

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG184 – God’s Truth Versus Satan’s Lie

I am going to jump into some things in the Scriptures, because I think it is so applicable. I am really concerned about the feeling, this sense of sort of a tipping point. And I felt awhile back like there was a lot of positive happening in the tipping point, where the truth can be made known; and things were moving in a positive direction, even within the media and just the truth getting out. Because I think this is really, as much as anything else, a battle about the truth versus the lie. And we know when we talk about the truth versus the lie, we are talking about God versus satan – satan is the father of lies, he is the lie. God is the truth. Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. You know, like when you are dealing with Hamas, what are you dealing with? Death. They celebrate death, as we were hearing from Silas last week. And so, it is this idea of the truth against the lie. And I want us to keep contending in our intercession that the truth win during this time. We need to see the truth win in an overwhelming way.

I really felt this Scripture, when I was waiting on the Lord this morning, out of Revelation the third chapter. I am going to start reading with verse 10 and go through verse 12; this is the angel to the Church of Philadelphia. It says, “Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing.” So, number one, I take that very deeply for us, because I think we are a people of the Word; and I think our life is about holding onto the Word, keeping the Word, walking in the Word; seeing the Word of God manifest in us, through us, in the world, and bringing forth His Kingdom in the world. So, this idea of holding onto the Word – there is a covering for us, and a protection; and I want us, number one, to really feel that right now during this time.

I will read it again: “Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” Now, to me it is a big deal when we hear about things transpiring globally – we know that we are talking about end-time events. When we talk about the tribulation, we are talking about global events. And I think that at least from the days of the beginning of COVID, on through today, we saw a shift in the dynamic of what is transpiring in the world around us. And to me, the hallmark of that shift was the fact that things that were happening, were happening on a global level, not just regionally. Up to that point, we have seen a lot of things; you know, you hear of wars and rumors of wars, and whatever; and that can be very regional in its scope. You can hear about earthquakes and disasters, and that is very regional most of the time in its manifestation. My gosh, you can have an earthquake in one part of the world, and most of the world is absolutely not impacted by that earthquake. So, we have seen a lot of things that people point and go, “Oh, those are end-time events, those are end-time happenings.” But to me, there is a difference when those things spoken of, even by Yeshua, begin to transpire on a global level, together, not just in single, regional areas.

Of course, we know that Israel is a region. We know that the Middle East is a region. But we also know that it is out of this region that global events are sparked. And so, when we look at this Scripture, that the angel is speaking these words, saying, “This hour of testing” – it is an hour which is about to come upon the whole world. So you have two things expressed here. He is saying, “an hour which is about to come.” Now it is not necessarily an hour in time, of 60 minutes; but what it is expressing is that the

testing is going to happen all at once, all around the globe. And that, to me, should make us sit up and take note. It should grab our attention that God is going to test the whole world.

That is not necessarily a surprise to us. But on the other hand, I do not necessarily think we have seen that manifesting in its beginnings like we have over the last short period of time. So, I think we are looking at a testing that is coming upon the whole world,

“To test those who dwell on the earth. I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.”

So, we see that there is something happening for God’s people out of this. He said He is preserving us from one sense of testing; but we know, on another hand, there is a very specific testing that we go through that is a preparation. It is a trying of our faith, which we are told not to be surprised at the trying of our faith. But that is different, necessarily, than this testing that I think is coming on the whole world. Now, it is always easy to look at things and say, “Oh, this is that which was spoken of in the Scriptures.” But I do believe that what is happening now is interesting from the standpoint that we really are seeing, because of this war against Hamas, which Hamas began, that the battle that Israel is in is really a battle of truth. It is the truth against the lie. It is the love of life against the love of death. And at the same time, within the context of what is transpiring, we are really seeing, globally, the nations and the peoples of the nations being brought to a challenge of “what are you going to believe?” There is a truth here.

I do not know if any of you had the opportunity to listen to the opening of the trial against Israel in the World Court, and what was read as the charges against Israel, charges of genocide against Israel. It is just flagrant lies; but it is so being believed by people. It is amazing, on university campuses globally you have protests against Israel. You have the United Nations protesting against Israel. You have the World Court – I mean, that’s something, right? “The world,” he said, “is going to experience this testing.” So the World Court now is bringing a suit against Israel for genocide. But in their decree, they never mentioned anything about Hamas. They never mention what really happened on October 7<sup>th</sup> that started this whole thing. They did not talk about the fact that the very existence of Hamas is dedicated to the genocide of the Jewish people. It is right in their charter! The whole cry, “From the river to the sea,” is a cry for genocide against the Jewish people, and the destruction of the state of Israel. That is never mentioned. And oh, by the way, did anybody remember that there is a war happening in Ukraine, where everything that Russia is doing is focused against citizens, not against military personnel? So, we are seeing in the media, we are seeing on every level of society, beginning to erupt – and I am not saying it is completely there – but beginning is this global expression of anti-Semitism that morphs into genocide against Israel.

