

GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



GIG190 – Our Drive to Know the Lord

One fun thing that I wanted to voice as we get into this is the fact that, whether you recognize it or not, today is actually Purim. Did you know that? And the reason it is Purim is because it is called *Purim Katan*. Katan in Hebrew means small, the little one; and what is happening is that during leap year, what Israel does to correct its calendar is that it has two months of Adar – Adar 1, Adar 2. We are now in a leap year; and because of this correction, when it would normally be Purim, it is only a little Purim; the real Purim celebration is going to be about a month from now, on March 24-25. Erev Purim will be on March 23, so we have that coming up. But I thought, how awesome is this? Let's just kind of draw a circle and have an entire month celebration of Purim!

It was great for me yesterday, because I recorded the podcast for Purim, and then went to the calendar and realized, "My gosh, it is Purim Katan so it is actually Purim, and I am recording this for the time of celebration of Purim." But I thought, "It is really unique," because I think that there are things happening this year that make it worth our attention and expectation that everything is about to change. So, we hold that in our hearts, and we celebrate this time of Purim Katan, and we continue to celebrate all the way through into the actual feast of Purim; which means that we will have a time of fasting, the Fast of Esther will happen during this time. But these are days of change; and this podcast is really looking towards this idea of major change that takes place quickly. Just when it looks like everything is lost, when it looks like destruction is at hand, then there is an instant change and victory that comes – so, from sorrow to celebration. And I just want us, in our prayer, in our hearts, to hold this time before the Lord, and see great things happen over this next period of time between now and the celebration of Purim. So we bless that to everyone.

I want to talk today about something that is kind of tied into this. It is out of the book of Job, in the forty-second chapter, verses 1-6. It says,

Then Job answered the Lord and said, "I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge.' Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.' I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes."

This just came so alive during a time of waiting on the Lord and meditating before the Lord, because I think that we really are in a time of seeing the Lord, of meeting the Lord in another way; to the extent that it is like we are going to feel we have never really known, and we have never really heard, and we have never really seen, compared to what it is to see Him on another level. And I believe that it is the time for us to experience this.

One thing that was real is that when you read this verse, of course, you realize that we are in the end of the book of Job. And I do not know how much you read the book of Job; most people I know try to stay away from the book of Job, because they do not want to hear about it, you know. It is too real to go through these experiences, knowing that maybe they are even satanically initiated, but they are allowed

by God; and in God's allowance, He is teaching us, He is working with us. And this was my experience with this verse when it came to me. I felt like the things I have experienced over the last six years plus seem devastating, they are beyond belief. But, when all of a sudden you just read this one little verse, and you can read this one little verse and feel like, "My gosh, it was all worth it; because God is bringing me to a knowledge of Himself, to an experience with Him that makes it all worth it." Because, as I was saying, you know, maybe it seems that satan is behind much of what you have gone through, or much of what has happened surrounding you. Yet, we know enough about God to know nothing happens to us without Him allowing it. And if He is allowing it, He is allowing it because He is trying to teach us or impart to us or bring us to a new place; to bring us out of something old into something new; to bring us out of our blindness into the light; whatever it is. And so, it was really the feeling that I had when I read this.

In verses 5-6, where he says, "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; therefore I retract, and I repent and dust and ashes." And my feeling was, gosh, we have heard. We have had a living Word; we have heard the Word of the Lord spoken to us. We have heard many things. We have been taught a lot. But I feel like there is an experience where we behold the Lord. Moses had that experience on the mountain, where he beheld the Lord, he stood in the Presence of the Lord; and once he had that experience on Sinai, as we remember, it continued for him in the tent of meetings. It opened a new life for him where he, when he prayed, now went to the tent of meetings, and it said that God spoke to him face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. So, it was not just a one-time experience on Sinai, when it changed for Moses from beholding a burning bush, or even performing miracles that he performed, or hearing the voice of the Lord speaking to him and directing him in many things. It is a different world when we see Him. And I just feel like we should open our hearts.

One thing is, don't be hung up by the past. Listen, whatever you have been through, whatever I have been through, whatever we have been through, we take it as from the Lord to bring us to a place where somehow, whether we realize it or not, we never could have come to that place without what we have been through. He has been dealing with our hearts, dealing with our minds, our spirits, preparing us for a time such as this. And that is what Purim was about, as we remember, where Mordecai told Esther, "Maybe you have been brought to the kingdom for such a time as this." And we know that what initiated really the events of Purim was Esther going in and standing face to face before the king. And I don't know, I just feel like there is something yet lacking in our walk with God. As much as we have heard, and as much as we have thought we have known, or have known what we have known, it is an older level and it belongs to another day. I believe that there is something God has prepared you for. I believe there is something God has been preparing all of us for.

I love this idea from Job, in verse 4; he says, "Hear now," speaking to the Lord, "and I will speak; I will ask You, and You will instruct me." So, "Yeah, I'm still going to be talking here, God, but it is going to be a whole different conversation than what it has ever been before, because I know I have said a lot of things; maybe I have prayed a lot of things, prophesied a lot of things, spoken a lot of things; but now, as I behold You, I'm going to be asking, and You are going to be instructing me and teaching me. And I'm going to behold You, and everything is going to be different." And I do believe it is going to bring us into a level of repentance that we have never experienced. I know that we are all repenters; we live in a state of repentance. But I also know there is a depth that as we behold Him, there is going to be something that smites our heart in a way that does not just come from, you know, hearing the voice or getting this Scripture, or that Scripture.

I think even the Word to us has been a little bit of a story, a little bit third person, arms distance away. But all of us have lived with the cry that Paul had, "That I may know Him." And I do not think there is a knowing Him that really comes any other way than beholding Him. "While beholding Him, we are changed from glory to glory into the same image." That is the cry of our heart, that we be changed into His image, that we really know Him. And I believe that up to this point, we have known about Him, we have spoken about Him, but it has not taken away the cry to really behold Him, and see Him, and know Him on another level. And I believe that we are going to have this experience. Maybe that is pretty bold, maybe it is too much to say, but I believe it in my heart.

I just want to read out of Philippians the third chapter, because I think it kind of expresses where we have come from and how we are reaching for this. He says, in verses 7-8, "But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ." And we know this was the experience of Job. He lost everything. Everything was stripped away; everything was taken away to an unbelievable level. I mean, losing your family, your children, everything. And Paul lost all things, too. But he says, you know, he says these words, "That in view of knowing Him, then I'm glad for the loss. I'm glad for what God has taken me through, because I count all these other things now as rubbish, that I may gain Christ."

So we, too, have this cry to know Him, to find Him. Everything else that we have known, as important as they are, as much as they may be what brought us to this place – even the hard things, they have brought us to this place; and so, I think in my own heart, what we should do during these days is to believe for His appearances. Believe to see Him with our eyes, to behold Him in a new way, on a new level, and be changed even further than what change we have had over these many years of our life walking with Him. There is a greater level of change. And we join with that cry of Paul, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of His suffering; but that I may know Him." We cry the same thing today, that we may know Him. And when we behold Him, we will know Him. We will see Him as He is. And I am believing for that. The Lord was speaking it to my heart; and it was so real, I felt like I had to share it with you and have a common cry together as we progress through these days of the small Purim, coming up to the big time of really celebrating. And remember, it is a time of instant change, and that is what we want to see.

So I bless this to our hearts. Let it be something that really is alive for us. And Lord, in our hearts, we cry for this experience of seeing You and knowing You in a way that we never have before. We have heard of You with our ears, but we want our eyes to behold You. Amen.

Amen. We bless this to our hearts.