

QUOTES FROM BROTHER BRANHAM - CHAPTER 5
The Mystery of Godliness Restored to Man

I'm guessing my understanding of this mystery will be the most disagreed with, as many think the attributes of the Stature of a Perfect Man are added *after* a believer is born again. Based upon the quotes below, I'm convinced the attributes are added *before* a believer is born again.

First, though, recall this quote in which Brother Branham says one of the mysteries (it is eighth on Scofield's list) is godliness restored to man. The wording of this mystery, along with the Scriptural proof of God adding measures of His Spirit and character, is why I framed this chapter in the manner in which I did:

And godliness is restored to man.

62-1230E - Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir?

Brother Branham said being saved means you've received a small "portion" of the Holy Spirit, but you're not yet filled. This is why the anointing of faith seems to be a small portion of the Holy Spirit, but there is much more His Spirit that God wants to add to a believer:

*Now, the Holy Spirit is the Seal of God. Now, if you say you believe and haven't received the Holy Ghost, then God's never recognized your faith yet. That's right. Because the Seal is the recognition that God has completed and finished His work in you (That's right.), that He recognized, sure. Someone said, "Why do you make it so loose, Brother Branham, saying, Saint John 5:24?" **That's the beginning of the Spirit.** That's right. **I believe that a man, as soon as you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, it's a portion of the Holy Spirit.** When you're sanctified, another part of the Holy Spirit cleans you. Then you're filled with the Holy Ghost. Right.*
61-0217 - The Mark of the Beast and the Seal of God 2

Here Brother Branham said his message was the three works of Grace. Note that this quote is in 1965 and he doesn't place the Stature of Perfect Man as something a believer begins after being born again. This proves the Stature must be given before the new birth:

*I remember one time when I first started preaching, many years ago. We was living right up here on the road, right just above here. I was preaching right here at this church. And she dreamed a dream, that I was standing here by the side of three steps. And I was standing, preaching to everybody, that they must walk up these three steps before they hit the highway. And on the highway is a little pearly-like white line, run right into the—the—the doors of Heaven, to the pearly gate. And that pearl had been stretched out to the top of these steps. **If that ain't my Message exactly today; justification, sanctification, the baptism of the Holy Ghost!** And I was saying that a person has to come by these three steps, to be able to walk that highway. And said that...*
There was a lady came by. Now, you know what kind of shoes people wore thirty-five years ago. There was a lady come by, had on a great big pair like they wear today, spike-heeled shoes. And she come by. And I said, "Wait a minute, sister. You can't walk that highway with that." And I said, "You—you, you can't do that."

And she said, "Ah!" She said, looked around at the rest of the women, said, "Don't believe him. He's a madman. See? Don't believe him. I'll show you I can be justified, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost, and still walk that." And she...I just let her go. Couldn't do no more about it, couldn't stop her. And she jumped up on the highway. And she looked back at the sister, said, "See, I told you!" She started to run up, and she...
65-0418M - It Is The Rising Of The Sun

Getting into *The Stature of a Perfect Man* sermon itself, Brother Branham said the Stature message "unlocks" or "reveals" the way to become a virtuous Christian. This quote proves is the Stature teaching was a mystery (specifically identified as such in 1 Timothy 3:16) that needed revealed:

*So, then, upon these little sketches that you see me looking down upon. And this, first, I started. I didn't get this part here until just about a day or two ago, up in the woods...Last Sunday night, I preached on, "The Key." And the key is faith. The faith holds the key, and the key is the Scripture. And Christ is the Door. See? So faith takes the little hinges of the Scripture and unlocks the glories and good of God, out to His people. See? So, it's, faith holds the key that unlocks Christ to the people; **unlocks it, reveals it.** So, today, we're going to try to take that same key, to **unlock the way to become a virtuous Christian in the stature of God**, that, and be a living Tabernacle for the living God to dwell in.*
62-1014M - The Stature Of A Perfect Man

If you combine the above quote ("to unlock the way to become a virtuous Christian in the stature of God") with the quote below that says Jesus is the Mystery of Godliness, you'll come to the conclusion Jesus must have grown up in the pattern of the Stature of a Perfect Man, and now leads our growth in the same pattern:

