

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG220 – Know the Love God has for 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.

If you still have an open heart and spirit, which I know you do, I will give you the thing that the Lord was making real to me over the last few days in thinking about our time together; and that is that I just have this feeling in my spirit that there are so many things that are going to transpire. We are, of course, going into the biblical feast season; but there are so many things I feel that are going to be transpiring from right now through April of this coming year. I am not saying it is all going to be finished by that time, but I just think the events are going to be, maybe tumultuous is a good word. There is going to be a lot that transpires in the world, and I do feel like who we are and what we are in our lives matters.

Many times we go back and say, "Gee, I wish I could have been here when the Lord was on the earth, and walked with the Lord like the disciples." Well listen, He carved out for you the most precious age to walk in – more than what the apostles saw, more than what the prophets experienced. He planted us, we are not here by mistake. He formed us in our mothers' wombs to be where we are at this moment in time, and it is not by a mistake that you are here, and that we are here together, and that we are connected, that we are on this call together; because God has joined our hearts and our spirits and our minds by this Word, and knitted us together in a very special way. So, we have to see the dramatic reality of who we are and what it is that God is getting ready to do.

When we see what is going on in the earth, I think the immediate tendency, even for us at times, is to be caught up in the negative; because there are many negative things that are transpiring, and I think some of those negative things will get worse during this time. But it is not for us to be caught up in what is going on from a negative standpoint. Remember, what the Lord Himself told us is that when these things begin to happen, look up, keep our focus on Him at the right hand of the Father. Where He is, there we will be also. There we can be, and we should be; and it is a matter of focus and awareness that we are in His Presence and we keep ourselves in His Presence, because that is where He is moving from to bring about His will in the Kingdom. Sometimes it seems like negative things are happening, but do not forget: He knows the end from the beginning. Remember, it is finished. The victory is already won, it is already completed; and we are those that stand in the faith knowing that. So, do not lose that concept of looking up. Do not be caught up into what is transpiring around us, because it is negative. My feeling is that there is going to be more negativity that comes along, especially out of governments, that is going to transpire on many realms. But that is not our focus.

I want to read some Scripture to us. I am going to start with Matthew the twenty-fourth chapter, verses 12-14. It says, "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who

endures to the end, he will be saved.” And I think enduring is talking about enduring in our love. “This gospel of the kingdom,” which is a gospel of love, “shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

One of the things that I see transpiring already is this reality of people’s love growing cold, and people’s faith growing cold, because of the lawlessness. Part of when you read this in the Greek – which I went back to this morning and did – and you look at the Greek word for lawlessness, it is talking about not just wickedness, but it is talking about lawless people. What it is talking about is like the population of lawless people is going to increase in the earth during this time; and I think we are seeing that. We are seeing it in many realms, and I do not want to get lost in that side of it; you all have eyes to see and you watch the news enough to recognize what is transpiring around us in this age. So, we have this Scripture that warns us that because of the spirit that we live in... and you watch it happening, people are caught up in the spirit; and as you are caught up in the spirit of what is going on around the world and within people’s lives, it tries to draw **you** into the same spirit. We are impacted by the spirit; it is a “bad company corrupts good morals” kind of thing. And so, satan is trying to draw everybody he can into this wickedness, into this lawlessness, into the unbelief, into the rebellion; and we have to stay away from that.

What is important in what I am saying right now is the fact that this love becomes extremely important for us; and I want to encourage us all to be drawing ourselves into a greater knowledge of the Lord. When this came to me, the feeling of it was that I think we all still struggle a bit with this idea of feeling God’s love for us on a personal level. This has to be very, very personal to us, because I think it has to begin with me in my own heart knowing the love of God, being impacted by the love that God has for me. I know the Scripture, that God so loved the world He sent His only begotten Son. So, He sent Christ to humanity, He sent Him to us, that we might know the love. And part of the problem that Christ was always confronting is, “You do not know the Father. I know the Father” – and what He is talking about is this love. He says, “The Father loves Me, and I love the Father.” There was this awareness that Christ had of God’s love for Him; and He functioned out of that, the knowledge and the understanding of that love. God confessed to the world that He loved Christ when He spoke out of heaven at the baptism, when He spoke out of heaven at the Transfiguration. He talked about the fact that, “This is My beloved Son. I love this guy. I love Him.” But Christ came to bring that love, the knowledge of that love, to us as individuals. And I think it is really necessary that we come to grips with this on another level.

