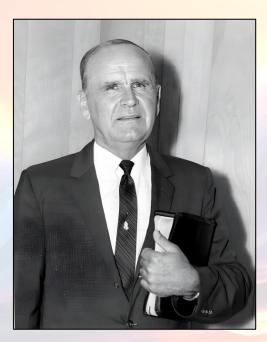
## Don't you miss that wonderful Place

## WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

And whatever you do, whatever you do, friends, let me ask you, if you believe me to be a servant of God, let me tell you something: Don't you miss that wonderful Place. Don't miss it.



**William Marrion Branham** 

## Title: 60-0716 — From That Time

197 For just a moment, I'm going to make a confession now. I want you to listen to this. I have been a minister thirty-one years. I'm closing after this testimony. I've never been afraid of death since I been a Christian. But what scared me, or, worried me, was the time, if I died before Jesus come, I didn't want to be a-a spirit. I—I'm always afraid of anything that looks like a spook; I—I'm—I'm scared of it. So, I— I—I thought when I—I—I know this body...I thought I'd go to be with the Lord, but maybe I would see one of my brothers. And there they'd go by like a little white cloud, a spirit, the soul of that person.

198 I'd say, "Oh, there there's my brother. Oh, if I could just shake his hand. He hasn't got any hand; it's rotted down in the grave. If I could say, 'Hello,' but he ain't got...I can't got...I ain't got no tongue; my tongue's rotted down in the grave. If I could embrace him, but I haven't...I—I'm a spirit."

199 Oh, that scared me to death. I—I just didn't like that. And I—I—I'm an illiterate person, and I—I can just barely read, got a seventh-grade education. And so then I thought, "Well, my, if I could just...I hope I live to the Lord comes."

200 Now, I know when He come back, my body would be resurrected. I know that I'll have a body; all the old age will be gone away. You'll never be old there. No, sir. Every symbol of sin will be taken away, and old age is symbol of sin. So, everything that represented sin will be taken away, because from the curse. Not that you sinned, but you're one of Adam's race, and you—you turning back to the dust.

And I thought, "If I could just live to see Jesus coming."

201 I said to Brother Gene here, Brother Leo and them, many times, and Brother Fred, many of my friends, I'd say, "Oh, I hope I live to see Jesus come, 'cause when He comes, I'll be changed, and I won't have to be that spook. I don't want to be that. No, sir." I-I said, "I'd be, I guess all right, but I-I want to shake hands. I love human beings. I don't know nothing but human beings, so I—I'd like to be that."

202 And the other morning, about five weeks ago now, I'd been out on a meeting, come in. I was tired, and I woke up in the room about seven o'clock. And I said, "We'll go down to the tabernacle this morning, or in the morning," to my wife. And she was still sleeping, and I kind of raised up, the head of the bed, and put my hands back like this. And I was just laying there,

thinking. I said, "Hey, I'm fifty years old. I haven't done nothing for the Lord, yet. I got to hurry up and do something." And I said, "I got...I—I'll be old after a while." And I said, "I—I got to hurry and do something; I ain't done nothing for the Lord."

203 I said, "But you know, I'd sure hate to...I hate the idea of having to die before He comes." I said, "If He'd just come..." I said, "I—I dread that thought, if I have to go if He tarries for a few years yet, and maybe I don't live to see it, and I'll have to die and become a spirit." Mmm, I didn't like that at all.

204 And while I was laying there thinking that, I heard Something just as plain as you hear my voice, as I was telling you last night, said, "Keep pressing on."

205 Well, I—I...first I...It comes in such a way, just like these visions here: You say it, and you don't know you said it. You're speaking, talking; you don't know you're talking. When I see a vision before somebody, I don't know what I said. Only the way I know it's go back to the tape here and find it. See? I don't know what I said, 'cause you're somewhere else in another place, maybe forty, fifty years back down somebody's life, or way yonder ahead in somebody's life. See? You don't know; you just don't know you say it.

And I—I said, "I am pressing on."

Said, "Keep pressing on; keep pressing on." Said, "The great reward is at the end of the road."

