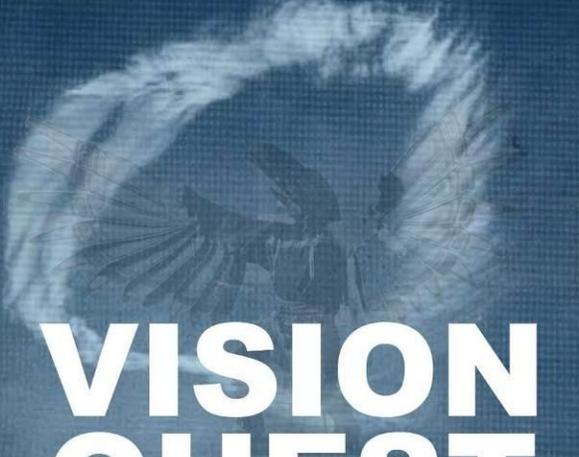


William Marrion Branham



**VISION
QUEST**

by John Collins

Have you not seen false visions and uttered lying divinations when you say, "The LORD declares," though I have not spoken?

Ezekiel 13:7

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Native American Vision Quest	7
The Science of Fasting.....	15
Fasting In Ancient Cultures.....	19
The Dangers of Fasting	23
Fasting, According to the Scriptures	26
Branham’s Vision Quest	31
Conclusion	39
About the Author	42

Introduction

Fasting is a way of showing both submission and devotion to God. The origin of this practice is unclear, however it is evident that fasting was a part of the way of life from the Old Testament to the New.

Fasting comes naturally in the times of mourning or anxiety, and as a sign of respect others sometimes join the mourner in fasting and prayer. During the times of David, he fasted over the death of Abner, and there was a seven-day fast in mourning after the death of king Saul.

Ninevites fasted in repentance after Jonah declared God's coming wrath, begging for mercy for their idolatry. It was Jewish custom that fasting for God was combined with repentance and atonement. Their fasting was their way of telling God that He was greater than even the needs of the body, and they were willing to submit to God.

The Bible does not give many instructions related to fasting, and it is more of a custom than a required covenant. The New Testament did not instruct followers to continue in the tradition of fasting as their fathers did, though fasting can be found in scriptures in the book of Acts and Corinthians.

The only instruction Jesus gave for fasting was that it should not be a public display. Like prayer, it should be done in private.

Fasting is not only found in the Jewish and Christian religion, though reasons for fasting differ from religious faith to faith.

Though used by the traditions of the children of Israel for devotion and respect, there is a science behind fasting that has been misused to the purpose of evil.

This study is intended to untangle the truth behind fasting, and separate God's way from man's way. With any religious practice, fasting must be studied according to the Word of God before we as Christians participate in either the practice or the fruits produced by the practice.

Native American Vision Quest

William Branham was fascinated by the American Indian, the ancients that once roamed throughout North America before civilization drove them out.

I don't like to see people pushed back. No, sir. I think we owe the Indian plenty. Amen. God bless them. I've never seen one come through the line yet but what was healed. That's right. Them and the Spanish, humble, very humbly, they believe what you tell them. And that's what it takes.

51-0414 THE.ANGEL.OF.THE.LORD

Though television and motion pictures created a fascination in many viewers throughout the nation, Branham had a greater reason for his fondness. His grandmother was an Oklahoma Indian, which made him part Indian.

My mother's mother come off the Oklahoma reservation. She's full-blooded Cherokee Indian. And my father's Irish. And my mother, on the other side, by her father, was Irish.

50-0813A THE.RESURRECTION OF
LAZARUS

Oklahoma was home to seven Native American tribes, and twenty-five other tribes that migrated to Oklahoma in the early 18th century. Though

many other tribes also had similar rites of passage, the Cherokee held a strong tradition of Vision Quests.

Young Cherokee Indians would travel to a secluded cave, densely populated grove, secluded hillside, or other isolated area to receive their first vision from the gods as instruction on the direction of their life. Many travelled alone, however often another skilled warrior would stand guard to protect the younger warrior.

