

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG215 – God's Rest and the Fall Feasts

Greetings and welcome to the podcast. I am so glad that you are joining me today. We are in a time of preparation for the Fall feasts, and I just have something on my heart for us in preparation for these feasts. Actually, it is a time not just of feasts, but there are appointed fasts and celebrations as well as the feasts that take place; and we generally just use the terminology of the Fall feasts, or the feasts of the seventh month. But I want us in our hearts to be preparing for the time, and believing very much in what it is that God is going to do for us during these days.

I believe that God has finished all of His provisions. Now, this may get a little quantum for some of you, but it reflects back to the idea of the Sabbath, of the Sabbath rest that is available for us. And so, I want to talk about this reality of God's rest, and how it should impact us in our time of preparation for these Fall feasts. In looking at the rest, the Sabbath rest of God, we realize that God has finished the provisions that He has made for us. The things that He has made available for us in these times of the feasts are completed, and they are available. They exist now, and what we do in going in to celebrate these times is to appropriate what is already available for us. So, we should really approach these times with a determination and an appropriation – a drive, if you will, in our hearts – to really get everything that God has made available for us during the focus of time that He proclaimed we should celebrate.

I am trying to be careful with my wording here, because I want it to really impact us in our thinking that when God gave these times, they were very specifically proclaimed as times that Israel should celebrate throughout their generations. Therefore, in demanding that, God really has a purpose in mind for us to be receiving something that He has made available; and I do not always think that we approach the time of the feast with that in mind. But personally, I want to do that this year; and I am hoping others will join me in really sensing the fact that God has called for us to keep these times, and they are times that are anointed for us. They are windows of time that God has made available. So, we should come with the determination to appropriate, to investigate, to find out what is it that God has, and to be driven to receive all it is that God has for us during these celebrations.

It really must be looked at as an opportunity to enter into the rest that God has made available, this Sabbath rest which He has made available. On the seventh day He blessed that day, He sanctified that day, and He rested on that day because His works were complete. If we get the language about the Sabbath that is there in Genesis 1:27 and on into chapter 2, we see that God had finished His works and He rested on that day, and He separated that day. The reason He separates it is so we understand and get the idea that everything came to a completion, and now there is something different to look forward to; what we look forward to is our appropriation of all that was created. And I believe that we should enter the feasts this way, recognizing that things are available to us. So I want to go through each of these events that we are going to have during the time of the seventh month and recognize just in part what it is that God has already made available to us. Now I hope you will search out the Scriptures yourself and find many more things than this, but I do not have time to go into everything; plus it will be a great opportunity of Bible study for everyone individually to reach in and see what you can find that God has spoken, that really is available for us during these days.

We are going to start with the first event of this Fall season, and that is Rosh Hashana. It is also called Yom T'ruah, or the Feast of Trumpets by many. When we talk about Rosh Hashana, we are talking about the fact of a new year. This is celebrated in Judaism as a new year, and it is a new civil year for Israel, so that is a part of it. But when we really look into what the Scripture talks about, it is talking about *t'ruah*, or the shouting, the blasting of a trumpet, the making of a lot of noise. And it is really interesting, because there are so many opportunities that God gives for us to shout, for us to scream, for us to cry out to Him, for us to sing to Him, for us to make a joyful noise unto Him and approach Him in this idea of shouting unto Him for things to happen.

We see in the Scriptures that this was used by Gideon. They shouted and said, "For the Lord and for Gideon!" That was when the armies went in and won the war for the Lord. We also see this in the taking of the Land, when Israel entered the promised land and they walked around the walls of Jericho, and they shouted and blew the trumpets. So, this is repeated over and over. And again, like I am saying, you can go through the Scriptures and find different occasions of it. But I want to just give some words that are maybe a little different, or that you would not think of off the top of your head. I want to begin at Psalm 98, verses 4-9. It says,

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth and sing for joy and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout joyfully before the King, the Lord. Let the sea roar and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Again, what we are talking about is that when God created the earth and He finished His works, then He rested; so all of these things that we are reading about here in Psalm 98, these are completed. And what we do in entering into this shout, this singing, this blowing of trumpets unto the Lord, is we begin to appropriate. And when we look at what is there to appropriate, it is very interesting, because it is obviously talking about the times of Messiah – when we see "the seas roaring and all they contain," the world itself, the land, because we know futility is removed from the land "and all who dwell in it." Everything that was created is going to be set free from the futility that was brought about at the time of Adam. And this is all done. It is available. "Let us sing for joy before the Lord. He is coming to judge." Let us appropriate, let us bring into now the reality of God's "judgment and righteousness upon the earth for all the peoples, with equity." We have a world that is crying out. We have a world in need. And yet, the answer has already been made, it is already created in God; and we should not be just waiting, or praying down for things to transpire in the future. As we approach these times of the feasts, there should be something in us that relates it to the Sabbath rest that God provided, saying, "It is finished"; it is now available for us, and we appropriate it into the earth now in this time. Make it at this time of the feast that these things manifest upon the earth, including the coming of Messiah.