206 Now, I asked permission of the—the chairmen and so forth to say this. I believe it was a vision, but if it was, I've never seen anything like it. I've seen visions since I was about three years old, maybe younger than that. And I've never seen anything like this, never had such an experience to happen to me. I'm reading a book that the pastor here gave me, of someone else who had a similar experience. I read it, for in it said Brother (What was that? Wigglesworth? Or...) Price, **Brother Price had an experience** something like that; I wanted to get his book and see what it was. I—I want to find out.

207 I do not want to say "translation," because it would look like, if you would, it was trying to copy the Saint Paul. No, I want to—I want to be just what I am. See? Just...I can't be Saint Paul, but I serve the same God he did. And so...

I said...It just kept saying, "Press on."

And I—I—I spoke back, I said, "Well, I'm pressing on."

He said, "The great reward is at the end of the road."

I said, "I realize..." I said, "Who...That must have been my wife." I said, "What did you say, honey?"

I shook her; I said, "Meda? What did you say?"

She said, "Huh?" She was asleep.

208 And I said, "Well it wasn't her." I said, "Maybe that was the Holy Spirit." I said, "Kind Heavenly Father, was You speaking to Your servant? What would You have me to know?" 209 Nothing spoke. I waited a little while. I heard It again, saying...Seemed like I could hear someone singing that song, "Lord, let me look apast the curtain of time." Did you ever hear it? You know?

Lord, let me look apast the curtain of shadow, of sorrows and fears,

Let me hear the sweet harbor bells chime,

It would brighten my path and would banish all fear;

Lord, let me look apast the curtain of time.

Seemed like I could hear somebody singing that. I thought, "Wonder what that is?" I was just as, like I am now.

And I heard Something say, "Keep pressing on."

I said, "I will press on."

He said, "Would you like to see apast the curtain?"

I said, "It would help me."

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210 And just then, I felt something happen to me. And I thought, "What's the matter here?" And I looked back, and I could see myself laying on the bed.

211 Now, if this—if this hinders you, God forgive me for telling it. See? I've never told it before, only to my church, my own church. And I looked back, and I hope by the grace of God, that you don't class me a fanatic. I—I...If I am, I don't know it. I—I don't want to be. No, sir. But I...God in Heaven knows that this is true, as I hold my Bible over it, just as I told you last night about the squirrels. This happened just recently.

I looked back, and I seen myself, and I wasn't moving. And I turned, looked this way; it looked like a little place coming down like this.

212 And I—I—I say this not as apology, but I've been pretty hard on women. I've been called

a woman hater, but I'm not; I-I'm not. I—I like my sisters, but I don't like to see women acting the way these modern American women are. When I went to Saint Angelo, the catacomb in Rome, in Italy, there was a sign up there by the catacomb said, "Please, American women, put on your clothes before entering this place and honor the dead." Hmm. Notice to the American women, why, it's a disgrace.

They asked me, "Haven't you all got any decent women over there?"

I said, "Oh, sure we have. That's just the...That's that other crowd." See?

But they know just as American, that's what it was.

213 And so, this...I...I won't have time in this meeting to tell you. In 1933...This is a woman's nation. It's the number thirteen. It appears in the thirteenth chapter of Revelation: thirteen stars, thirteen stripes, thirteen...Everything's a thirteen. Everything is woman. And remember, THUS SAITH THE LORD there will be a woman rule before the end time. She'll either be President, Vice President, or it'll be the Catholic Church as a woman. I've seen her: A great woman, the nation bowed to her. It'll be one before the end time. THUS SAITH THE LORD. Write it down and find out, you young people. See if it happens. If it isn't, I'm a false prophet.

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214 Now, just remember; that's the end. This America is a woman's nation. It's a place where she's god at freelance, and man says nothing to her. She bossy; she runs everything, businesses and everything, even got into church on the platform, the pulpit, and running it now. So there-there you go, you see, it's...And that's absolutely as unscriptural as-as Cain and Abel...or Abel would be the...like Cain. Certainly, all these things,

she's ruler. And she's—she's a goddess. That's true in America.

215 Not you, sisters, but I was always a little rough with them like that. And maybe I—I thought little too rough, maybe, а sometimes. But how can I? If you—if you're spiritual, you'll catch it right now. See? How many of you thinks you understand what I mean? [Congregation says, "Amen."-Ed.] Good.