*And if this is true, then it must also be true that the Bride Church will mature, and her ripeness shall be an identification with her Lord by means of the Word, **and her Head Who will come to her is the Mystery of Godliness, Which indeed is Christ.***
An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - 9 - The Laodicean Church Age

In *The Stature of a Perfect Man* sermon, Brother Branham taught Jesus walked in the Stature's portions of the Holy Spirit and that we should walk in the same. Furthermore, Brother Branham wanted to take more time to study each word, or attribute, and prove the truth about the Stature. It seems Brother Branham never had time to do this, but the Lord granted me time to do it, as well as other preachers. It has been our privilege to follow the Spirit's leading into this study to fulfill the prophet's desire to understand faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity:

But when we, not in imaginary way, but prostrate ourselves before a living God, a living virtue, a living knowledge, a living patience, a living godliness, a living Power coming from a living God, makes a living man a living image in the stature

of God. What's he doing? The same things that Jesus did; walking the same way He walked, doing the same things He did. Because, it's not imaginary thing.

There's a reality that proves.

*See what I mean? See how these virtues, these building materials, type in with the Church messengers, with the Church ages? **Now, one of these days, we're going to take each one of these words, and study them out, and show that it proves it.***

***It all goes together.** Sure. See? Oh, my! How wonderful that is, see, to see what it—what it does.*

62-1014M - The Stature Of A Perfect Man

Brother Branham also knew a preacher could not preach all eight attributes of the Stature of a Perfect Man in one day because it was such a vast topic. He urged his church to hold onto this teaching and let Christ build each attribute into their character:

*Let me tell you, we don't know how long we're going to have one another. I don't know how long I'm going to be with you. God may call me away from the world. He may call me to another field of service. He may call you somewhere. We don't know. But, let's—let's obtain. Let's not let this just pass over us. Let's take that. There it is, in the Bible. Here it is, patterns everything else. **And if I only had time to do it! You can't do it in one day.** You know that. But, can tie the whole thing together!*

Looky, when we got through with that message there, you see what the Holy Ghost did there on the wall, don't you? How many was here then? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] See? Sure! Come right down, drawed the same thing out, that Angel of the Lord.

See, it's true. Don't let it escape you. Hold onto it, children. Hold onto that.

Remember, build upon your faith, virtue, knowledge, patience!

Now, here, I think I had a piece of paper here, if I haven't dropped it somewhere when I was preaching. Right here it is. Thank you, brother. Thank you, very much. If you want to—to look on it, and see if there's something here that you might be able to... Maybe it's a little better pattern than that is there, that you might be able to copy some of this off. I'll just tack it up here, and you can sure look at it and—and type it off.

And I want you to take it and study it, and compare it, and then act upon it. Don't just study it, compare it, but act upon it when you do. Take it sincerely to yourself. Don't say, "Well, I enjoyed listening at it." I did, too. But to listen at it, and then receiving it, is different. See? See? It's different. See?

There is seven qualifications to make the stature of God. There is Seven Church Ages, that God has brought the Church to this qualification. And He's had seven messengers to do it. There is seven, seven, seven. See? Seven is—is God's number of completion, and three is God's perfect number. So, there's three, and seven three's. So, mathematically, spiritually, by the Word, by the witness of the Holy Ghost, all of it has completed the thing together. Let's study it.

Let's add to our faith these things, then, that we might come in the full stature of Christ; being joined together with godly love, fear of God, reverence in our heart to one another, deep respect to one another, brotherly and sisterly kindness, never vulgarity, nothing but just the purity of Holy Ghost living. See? Live together, be a Christian. Walk with faith. Let the virtue of God flow through you; let the knowledge of God, when it comes to right and wrong. When the devil presents something that's not exactly Scriptural, walk away from it. That's right.
62-1014M - The Stature Of A Perfect Man

Here are quotes from five different sermons in which Brother Branham taught that the Holy Ghost sealing, or baptism of the Holy Ghost, comes last after the first seven attributes are added to the believer:

