

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG201 – God's Divine Love in Us

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 that 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.

We need to be speaking up to Israel. We need to be speaking up to the world in general, certainly to the college campuses. We need to be speaking into these situations. So I am encouraging all of us during this time to not be silent; find a way, whether it is just talking to a neighbor or to people at work. I know that it can be a tough subject when people disagree, but I think we have to be ready to educate people. I mean, it is like you hear these kids on the campus speaking, and they are totally speaking out of ignorance; they have no idea what they are talking about. And so, I think that it is not a matter of argument, it is not a matter of politics, it is a matter of just the truth of the history of what has transpired, certainly surrounding the Holocaust and persecution of the Jewish people for a long time. It is the truth about the doctrines of the Church that have come down since the early Church fathers, who have spread anti-Semitism into the Christian Church.

I just think we need to recognize that we are impacted by it. And maybe we are not, but I feel that it is like Passover – you have the search for the leaven. If we think that we are not impacted by it, then there is no harm in going back and really searching our hearts, searching our thinking, and making sure that there is no anti-Semitism in us. Because this thing is so spirit driven that if there is a button in us that can be pushed, it will be pushed. I think that is something we all have been taught over the years; certainly John Stevens taught that, that Satan will always try to find a button in us and a weak point. We want to make sure that we do not have any openness to this issue of anti-Semitism; because, my gosh, we watched how this has spread just in these days from October 7th, with the whole world being behind Israel and being a force with them, to where we are now of just seeing these unbelievable outcries, “I am Hamas,” and, “Kill another soldier.” All I can say is that it is the same spirit that was in Jerusalem at the time of Passover when Christ was crucified. They went from saying “Hosanna to the King!” as He entered into the city, laying palm branches before Him, laying their garments before Him as He came into the city, recognizing Him as the Messiah. When they were saying, “Hosanna to the King,” that is what they were doing – they were recognizing that Christ was, in fact, the Messiah that was to come. And days later, it was the same crowd that was crying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!”

It has always been real to me how quickly the human mind and spirit and emotion can change. We can be turned on a dime because of the openness we have to the spiritual forces. I think that is one of the greatest examples there is in the Scriptures, when we look at it. And I do not know how else to look at the current events we are in, and go from where things were immediately following October 7th to where things are now, both in the government as well as in society, and in other countries. I feel like we are recognizing that our fight is not against flesh and blood. We are not over here fighting the college

campus; we are fighting the principalities and powers which are driving what is going on around us. And this is why, to me, it is so important that we continue reaching for this enabling to deal with the spirit world.

The Scripture says that our weapons are mighty through God to the tearing down of these strongholds, so we need to be proficient in that. And if we are not knowing how to do it, then boy, we better learn now, because it is absolutely necessary. We just want to get people out of this place of being driven, because we have seen the tragedies that can happen. So, I really bless us in this time, and I bless us during Passover. To me, it is amazing that here we are in Passover and we are literally facing the same spirit and the same attitudes that transpired during that Passover when Christ was crucified. So for us, this is an extremely important time, and I want us to be able to break through into finding another way that this can be put off. If you have heard me over a long enough time, you know that my faith is, "Yes, these things are written. We read the book of Revelation, we see what is to potentially happen. But I also believe that this can be for a warning, and it can change." I do not know, myself, in my own heart, how much God has said, "This is the way it is, I am not changing my mind. Do not try to change My mind." Or, is it another situation like Nineveh, where depending on the response that happens from people, God could bring mercy instead of bringing judgment? We know that it is His heart that mercy triumph over judgment. He came to Nineveh saying, "I am going to destroy Nineveh, I am going to destroy Nineveh," and we read so many places in the Scripture where that seems to be the outcome. And when we look at what is going on around us, it seems like we are right on the verge of these things. But I believe that God has raised up people in the body of Christ that have a heart for mercy triumphing over judgment, and have a faith that as it changed with Nineveh, God can change things now.