The Vision Quest, to the Cherokee, was a representation of the return to the womb and a time of prayer with the Creator. Some tribes believed that the warrior's spirit died as they left for the quest and was reborn by the vision they received.

The Vision Quest is also known in some cultures as a "Vision Fast." Fasting is the key element to a self-induced vision.

The practice of going alone into the wilderness to fast and pray and meditate is so old we cannot trace its origins. The literature of both East and West is filled with hermits and holy people who lived alone in deep forests or hidden caves. Others fasted in monastic cells. Christ himself spent forty days in solitude in the

wilderness. Buddha sat alone under the Bo tree until he was enlightened. Young Native American men (and some women too) were sent out alone to fast and pray and seek a vision. An ocean away, other young men knelt in prayer and fasted as they prepared to take the oaths of knighthood.

Munro Sickafoose, The Vision Fast

This obviously does not mean that the vision came from God; a self-induced vision can also come from the elemental spirits of the world, the ones that the American Indians worshipped. Otherwise, we would have found a mass conversion from the Indian cultures into Christianity when God's visions pointed them to Christ.

The Vision Quest had a few simple elements that were required to invoke a vision for the warrior. If followed correctly, the vision quest was successful and the warrior returned successful with a word from the spirits.

Asceticism and Separation

In the first phase, the warrior had to prepare himself to leave his state of being. Before fasting, the warrior must remove all aspects of life that would distract his thoughts from the spirits. He

must bring himself to a mental state of focus, without any care for the things of this world.

Sometimes, the warrior would give all of his possessions to others, others simply removing certain objects of value.

The warrior had to seclude himself from the others, and not be part of the things commonly enjoyed by others. The mind must be in a state of clarity.

Leave the Past Behind

The fast begins. As the warrior enters the wilderness, he regards himself as a dead soul, but not dead to the past. He becomes dead to the world so that the old body will pass away and the new body will be filled with a new soul, but the warrior has to decide if he is willing to give up the things that have become familiar to him.

This point in the warrior's life is the "trail of decision." He is on the narrow path to new life, and has a decision to make: let the old life die and let the old things die within him, or turn back to the things that give him pleasure and comfort.

The Death Lodge

On the second day, the warrior sits in the “Death Lodge,” which is a symbolic place of seclusion. This represents the final resting place for the warrior, where his body will lie after death.

At this stage of his vision quest, the warrior must remove all thoughts of the past from his mind, dead to the world and focused on what the spirits were going to tell him.

He must also prepare himself to “die in a good way,” making peace with the spirits and himself so that his past does not drag him back from the vision as it begins. All thoughts must be removed and the mind an open slate for the spirit writer to create.

The Circle of Purpose

The fasting warrior then begins meditation in the “Circle of Purpose.” Though alone in seclusion, the warrior is sitting with the spirits in a circle, and the spirits are drawing nearer to the place he is going.

His old body is dying. The new body is about to be given. He is entering through the gates of death, and the spirits are preparing him for his journey.

The Rebirth and New Life

As death comes knocking on the door of the fasting warrior, he begins to enter into the spirit world. The spirits in the Circle of Purpose begin to become real, audible, chanting. The warrior can feel the spirits next to him; almost see them as they chant with him.

For an instant, the warrior becomes completely dead to the world. He is in another state of being; he has reached a higher plane. What we would call another dimension, the warrior calls the spirit world. He is in the Circle of Purpose in that world, no longer in the world from which he came.

Then it happens. He has an experience that cannot be achieved for the living; it is a seeing through the eyes of the dead. The spirits show the warrior his purpose in life, his strengths and his weaknesses. The warrior has his commission, through a spiritual vision.

A Vision Quest was a time when the warrior became aware of their body, their spirit, and nature. It is a sacred ritual, a test that required patience, endurance, and a strong will. The goal

of the Vision Quest was to purify the mind of negative thoughts, substance and feeling.

When the Vision Quest was over, the warrior was left feeling energized, alert and healthy. The Cherokee used this spiritual experience as a way to connect to the Great Spirit, and open their minds to the messages of the spiritual deities.