216 Look at Elijah. What did he call? He couldn't help it. He's cried out against that Jezebel; did he? How...Here come John the Baptist with his same spirit. How could he have help crying out about it? "It's not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." It cost him his head. See? See? God takes His man, but never His spirit. See? It keeps moving on down. The forerunning of the Coming of the Lord Jesus, as He spoke down there at the river in—in 1933 when I was baptizing

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there, and you see what happened to it. See? Just exactly what He said it would take place. So you can't help it.

217 And when I looked, coming running to me, it was, looked like to me, a million of young women, about twenty years old. I never seen such pretty women in all my life. Their eyes looked like stars, their teeth as white as pearl, long hair hanging to their waist, with white robes on down to their feet, and

was barefooted. And they were each one...Now, I...Excuse me now, you women. Each one of them was running up and throwing their arms around me, and hollering, "Our precious brother."

218 Now look, God knows, when I was a boy, you read my story, when I was seven years old, the Angel of the Lord met me as a whirlwind in that bush that day and said, "Don't never smoke, drink, or defile your body." I never smoked in my life, never drank in my life, and I've got...I knowed no woman but my wife. And so then, I didn't live immoral when I was a sinner. And...But I...Since I've been a Christian, I've tried to live as straight as I know how to live, and God knows that's the truth.

219 And—and let me say this: I don't care how saintly a man is, as long as he's human, he cannot take the other sex in his arm, a female, without having a human sensation. And I don't care; you tell me that, and I'll tell you you're telling a story. And if you're a red-blooded man, if you're really a—a man, it's that way; you can't help it. You're a human. I don't say you'd do anything wrong, now; but the sensation's there just exactly the same.

220 But in this, it was gone. Praise be to God, it was gone. It was like—like not when I take my own sister, Delores, in my arms. It wasn't like a mother taking her baby. I—I don't know. It was perfect.

221 And I looked, here come a bunch of men, looked like millions of them coming from this way. And they was all had on white robes and they had like, shaggy hair hanging around their neck. And they was grabbing me and screaming, "Our precious brother."

222 I said, "I—I don't know." And I turned around, I looked, and there I was laying on the bed. Now wherever it is, it ain't very far from here. If it's another dimension or what, I can't say. But I looked back, and I seen myself laying on the bed; I looked this way, and here were these people. And that...

223 If I'd say "perfect," that wouldn't make it. If I'd say "superb"; I can't find the English word. There was no yesterday, no tomorrow, it was all now; no sickness, no sorrow, no sin, no tiredness; they didn't eat nor drink; they didn't sleep, they didn't have to; but yet they were beings. And they'd put their arms around me, I feel it just the same as I feel my own hands like *this*. [Brother Branham patted his arm—Ed.]

224 And I looked pressing through the crowd, and here come my own darling wife. She died when she was twenty-two and here she come, Billy's mother. And she come right...I ~ 32 ~

said, "She'll call me her husband."

225 She was making her way through the women, waving at me like *that*. I could see those black eyes just shining. She was a German girl. She run up and threw her arms around me. She said, "My darling brother."

And there'd been a real pretty woman standing there, just put her arms around me and said, "Our precious brother." And then Hope, she put her arm (That was my wife.) she put her arm around this other woman; she said, "Isn't it wonderful? He's with us now."

I said, "I—I don't understand this." I said, "I—I—I can't unders-..."

226 And these men picked me up, and set me up on a great big high place, and set me down. And they were praising God, none of them kissing me, just embracing me, and saying, "Brother, our precious brother."

And I looked, and people was coming from everywhere. And I said, "What is this?"

And that Voice now, from no one, the same Voice that spoke in the room was still with me, He said, "This is perfect love."

227 And I've always taught: The evidence of the Holy Ghost is perfect love. See? I believe in speaking in tongues, sure. "But though I speak with tongue in ~ 35 ~

men and Angels and have not charity, I am nothing, become a sounding brass and tinkle cymbal." So, when you speak with tongues and got love with it, that'll show you.

228 And the love that we would have here would be like starting here from a shadow, of the shadow, of the shadow into the shadow; and from the shadow to a mist, and to a little moisture, and into a creek, into a river, and then into the ocean. That's where it arrive at there, just perfect, everything. You couldn't die; you couldn't be any sin. Oh, I never...I—I'd never be able to explain what that Place was. See? It—it—it just...It was just perfect, beyond perfect. And just then, there was a...