But that is where I believe that for things to change, we have to be able to bind the spirits that are motivating people in their actions, in their thoughts, in their words, so that their hearts can be open; because that is what turned the tide in Nineveh, people honestly turning to God in repentance and sackcloth and ashes, and sackcloth on the beasts and the animals and the king himself. It would be nice for the governmental leaders in our day and age to be donned in sackcloth and ashes over the things that are transpiring. We know that it takes a change in people, it is not going to just happen for no reason. And I think for people to have this heart of repentance is going to require the spirit behind them to be broken. Really, we saw that after the Passover when Christ was crucified. Peter stood up and he was saying, "Look, you wicked men with blood on your hands, you slew the Lord of glory." And they went into repentance. Why? Because the act had already happened, and the spirit was gone. We know that is the way that spirit works – it comes and it goes once it accomplishes what it is looking for. So when Peter was talking to those thousands on the Day of Pentecost, they were not fighting that spirit. They went into repentance, they believed, they were baptized, and thousands came into the Church at that time because of that. We see the difference of that spirit being there and motivating people and motivating their actions, and that spirit being gone and them being freed from the influence.

I would like to see us be able to say that what we bind on this earth shall have been bound in heaven; what we loose on this earth today will have been loosed in heaven; and that we can break the powers, the demonic forces, that are motivating the actions and the thoughts of people right now. Let there be a repentance now rather than later, that is my hope. I cannot say this is the word of the Lord. All I can say is this is my heart in believing in faith what I believe we can do in our prayer and by our faith moving forward in these days. So, we just believe together.

The other thing, Father, that we believe during this Passover... we know that in the first Passover, the death angel went through the entirety of Egypt and brought judgment. But after Your crucifixion and resurrection, we know that the Holy Spirit comes to bring conviction of sin into the earth. And so, we say that in this Passover, let the Holy Spirit go throughout the earth and move in a conviction on people's hearts over the truth versus the lie, and over the sin and the hardness of our heart towards Your land Israel, and towards Your people, the Jewish people, the people of covenant that You have brought forth to teach us all how to move into a true relationship with You. We believe for the conviction of the Holy Spirit to move through this world right now, Lord, as powerfully as it moved through Egypt at that time.

We ask for a flow of Your Spirit in the Word that You would have for us. I want to talk to us about the love of God. This is very heavy on my heart, because I feel like the spirit world that we are immersed in is more and more filled with hate and contention. And I feel like it is very difficult to keep ourselves clean from that, as we were talking about earlier, because it is so powerful. The Scripture talks about the fact that iniquity will abound and the love of many will grow cold; and I think that when it says "iniquity will abound," it is not just saying that people are going to be bad or be doing bad things; it is addressing the spirit world. The iniquity, the spiritual wickedness in heavenly places, is what the Scripture talks about; and I think it is this wickedness that comes through and becomes such an influential part of what is transpiring around us.

What I was feeling was just a meeting with the Lord the other day, when I was in my meditation and prayer, about the fact that God's answer to the world and to the spiritual wickedness in heavenly places is the fact that He sent love. I am going to read a Scripture that I bet most of you have heard once or twice. It is out of John 3, verses 16-17: "'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.'"

I want to parse this out a little bit, because it is one of those Scriptures that we have heard so many times that it can lose the impact of really what it is saying. First of all, we just recognize that God loved the world, and therefore He sent His Son. When He sent His Son, the world was a disaster. It had been a disaster since Adam and Eve's disobedience in the garden. And it needs to really strike us that for everything that is wrong, God's answer is love. It has to just be a powerful thing to us that God sent love into the world. I know we think of Jesus or Yeshua, or however we want to think about it; but just think about it – what God did is He literally sent love into the world as a solution to all of the need that existed. And so, I think verse 17 becomes really important to us: "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." I feel like even in these times that we are in, it is so easy to look and say, "God, judge this, judge what is happening here. God judge what is happening there," and to kind of move into a mentality of judgment and say, "What we need is some good, solid judgment here." But with everything that was going on in the world that God had witnessed – including the fact that during the days of Noah, God said, "I am sorry I even made man," that is how bad things were; and He brought the flood to be a new beginning of things. So God is not unaware of what is going on now, and He is not unaware of the history that He has had with mankind. Yet ultimately, I think what we have to see is that His solution is His love; and He did not send Christ into the world to judge the world, He sent Him to be love ministered and manifested into the world.