The Science of Fasting

Fasting is not only a spiritual experience, it is a scientific way to cleanse the body and remove impurities.

Fasting boosts neuronal autophagy, or the “eating of one’s self.” Cells recycle waste materials and reduce the functions that produce waste.

This process is not harmful; in fact the brain health is highly dependent upon neuronal autophagy. Without this process, studies have shown that brain function actually begins to break down and deteriorate.

During short-term fasting, the brain begins to produce increased levels of BDNF, a protein that interacts with neurons in the hippocampus, cortex, and basal forebrain (the parts of the brain that regulate memory, learning, and higher cognitive function).

Memorization becomes extremely easy, study seems to come naturally, and unexplained phenomenon begins to occur for the person fasting. At the same time, with the cellular waste being consumed by the body itself, healing begins to occur.

Stroke, brain injuries, spine injuries, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, depression, and even cancer patients can attest that fasting has made a change for the positive. In some cases, complete healing was possible.

Cellular regeneration itself is the scientific explanation for healing. Through cellular regeneration, stomachs heal themselves, livers repair their function – both physiologically and psychologically fasting is the body's way to purify itself.

Fasting, as it invokes autolysis, begins a strong process of self-digestion. Though it begins at the cellular level, even tumors are digested and removed by the body. Cysts, abscesses, fatty deposits, and other abnormalities are largely and sometimes completely absorbed and removed from the body as waste.

The body's way of healing itself through fasting also provides healing for the mind. The poisons and toxins that are produced throughout the body are also produced within the brain. The toxins in the fluids surrounding the brain tissue directly affect the brain chemistry.

Also, the common medicines, food additives, and other substances can produce toxins that alter

the chemistry of the brain. This can produce unexplained mood swings, weakness, depression, and more.

Fasting can remove all of this.

When the brain becomes free and clear, the activity of the brain increases. Though highly uncharted, the unknown functions of the brain increase as the brain begins to free itself from toxin.

At the same time, the production of Cortisol creates “flash bulb memories,” short-term memories that are very accurate and detailed. These memories are like a snapshot in time.

Fasting In Ancient Cultures

Fasting, combined with asceticism, are the essential elements of Shamanism. Most of the unusual Indonesian occult practices, especially Indonesian Shamanism, are solely dependent upon mastering the art of fasting and denying ones self the pleasures of the world.

Combined with the earth's positioning to the stars, these occult powers increase drastically. Correct timing is essential, the proper day and month for these magical disciplines are kept sacred.

We find many signs that ancient cultures included the worship and positioning of stars in their religious rituals. Throughout ancient Egypt, sun charts and star charts were combined to produce powers from the ancient gods, and it is believed that these rituals included fasting since every ancient culture has a rite of passage similar to a Vision Quest.

All parts of the earth have ancient structures designed and built to harness the power of the stars. The Great Pyramid of Giza was positioned

to be directly in alignment with the summer and winter solstice, as is Stonehenge in Great Britain.

Mayan temples were positioned to recognize the Equinox to mark the arrival of Kukulcan, the winged serpent. The world's largest pyramid, Picchu Machu in ancient Peru, was built to be a precise indicator of the equinoxes. The "Temple of Heaven" and "Temple of the Moon" in ancient China were built to mark the equinoxes. The Brihadeshwara temple in ancient India mark the equinoxes. All around the world, temples were erected that were designed to mark the times in which visions were most possible.

Christians, Jews, Muslims, Confucians, Hindus and many other followings have practiced fasting for thousands of years as part of religious ceremonies or rituals. Even Babylonians were known to include fasts as penance for sins committed.

Fasting is the fourth of the Five Pillars of Islam and involves fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, which is probably the most notable time for fasting among Muslims.

The earliest records of fasting for therapy and mind regeneration can be found the ancient civilizations of Greece and the Near East. Plato

and Socrates fasted for physical and mental efficiency, and Pythagoras required his students to fast before entering his classes.

Initially, fasting was the result of the lack of food and proper nourishment, but over time was found to have connection to the elemental spirits of the world. Fasting was adopted by the ancient shamans, diviners, and other soothsayers for the “magical powers” fasting produced. The ancient Grimoires, those who practiced magic from a book of spells, are known to have rituals that require fasting as a preparation for the work.

