

GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



GIG197 – Exceedingly Abundantly Above All We Ask

Hi, and welcome to the podcast. This is a special edition for our Growing in God podcast, as it is produced from a Zoom call that we at Hargrave Ministries have occasionally with our donors. When we have these times together and feel it is important for others to be a part of what we are discussing, we create the meeting into a podcast for release. So, I hope you will enjoy this podcast; and if you like being a part of these discussions, I would encourage you to go to our website at HargraveMinistries.org and join our Fellow Workers.

God did not bring the events that Job went through. God did not do those things; but certainly, when you read it, you realize that God allowed it. So that is my feeling, that God is with me, myself, and the others who are part of this; and really, it has affected everybody in many ways which you probably do not even realize. But God has allowed these things in order for the ongoing perfection of our hearts and our spirits before Him. It sharpens our focus on Him, that we are seeking Him, we are in this looking for a walk with God only. I just know that I trust Him in everything that has transpired in my life; and my determination has been to keep my focus on Him, to try to be faithful to speak the Word as He would give it, and to move in the commission and the anointing and not be distracted by this, or driven off course by anything.

To me, one of the greatest things that we must learn in the Kingdom is forgiveness and love, and that we do not harbor anything in our hearts and our spirits. We do not judge people. This focus on reaching in for a divine ability... you know, I think we would all agree, this idea of forgiveness is one of the most difficult things that we face in our Christian walk with God, and making sure that our hearts and our spirits are clean before God and that we are not judging others, we are not trying to walk others' path for them. We cannot determine where people are in their walk with God. And I think that is so much of what God has done in ending what we have known as the fellowship that we were all a part of, really bringing us back to an individual walk with Him where we can't say, "Oh, it was this situation; oh, it was that person; oh, it was this scenario that was a problem to me."

You know, we are all before Him, and we can choose to be one in our hearts and walk with Him together – but it is because we are all walking with Him individually. And I think that it is so easy to lose that focus, when we are trying to get into a church, or a fellowship, or whatever, that this is an individual event. We know that we will all stand before the Lord – that moment is going to come, that day is going to come, when we know we are standing before Him. But the truth is, we stand before Him every day, and we face Him every day in our walk with the Lord. And I think He wants that to be so real to us and so alive to us, and we just give our hearts to Him.

I want nothing in me, and yet I know it takes absolutely a divine enabling. Forgiving and forgetting is what God does. When God forgives, He forgets. A lot of times we say, "Yeah, I forgave that person," but is it still bugging us in the back of our mind, or thoughts come up. But when God forgives, He forgets. And I want Him not just to forgive me, I want Him to forget those things – not forget about me,

necessarily, but, you know, forget about some of those activities, or things that I said, or whatever. So, we look for that thoroughness in our relationship with Him, but it means we have to be that thorough in our relationship with others.

I thought it was interesting, because not only did we have the podcast on forgiveness from Growing in God come out this week, which I think is a great reminder and impetus for us to just reach in with all of our hearts to this thing of being able to absolutely be free in our spirits from any judgment, any criticism, any lack of forgiveness, anything in our spirits towards anyone. Then I was listening to a message the other day. I was walking the dog in the morning and listening to a message from John called *The Grace of God Abounds*. It was released by TLW in the Hidden Treasures; you can go find it on their website in the Hidden Treasures that are released – *The Grace of God Abounds*. It is actually from 1968. I love it. I love these Hidden Treasures, because they are from so long ago, but they make up such a foundation of the Word that God has given us and what we are to walk in. And I just thought, here was this podcast; I did not hear this or find this message before I did the podcast on forgiveness; but then, here is this follow up. So, I feel like God is just hammering this to us; and I just want to encourage us, because I do feel like this is signaling for us a new day. You say, “Well, I don’t know what was going on.” You don’t need to. Just believe me, it is signaling a new day, and it is ending one whole reality and opening doors for new things to come.