I said, "I—I don't understand what this is."

And a real beautiful woman run up and she said, "Oh, my precious brother," she said, "I'm so happy you've arrived." And she turned off, and I looked at her, and I thought, "My, how everybody's so pretty, and so young, and so..." And I said, "What is this?"

And that Voice said, "In here all resemblance of old age and everything is brought back to perfection."

229 See, we eat food till we get to a certain age. When I was sixteen, I'd eat the sa-...Let science answer this from me: I eat the same food when I was sixteen years old, I eat now: beans, bread, potatoes, meat. And every time I eat, I renew my life. Anybody knows that makes blood cells, and that's how we come to the earth. And now, the doctor setting here would know the same. Then I got stronger, bigger all the time. And when I got about twenty-two, you also, I still eat the same food, and getting older and weaker all the time, putting new life in my body.

230 Explain to me, scientists: If I'm pouring water out of a jug into a glass, and when it gets half full, I keep pouring more and it keeps going down. Scientifically, tell me about that. What it is, it's an appointment that God made. When you get that age, He's got you just where He wants you, say, "Come on death; set in." Ask science if you don't start dying after you're about twentytwo years old. No matter how good you eat, you're dying, walking right away. It will

finally...Death's on your track right then. But you're growing till you get up that age. From about...You're your best from about fifteen till about twentytwo. That's right.

231 These people looked to be just at their peak, just at their best. And I, looking at them there and how they were looking. So that, I thought, "Isn't that wonderful?"

232 And when I seen my little girl, eight years old, when...You

remember the night, and you've read it in my story. When I met her, she was a young woman. She said, "Hello, Dad."

And I said, "Dad? Why, you're as old as me. I don't understand it."

She said, "Dad, in earth, I was your little Sharon."

I said, "Where's your mother?"

Said, "She's up at your home waiting for you." She said, "I'll

wait here for Billy Paul, my brother."

233 And when I come out of the vision...Hope had her arm around me There, and when I come out of the vision, standing in the room, she still had her arm around me. And I wasn't in no vision, no coma; I was standing like I am now. And she was patting me on this shoulder. God is my Judge.

And I said, "Hope, you're still here, aren't you?"

She said, "Billy, promise me you won't worry about me and Sharon."

234 I was just about to... I had a pistol in my hand a few minutes before. I'd snapped it all the way around, trying to commit suicide. The same day, I tried to lay my hand on a thirty-three thousand volt line when I was working as a electrician, you know my story. And the first thing I know, I was on the ground, setting there, sweating, not knowing what had

happened. That meant God reserving this ministry for you people; I'd have went right then.

And so, she had her arm around me. I said, "Hope, you're still here." Was dark in the room.

She said, "Promise me?"

I said, "I promise you, Hope."

And when she did, she left me; she patted me, kind of hugged me, and left me.

I said, "You're still here, Hope, somewhere, aren't you?" I felt around for her. I turned on the light, I went to every chair and reached around.

235 I said, "Where are you, honey? Don't leave me; don't leave me." Went around through the room, feeling for her like that; just a boy, just been married a little bit, and Billy and Sharon had been born.

236 And I seen her. When I seen her this time, she looked the same way. And I was setting there on this place. And I said, "I don't understand this. Why you put me up here?"

Said, "You was a leader. You were born a leader, to lead people."

And I said, "Oh, my." I said, "Well…"

He said, "Well, this is perfection." Said, "This is like the patriarchs when they gathered with their people."

I said, "Is this...? I—I—I—I I...This is after death?" "Yes." I turned and looked back. There I was still laying on the bed. And He said, "This is after death."

And I said, "Oh, then I've died. Well, this is wonderful; this is good for me to be here. I like this."

And then this woman, real pretty girl that just put her arms around me like *that*. And said, "Just keep pressing on."

And I said, "Well, why...I can't understand." I says, "All these Branhams?" Looked like millions of them. I said, "All these Branhams?"

That Voice said, "They are your converts."

I said, "Converts?"

237 Said, "You see that woman you're admiring?" Said, "She was past ninety when you led her to Christ. Look at her now. No wonder she screamed, 'My precious brother.'" 238 I said, "Oh, if I could only go back, if I could only have a chance. I would grab them; I'd pull them; I'd persuade them. See? Don't let no one miss this. This is—this is perfection."

