, I got some light on that too, because I got scared. I was in a prayer meeting, and we had some of these "PRAYER WARRIORS," a woman, dear soul, she meant well. She prayed like...I was going to say Elijah, but this was Mrs. Elijah! She could pray and oh, she just put her hands up, and she was praying. She got into this fit of commanding, "Oh God! You said to COMMAND YOU, and oh, God! WE COMMAND YOU to bring forth!" And oh, she got quite eloquent. Well, I got all shivery. I said, "Oh, God, this is terrible. I feel awful. Let me get out of here!" And I got out. I couldn't stay in a meeting like that. But she was having a big time...and I said, "What the matter with the whole outfit?" So, I went home. I am awful, I know I am, but you got to take up with me. You just got to take up with me. Will you take up with me? Please. Ha, somebody's got to get you stirred up. Ha. So, I went home and I started looking into this matter of, "Command ye Me." So I got my, I think I made a note of it in here, in Isaiah, it's 45:10. "Woe to him who asks his father what he is begetting or his mother what she is bearing..." You remember how that thing starts? That whole thing is showing who...who to anyone who would question God. "Who would question the potter when he is making the clay? Why did you do thus and so?" You remember that? Who would question the potter? Who would question his father and mother what they are bringing forth? Well, it's a terrible warning. It's a warning, who would dare to do all of this. And then the Lord turns to them concerning themselves, and He says to them, "Command ye Me?" Ha. How many can see how perfectly ridiculous and insane that thing is? As if the Lord said, "Never jump, never jump, never jump, never jump! But when you want to get anywhere, JUMP!" Ha. How many see it's just as ridiculous as that? In this 45th Isaiah, let me look at it to help you with it. I don't mean to hurt you. I have a pretty hard time, but God is awful good to me. He knows what a "crazy" thing I am, and He just helps me wonderfully. I get things, and the rest of them are fooling around with it. I say, "What are you fooling around with that?" I always tell the Lord about it. "Woe to him that striveth with His Maker!" See? "Woe to him that striveth with His Maker!" It is a WOE. "Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth, shall the clay say to him that fashioned it, 'What makest thou?' Or thy work, he hath no hands? There are no handles on this creation He is making." "Woe to him that saith unto his father, 'What begettest thou,' or to his mother, 'What hast thou brought forth?' Thus, (now in the face of that), thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and His Maker, 'Ask Me of things to come, concerning My sons, and concerning the

the works of My hands, command ye Me?!" How many can see now absurd that is? Right in the face of woe, the woe, the woe, He would turn around and contradict Himself?! So I got my Hebrew Bible out. This is a good translation, and so very, very different. "Woe to him who asks his father what he is begetting, or his mother what she is bearing." 11th verse: "And would you question Me about the future?" It's a QUESTION in the Hebrew. "WOULD you dictate to ME about My works?," saith the Lord Eternal, Israel's Maker, Israel's majestic One." How many get it now? It's the most terrifying rebuke. "And would you, in the face of this, ask Me concerning the works of My hands; what I am doing?" "Yes, it says so right there, 'Command ye ME about My works!'" Oh, horrible! Well, that helped me because I had been stumbled with that thing. That woman upset me, and I felt that was all dead wrong. I have no witness in my spirit that she is praying right. She is all wrong. And yet she was quoting scripture. I went home and I said, "Lord, there it is, "Command ye Me." I said, "How can that be?" Well, He said, "This is your English translation." How many can see right away? No, He said, "You see, it is in QUESTION form." "And would you...and would YOU command ME concerning MY doings? The Majestic One."