*Don't forget now, always remember this, that these are the things that build the servant of Christ. See, faith first, then virtue. And now remember, the Holy Spirit cannot cap the building of God until these things are operating by the Spirit. No matter what you do, see. Those are the things that builds the Body of Christ, see, those things. Now, don't forget that, that this here is first, is your faith. **Virtue, knowledge, and so forth, is to be added to it, until the complete stature of Christ is made manifest, then the Holy Spirit comes upon it and seals it as one Body. These things must be.** Therefore, Jesus said, "By their fruit they are known." See, fruit! You could not bear fruit without these things to bear it in you. And then when all this takes the place of worldliness and--and ungodliness, and so forth, then all unbelief is cast out, then all the things of the world is passed away, then there's nothing but a new creature in Christ. And then Ephesians 4:30 says, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed to the day of your redemption." Sealed into the Kingdom of God! Now, don't forget that. **Keep that in mind now, takes these things first. Then the sealing is the Holy Spirit, the Cap that seals us into the Body.***
62-1014E - A Guide

*First, foundationally, is Faith. Second, add to your faith, virtue; to your virtue, knowledge; from knowledge, temperance; from temperance, patience; to patience, godliness; and from godliness, brotherly love, brotherly kindness; and **then love, being the capstone.** Seven of those things. Seven church ages, see, and seven stars of the church ages, and all of it is tempered together by the Holy Spirit. Now, that's what it takes to become a servant of Christ. Christ builds His Church in seven church ages; His Bride, a Person, woman, Church. Seven church ages constitute and make the Bride. Some out of this age, and some out of that age, and some out of that age, and all together, and shaping it like a pyramid.*

...
Now, Peter said, first, "Faith." Now watch it real close now. We're going to teach this for a few minutes. Faith, now, is your first. And add to your faith, virtue; to your virtue, knowledge; to your knowledge, temperance; to your temperance,

patience; to your patience, godliness; to your godliness, brotherly love, brotherly kindness; **and then love. And anyone knows that love is God. "God is love."** See?

...

And now as in the individuals, these virtues and things, are knowledge and temperance, is added to our faith. **Then when the Capstone comes, the Holy Spirit cements It together. There is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.** That's why it's so short today.

...

That's my prayer: just let the Holy Spirit breathe. Oh, my! For, the Breath of God, what is It? Sealed away in the Kingdom of God, knowing that, when I first confessed, I believe Jesus Christ. Yeah.

Then, to my Faith, I add virtue, godly virtue.

Then to my virtue, I add knowledge of the Word.

To my knowledge, I add temperance, self-control. I like that. "My country 'tis of thee, crown my soul with self-control, from sea to shining sea." See?

Patience. Oh, my! Tested. Don't you worry; Satan will count them for you. I'm climbing up the ladder now. See? I've added virtue, knowledge, temperance, now I've got to add patience. **I still ain't got the Holy Ghost.**

Then after I add patience, I add godliness. You know what that is? Like God. I add that. Don't misbehave myself. Go like a Christian gentleman ought to. Let that not be a put-on. Something in me, the love of God, just boiling. See? See? Not say, "Uh-uh-uh-uh, boy, I could do it, but maybe I better not." See? Huh-uh. Huh-uh. It's there, anyhow.

It's a Birth. I been birthed into this, into this, into this, into this, into this, into this, into this. And **then the love of God, Christ, comes down and seals all that up in me, for service.** See?

62-1104M - Blasphemous Names

Add to your faith, virtue, and so forth, all this in First Peter, the 1st... Second Peter, I believe, the 1st chapter, where it's all added to your faith, all these things, godliness, and purity, and holiness, and everything, and **then you're sealed by the Holy Ghost.**

62-1111E - Why I'm Against Organized Religion

If you'd come seeking the Holy Spirit, and let Him, the faith that you've got in Him add to that virtue, and to that brotherly kindness (II Peter 1:7), until you're built in the full stature of Christ, then **the last thing is love, which God, the Holy Spirit, seals you to your destination.**

62-1124E - All Things

You remember the pyramid Message? It's the Capstone. What did It do? **The Holy Spirit capped off the individual and seal it,** when we added to our faith;

righteousness, and godliness, and faith, and so forth, and kept adding to it till we got seven things. And the seventh one was love, which is God. That's how He makes the individual, and caps him and seals him with the Holy Spirit.