239 And just then, I looked. I had an ol' dog. We used to hunt; he clothed me, put me to school, opossum hunting, coon hunting and things. And when we moved into the city, a policeman poisoned him.  $\sim 50 \sim$ 

240 When I patted his grave, when I buried him in our back yard, I said, "Fritz, if there is a place..." I was a sinner, about seventeen years old. I said, "If there is a place called Heaven, you'll be there." Later on, I got converted. I always thought...

Now some...I told somebody this, and they said, "An animal being in Heaven."

241 Absolutely there's animals in Heaven. I want to ask you something. Knock the

criticism out right quick. Tell me what happened to that horses and chariots that come down and got Elijah and went up. Where's that horse at that Jesus come in, riding, with His vesture dipped in Blood, riding on a white charger? Uh-huh? Where is that wolf and lamb going to feed together, and lion eat straw like the the bullock? Where's that coming from?

242 And I looked, coming down across the hill, and here

come ol' Fritz. He looked at me and come up and licked me on the hand, I patted him. Just then ol' Prince, my horse, come put his neck around my shoulder and begin to nicker.

I said, "Oh, God." I looked up.

And He said, "All that you ever loved, and all that ever loved you is gathered here."

And I said, "I want to see Jesus. I want to see the One that I've loved and—and worked for."

243 And they said, "You can't see Him right now; He's higher than this. But someday He will come back, and when He comes, He will come to you first. And you'll be questioned on the Gospel that you preached. And then, if you pass the test, then we will go with you, back, and Him, back to earth and live together forever in a body, a fleshly body where we'll eat and drink."

And I said, "You mean, He will question me on the Word I preach?"

Said, "Yes." And that Voice speaking to me said it.

I said, "Well, will Saint Paul be questioned too?"

Said, "Certainly, with his congregation."

I said, "Then if Saint Paul passes it, I will too." I said, "I've preached it just exactly the way he did, not moved one word." And then those millions screamed out, "We know that, and are resting assured."

And about that time, I heard the Voice say, "Keep pressing on."

And I felt myself slip. I said, "I don't have to go back, do I?"

"Keep pressing on." I turned and looked at my body; I seen it move. I was coming to; in just a moment I was in the room again.

244 Friends, from that time, l've been a changed person. I don't know what you'll think about this, but with my hand on the Bible, that is true. That...Wherever it is, I don't know whether it was here, whether it was a vision. I never had one like it. And let's say it was a little translation (I don't say it was), say, my spirit went out, and went there (I don't know what it was), if-if that's glorious under that first Heaven, what must have Paul saw when he

went to the third Heaven and come back and said, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, neither has it entered the hearts of man, what God has for them in store that love Him."

245 I've been more determined. I've...This is my second revival since then. I've been more determined to do everything that I can to persuade men and women, please be sure of this: If God's love doesn't anchor in your heart supremely, don't you take any sensation or emotion; you be sure that you you can turn the other cheek, that—that God...that—that Christ is all in all to you. Don't you miss it, my brother.

246 Just remember. I'll say this, with the faith that I have in that vision, whatever it was, I'll speak it in the Name of the Lord: Except you have that perfect love, you'll never be there, 'cause nothing could ever be there without it. Your spirit would ~ 59 ~

be out of place there. It couldn't come; there'd be no way for it to come. No more than it would be for a grain of corn to raise up out of the ground without a germ of life in it. No matter how natural it would look, it could not raise.

247 My friend, you old people, you young people, you don't know what time you're going to leave. We don't know that. But let me persuade you, as a Christian brother, that...one that loves you: Except you are borned again, and the Spirit of God of love comes into your heart, you'll certainly miss that Place. Let me ask you: If God has given me...given favor between us, and you believe me, I'm honest. What happened? I don't know.

248 But God in Heaven, Who's—Who's omnipresent and is here now, when I leave this world, Heavenly Father, please let me rest in there until Jesus comes. That's...that—that'll that'll be reward enough for me, if I can just rest at that Place, till I see Him come.

249 Then was revealed to me, "If this earthly tabernacle be dissolved, we have one already waiting"; we've got one waiting. Brother, sister, that's true. Now, I think I have the Spirit of God. If the Spirit that's on me isn't, I don't know.