19. I gave you one yesterday, another one in the Old Testament where it was in question form. We said something about the idea of the hills; these lovely hills inspired me. I look at that mountain with that snowcap, and made me think of our Psalmist who said, "I will lift up my eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made the heaven and the earth." But you see, that isn't what He said. Well, now there goes somebody's lovely poem which they had all cut out of the paper, about looking to the hills. Well, it's terrible, I know, I could spoil a lot of scrap books. Ha, ha. But it's alright. It isn't that. Now, I told you WHY. Because Israel is MONOTHEISTIC in her ideology. She is the one who teaches the ONE God over and against the MANY. Israel's God is ONE GOD. How many remember the prophets ring the changes on that continually? "Our God is ONE, the Lord God is ONE. The Lord God is ONE." That's right, because it was to counteract the influences of the polytheistic heathen who are with us. Polytheism, you see, MANY gods, many gods. They had gods for EVERYTHING. God for the hills, and gods for the stones, and gods for the mountains, and gods of every...just like in India today. As I said, in India every little while you go along you see upon some mountain; impossible to get there. Some devout Hindu...and go up in there and erect a little, white shrine. Because it's the "spirit of the hills. Well, here were these heathen people who had gods for everything. Gods in the hills, gods for the rivers, gods of the mountains, gods for everything. And this Psalm is rebuking them. So he comes out in QUESTION in Hebrew. In Hebrew it's a QUESTION: "Shall I lift up my eyes unto the hills as you do? Shall I lift up my eyes unto the hills? From whence cometh MY help? My help cometh from the Lord which MADE heaven and earth and all hills and all things." How many see how broad and sweet that is? Yes. Well, now that's lost of course. It doesn't sound as picturesque as, "I will lift up my eyes unto the hills." Well, my help doesn't rest in the hills, it rests in the Lord who MADE the hills. Now, that doesn't mean that we can't get inspiration from the hills. There is great inspiration you get, but I am not talking about that. How many know the inspiration you receive from trees and hills and all animated creation when we move with God? He lets it minister to us. And so, He was rebuking these heathen. He said, "Shall I lift up my eyes unto the hills?" You got a little "HILL GOD," over there? No! He says, "I lift up my eyes to ONE Who MADE all the hills, all the earth, all things." Now, that's all LOST by a poor rendering.
20. Question: Has that been corrected in the RSV?
 Follette: In some translations. Now I think Moffatt, in his translation has this corrected. Pretty sure Moffatt has this in his translation, and Moffatt has another good translation in the New Testament of another very faulty verse. What is it? Ephesians 2:10, which is what? About...oh, that's a good one, Frank. He gives a very good translation. It's over in Ephesians 2:10 where it speaks...shall we go in that while we are fuddling around with translations? We ended this meeting in translations, but it's all right. "And we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Now, I like that verse because it shows..I may speak about it before I go, because I want to make a

little outline here for you with it,..the OBJECTIVE that God has for us now, that is, the scene of our action, the scene in which we now move and stir is here in the will of God in time, as the scene of our activity. Well, what is to govern that? Well, if we are Christians, our whole action, our whole manifestation should rest in the WILL OF GOD. Can you see that? TO DO THE WILL OF GOD IS THE HIGHEST THING WE CAN DO. Therefore, my whole life pattern, I am a Christian, my whole life pattern is only worthwhile to God as it flows and moves IN HIS WILL, and as my life flows and moves in His will, it is unto HIS GLORY, and He is satisfied. Therefore, there is a will of God for us which will perfectly do that. That's why in teaching, and especially with young people who are starting out moving, I say, "Now WAIT before you get out here turning the world upside down. Take a little while out to get adjusted to God to find out what His will is. And when you discern what His will is, embrace it with all your heart and move out in that, because that is the channel in which God is to be glorified. So when I was reading, I read it in the Greek, and Moffatt has a very good idea of it. Very good. Ephesians 2:10, in the Amplified: "For we are God's own handiwork, His workmanship, recreated in Christ Jesus, born anew, that we may do those good works which God predestinated, planned beforehand for us, taking paths which He prepared ahead of time that we should walk in them, living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live." Now, isn't that sweet? Isn't that lovely? It is thus that God has a blueprint of His will for us which is the pattern in which we can most perfectly glorify Him. Then why do we stumble around trying to do this and do that? Why not get God's will? Because that's the one. Now, here is a translation given which I like, "God has made us what we are in this new creation, creating us in Christ Jesus for the good deeds which are prepared beforehand and by God as our sphere of action." Isn't that nice? "Prepared beforehand by God as our SPHERE OF ACTION." Well, then supposing that happens to be something you don't LIKE? What are you going to do with it? When you are just dying and itching to be a PREACHER, God's plan isn't preaching at all. Then what are you going to do? He says, "I want you to sell newspapers, dear." Oh, newspapers! No. How many can see you will never glorify Him by trying to preach. But how many know you perfectly glorify Him by selling newspapers? Well, what made the difference? One is YOUR will, and one is HIS. And when you do HIS WILL, if it is nothing but milking cows, plowing, planting corn, DO THAT. And He says here, "Planned by God beforehand as the sphere of our activity." God bless you! Anybody else got something here? Let's thrash them all out. Are you getting good out of it? That was Moffatt. Moffatt has some very good things. Now, if you are reading translations, Williams is good, but Williams excels in any difficulty you have with VERBS. I don't know a scholar who is gifted as Williams, who is dealing with translations where you have verbs arranged...the meaning of the interpretations of your verbs. He is excellent. I like Moffatt too, because he is liberal, and of course I just love this Amplified. How many like the Amplified? I am just itching to get the second part of the Old. It hasn't come but I just want to get it.