I believe that Israel, and God’s covenant with Israel, is for the nations. It is to be the example and the illustration to all the nations of God and what He is expecting from us in humanity – how we are to live, what we are to do, how we are to relate to Him. And so, now we see probably the ultimate test. Boy, I bless the Jewish people, because we used to talk about the way that they would hunt lions in Africa; they would tie a lamb to a stake out in the bush and let the lamb bleat and cry, and that would attract the lions. Well, boy, the lions are being attracted right now to come against the lamb. And I think that we are seeing something that really needs to be a central point of our prayer. I do not think it is a bad

thing. I think it is part of God's plan that Israel is to be a light to the nations. Israel is to be an example to the nations; and they have been an example – they have been an example of suffering under the discipline of God. And God is not shy to talk about it. Go back and read Psalm 89, from verse 20 on. Verse 30 is amazing, talking about the fact that God will discipline them; but He will never, ever break His eternal covenant with them. And that is what we see, that God is going to test the entire globe. Now, He is never going to break His covenant of salvation through Yeshua that He has provided for all of the earth; it is going to be there and be accessible. But He is going to take the nations and the peoples to task; and it is not surprising to me that that testing, the source of that testing, may be Israel itself, may be the Jewish people themselves, that God uses as the nexus of the testing for the whole world. And it is very possible that we are watching this unfold.

And so, to me, the prayer that we must engage in is the strengthening of Israel. Because at some point, if we read the Scriptures at face value, there comes a moment when nobody is standing with Israel, that she is alone. And having the absolute strength to stand up against the world on your own is a hard thing to do, when you are being maligned and lied about in every aspect of life, in the media; you are being blamed for everything. But this has been the plight of the Jews going back before World War II, and certainly through World War II, and certainly the cause of the Holocaust – they were blamed. That is how Hitler unified Germany, was to blame the Jewish people for everything that was going wrong in their economy. And so now, the world is saying, "Oh, you are apartheid. You are oppressing the Palestinian people." Well, that is just the newest, latest lie. Obviously, during World War II, they were not oppressing the Palestinians. So, now, you know, what is your excuse? There is always some reason that is come up with to oppress the Jewish people and to come against the State of Israel. So, I think we are seeing it. And to me, it really comes down to the simplicity – I do not want it to be complicated. I want it to be the truth against the lie; and somewhere along the line where I really bless and I want us to pray for Israel, that they are able to so clearly distinguish the truth from a lie.

It is like the Scripture says about the Word – the Word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, and it is able to dissect; it cuts asunder, it separates between joints and marrow the truth and the lie. And I think that is what they need now. They need to be able to stand in every area. We talk about the seven realms of the world; they need to be able to stand in every one of those realms and present the truth of who Israel is, of what their faith is, what they live for, and what God has called them to be. So, I think we are going to see that happening; because what is the challenge? what is the test on the whole world? It is, "Will you believe the truth, or will you believe the lie?" It is that simple. So, we want them to be able to clearly, clearly dissect between the truth and the lie, and present it.

I think they have done that in a couple of occasions; I will mention two that come to mind really quickly. One is when they went to the UN; several women went to the UN, and they said, "Okay, well, where is the Women's Rights Movement? where is the Me-Too Movement, when we are talking about the rape and horrible destruction and treatment of the Jewish women?" You know, it has been crickets since October 7<sup>th</sup> coming from all these national women's lib and the MeToo movements. Nobody is complaining about what has happened to the Jewish women that were taken captive or slaughtered on the spot; or even, like the thing that Silas saw, where it was literally elementary school girls being raped, right there in front of their parents and families, and then shot in the head. So, gee, it doesn't matter when it is Jewish girls and children. So that is one example. The other one is, I heard a guy yesterday, because they are talking about all the civilian deaths that are happening; so he went back and calculated the number of deaths of civilians in comparison to military servicemen, you know, Hamas soldiers, that are dying – because they are saying, "Oh, it's genocide." So, if you take the numbers, there are two

armies in the world that have the best record of the lowest number of civilian casualties in comparison to soldiers that are killed in a war conflict. First is Israel. Israel's number is almost one to one – imagine that. When you talk about these thousands and thousands of civilian casualties, you are looking at numbers that are being presented by Hamas, and they are overblown. And even if you take those numbers that are so inflated, it comes out something like five to one; but those are not true numbers. There is no army in the world that is as careful as Israel to protect civilians, and prevent civilian casualties in an armed conflict, and make sure they are targeting soldiers and not civilians. So again, we are facing media – truth against the lie. Now everybody jumps onto the lie, and spreads that and believes it. And I tell you, I think this is unfurling into a huge test against the world, the earth, against mankind.