I want to read out of 1 John 4:7-8. It says, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” It is important for us to not have that just be something we hang on our wall, but that we keep it alive in us; because everything that is going to happen in the bringing forth of the Kingdom, between now and the manifestation of it in the earth, is born out of love. For God, if He acts outside of love, He is acting outside of His own character; so it is impossible for God not to be acting in love. And many times it is a struggle for people to see; “Well, how can this be happening if God is the God of love?” Again, you have to know Him, and you have to know that love for you in your own heart; because without knowing that, you do not have the perception to see what God is really doing and how He is really manifesting. And so, it is important for us to come to grips with this thing of the love.

Verse 9 says, “By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.” This love of God was manifested in us. So, the love of God is manifest in us, and we have to come to grips with that. Verses 11-13, “...if God so loved us, we also

ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.” So, we come to this fact of His love being manifested in us through Christ.

I want to go back to John again, in later verses. This is 1 John 4:14-16: “We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know....” This verse to me is really impactful: “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.” This whole verse is just powerful. It is impacting, and I want it to impact us: “We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.”

I stopped there and I said, “Okay, Gary, have you come to know and really believe the love that God has for you?” And I had to answer that very truthfully, “I don’t think so.” The power, the awesomeness of God’s love; and when we read these other verses about His love, when we read that He sent His Son because He so loved the world, you kind of get into that discussion like Christ did with Peter:

“Hey Peter, do you love Me?”

“Oh yeah, God, I love You!”

They are saying the same thing, but speaking a completely different language. Peter had absolutely no ability to perceive the love that is God, and the love that God was expressing to him through Christ. As always, I am just speaking to me – if it does something for you, God bless it. But I realize that this is a stopping point. This is where we hit a brick wall in our walk with Him, because this love that is so beyond human ability to conceive of or recognize has to become real to me – that it is about me and it is being beamed towards me. And that just has to break open what we are reaching for in this moment.

Let me read another Scripture from Ephesians the third chapter. I will start reading above the verse I am interested in, so I will begin with verse 16. Ephesians 3:16-19:

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, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

I love this Scripture, because the first thing it does is it gives me a break by saying, “to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.” So I come to grips with the reality that there is no way for my little human pea brain to know the love of God that is in Christ. It is going to take an impartation beyond human knowledge, or human ability, or human understanding, of what is really the length and the breadth and the depth and the height of this love that God has for us. We are talking about something that is a big part of what we shy away from, because it is too overwhelming for us even to come to grips with; but I have this feeling now that we have to come to grips with it. We have to find, in the grace of God, by the Holy Spirit through revelation, through an impartation to our minds and our understanding, what it is that He is talking about.

1 Corinthians 2:16 says, “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.” This takes an impartation of the mind of Christ. We know that we have to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. Why? because the love of God is too far beyond the capacity of humans to grasp it, or recognize it, or to deal with the love of God in Christ which is beyond knowing.

So he is telling you in one breath, “We are to know the love of Christ which cannot be known.” That is really what he is saying, back there in Ephesians. “We have to come to know the love of God which nobody can know”; and so, it gives us something to pursue. One thing it does for me is that it takes away the condemnation of going, “I am not stupid, you know, I am just human.” I am grappling with something that is beyond human capacity. And to come into this, I have to reach beyond my human capacity into this mind of Christ that can be imparted to me, which is why Christ came – to impart it for me to have that mind of Christ.

Why do I need the mind of Christ? I tell you, it is not because I need this gift and that gift, and the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge, and this and that. No, there is only one thing I have to know: I have to know the love of God that was in Christ being beamed towards us. Everything about Christ was to get us as humans to the place where we could know the love of God. Why? Because it says, “to know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, that you might be filled up to all the fullness of God.” If we can come to know this love that God has for us individually, we can be filled up to the fullness of Him, to the fullness of that love. And I think that is why, going back to that original Scripture in Matthew, why Satan is bringing all this lawlessness and wickedness and this increase of evil – because if he does that, then the love of people grows cold. The wickedness is in direct opposition to what Christ is trying to impart to us, which is His mind that has the capacity to know the love.