What He says in the Scriptures is, “I will do a new thing, will you be aware?” And so, I want the Lord to give us an awareness of the new thing that He is doing. Number one, Lord, really open the eyes of our hearts to a new day, to the new things that You are doing in our lives, so that we can really give ourselves to walk in them. But also, any last vestiges of any area in our spirits that is a block, an impasse from the old. Maybe you say that it is not lack of forgiveness for you; but if there is anything that we have in our hearts about anything, then Lord, finish this work quickly. Because we not only want to be aware of the new day, we want to be free in our spirits to walk in the new day. We do not want anything that is holding us up. And I know that we are getting ready to go into Passover. Pesach begins the 22nd of May; sundown is the beginning of Pesach, and so we will be going into the days of Passover. In fact, our next call together is going to be in the middle of Pesach. That will be fun to get into.

But as I have been preparing in my own heart for the Passover, what has been real to me is how conditioned we become by what God has put us through; and we see that as a clear picture. I did some podcast messages for Pesach and talked about this somewhat, so it will be coming up in some of the podcasts. But, you know, that was a difficult thing for them to spend 400 years in bondage, in slavery, and then, all of a sudden, have to believe in the miracle power of God. Number one, just to believe in His concern for them had to be difficult; because, you know, when we are in circumstances like that, the first thing we want to do is blame God: “God, You have the power, You can get me out of this.” And we do that – we do that over physical problems that we have, we do that over just circumstances in our lives that we face. We think, “God, I believe in You. I believe in Your power. So what’s up with this? Why don’t I seem to be able to get out of this?”

But, again, like I was saying about this idea of forgiveness, we need to trust that God puts us into whatever; it may not mean that He is doing it. You say, “Well, is He making me sick?” No, He is not making you sick. Did He make them slaves in Egypt? No, He did not make them slaves, Pharaoh did. God brought them in to bless them. God brought them in as a blessing, and with real purpose and reasons behind it. Pharaoh was the one that took it and turned it into slavery and bondage. And you can say, “Well, that has happened in my walk with God. You know, God led me into things.” Maybe God

led you into the church, the fellowship, and then it seems like you had hard times or difficult things transpired. You know, gee, did God do that? Probably not. God probably led you into a circumstance or a situation to bless you, or to help you mature and grow in the relationship with Him. But it does not mean that somehow in there, something turns that into like a circumstance or a bondage that really is difficult to go through. And yet, when we go through that, we have to retain that trust in God: Lord, You are in charge of my life. I am not serving people, places, and things. I am where I am because I am serving You.

You know, people say, "Well, I was serving this person." Well, that is your fault. You should not be doing that. You should be serving the Lord. You should be in the realities that surround you because you were giving your life to serve Him, and dedicated to Him. And if something like what happened to Israel happens, where all of a sudden it seems like a bondage to you, that does not mean God did that; that means some other circumstance. But, if He is allowing that to happen, then look to what He is working in your spirit. Because what I continually say to Him is, "Whatever You are working in me, finish it quickly, because I want to learn. I want to learn what You are teaching me. I want to grow in what You are trying to show me, or have me experience; and there is a reason behind it in You."

Like Joseph faced, you know, he said to his brothers, "You may have meant this for evil, but God meant this for good." And whatever happens in our lives, if we are in the place we are in because we sought God, we believed God to show us and lead us and bring us to the place where we are, then even if things seem to go sideways and go completely awry around us, we have to go back in that trust and say, "No, Lord, I am here because I am serving You. I believe that I had a confirmed leading and Word from You to do what I am doing; and so, You are the One teaching me in these circumstances. You may not be creating the circumstance, but You are allowing it for me to grow and learn." Just like Joseph grew and learned; it said, "Till the day the Word of the Lord came to pass, the Word of the Lord tried him." And so, we are always being tried and tested in whatever God leads us into. Why? Because God is making you a mature son.