I want to read out of Romans. I am going to start in Romans 1, verses 16-21. It says,

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'But the righteous man shall live by faith.' For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness [now this, to me, is this testing; we are seeing the truth purposefully suppressed in unrighteousness], because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

I think we honestly have come to a place where there is such a darkening of humankind. It is a scary thing – we really are seeing the world turned upside down. Good is called evil, evil is called good. The lie is called the truth, the truth is called the lie. Everything has been flipped by this demonic movement that we know is what transpires at the last days. So, I am not saying these are the last moments, or whatever; but I am just saying that we know we move into that, and all you can say is you watch, carefully; study. You know, like we were taught, "Watch and pray. Watch and pray." Don't just pray – watch what is going on around you, because we will see and discern what is transpiring. And we may not know the day or the hour, but we will know that these things are happening around us, and being executed in the world.

I think that we are seeing the darkness of humanity. You remember in Genesis 6, God came down and He saw the darkness, He saw the wickedness of humanity. He said, "It is in their hearts to do nothing but evil all day long"; and that is when He began to move. And God is not going to move without it coming to a head, just like He did when He kept Israel in bondage to Egypt for 400 years because the wickedness of the Amorites had not yet come to the full. Something had to transpire before God Himself could move on what He was going to do. So, many times that means there is a suffering. Israel suffered under that bondage; and I think we see Christianity suffering under this darkness, this unrighteous spirit. Again, we are not battling flesh and blood directly; we are facing the principalities and powers that are consuming the earth. But you suffer under those things while it is being manifested. "Their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise..." Boy, don't we hear that? In the college campuses, in the courts, in every place, everybody is professing to be so wise; but, "they became fools." And when you listen to it, it is foolishness.

There is nothing more foolish in the world than woke mentality. I mean, I'm sorry, I just can't buy this thing of men having babies. What is being forced upon people to believe is foolishness. And yet, society has made us so cower under all of this stuff, you can't speak up against it. But I think as we move along, this will change – and I bless Israel to be the leadership of the voice to speak the truth, and to come against the idiocy and foolishness that is being proclaimed.

Verses 22-25:

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie.

That, to me, is a very heavy statement. It is not like they were accidentally deceived. God is not going to come and blame people who were honestly deceived, or just were tricked somehow into believing the wrong thing. No, he is talking about exchanging the truth for a lie, giving it up purposely, giving it up with an intention to go another direction. And that is what we see. I know it has always amazed me about the Arab culture and Islam, because the Koran tells you to lie. I do not know if you have read the Koran. I have read the Koran and the other books that go with Islam. But it teaches, "Listen, don't tell them what you're doing," you know. "You can't tell them what you're doing. You just lie to them. It's good to lie to them." And that is what they do. They do that about the Temple Mount. If you go back to the 1940s, the Arab material said, "Hey, yes, this was the site of Solomon's Temple." But, you know, you come along to the sixties and whatever, they wipe all that out. They get rid of those pamphlets, and they say, "No, there was never such a thing as Solomon's Temple. And it certainly did not exist on the Temple Mount." So they exchange the truth for a lie. They don't just somehow make a mistake; they purposely pervert the truth of God and make a lie out of it. And again, this war, I think, is about one thing: the truth and the lie.

Christ talked about that. He talked to those that believed in Him, and said, "You are taking after your father, the devil. He was a lie from the beginning. Why can't you hear Me? Because you have already traded the truth for a lie." This is what we are facing in this age right now, and it is just surrounding us. And we are going to stand strong, and we are going to speak up. Verse 25 again, through verse 29:

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever... [And that is what man is doing right now; he is serving himself, he is worshipping himself.] For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed.

I think this is what we have to understand; because for a long time I watched it and I go, "Do these guys really even believe this crap themselves? I mean, how can you believe what you are saying?" But I realize that at some point this reality kicks in, where there is a depravity of mind that comes about that they are no longer able to perceive the truth, because they have exchanged it for the lie; and the depravity of their mind has taken over to the place where they do honestly believe. So when we see these people in the US Senate, when we see these people in the courthouse, when we see these people

in the media, and all these other manifestations of our society, they really believe what they are saying. They really believe it, because they have lost the ability to know the truth.