Shamans used fasting to produce **vibrations** that were sensitive to magical frequencies above and beyond the five senses. Through fasting, they became a receptor for receiving psychic communications that were overlooked by the nerves of the diseased nervous system.

Psychologically, fasting induces a certain borderline state making the mind susceptible to data fed into it in the form of affirmations, mantras, and prayers, and thus strengthening subconscious response to the information given. Fasting likewise orients the mind to the spirit within making it conducive for inner attunements and communications to take place with the Cosmic Mind and the various

intelligences composing It. The increased vibrations of the body, cleansed of all toxic matter through fasting makes it possible for the attraction of certain types of spirit beings that normally would not come into close proximity to us because of the noxious affluvia that we emanate. Indonesian shamanism urges one to fast on one's natal day (according to the Javanese calendar) to accumulate extra power and to strengthen the relationship with one's guardian angel and what they call the "four spirit brothers."

*Indonesian Shamanic Methods
of Fasting & Austerities*

The island of Java in Indonesia is known for rituals of mysticism. Certain months of the year in the Javanese calendar are considered to be more conducive to the spirit world. Fasting was the way to contact the spirits from that world, and produce visions.

As the mind is cleansed from the waste elements, the dark elements are often projected onto the consciousness in the form of hallucinations or illusions. These illusions were used throughout the ancient world by mages, wizards, and other "spiritual" magicians.

The Dangers of Fasting

Because some reading this may be tempted to create their own self-induced vision, it should be mentioned that there are many known problems with fasting, especially excessive fasting. Unless you are in a very healthy state of body, fasting is not recommended and could even be deadly.

Fasting Increases Stress

When your body is fasting, it is natural for it to go into self-preservation. The body is programmed to protect itself from starvation.

As the metabolism slows, the production of Cortisol by the adrenal glands increases. Cortisol is the hormone that regulates your stress, and a high amount of cortisol can make you feel emotional both physically and mentally.

Muscular Degeneration

Cortisol triggers the release of amino acids when there is an absence of food in the body. Muscles are turned to sugar, which feed the brain, kidneys, and red blood cells. Though the brain can also use fats, it prefers sugar since the red blood cells require sugar to survive.

As the muscles are turned to sugar, muscle tissue begins to deteriorate. This loss of tissue can cause the obvious problems, such as loss of strength or fatigue, but can be a much larger problem as well. Walking difficulties, loss of speech, breathing difficulty, and other problems start to happen as the muscles degenerate.

Other Health Problems

As the body feeds on the waste, deteriorating muscle tissues, and other tissue, the supply of essential nutrients in the body begins to be consumed by the self-digestion of the body. Vitamins, minerals, carbohydrates, and more start to be absorbed into the body as a final effort to sustain life.

Many health problems start to show themselves, from simple fatigue to hypoglycemia. The body can produce gallstones or cause mental confusion. Anemia can set in for excessive fasting. Though doctors recommend fasting in some cases, unhealthy patients are never given fasting as a recommended procedure.

Fasting, According to the Scriptures

In Isaiah chapter 58, the “acceptable fast” is mentioned. The nation of Israel is actually rebuked in their fasting, and given warning that their fast was not acceptable by God.

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

Isaiah 58:6-7

Isaiah is declaring that the acceptable fast is not merely abstaining from food and water. It was also required that they obey God’s command for the poor and hungry. Zechariah has the same message in Zechariah 7.

Daniel fasts for separation and devotion to God in the very first chapter.

But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs.

Daniel 1:8-9

One day a year was set aside for fasting according to Leviticus 23:27, which was called the Day of Atonement. Everyone abstained from food from the evening of the ninth to the evening of the tenth during the seventh month.

Fasting was not only a practice of abstaining from food and water, fasting included abstinence from other earthly things. The Bible includes several passages describing great men of old fasting for extensive lengths of time. Moses fasted forty days and forty nights back-to-back. In-between the fasts, he received the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments.

