

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG21 – You Have a Purpose in This Generation

We are going to talk about our destiny. Do you feel sometimes like, “Should I really be here? Did God make a mistake?” I know Paul talked about the fact that he was like one born out of time, and I think he had that feeling. I think what he was trying to express in saying that was the fact that he wondered or felt like, “Boy, I wish I could have been here with the disciples while Christ was with us walking on the earth.” And I don't know that that's such an unusual thought. We have probably all had that concept once or twice in our lives. But we know that Paul was right where God wanted him, and he was right on time. And I think you are too. I think we need the feeling as believers that God has not made a mistake. Sometimes we really do feel like, “God, I think You made a mistake putting me here during this generation that I'm involved in, and it seems like there were other generations in which there was a lot more going on,” or “I wish I could have been a part of what was happening in that generation.”

So I just want to talk about it today in this message and get across to us the feeling that God has put you here. God has put me here in the right time, in the right way, and He is looking for us to be His vessels and to be ones He can work through in our generation. I want to read a Scripture to you that hopefully will help confirm this. It is out of Acts the thirteenth chapter in verse 36. Paul says, “For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay.” What Paul is addressing is the fact that David was not the Messiah. He is trying to make a point in this dissertation that David was not the Messiah, and the proof of him not being the Messiah was that he died and underwent decay, which Christ did not do. He was raised from the dead, and that is the distinguishing factor. It is interesting in the book of Acts as an aside that one of Paul's main points, if not the main point, that he continually makes through the book of Acts is that Christ was resurrected. That is a focal point for him. And of course, the reason being just what he is discussing here, the Messiah could not undergo decay. The Messiah had to be resurrected in order to be the Messiah, so that is what his focus was on this. But in the process of making this distinction between David and Christ, Yeshua or Jesus, was the fact that David served God and served the purposes of God in his generation.

This morning when I was in my time of prayer, this really struck me because I think a lot of times, we as believers wonder, “Are we really in the right place at the right time? Why are we a part of the generation that we're a part of?” There could have been other generations we were born in that had other missions or other things that were transpiring that would be more interesting to us. Or like I said before, I think everybody at times wishes they could have been in the earth at the time that Yeshua walked the earth and did the things that He did, performed the miracles, taught as He did, and to be a part as the disciples got to be. Observing that, watching Him, being with Him as He functioned would be a great privilege and there would be a lot of good things about it. But that is not what God wanted for you or He would have put you in the earth at that time.

There has got to be something of a trust in God and a trust in His plan and a trust in His purposes for us as individuals. I believe that God is very, very focused upon each one of us on an individual level. He is working with us. He is creating us. His salvation is something that was given to us individually. Salvation to me is not just a blanket experience that is for everyone all at once. It was something that was done

for me. It was something that was provided for you specifically. In that coming to grips with or connecting with that personal focus of God in your life, of Christ in your life is essential if we are to grow and mature and to move into the reason God has us here. None of us would question that there was a purpose in the life of Jesus, Yeshua. None of us would question the fact that there was a reason behind the lives of the disciples. God had a purpose for them. They were grown in a place at a time in their maturity that was very specific. Remember, they had to be of a certain age and a certain place in life in order to be His disciples. John the Baptist had to be born into the world in a very specific timing.

It is interesting in the Scriptures that you see Mary and Elizabeth coming together and having a connection between the two of them before Yeshua's born, before John is born speaking of John the Baptist. They got together and so this idea that timing is something that God is very focused on, and He does not make mistakes. It is easy for us, I think, to look back at other individuals and recognize that God was really in their lives. God was planning their lives. God was making their steps to be what they needed to be in order for them to be usable in His plan. It would not work for Moses to be a child and a baby at the time Israel's ready to be delivered out of Egypt. He needs to be a man. He needs to be grown. He needs to be through a time of preparation that he was. That is part of what I want us to feel in this message is that it is not a mistake where we are in the generation we find ourselves. It is not a mistake the age we are, the timing of our lives.