I pray for my own heart that this grab me on another level; because as we are into this, I struggle with going, "God, go deal with this. Go deal with the college campuses. Bring Your judgment on Hamas and these people that could do such horrible, horrendous things." And the truth is, there is no capacity in me

to know what God is going to judge and what He is not. But I think what we have to understand is that His ultimate solution really is love. And I believe there is a power in it that we could get a hold of and somehow become infused with that would be the source of change. I said earlier that our weapons are mighty to the bringing down of the strongholds; and I do not think that we really know or understand how that works yet, or see what these weapons are, or see the power of them. But I am wondering if the weapon itself is the love that God has given. And if we literally can open our hearts and begin to move in another level of love, would that be the force that would foment the change in the spirit world? Because that is where it needs to be first. But we know certainly that with humanity, God is looking for a salvation. And I know that when we talk about salvation, because of our church influence our brain immediately goes into, "He saves us from our sin, and our sin is this act that we do, and that act that we do." But it is something deeper than that, it is the nature. It is just what goes on in this world that I think God wants to save us from.

That is where we get into the concept that in Judaism, the idea of Mashiach or Messiah is different than the idea in Christianity. In Christianity, we say Messiah, or the Christ, and again, our default awareness is surrounding this sin and that sin, and that He comes to forgive us our sin; and then we screw up again, and we go take Communion and start over again. And it is not that that is wrong, I just think that it is way shallower than the totality of the idea of Messiah. Christ comes as our deliverer. He releases us from the control of what is in the world. Before He went to the cross, He said, "The wicked one comes and he finds nothing in Me." But He also said, "I have many things to tell you, but I cannot do it at this point," because of the influence of what is surrounding us in the world as humans. I think that is where God has not destroyed humanity up to this point, even when He said, "I am sorry I made man," because of His understanding of the way that we are influenced and why we are in the place that we are. And we have to get out of the idea of just the little influence of our sin in our minds, and realize that there is a way bigger picture when we talk about the coming of Messiah. Remember, when it talks about the return of Christ, it says, "He comes a second time not to deal with sin." That is not the point. He is coming to establish His Kingdom, which means He is getting rid of the influences around us that are bringing about the kinds of behavior that we are seeing. So, there is a way bigger picture. And I keep with this experience I had, seeing and hearing that Scripture that says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, and My ways are not your ways."

The way that we would deal with everything that is going on right now is not at all the way God wants to deal with it. And if He is going to use us as instruments, somehow we have to close that gap so that we are on the same page with Him, and our thoughts are His thoughts, and our ways become more His ways. I think that when we tend to immediately look for, "God judge this, God judge that," or, "Deal with this, deal with that," we forget many times the pit from which we were dug – you know, the fact that by grace we have been freed from these influences. I think God has given us revelation and wisdom and knowledge that many people do not have; that is why we are coming from where we come from where Israel is concerned, and what we are doing, because we see something. And when you look at these people, like the kids on college campuses, they are swamped in ignorance. They do not know, they do not get the truth of what is really transpiring. And I do not want us to immediately go, "God, judge what is going on in these campuses." That is where He confronted Jonah and said, "What? You want Me to kill these hundreds of thousands of people that are so stupid that they do not know their right hand from their left?" That was God's response to Jonah when Jonah was mad that God did not judge Nineveh like God told him He was going to.