1 Corinthians 7 describes fasting as temporarily giving up something great for God in order to give Him all our focus and attention.

King David fasted when God struck the son of Bathsheba with sickness. David's fast was for repentance for the murder of Uriah, and God was displeased. David fasted until the death of his son.

Fasting was used for repentance, but also used for humbling as described in Psalm 35. Fasting was used for celebration when Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast throughout Judah for the victory over the defeat of the Moabites and the Ammonites in 2 Chronicles 20.

Fasting was used to repent for judgment in Joel 1, 2, and 15, and for the people of Nineveh in Jonah 3. The Jews of Persia fasted with Mordechai as genocide was declared on Haman.

Fasting was also used for God's protection. Esther declared a three day fast for all Jews before she visited Ahasureus without an invitation in Esther 4.

In the New Testament, there are not many rules established surrounding fasting, because there were no set laws that were given to follow other than Divine Love. Before Jesus came, however, the prophetess Anna prayed and fasted regularly in the Temple in Luke 2. Anna later proclaimed the baby Jesus to be the Messiah.

Like Moses, Jesus fasted forty days and nights in the desert in Luke 2. It is evident that he hungered, because Satan tempted Him by asking that he turn the stones to bread in Matthew 4 and Luke 4.

The only real commandment given regarding fasting was by Jesus in Matthew 6. Jesus asked that we do not hold an outward appearance of weakness or sadness when we fast; it should be an inward devotion to God instead of an outward.

In Acts 9, Paul fasted for three days after he was converted on the road to Damascus. Later, Paul went to an entire church in Antioch who was fasting. The Holy Spirit told Paul and Barnabas to go.

Later, Paul and Barnabas appointed elders with prayer and fasting in Acts 14.

The scriptures neither command nor require Christians to fast. Fasting is good, and beneficial before decisions. Fasting should go hand-in-hand with prayer, as is described throughout the New Testament, but it is not necessarily required.

Fasting is a personal experience with God, and it is up to individual how he or she wishes to submit himself or herself to Christ.

Fasting is not intended to punish us or put us in a state of depression, but to redirect our full attention to God. By taking our focus off the things of this world, we can more fully worship God.

When we fast, we should do it in secret, for Christ, and not broadcast it to others. “Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Branham's Vision Quest

William Branham was not quiet about the fact that he fasted almost every Friday throughout his ministry. Though Jesus commanded our fast be done in secret, Branham was comfortable in telling his congregations that he fasted often.

Then I remember, I'd been fasting; it was just like tonight. Fridays is a fast day, has been for me for a long time.

51-0928 AT.THY.WORD

He also fasted for two to four days at a time, especially during the healing meetings. Just as the ancient Indonesians harnessed the power of the vibrations, he would use fasting and vibrations to discern the sickness of those in the prayer lines.

But however, I'd been fasting for a couple days, or three, which is about as long as I can ever fast,

61-0125 WHY_ BEAUMONT.TX

Usually before I start in the prayer lines, I take three days of fasting and praying, as many people know that how I--I try to be, have the...

How many's here that's been in one of the services before? Let's see your hand. Well, that's just wonderful.

50-0711 MINISTRY.EXPLAINED

I'm sure that any of the Native Americans in the meeting would understand how Branham harnessed the spirits, but to those who grew up in a Christian home without ancient spirits, Branham was a magician.

Branham was very open about how he conjured up the spirits.

Walked right over, just as normal as any man, and talks just like any man. He comes, time after time, through the room and different places when I'm fasting and praying.

50-0713 OBEY.THE.VOICE.OF.THE.ANGEL

He also was very open about the science behind fasting.

If your--if you keep your stomach empty, the blood is at your brain, and you must be ready. And if you're all full when you're... That's the power of fasting. When you're--when you're full, the blood goes into your stomach to digest your food. You see? And then when you're empty, it's in your--in your brain. So you can be just... 'Cause them two spirits is so close it could deceive the very elect, if possible.