250 Look, let's take the nature of it. Let's take the Pillar of Fire that followed the children of Israel, the One they got the picture of. No doubt many of you have it; if it isn't, pick it up when you go through. Where it was examined by the Federal Government, the FBI agents of Fingerprint and Document; it's there in the hall. One hangs in the Religious Hall of Art in Washington, DC as the only Supernatural Being was ever photographed. It's been seen on the platform. The saints know it; they've watched It. Millions times millions around the world has watched It move, seen It

personally appear on the platform.

251 My wife, about six months ago, saw It for her first time. She was on the river that day when It appeared down there. When the article went all over the-the English-speaking world on the Associated Press: Mystic Light Appears Over Local Baptist Minister While Baptizing. Stood there, It talked; people heard It talking back and forth. Thousands of people standing

there watching me baptize from my first revival, five hundred converts in the Ohio River. It was in the paper, newspaper clippings; we have it. Got on the Associated Press; Canada got it; all around over the country. "Mystic Light..."

252 Now, the scientific world has taken It. Now, they got It three or four different times. Germany taken It. They taken It down here in California not long ago. That is real men with real cameras.

The German camera said, "Wonder if our camera could catch lt?"

I said, "You're welcome to try."

253 And when the Spirit was coming down, they took It coming down, took when It was discerning, and taken It ascending back up again. Oh, my. Thousands times thousands fell to the Cross in Germany. And that's where I'm to return back as soon as they...I can get loose to go back into Germany again, there at Lausanne, Switzerland, It come again.

254 Now, watch the nature of It. If a vine...If it...If the first branch...Jesus said, "I am the Vine; ye are the branches." Saint John 15, I believe. Is that right? "I am the Vine."

255 Now, what did the Vine put forth a branch? The first branch was a Pentecostal church. Is that right? Then the second branch comes forth will be another Pentecostal church. Now, we don't see Pentecostal in all churches, do we? No. Well, what is it? It's a grafted vine.

256 You can take a peach tree or you can take a, I'd say, a—a orange tree, and graft almost any kind of citrus fruit. You can graft on most anything, grapefruit or what-more, but it's the grafted. But if the original vine itself puts out a branch, it'll bring the same kind of fruit that the first one brought.

257 Now, if Jesus Christ is the Vine, and His Life...Now remember, His...The vine does not bear fruit; the branch bears fruit, but it's energized by the vine. Is that right? Well, then if the Life of Christ be in us, It'll bring His Spirit and His works. Is that right? It's got to, because It's the Vine of God. Now...

258 Now, watch this Angel of the Lord. We know that that's

true. Now, watch what kind of a nature It has. It bears the same fruit that It did when It was here on earth. Now, It's back in the Church, bearing forth the same fruit, making another Pentecostal Church, just exactly the way It did the first time. Now, that Church sealed their testimony with their blood. They were godly people; they loved God; they stayed with it.

259 And whatever you do, whatever you do, friends, let me ask you, if you believe me to be a servant of God, let me tell you something: Don't you miss that wonderful Place. Don't miss it. Let us bow our heads just a moment.

260 I wonder just now, before we go further in the service: Is there one here, two, dozen, how many is here that would like to say, "Brother Branham, remember me in prayer right now, since you've told this, I've had a little fear of death, I—I—I ~ 71 ~

want to have that assurance, I want to raise up my hand to God, and say, 'Pray for me'"?

261 God bless you here, son. God bless you; God bless you, you, you. Yes, all back there, God bless you. God bless you, all over the building, balcony; we see your hands up there. "I want to have that peace that passes all understanding."

262 I'm watching, praying. Raise up your hand. Let the Holy Spirit speak. If you die tonight, are you going to go where there's wheeling and, wailing and gnashing of teeth? Or you want to enter into that blessed, sweet rest in peace? I say it in the Name of the Lord, with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

263 God bless you, honey. God bless you back there; God bless you, sister. Someone else? Raise up your hand. God bless you. God bless you. That's right, God bless you. 264 I'm watching, just waiting a moment. Everybody with your heads bowed, praying. All right, just keep on. God bless you; I see your hand. I'm watching something. God bless you; that's fine. All right, someone else? Just keep waiting. All right.

## 60-0716 — From That Time



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