I want us to be careful, because we can read in the Scriptures and see the judgments coming, but is there a higher perspective? God is looking from 50,000 feet, while we are immersed into the middle of what is going on in the world right now, including the fact that these spirits are influential, surrounding us and surrounding our families and communities and whatever, and there is no way we are not touched by that on some level. That is why I want us to really be sure that we are sweeping out the leaven of anti-Semitism, so that there are no open doors in us or buttons that can be pushed. But greater than that, I am burdened that God is coming from this perspective of His thoughts just are not our thoughts. The way He looks at this is not the way we look at it. His plan is not our plan. His concept of the Kingdom is not ours yet. And so, we are living in the Scriptures of First Corinthians, where we are seeing through a glass darkly, and we do not really have the perception to see things the way that we need to be able to see them.

I just want to read that really quickly, because I think it so applies to what we are talking about here. First Corinthians 13, verses 1-13, says,

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal [and what the world does not need right now is the body of Christ being a noisy gong and a clanging cymbal; they are surrounded by enough confusion]. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

This is so powerful to me. You know, he is talking about the gifts of the Spirit; and I know that most of you for many years have been in to seeing a school of prophets come forth, moving in the gifts of prophecy and in healings and miracles and signs and all of these things that come by the prophetic gifts and by moving as a prophetic community. But yet, here he is saying that these are partial things that are going to pass away. Many people look back over the last five years and say, "Gosh, what happened to the school of prophets? I thought we were moving into this?" Well, isn't it interesting that all of that which seemed like the direction we were heading in passed away? because maybe it was part of seeing through a glass darkly and existing partially in where God was taking us. He was looking for the gifts to bring us to the ultimate, which is His love; that we would be the ones bringing to the world His perfect love as He brought to the world when He brought Christ into the earth. And He is just saying, even now there is faith, hope, and love, but the greatest, the one that survives, is love. The only thing that does not fail is love. The only thing that is not partial is love. And we know that when it is talking here, it is not talking about our love, our human love, brotherly love; it is talking about the love that only God has and is capable of imparting to us. I believe God wants to bring us into His love. And if we would come into

His love, then I think that our thoughts would be His thoughts, and our ways could be His ways, because everything He does comes out of and is motivated by His love. It is a product of His love. And so, I believe that we are on a path, and I believe we are on a path that the world needs now.

This morning I was thinking about this call, and I was thinking about when the Lord served the disciples breakfast after the Resurrection, in John 21. You can read it later. But after the breakfast, He gets into this conversation with Peter, saying, "Peter, do you love Me?" And we all know the story very well, He is using divine love. Christ is saying, "Do you love Me with divine love?" And Peter is saying, "Yes, of course, Lord, I have this brotherly love for You." It is such a wonderful thing, because after each statement, the Lord goes, "Tend My lambs, feed My sheep." He was drawing this dichotomy of, in a sense, "Peter, how in the world are you going to take care of people if you do not have My love? You cannot do it with this brotherly love that you have." And I think that we are seeing that this partial that we had is not going to work; it does not address what the world needs right now. I just want to lift my heart before the Lord and say, "Lord, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that I am over here with Peter, trying to solve problems and move in a ministry out of brotherly love, and it is not enough to address what is going on in this age. Nothing will bring about Your end game other than Your perfect love being manifested in Your sons and daughters coming forth in this age and addressing the world."

I want to read out of Ephesians the third chapter, verses 14-21.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 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 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....

Love is something that comes only in a divine impartation through the power of the Holy Spirit indwelling us and rooting us and grounding us in that love. It must be imparted. And then, not only are we grounded in it, according to verse 18 we have the comprehension of this love with all the saints, to where we see the breadth, the length, the height, the depth. We "...know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. 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, to Him be the glory." So, we see that this power of God that is going to work in us comes through this knowledge of the love of Christ. It is the love of God in Christ that the world was supposed to see. And really, I think when we go back to these spirits of hatred, when we go back to these spirits of Passover that were determined to crucify Christ, in one sense you could say – and don't take this personally – really what satan was trying to destroy was the love of God that had come into the earth. You can almost put it beyond Christ. Christ was that love, but what satan was afraid of was the love; and he was trying to kill and destroy the love. That is where the Scripture says, "Because of the wickedness abounding, the love of many is destroyed." It goes away, it waxes cold. Satan was trying to extinguish the love that God had brought into the earth as the solution.