50-0813A THE.RESURRECTION.OF.LAZARUS

_ CLEVELAND.OH TUESDAY_

It is evident that Branham suffered some of the negative effects caused by excessive fasting. Not only was he open about how he produced visions, how he opened up the spirit channel to vibrations, and how he did them often, Branham was very open about how they took a toll on his body.

The nights grow on. Of course, I tire, and tire more. It is a truth that I believe, as a physical man tears down, the spiritual man has a chance. That's what fasting and things are for. He can have a chance to work upon these five senses of ours, to bring us to believe and have faith in Him.

50-0815 WHO.IS.GOD

Branham also went to high or remote places to begin his Vision Quest. From towers in Finland to caves in Indiana or Kentucky, Branham went to the Circle to receive his visions.

And I had been up in a tower, fasting. Many of the ministers had been up there. I had one interpreter, Mrs. May Isaacson, many of you might've knowed her, seen her... And so she was an American, Finnish-American. And we came down. And there was an Englishman there from England, was drunk and going on...

50-0818 IT.SHALL.BE.EVEN
AS.IT.WAS.TOLD.ME

Throughout his ministry, every Friday was openly declared his “fast day.” Branham did not keep his fast contained to silent and secret places, he made everyone know that his fasting was a weekly ritual.

Now, we're going to read some of the Word, and then just a comment or two on It. And then we're going to--to start the prayer line, because I have... This has been a fast day, fasting and praying that God would grant His blessings upon you people tonight.

51-0413 THE.WORKS.THAT.I.DO
BEAR.WITNESS.OF.ME

He describes exactly what the Indonesian Shamans describe. Special powers took over his soul as he went on excessive fasting Vision Quests.

Now, listen here just the way the meeting takes place, before we start. I pray; I fast. I just come out of a meeting: I've been gone now for two days; I've been home, been back to the house a couple times. Go off to myself and pray, not eating, fasting, waiting. And there's something comes down, takes over my life, my body, and I'm not myself. No more...

51-0923 THE.PRINCIPLES.OF
DIVINE.HEALING

Though Branham's fasting was not done in the scriptural manner, in secret devotion to God, he continued to announce that his Fridays were a day of fasting and his healing services revolved around his long fasts.

Then I remember, I'd been fasting; it was just like tonight. Fridays is a fast day, has been for me for a long time.

51-0928 AT.THY.WORD

And usually in the healing services I'm always fasting and praying, but I been feasting and talking the last few days. We certainly had a wonderful time,

51-1003 BELIEVEST.THOU.THIS

The Vision Quest, to Branham, was a divine experience rather than a self-induced experience common to Shamans and sorcerers. Branham truly believed that these Vision Quests channeled Christ instead of the underworld.

My s--ministry is praying for the sick. And in order to do that, I must come into another world that the people know nothing about. There's just no need of trying to explain it; you--you can't do it. And I go to fasting about three

days before my service, and it lifts me up into a sphere there, that I... Well, I just... That's just it. It goes into another dimension that sees things and so forth. Then when the--between the services some I just let down and go out. And I like to fish and hunt and--and like anyone else. So (You see?) it's--it's man here, but then man uses--or, God uses man to glorify Him.

51-1003 BELIEVEST.THOU.THIS

Each time Branham describes his Spirit Guide, he also describes the fasting and seclusion that conjured up the 'angel.'

And he was--he was with me, and I'd been in the room for three days, just fasting and praying. Am I taking too much of your time? [Congregation says, "No."--Ed.] I hope not. See? I--I had been fasting and praying and wouldn't go out to eat. And Brother Baxter come said, "You got to eat tonight." So he took me down to the cafeteria. And just as we got in the cafeteria, he said, "Say," he said, "we're kind of trapped in here." Said,

52-0715 FAITH.IN.THE.SON.OF.GOD

Branham admits that the healing campaigns were not successful unless he went on his Vision Quest. He had a set procedure for summoning the elemental spirits, and followed that procedure throughout his ministry.

Now, I was very much carried away with Brother Baxter's talk tonight. That's the first time, and since he's been managing the meetings, that I've ever set on the platform and heard him speak: the first time in years that I've knowed Mr. Baxter, about 5 years. It's always in the meetings that I'm out praying, getting ready, seeking God, and praying and fasting before the meeting. That's usually the procedure. I never get into the meetings until the time to come out in--under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and go right into praying for the sick.