62-1230E - Is This The Sign Of The End, Sir?

Brother Branham taught each attribute was one of God's requirements to become a perfect, or complete, believer. Of course, the completing, or capping off of the believer, would be charity, or the baptism of the Holy Ghost, as the above quotes showed:

But if you have no Sunday school, and you like to be with us, I want to speak in the morning, and put it on a blackboard, and teach on The Full Stature Of A Perfect Man, and draw it out, in on the blackboard, and show God's requirements and how we come to the perfect stature of--of a perfect man, before God.

62-1013 - The Influence of Another

Weeks before his death, Brother Branham showed how "faith", or initially believing in Jesus Christ, was justification. But believers were to keep adding Christ's stature until they were born again, or filled with the Holy Ghost:

*Not just say, "Well, I--I believe Jesus Christ, Son of God." **That's all right. Then add the rest of It to it. You say, "I been justified. I give my hand to the minister. I believe in Jesus Christ." Then you've got to be born-again. You must be filled with the Holy Ghost. See? Just keep adding on, as you keep on going. You're growing into the stature of a son and daughter of God. My!***

65-1205 - Things That Are To Be

Here are a few quotes in particular make some think the attributes of The Stature of a Perfect Man come after the baptism of the Holy Ghost, but later quotes from Brother Branham show his growth in understanding:

*First, you must be borned again. And then when you're borned again, you have faith; you believe the Word. **Until you're borned again, you'll argue against It.** If you're just religiously inclined, and—and you got a—a—a little human knowledge that you should do right, you'll never be able to agree upon the Word of God. You'll never do it. You've got to be borned again. And, borned again, it produces faith. All right. Then, after you get faith, this right here, f-a-i-t-h, faith, then you're just in position of growing.*

...

After you done come from here, to here, to here, to here, to here, to here, now you're coming into the full stature now of a son of God. But you got to have this, plus all this, and you can't even start until you get this.

*Now remember the black bird with peacock feathers. Don't forget him. See? **Don't try to add it till you're actually born again.** Cause, you, it won't work, and you--you can't make it work. It'll come to this, or this here, it'll crumble somewhere.*

But when you get down here, a genuine born-again dove, then you don't add nothing. It adds to you, see, comes on up, all right, coming into perfection now.
62-1014M - *The Stature Of A Perfect Man*

The reason for the confusion is Brother Branham was growing in revelation. One month after preaching *The Stature of a Perfect Man*, he said the new birth (being born again) was different from the baptism of the Holy Ghost:

*I never thought there was a person believed that like me, till this morning, I heard Charles Fuller as I was going down. **He believes, too, that the new birth is not the baptism of the Holy Ghost.** The new birth is being born. The Holy Ghost is the baptism. See? All right.*

62-1111E - *Why I'm Against Organized Religion*

But by mid 1963 and in the *Church Age Book*, Brother Branham had received the revelation that the new birth and baptism of the Holy Ghost were one and the same. In *A Paradox*, Brother Branham used the terms "new birth" and "baptism" interchangeably, and in *The Token* he used "the true baptism of the Holy Spirit", "the new birth", and the seal interchangeably:

*I believe each one of you Methodist and Presbyterian and Lutheran, that never had experienced **the baptism of the Holy Spirit**, was in some formal church that did not believe in the genuine **new Birth**, and has now received **the baptism of the Holy Ghost**, is a perfect example of a paradox.*

63-0801 - *A Paradox*

*When God has give you **the true baptism of the Holy Spirit**, then the Life of Jesus Christ is within you. Now, that's true, and every theologian will have to admit that to be. Yes, sir. **It's the new Birth.** You are **borned anew, of the Holy Ghost.** And because that God has did this, and you know you're no good in yourself, and you accept what God has did, then **He seals you into His Kingdom, by the Holy Spirit.***

63-1128E - *The Token*

*I mean for the sinner to come forward and be born again, which is to be baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Ghost which is exactly what took place at Pentecost when the church was launched. In other words, **to be born of the Spirit is to be truly baptized with the Holy Ghost. It is one and the same.***

...
What is the Baptism with the Holy Ghost? It is the Spirit Baptizing you into the body of Christ. It is the new birth. It is the Spirit of God coming in and filling you after you have repented, (having heard His Word) and been baptized in water as an answer of a good conscience toward God.