If we can look around right now, because obviously when we look today, it is not Christ that satan is trying to kill and destroy and crucify again; what he is trying to crucify is this love that would come forth in us. God is trying to bring that love into our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. He is trying to make us be that love. In 1 John 4:16, it says, "We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

So when we talk about oneness, the oneness of God filling us, which is what Christ talked about in John the seventeenth chapter – “The Father and I are going to take up our abode within you” – that is the love of God. You can take God’s name out of there – that is that love taking up its abode in us. That is God dwelling in us. And I think there is a way in which we have to believe it, we have to open our hearts to it.

I just want to read that verse 16 again: “We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.” Okay? therein, I think, is a problem. I think that when we try to open up to this, when we try to appropriate it, we find walls in our own heart. We find almost an inability, like Peter was confronted with. The Lord is over here, going, “Hey, I am loving you, Peter, with God’s love, and you are coming back at Me with something completely different than that.” And so, as I said earlier, normally we open this time with prayer for those who are sick and those who need something. I think there is none of us that does not need some kind of a healing. Maybe it is emotional, maybe it is mental, maybe it is physical; whatever it is – healing from our past, our life, something that has been done to us, something we have done to others. But what he is saying is such a key: “We have come to know and believe the love that God has for us.” And I want to ask myself that: “Gary, do you really know and believe in this love?” It is beyond knowledge, that is what he said; “The knowledge of Christ which is beyond understanding.” It is something that has to come to us by the power of the Holy Spirit, by impartation of revelation, God giving us something that we do not have. It is beyond human, therefore, there is no way for us to work it up. It has to come to us through the Holy Spirit by God’s impartation, and it is something of a revelation of Christ and the fact that He came as this love of God into the earth. And He came not just to forgive our sins, He came to bring us into the love of God. He came to impart into us the love of God – that is far greater than just a sin here or there being forgiven. And I do not want us to in any way put that down, or act like I am demeaning that. But I think that Christ’s work on the cross was for something far, far more than just a forgiveness of our sins and a cleansing of us. It is what He was looking to impart to us of this love of God that existed in Christ. And it was that love of God in Christ that Satan was trying to destroy when he crucified Him on the cross; and that failed, because it simply opened the door for this impartation.

So, I want to challenge us. What do we need in our lives today? Let’s start with us. We are not going to save the whole world. Even Christ was made perfect by the things which He suffered. And so, is it a physical healing we need? One thing I know – healings, deliverances, only happen when you really are convinced of the love of God for you. That is what he is talking about: “We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.” I think that if this love is not dwelling in our own hearts yet, it may be the reason why we are still looking for certain releases, healings, deliverances, whatever. So today, let’s open our hearts. “We have come to know and have believed” – let’s make this verse a past tense reality in our lives. If we really would open to the love, the power of the love of God that is being beamed towards us, there is no healing that we cannot receive. And so, I want to take my walls down, and I bless you to be able to take your walls down and to know the love that God has for you.

It was this love that He sent Christ into the earth with, and He sent Him into the earth for us to receive this totally and completely. I believe that it is something we can have today, and we can appropriate it, because it only comes as a free gift. We do not work it up; we do not deserve it; we do not polish ourselves to the place where we are worthy of it. We will never be worthy of it. It is only because of who God is and who Christ is and who the Holy Spirit is that this happens for us. But I think we need to take a step into the love of God that is on another level. And if we can get it, we can give it, because you love your neighbor as yourself. That is the second great commandment. And so, we are striving for that in our lives.

I know we have gone a little long today, but I bless you with this. What you are looking for personally from the Lord, let it manifest. Let it manifest because His great love overwhelms us. Let it be like a tsunami, Lord, that just blows us away and imparts into our hearts that which is beyond human ability. Only by Your Holy Spirit can You bring it to us. And we believe for it with all of our hearts, in the name of Yehoshua HaMashiach.

Amen.