*52-1027 JESUS.CHRIST.THE.SAME
YESTERDAY.TODAY.AND.FOREVER*

Throughout the ministry, Branham continued to broadcast the fact that every Friday was a fast and every healing meeting was a Vision Quest.

From the first time he admitted it until 1964, Branham continued to announce his Friday fasts and Vision Quests.

*53-0607E A.TESTIMONY
53-0608E AT.THY.WORD
53-1106 DO.YOU.NOW.BELIEVE
53-1203 TESTIMONY.RAISING.DEAD.BOY
55-0724 ENTICING.SPIRITS
55-0828E SIR.WE.WOULD.SEE.JESUS
55-1111 WHERE.I.THINK.PENTECOST.FAILED
56-0121 THE.INTER.VEIL*

56-0224 JEHOVAH.JIREH
57-0307 GOD.KEEPS.HIS.WORD
57-0908M HEBREWS.CHAPTER.FIVE.AND.SIX
58-0315 FAITH
58-0512 LIFE
60-0330 BLIND.BARTIMAEUS
61-0125 WHY
61-0125 WHY_ BEAUMONT.TX WEDNESDAY_
62-0117 PRESUMING_ PHOENIX.AZ
62-0318 THE.SPOKEN.WORD.IS.THE.ORIGINAL SEED.
64-0313 THE.VOICE.OF.THE.SIGN

Conclusion

Fasting is a spiritual devotion that is not to be taken lightly or to be ridiculed. The point of this study is not to be pointing fingers of accusation or to deny the many signs and wonders Branham claimed to have during his campaigns.

Instead, this study is to ask the reader one simple question: Were the weekly fasts and the Vision Quests summoning a spirit of the Lord or a ancient elemental spirit like many others have done down through the ages?

Fasting has been known to produce visions and vibrations by summoning elemental spirits since long before the flood. Shamans, medicine men, wizards and sorcerers throughout the ages used these vibrations in their idolatrous practice, so we must be careful that the right spirits are being contacted.

Not a single reference to fasting for summoning divining vibrations is mentioned in the Bible; instead the fasting is described for repentance, submission, devotion, and celebration.

If you are a follower who placed your faith in the healing campaigns of William Branham, I beg you to study this with prayer and humility. It is quite possible that you will come to the same

conclusion that I did: May God have mercy on our souls.

About the Author

John Collins is the author and webmaster of www.seekyethetruth.com.

Almost 36 years in “the Message”, the name of the group of people (cult) following the teachings of William Marrion Branham, John has dedicated his life towards helping those who are still in this cult, and to those who are no longer bound but serving Jesus Christ with many questions. His goal is to remind both groups that we serve a living God who does not look to any organization, doctrine, mystery, or gift of the Spirit; we serve a God who looks at the heart.

His main purpose is to point others back to the Bible, which is the Absolute. All words of men may fail, but the Word of God will never fail. We should put our hearts and minds back on Jesus Christ, who died on the cross so that ALL could be saved by grace through faith.

Seek Ye The Truth started as a central place for all cult followers to ask the questions openly and anonymously, many of which they had in their hearts and minds for several years and were afraid to ask. The original goal was to go "hand in hand" with the local pastors, spreading the answers and vindicating the teachings of William Marrion Branham.

As research started to progress, more false teachings were found than truths. More prophecies had failed than had succeeded. None could be proven. Bible teachings came from Gnostic texts and other strange beliefs, and did not line up with the Word of God. Cult pastors had no answer.

While some live normal lives walking "middle ground," many are starting to become very hurt and abused. Many suffer depression. Physical and sexual abuse, and self-condemnation stories started surfacing.

Over time, Seek Ye The Truth slowly transformed from a site of questions into a site dedicated to help those in need. There are almost two million cult followers of William Branham around the world, making it larger than some of the other cult followings, and there are almost no support groups for those desperately seeking help. Please join us as we help others.

God Bless You!