Church Age Book - Smyrnaean Church Age, Chapter 4

Another important truth Brother Branham taught was people can temporary receive the attributes of the Stature of a Perfect Man but then lose them by forfeiting them for a life of iniquity. He also foretold what is happening now—bunches of ministers are leaving the Message and falling into a scrap heap of unbelief:

*But so many of us try to do the works of Christ before the reflection of Christ is in us. Now there's the trouble. We find those things happening. You know it. I know it. **We see these, stumbles along the road. We find the scrap heap of ministers, of Christians, piled along the road, is because they didn't go into it right.***

...
Temperance doesn't mean, "stop drinking alcohol," here, either. No, no. Temperance doesn't mean alcoholic cure, not in this case. This is Bible temperance, Holy Spirit temperance. That's just one of the lust of the flesh, but we're talking about Holy Spirit temperance. That means, how to control your tongue, not be a tattler; how to control your temper, not fly off every time anybody speaks cross to you. Oh, my!

Boy, a lot of us going to fall off before we get started, aren't we? See? Then we wonder why God is not in His Church, doing miracles and things that they used to do. Yes, sir. See?

*See how short we are, brother, sister? See? See why, where we're at? Yes, sir. See? We have glory, have shouts and things, because we got faith. But when we come down to these things here, God can't build us into that stature. See? He can't. He can't make us up to that kind of a place. We got all these other things. **We fall, slide off with it.** See? He can't build His Church.*

...
*Here you are, Seven Church Ages, seven steps. God building His Church, is like one person into an individual, into Himself. The glory, the Power of God, coming down through this, welding It together. Therefore, the Pentecostal people that let out the Lutheran, let out the Wesleyans and things, doesn't know what they're talking about. You see, they lived in this part of the temple. **That's the way, some people can come up that high and drop off. But there's a genuine part of that, keeps making that building come on. "I will restore," saith the Lord.***

62-1014M - The Stature Of A Perfect Man

Brother Branham showed how Judas Iscariot was genuinely justified, saved, but later forfeited his right to salvation by betraying Christ. Judas' name was blotted off the Book of Life:

*So then, **Judas come back rejoicing**, all of them, that the names... He said, "Don't rejoice that the devils is subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in the--on--on the Book of Life." Now, if you notice and take Daniel also. The... See?*

Because your name is on the Book of Life (because it is in heaven, your name has been recognized), that still doesn't mean that you are saved. See? You're not converted, until you receive the Holy Ghost. Remember that. You're only potentially converted. See? You're not...

...

*Now, watch that pattern. I'm taking a lot of time, but look. **Judas Iscariot followed those same tracks. He was justified by believing on the Lord Jesus and then accept Him as his personal Saviour. He was sanctified and give power to cast out spirits; put his name on the Lamb's Book of Life. But when it come to Pentecost and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the fullness of the Word, he showed his colors. That's exactly what the Canaan spies did; that's exactly what Esau done.***

64-0830M - Questions and Answers 3

To conclude this section, here are five questions or statements proving the attributes of the Stature of a Perfect Man come before the baptism of the Holy Ghost:

- (1) How could Peter have lacked the attribute of patience when he waited 10 days to receive the Holy Ghost?
- (2) How could Peter have lacked the attribute of knowledge when he quoted Joel 2:28-31 as being fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost?
- (3) Is there a second “capping” of the Holy Ghost since Brother Branham called the capstone the seal of the Holy Ghost? Also, when did or when will Peter get the second capping off of his stature? Also, which Scriptures say there is a second capping?
- (4) Faith cannot be the point of the new birth since Peter had faith in Luke 22:31, which was well before the moment he was born again in Acts 2:4.
- (5) Faith cannot be the point of the new birth because Acts 19:2 and Ephesians 1:13 both showed believers are only born again after already possessing faith.