Again it is easy to see when we look at others in the Scriptures, and we can feel that God so carefully led and worked with them. But sometimes that is hard for us to grasp about ourselves and about our relationship with God. And we must somehow find that connection in our relationship with Him: "Father, you brought me into this earth during these days, during this generation." There may be things I don't like about this generation. There may be things going on that are problematic, but that may be the reason He has you here is to minister to this age, minister to the generations, the peoples of this age, of this time that we are in and that we are all going through. I want us to have that feeling. I want this message today to give us that sense that God does not make mistakes. He has chosen you. He is preparing you. And one of the reasons we must have this idea that we are in the right place at the right time, the generation God's wanting us to be a part of, the right age that we are at, the right place in life, the things that we have gone through in our own personal history is that everything is culminating in this preparation that God has.

Sometimes I wish the Scriptures would tell the stories about the men and women of the Bible differently than it does. I always personally have this sense that, "Gee, I wish I would know what really happened in the life of Yeshua between being the time He was born and had to be sequestered into Egypt, but then He was brought back, and He was raised." We see very little about His life. Then all of a sudden, here He is at the River Jordan being baptized by John in the water and here descends the Holy Spirit upon Him. And He is, as Mark says, driven into the wilderness. He faces satan and this tremendous temptation that He goes through (Mark 1:9–13). But what we don't see are those years and years of preparation that Christ went through. We have to know and understand that God raised up Christ as the Anointed One, as the Savior, as the One who would be able to accomplish what He accomplished. It was a perfect plan. When we read about Him, the Scripture says, "He was made perfect. He learned obedience by the things that He suffered" (see Hebrews 2:10). Yet in many ways, we don't see that preparation. That is not really that real to us, all that happened in His life to get Him to the point of the River Jordan and His baptism both in water and in the Spirit. But we do see the dynamic life that He lives from that point until the crucifixion. And it is not just with Christ alone that we find the story being this way.

Most of the individuals, Moses himself, we don't see a lot about him. We know that he was taken from the river as a baby, taken into the house of Pharaoh, raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. We know that had to have had a tremendous effect and impact on his life, on his thinking; yet we are not really shown the details of what that life was like for him. We see him sort of emerging out of his youth, and he kills one of the taskmasters and runs into the wilderness. So another phase of preparation of his life begins as he leaves Egypt and goes into the wilderness and becomes a shepherd for many years. Forty years we see him being prepared, but we don't see the details of the preparation. It is easy for our hearts and minds to kind of skip over then and just advance to the burning bush. So here we see Moses at the burning bush. We see God equipping him with the ability to throw down his staff and turn it into a serpent, and God commissions him (Exodus 3:2–10). He says in the burning bush, "I've come down because I've heard the cries of My people and now I'm sending you, Moses, to go tell Pharaoh, 'Let My people go.'" Wow! What a commission. What a tremendous responsibility that he had. And we should know and understand that God prepared him for that. God—He is a Father. He doesn't send us unprepared into the things that He is commissioning us or directing us to do. He has not only prepared a generation for us to walk in, He has prepared us for that generation.

We must be equipped and anointed to do the will of God in the generation He has brought us forth into. We must have in our own hearts this sense that we are not just biding time. Our life hasn't been just a series of mishaps or circumstances or however you view what you have gone through in your life. You, like these men and women of the Bible, you have been prepared. We don't see the preparation of Mary to be the mother of the Savior. But we know that preparation was there when she met the angel or the angel met her. She already had worked in her heart to say, "I'm Your servant. Let it be done unto me according to Thy word" (see Luke 1:38). Wow, that's no small thing. And whatever she went through in those early years of her life, we know that she was very young, some say maybe as young as fourteen years old, but there had been preparation for her to meet this angel and to go through this pregnancy and to give birth. She suffered a lot of persecution. There was a lot of maligning that went on because she was bringing forth in the eyes of the community a bastard child. That was a lot of pressure. She could have been stoned if it had not been for Joseph's intervention and the dream that he had. But she was prepared to undergo what she had to experience to be the mother of the Savior. It wasn't just the time of birth; look at her life. Mary was with Him up to the cross. She was still with the disciples in the Upper Room. She was there at the Day of Pentecost, the outpouring. She was a part of that early first Church, and I'm sure one of the stable pillars of it. She was a woman of faith, and she knew how to allow the Word of God to have free course in her life. God prepared her.