It says of Christ, "He grew because of the things that He suffered." He matured, He learned obedience by the things that He suffered. Christ Himself grew and learned, and the Father disciplined Him as a Son. We are all, as sons of God, daughters of God, we are learning and growing. And so, we will be disciplined, we will be challenged; but we must stand in that trust that says, "I know I am here because I was led by the Lord." And if some of you are going, "Uh-oh, maybe I wasn't led by the Lord, and maybe I don't know that." Okay, that's fine, today is a new day. Go reconfirm what you are doing, and where you are, and how you are doing it with God. Make sure you are being led by the Lord in His perfect will. Then you can stand in that trust and say, "I trust you, Lord, with what You are doing, what You are teaching me. And therefore, I know Your anointing and Your power."

So, when we come out of situations, or we go through situations, we are like Israel coming into the Passover. Remember, one of the first things they did is they cursed Moses. You think, "Well, that could be problematic, you know. This is your deliverer, and you are cursing him because you cannot even believe that he is really there, sent by God, to deliver you, and for your own good." And so, sometimes that happens; we start cursing the very thing that is going to be our release, and we do not want to do that, we want to be free. But, God, I love Passover! Because I just put myself in their place, and I think, "What would I have done? How would I have thought? How bitter would I have been at God?" And we are talking about forgiveness – forgive Pharaoh? He killed the children. He separated the husbands and wives. He had the task masters whipping your back, feeding you rotten food. Forgive? How do you

forgive that? Imagine what these people had to go through on that forgiveness level. Imagine what they had to go through on the conditioning level.

One thing I would venture to say – it's just a guess, I could be wrong; I have been wrong once or twice before. But just a guess, there are probably some conditionings that we have as a group from what we have been through. And I want us free. I want to experience a Passover, and part of Passover is a deliverance from the past. We are thankful that we do not die from the death angel, but that was just the first step, right? because they almost died in the wilderness. In fact, most of that generation did die because of what they could not get out of in their own hearts and spirits. So, I bless us. I loose us in preparation for these days of Passover. How many days of repentance do we have left here? Let's see, this is the 6th, and it starts on the 22nd; we don't have many days left, fans, so let's really give ourselves to this time and have it be a time of preparation. Lord, let there be a deep work in our hearts of forgiveness, a deep work in our hearts of letting go, forgetting what lies behind, but pressing on. That is what Paul said. He said, "I forget what lies behind." And there is a way in which we forget it. Hopefully, it becomes wisdom for us in the lessons we have learned; but its effect on us in a negative way – **that** we forget. That stops playing in this endless loop in our spirit, in our mind, in our head, and we really become free from that. So, I really bless us today in this preparation for the time of Passover that we are going into, and I say, "Lord, free us from the paradigms that we have been conditioned by."

I want us to be free in our spirits. I want us to get rid of the negative. But I want us to be free especially from this sense that God does not move on our behalf. Okay? I know we have ones here, like this morning, that we are praying for, for healing. I know there are many here that need healing. I know there are many here that need release in different ways in your lives, in your circumstances, in your families. So, to me, I think one of the major things that we are facing – and I am not really sure, I am really studying this in the Spirit, but I think that we are facing this almost in the body of Christ – is this inability to really believe in the power of God. I know we talked about this last time; this has been something that has been so deep my heart for these last two, three weeks, that there is a power of God that exists that we need to reach into. And what I am doing is just checking my spirit to say, "Is the power of God not working in my life because of my conditioning in what I have been through, however it has played out?" Either I would say, "I prayed and did not see the answer to the prayer," or, "I believed for something and it did not seem to come about," however it worked. Maybe it was something in the relationships that you have. Whatever it is, it is like what they experienced in Egypt – it wears away that ability to believe that you are going to see the power of God alive in your life and working in your life. And I want us to get free; because if there is a new day that we are coming into, then I believe it has to be freighted with the power of God moving in our lives and in the earth today.