Going on to Isaiah 54, verses 1-3, it says,

"Shout for joy, O barren one, you who have borne no child; break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud [see, these words, this is the meaning of *t'ruah*, when He is saying that this is the time of Yom T'ruah, the day of shouting and crying out, of blowing of the trumpet, shouting, crying aloud], you who have not travailed; for the sons of the desolate one will be more numerous than the sons of the married woman," says the Lord. "Enlarge the place of your tent; stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not; lengthen your cords and strengthen your pegs. For you

will spread abroad to the right and to the left. And your descendants will possess nations and will resettle the desolate cities.”

There are many promises that we have in the Word of God, but this is reminding us that we should be shouting. We should be manifesting these things now because they are available. I do not want to wait for some day in the future; if I wait too long, I am not going to be here to enjoy it. I want the Kingdom to come in my time. I want these things to manifest because the Kingdom is. Christ said, "It is finished." He ascended to the right hand of the Father and He was seated upon the throne. Even in the Psalms it says, "I have put My king on the throne." (Psalm 2:6). And so, He is installed as the King, as the Lord, as the Messiah; and we should be crying in our appropriation, not a cry of despair but a cry of faith, knowing that these things are, and they are available to us now. I do not want to wait for the days of fruitfulness for Israel; I want to see them happen and manifest for us today.

Jeremiah 31, verses 7-9, says,

For thus says the Lord, "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise and say, 'O Lord, save Your people, the remnant of Israel.' Behold, I am bringing them from the north country, and I will gather them from the remote parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and she who is in labor with child, together; a great company, they will return here. With weeping they will come, and by supplication I will lead them; I will make them walk by streams of waters, on a straight path in which they will not stumble; for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn."

We see again that these shouts of proclaiming and praising unto the Lord bring the manifestation of the return to Israel. We know it is happening, but it can be finished now, it can happen in a greater way now than what we have seen. We do not want to just wait and say, "Oh yes, the people are beginning to make aliyah and return to Israel." No, we want to make something happen. We want to appropriate the open door that exists right now for God's people to return to the Land in a time of great blessing, upon a straight path which the Lord will make, so that there is no stumbling, because He is the Father to Israel and we want them to return. And our cry is "Now!" There is no reason to wait, it is finished. It is completed. And so, we cry to see the manifestation of that which has been completed by the Lord when He finished His works.

The next event that we come into is the Days of Awe, or commonly called the Ten Days of Repentance. This is a time of really seeking the Lord, of being in a cry of repentance to the Lord. And so, I want to begin looking at what is available to us during the Days of Awe, the Ten Days of Repentance. And again, I am not trying to be thorough and complete every possibility that will manifest or that can manifest during these events. I am trying to give you ideas with which you can begin to seek the Lord on your own, and search through the Scriptures and find that which God has established for these days.

Jeremiah 29, verses 11-14, says, "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.'" See, that is what the Days of Awe are about. The Ten Days of Repentance are about our calling out to Him, our prayers unto Him for our salvation, for our forgiveness, for a new future in Him which He already says He has planned for us. "...come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'"

What are we looking for? We are looking for not just ten days of repentance, not just crying out to God; we are looking for the fulfillment of it as we are speaking. When they cry – before they cry – I will answer them. So we are looking for fulfillment of that cry unto the Lord for our forgiveness, for our release, in these Days of Awe. Watching Him move on our behalf, we should be in awe during this time.

In Deuteronomy 4:29-32, it says,

“But from there you will seek the Lord your God [talking about from the time of the Diaspora], and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice. For the Lord your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them. Indeed, ask now concerning the former days which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and inquire from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything been done like this great thing, or has anything been heard like it?”

I love the fact that this goes back and refers to the days since God created man on the earth; that is where we start from in this idea of the Sabbath. It was His creation, and He looked upon His creation and He said, "This is very good," and so, all was finished, all was completed. And now He is telling us, from where we stand in the place we are today, "Go back and remember that time of the Sabbath rest and begin to cry out, begin to inquire from one end of the heavens to the other, and say, 'Has anything like this been done? Has anyone heard anything like this?'"

Let's go to verses 33-35,

“Has any people heard the voice of God speaking from the midst of the fire, as you have heard it, and survived? Or has a god tried to go to take for himself a nation from within another nation by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors, as the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? To you it was shown that you might know that the Lord, He is God; there is no other besides Him.”

When we come to these days, God wants us to be in awe of Him and in awe of what He has done, because it is time for Him to move on the next level, on the greater level than what we have experienced. So we come to the Days of Awe, and the days of our Ten Days of Repentance, looking for absolute, miraculous manifestations of what God is going to do, and fulfill, and complete in this moment in time for us.

We then go to the time of Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement. This is the day of absolute salvation experience for us; and I believe that there is greater salvation than what we have known that is now available – not something we wait for, not something we pray for, not sitting around waiting for the return of Messiah out of heaven – we are looking for today, today what He is going to bring forth in our lives as release, as deliverance, as breakthrough. And that is what we are contending for and hungering after during this great Day of Atonement.