You go back and read the Scriptures, Christ told them, “I know God loves Me.” Do you realize what a huge statement that is? I can’t say that. I mean, I kind of know about the fact that God loves me, and I know certain things that make it real on a certain level that God loves me; but to say that I know the love.... But Christ knew. You have to remember that this love affair between them went back before the foundation of the world. John 15:9 says, “‘Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.’” See, it is the same love. Christ’s purpose was to make the love of God something that could be imparted and understood by humanity. John 15:10-13,

“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

This is what God sent Christ to do. In John 17, verses 24-25, Christ is speaking to the Father. I love the fact that He had to talk to the Father about this, because the rest of the audience could not get it:

“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.”

This is a good place to start; at least we know that the Father sent Christ to us. Now we are understanding even more clearly why – so that that same knowledge of the love of God for us on a personal level can become ours. Verse 26, “‘and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.’”

I want us to reach for this, that we can come into the love of God. I mean, it is just blatant – “God loved Me before the foundation of the world, and I know it. I know it.” He knew it. It was real to Him. Everything He did, everything He went through, was with the knowledge that God loved Him. And the

love of God was in Him, and He was ministering that love to us. And what did He say at the end of all this? "As the Father sent Me, so send I you." There is something where we have to come into the knowledge of this love, because He is sending us into the world for the same purpose. It is not to do signs and wonders; it is not to have healings; it is not to speak living words; it is to impart the love of the Father into the lives of people. And the spirits that are taking over this age right now have a purpose, and that is to block the knowledge of love, that is to remove love from the hearts of humanity; because that is what is behind the spirit of wickedness, is that it robs you of the knowledge, the ability to grasp God's love. And I think that of all the things we could reach for right now, this to me is hugely important.

What we see and what we are going to experience as these days and months go on, as we head into these biblical feasts, as we come out of this time, as we go through the political times that we are in, as we go through the trauma that is gripping the whole world – we have to be those who know God's love for us. Because I can only love my neighbor as I love myself. I can only share the love of God. And I do not know that this was not one of our chiefest problems in years past in our walk with God, that we had a hard time witnessing and sharing to people. I think one of the reasons was because His love for us, personally, was not that real. If it had been, we would be exploding with, "Oh my God, you have to know Him! Oh my God, you have to come into His Presence! You have to experience this love!"

Everything that satan throws at us is to take us away from that love: "Well, with what I am going through physically, how can I keep an awareness of God's love?" What I am going through emotionally, what I am going through experientially on a physical level, with my finances, with whatever in life, it all comes to rob me of the sharpness of going, "You know what? none of it matters, because I know He loves me." And if I know He loves me, then I know that He is working all things for good, because I love Him back. We love Him because He first loves us. And so, if we are going to love Him, we have to know that love. And if we know that love, we are able to know that He is in the process of working all things out to the perfect will and the good that He has planned for us who love Him. And we love Him because we have received His love, and have come to know, just like he says, "We have come to know the love of God." I want us to come to know His love for us.

Maybe it feels like we are praying for ourselves, or we are focusing on ourselves, but I do not think Christ was focusing on Himself. One thing He knew He had to have was a knowledge of God's love, the Father's love for Him. And He was able to go through the Cross, go through everything He had to go through, because He knew the love of God. Even if He felt like God left Him at that moment, God leaving Him is different than Him losing the concept of God's love for Him; and He was resurrected because of the love of the Father. So I bless us with this. I feel like it is probably the greatest preparation that we can have to walk through the days ahead of us as the light of the world that God wants us to be. And He does; He wants us to be His light in all that is getting ready to transpire.

I bless us. Lord, give us the mind of Christ. Give us the grace. We humble ourselves before You, and we are not so arrogant to stand and say, "Oh yes, we know the love of God." "Oh yes, this is really real to me." No, we have to know the height, the depth, the length, the breadth of Your love for us. It is beyond anything of human understanding or ability to grasp. It takes Your grace to impart to us the knowledge of God's love in Christ. But as You impart it, we know we will be filled to all the fullness of that love, and to all the fullness of You. We open our hearts to it, and believe for it to transpire for us in the name of the Lord. Amen.

I pray this is a blessing to you. I pray this time has been a blessing to you. We look forward to more times together. Until that time, please keep listening to the podcasts, and let's enter into the joy of the feasts together and believe for a tremendous time of an impartation of His love for us.

Amen.