I want to read a Scripture. We may have read this, it is out of Ephesians 3. I will back up to get the sense of where Paul was coming from, because I want us to see where he concludes with this. I will begin at verses 14-19.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name [we are one], that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man [so here is Paul speaking to the body there at Ephesus, saying "I want you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit, through the Holy Spirit, within your inner being"], so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to

know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Now let me stop here for one second, because this thing of coming into the knowledge of the love of Christ – think about the words really that he is saying here, they are so powerful to me: “That you know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.” In other words, this is something that has to come from Him, because it surpasses knowledge – it surpasses human ability to grasp the love of Christ. To really get ahold of what the love of Christ is, is beyond our ability in a human way; therefore, it has to come by His help and by His impartation to us. And that is why I think this is so tied in to this idea of forgiveness. What really comes into our being as we go through this challenge of forgiving? It is knowing the love of Christ in our own lives, as well as in the lives of others.

But I think all of us would say about forgiveness, “Well, gee, I can never do that myself, God has to help me. That is something I must find a way to appropriate from Him into my being, because on my own, I know that I can’t do that.” That is kind of what it is saying about the love of Christ, isn’t it? “To know the love of Christ, which is beyond our ability to know it.” He says, “I want you to know what is impossible for you to know.” And so, that should be a clue, “Hey, then it takes my appropriating the knowledge of the love of Christ in order for me to have it.” So, for me, I see those two things connecting, dovetailing together, that as we are reaching for this ability to forgive and forget, really it is triggering in us the knowledge of the love of Christ. So, just tie those two things together: “To know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” When we know the love of Christ, we will be filled up to all the fullness of God. Those words to me are so heavy, they are just beyond, beyond the imagination of what really we think about as believers. And that is why I am reaching for something to get rid of paradigms, where we are not expecting this kind of amazing impartation and blessing and release from God Himself into us.

We are to be filled up to all the fullness of God. But, I think, on a daily basis, we kind of are like the Israelites – we have walked for so many years, do we jump out of bed going, “Boy, I can’t wait! I am going to be filled with all the fullness of God today!”, and really expecting that? I think we may be expecting other things, like, “Oh dear God, what is it going to be like today? What is going to happen?” So, it is our experiences; the time that goes by takes the edge off of the amazing power of God that He is beaming towards us, and what He is trying to hand us and give us. We are to be filled to all the fullness of God.

Verse 20, this is the verse I wanted to get to: “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.” For a second time, Paul talks about this power in relationship to us as believers. In verse 16, he hit it: “To be strengthened with power through the Spirit in the inner man.” This power is to indwell us, this fullness of God. What is God? He is power. He is the power of the universe. He is all powerful. And so, he comes along and says, “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly.”

Have we lost the edge? I mean, sometimes it is hard enough just to believe for our prayers to be answered, much less to be praying this way. And I started trying this over the last couple of weeks; I started praying, listening to myself while I am praying, going, “And do you know what, Gary? God can do far more than you can even ask or think. So whatever I am asking for, whatever I am believing for, God is ready to do far more than I can even ask or think!” For me – I will just speak for me – I feel like I have lost too many times that edge, and I know why: it comes from just the daily walk with Him.

Like Israel's experience in Egypt, it just grinds away, grinds away, at that fresh ability of our faith to open up to the power.

They had to open up to the power that God had placed in Moses to deliver them. And when Moses began to move in that power, the first thing they did was say, "God judge you for what you are doing to us!" because it seemed like it got worse. But I tell you, I believe that there is so much going on right now in the Spirit; there is so much God is doing in the earth relative to manifesting His Kingdom. There are so many signs of things outwardly; and I am not talking about, you know, the solar eclipse, and the comets, and those kinds of things. Those may be saying something; they may just be getting our attention. But I will tell you, always the greatest sign is the sign with Israel – what is happening. And I think that what we are seeing transpiring now, we are seeing the change of the United States of America in its stance; it has just become the enemy of Israel. And you say, "Well that's kind of strong language." Yeah, but when you are forcing them to sign into a ceasefire and a two-state solution, and you are literally forcing them and threatening them into that, that is the enemy. And I just think, "Whoa! We are seeing something that is amazing in our generation."