God prepared the Lord over years. God prepared Moses. God prepared Joshua. Look at how Joshua stayed in the tent and dwelt in the presence of God even when Moses would leave the tent. I wish, as I'm sure you do, that the Scriptures would give us more details. We would love to see more details, Lord, of how these people were created to be ones that You were able to send. I love that terminology that God uses with Moses: "Moses, I'm sending you" (see Exodus 3:10). We use the term in the church *apostle*. In the Greek, that is what *apostle* means is "one who is sent." It almost looks like a new terminology that is born in the time of the New Testament Scriptures, but it is really not. It is carrying through with this idea that God raised up individuals. He prepared individuals, and then He sent these individuals to accomplish His will and His purposes in their generation. And I believe God's doing that again. I believe He is doing that in this generation. I believe He is doing it with you.

This is why it is so important that we mature into the things of God that we are receiving and growing under the days of preparation that God has us in now, and that God has had us in through the past. We

can't look back and say, "Oh, that was a disaster. Look at what I did. Look at what happened." No, you have to see God's hand in it. When it says of Christ that He learned obedience through the things that He suffered, it means that God corrected His disobedience. It doesn't mean that He sinned, but it means He learned obedience through things that were done incorrectly. He had to learn obedience, as do we. We have to learn many things. God has to prepare our spirit. He has to prepare us emotionally for what we will face. Again look at the persecutions that were suffered by the Lord. He wasn't just beaten in preparation for the cross and spat upon and maligned at that moment. Go back and read the Gospels again. They were after Him from the very beginning of His life. Herod was after Him as a child. He had to flee to Egypt. So emotionally there was much that Christ experienced.

There was much that Moses—every person in the Scriptures if we could see it went through many things that aren't really outlined in the Scriptures for us to have an understanding of what everyone went through. But they definitely went through much in the way of preparation. And I believe we are experiencing that same thing. I believe you are experiencing that thing. I think God is raising us up in the Body of Christ to be those again in our generation that He can send into every situation that this generation is facing, just like Moses. What they were facing in that generation was the slavery of the children of Israel, was their bondage, was the demand for freedom, the fact that God Himself came down to deliver them. God will do many things in this generation, and I think we need that attitude. This may be the greatest generation that has ever walked the face of the earth as far as serving God is concerned.

Most of us believe we are in the end-time. People talk about the end days, the last times. We say we are in the end times. But do we really connect and relate to the fact that God is preparing you, He is preparing me, to be those He can send forth at this time in this moment to do His will, to prophesy His Word, to move in the gifts and the anointings of the Holy Spirit? Do we see ourselves as we see those disciples after the Resurrection and after the Day of Pentecost? Do we see ourselves as those who will now move in the anointing? Move in the commission? Move in the things that God wants done and accomplished? God has a purpose in this generation. And you are not a part of this generation by accident. God has placed you here because it is His will and His heart to use you and to use me and to use the Body of Christ as those that will do and accomplish His will. As Christ taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10, KJV). We need to see ourselves as those who are part of bringing about that Kingdom on the earth, those who are part of bringing about that will of God into the earth in this generation.

I bless you with this message, and I hope that it helps us all to see that God has something in mind for each one of us individually, and He is preparing us for that purpose that He has called us to. He is preparing us and equipping us to hold and bear the anointing and the gifting that He has in His will for each one of us and how we will impact this earth and this age in our generation. We will be like David, as Paul proclaimed, "David came, and he served the purposes of God in his generation." And we are here like David to serve the purposes of God in our generation. Amen. This is your moment. God has a plan and purpose for you. He will use you to do great things for His Kingdom.