We see in Ezekiel 36, beginning at verses 24-28,

“For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to

observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.”

What an amazing thing we look forward to in Atonement! I know we have salvation. I know we have our sins forgiven. But there is more that we are to experience through what was gained and accomplished in Messiah. We are to be clean from all of our filthiness, from all of our idols. We are to have a new heart. We are to have a new spirit put within us. We are to experience things in God that we have yet to experience, born out of this salvation that is beyond explanation. And we reach in for that to take place during this amazing Day of Atonement.

I am going to proceed on to Sukkot, the Feast of Booths or the Feast of Tabernacles, and see what we are to appropriate during this time. Let’s begin at Zechariah chapter 2, verses 10-13.

“Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” declares the Lord. “Many nations will join themselves to the Lord in that day and will become My people. Then I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you [this is speaking from Messiah of these days of Tabernacles]. The Lord will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord; for He is aroused from His holy habitation.”

It is so tremendous that we look forward to dwelling with the Lord. We look forward to His Presence being with us, His Presence being in us and through us, and this is what we appropriate as our celebration of Tabernacles. We sing for joy and gladness. We rejoice in it. You say, “I do not have it.” Well, rejoice now, because you will. I think you have to begin there. I think you have to begin with the emotion of what you will feel when God fulfills for you His promises. We do not wait for Him to fulfill the promises and then feel thankful, then feel glad, then feel rejoicing – we feel it now. It is completed now. It exists now. It is available now. So now we should feel the joy, the gladness. Now we should worship, we should reach in, because what is Tabernacles all about? He is coming to dwell with us, in our midst. We are to rejoice because many nations will join themselves to the Lord, and we should appropriate this right now. We live in a day when the nations are fleeing; they are coming against Israel, they are coming against the Jewish people; and that is not what God has provided. That is not what is available. And we should worship and cry out to God, seeing many nations joining themselves to the Lord, to Israel, to the Jewish people, becoming His people. Then He will dwell in our midst, and we will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Messiah to us. I want this day now. We should appropriate this now in our time of Sukkot, or Tabernacles.

Let’s have another one. Leviticus 26, verses 11-12. “Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.” As we celebrate this great time of Sukkot, we celebrate the end of feeling isolated from God, feeling separated, feeling like He is afar off and many times we cannot get to Him or our prayers do not get to Him. We draw down, we bring into existence, into manifestation, the day of God dwelling among His people. His soul will not reject us, but He will dwell with us. He will walk among us, and we want this as our fulfillment today of the day of Tabernacles, this great feast which points to the indwelling and the dwelling of God with us.

Exodus 29, verses 45-46, says, “I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God. They shall know that I am the Lord their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am the Lord their God.” The purpose of bringing them out of Egypt was that He might dwell among them; and as we dwell with Israel, that means that we are dwelling with Him also. I want this day

of Tabernacles to be the day we have waited for, with the Presence of God descending and remaining with us, dwelling with us, being with us, us being His people. We live in anticipation, but more than that, we live in appropriation, because we know He rested because the works were finished. It is available.

I want to mention Hoshana Rabbah, the last day of the feast, just because it is a very special day that is celebrated. There is a wonderful Psalm that we can read in celebration for this last day of the Feast of Tabernacles. That is Psalm 118, and I will start with verses 21-26.

I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, and You have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it [see, the Lord has made this day, He finished the works, He already created it; let us, therefore, rejoice and be glad in the day]. O Lord, do save, we beseech You; O Lord, we beseech You, do send prosperity! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; we have blessed You from the house of the Lord.

See, this is the day of Messiah who is coming, and we say, "Come Lord. Come today. Manifest Yourself today. Bring Your Kingdom on earth as You taught us to pray, 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'" And we add with the Psalm, "Today." Let that be fulfilled, that prayer You taught us. We pray for it today, not afar off.

Verses 27-29, "The Lord is God, and He has given us light; bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I give thanks to You; You are my God, I extol You. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness [His hesed] is everlasting." And that is the day that we look for – the manifestation of Messiah, God dwelling with us, bringing about His Presence to the earth.

One more Scripture I want to read, and we are jumping to the New Testament Scriptures in John 7, verses 37-38. It says, "Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out...." This is the Feast of Tabernacles; the great day of the feast is this last day of the Feast that we are talking about, Hoshana Rabbah; and this is the thing that we find referred to in the Gospel of John. "...the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, "From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water."'" So as we come to the Feast of Sukkot, and we come to the last day of it, we know that we cry and we reach in to appropriate. Is anyone thirsty? Are we really thirsty? Are we hungering and thirsting after these days of the biblical feasts that He has told us to celebrate, in joining with Israel as we are grafted in to the faith of Abraham? to reach for that which has been not just promised, but has been completed in its creation by God? Come hungering, come thirsting, come to Him and drink, because out of our bellies, as He promised, will come rivers of living water.

We celebrate this time of the Feasts, entering into God's rest, and bringing rejoicing and worship before Him.

Amen.