That is what Christ, Yeshua, was confronting with those Jews in John when He spoke to them. They could not hear Him. They could not hear the truth anymore; because their hearts had been transformed to the place where the truth, believing the truth, was no longer an option for them. And we see that this is really what is happening around us. And yet, at the same time, I think it is important for us to realize that we must speak the truth boldly and clearly. We can no longer go along with the woke mentality. We can no longer go along with the lies and the other things that are being perpetrated as wonderful truths. We have to stand up for what God has said, what His Word has said, and we have to cling to, first in our own hearts, the truth about what He is saying.

One thing I want to bless us in with this, because this has been coming to me all week – I think one of the first places we need to get rid of any bonding to or connection with the lie is lies about ourselves. Christ said, “The wicked one comes, and he finds nothing in Me.” He was just getting ready to be confronted by every kind of lie about Him, every accusation that was going to be made against Him, before He went to the cross; and in Him there was nothing that was in agreement with it. I think we have been conditioned over years in this society, “Oh, well you can’t disagree. You have to agree.” It’s a put down, you know? You can’t disagree with people. You have to accept this way, “I’m okay, you’re okay, we’re all okay.” No, we’re not okay. Because when you exchange the truth for a lie, and you are believing the lie instead of the truth, you are exchanging a relationship with God for a relationship with satan; because he is lie. And I think one of the areas we have to be careful is that we have been conditioned, I think, many times by the spiritual warfare, the battles we have faced; by things that have been said through persecutions or accusations or whatever against you individually about you, until you start playing those things in your own head. You know what I am talking about – things that you are willing to just say, “Yeah, well, I know I have that problem, and this and that....” We have to be careful that we get rid of the lie in our own hearts. We are not going to stand up for the truth outside of us if we cannot stand up for the truth within us. And the truth within us is who He has created us and called us to be; and what He has made us through His cross; and what He has created in us by the planting of the seed of the Word of God in us, that seed which is growing and maturing and becoming what God is looking for us to be in this world. If there is a weakness in us about us where the truth is concerned, we are not going to be able to stand up for the truth outside of us that is God; because the truth about us is we are the sons that He has called forth in this hour to study His Word, to believe His Word, to proclaim His Word, and to walk in His Word; to grow in the things of God, and become His people.

When we accept satan’s accusation or lie about ourselves, that is a very serious thing. But I think too long, we have kind of winked at it and said, “Oh, yeah, it’s okay, you know.” We go into this kind of repentance and say, “Yeah, Lord, I know.” But there is a Scripture that says, “If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creature. Behold, the old things have passed away, new things have come.” And We are new creatures. We must see ourselves first as new creatures. Don’t expect satan ever to see you as a new creature; he is never going to agree with God and come and pat you on the back and say, “Gosh, you are doing so great walking with God, I am really proud of you. You are really becoming the Word of God in your own life” – he is never going to do that. And those who have given themselves over to this mind of perversion and have exchanged the truth for a lie, they are never going to do that, either. They are only going to see you through the lens of the lie.

And Christianity, you know; we talk about what is happening to the Jews now, but as they keep telling us, we are next. Christianity is next. These people are not just coming against the Jews alone – they are coming against us, and they are coming after us. Even in their own theology, America is the big satan; Israel is the little satan. So put that into perspective, because it means that we are a greater enemy. And I think that there is no question that Christians who are really walking in a relationship with Yeshua, with the Father, we are a threat to the lie of satan – and we need to be. We need to be proclaimers of the truth. And so, this is where we strengthen one another, because we have to believe who we are in God, and not just be conformed to what the world has said. He has already told us to get away from that: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we will know what the will of God is, and who we are in that will of God in this age.”

So I really bless us. I bless us to be strong in our intercession, be strong in our faith, to stand for who God has called us to be, what God has already made us. He has already given us all things pertaining to life and godliness; and we come into those things, and we put, as the Scripture says, we put on the Lord. We put Him on like a coat, and we wear Him in His Presence and His truth, and we stand against the lie.

First and foremost – and I proclaim it today – Lord, we proclaim judgment on every lie that has come against us as Your children, as Your sons, as Your daughters; by Your choosing, by Your cross, by our faith that You have given us in the blood of the Lamb that was shed for us; by the breaking of Your body that we might be made whole – we end the lies that come against us, because they are the source of our sickness, they are the source of our stumblings. So we must stand – “having done all to stand, stand.” And we are going to stand strong on the truth of God by His Word about us and who we are.

I bless every one of you in this. And I bless us to become a force, walking away from this time, in those that we talk to, those that we have an interchange with; that we speak the truth in love, and we be a source of the truth, because the truth must be spoken. We cannot allow it to be that only the lie is out there.

There must be truth.