The other thing I am still looking to, which I have heard but have not been able to confirm, is Russian troops coming up to the border of Syria and Israel. I have heard it through a couple of sources, but I am looking for more confirmation on it. But that would be in alignment with Ezekiel 37. So, there are things happening with Israel that have not happened before. We may be at the place where the nations literally have abandoned them. I don't know, we will keep watching. But I think that what we need to be doing more than anything else is reaching for the power of God to be moving in us and through us in our prayer and intercession. You say, "Oh my gosh, I don't know what to pray. I don't know how to pray." It is really easy: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." God has it planned. We know the plan. We read the Scriptures. We know what His purposes are. So, we stay into that.

But I bless us not to be caught up. When we start seeing things happen that are really scary, I do not want that to shake us. We cannot be shaken. God warned us in Hebrews – He said, "I will shake all things, and only that which cannot be shaken will stand." And we need to be those who, in our faith, cannot be shaken. God is working in our spirits to get rid of everything that would shake us, that would take us out of the ability to move as He wants us to move. And so, I really bless us today. I bless us in these coming weeks, this time up to Pesach, into Passover, that we be standing strong in the Lord. And when we talk about the days of Passover, we are able to stand and say, "We believe." Passover is a reminder that God moves in power. He moves in power against the enemies of Israel, and He moves in power to deliver us out of bondage into His Kingdom. So, we must not be moved by anything that says God is not in charge.

There are a lot of people right now that think they are in charge. They think they are in charge of Israel, they think they are in charge of what is going on. And I just have one proclamation: you are not in charge. They need to go back to Psalm 2 and read about the warning that is given to the kings and the judges of this earth, that they need to "kiss the Son, lest He become angry." And I think that there is a release that we have to proclaim. If there is something you want to go into your closet and shout today, just shout, "Warning! Warning! Warning!" and speak it to the powers that be in this age. Because they are not in charge, they are not in control, and they are putting themselves on the wrong side of history where the Kingdom of God is concerned.

I bless us that whatever lessons we yet need to learn, God, let us be quick learners. Let us not be stiff necked, let us not be rebellious, let us not be resisting or rejecting what You are allowing in our lives that

we might learn. Let our hearts be tender and open before You, that we can draw on the power. Let the eyes of our hearts be enlightened, let our hearts be circumcised, so that we are receptive to what You are beaming towards us. And as we read the Scripture in Ephesians, we know that what He is beaming towards us is the power of His resurrection, and that strength is being given to us. I bless us that we will know the love of Christ which is beyond understanding, that He is able to fill us to all the fullness of God; and that as we speak, as we pray, as we cry out to Him, we do it knowing – knowing that He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we could ask or think by the power, His power, that works within us. That power is being beamed towards us; we let that power into us, and we let it move forth out of us as a power in this age that brings about the manifestation of the Kingdom of Christ in this earth. And we bless it. I bless it to you. I bless us that we can be one in our hearts as we move into this time, and we can see all of these things manifested to us and through us.

So, Lord, free us from the conditionings and the paradigms that we have, that scream in the back of our head, “God does not move! And if He does move, He does not move for me.” No, He does move for you. He said, “Listen, you need to ask the Father. Up to this point, you have not asked the Father. But now, ask the Father in My name, and the Father will come through and do what you are asking.”

So, we start connecting through Christ to the Father, and asking in the name of Yeshua what we are believing to see that is according to His Word. And we believe that we are not just voicing prayers, but out of us is coming back to Him the power and might that He is beaming towards us. And we meet in the middle, between us and Him, with that tremendous power that is going to work through us. And we must know that it is there, and we must know that it will work, and believe for it, in the name of the Lord.

Amen.