

# GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



## GIG225 – Don't Waste the Opportunity

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 [HargraveJMinistries.org](http://HargraveJMinistries.org) and join our Fellow Workers.

There is definitely a lot that has been happening lately. I do not know if anybody is aware that there was an election in the US. I know that we are not usually into a lot of political statements here, because I know your politics is important to you individually, as is your faith; and so, everybody has a right to their own thoughts and feelings. What I wanted to do this morning was just give you some of my thoughts and feelings, because it is going to go beyond politics, so do not worry how it starts out. We are reaching for something here that we can all agree with.

Personally, I feel like the election was very much a blessing to me, because it answered a question that I had of, "How far gone is our society?" I am talking about morally, and I am talking about the things that are happening with the moral collapse, the things that we have been seeing on the university campuses of late, of marching in favor of the destruction of Israel, the destruction of the Jewish people as a race. There is no way you can guess what is really on people's minds when they are yelling, "Gas the Jews! Gas the Jews!" at college campus protests, and seeing the other things that have gone on. And whether you agree with it or not, in my mind it is being allowed, if not promoted, by the current administration that we have had. So, I think that what happened in this election was a lot of the population of this nation kind of standing up, saying, "We have had enough. We have had enough of defund the police. We have had enough of rampant crime. We have had enough of many, many things that have been allowed to happen or promoted to happen through the existing government that has been in charge of the country." And for me, personally, I think that we could not really survive too many more years of that without going into a collapse – and if not a governmental or financial collapse, I just think that at some point God is in the business of judging immoral nations, and I feel like we have become that and are sliding very quickly into a worse state, day by day. I know I have been praying for it to stop, and we have been promoting our repentance for years as a nation that we see things turn around. So, I think that what happened really did announce that there is a change desired by America.

I have to admit, I have wondered, is really the majority of the population for the whole woke mentality and all that is going on, in what is being taught in our schools and everything else? It has really been a question on my mind. Then, for me, seeing the landslide of the vote, it announced that there really are a lot of people out there who are done going in that direction. I mean, I know California is not a part of that, they are still loving the way they are going. But many, many people are standing up, saying, "Hey, we are not in favor of this and we want something different."

I would just give one more political note: I would like to see the election results and the race for the House of Representatives come to a conclusion; and my faith is, my belief, my prayer is, that I would like to see the Republicans win a majority in the House. One of the reasons is because if you remember back, it was the House that spent four years doing nothing but trying to impeach Donald Trump. Now, again, whatever you think about Trump and whatever your politics is, those people should be doing something besides that. They should be helping the American people. They should be dealing with the economy. They are there to pass laws that are in favor of the Constitution, and to make this country follow in the footsteps of our forefathers, which is to make it be a nation under God; and I do not think that they have shown that. And I do not want what we have now as a potential to be really hindered by a group of people that is going to do nothing but fight against the election results.

So, anyway, that is just a bit of my political stance on it, and my political belief; and again, politics is something that we normally stay away from. It is something that is very personal and private to everybody, and everybody has their right to believe and their right to stand for what they want to stand for. But I take what happened in this election as a window of opportunity. I think it was definitely an encouraging voice to me that this nation does not want to lose its Judeo-Christian values and its foundation. I am not saying America is a Christian nation, I do not believe that it is. I do not believe that it ever has been a Christian nation. I think that term has to be defined in a different reality than what we have had. But I do think it has been a nation under God. I think that it has been a nation of moral backbone. I do think that saying it has Judeo-Christian values at its foundation is a correct statement. And I think that what has happened in this election is a stand to say, "We do not want to lose that. We do not want that to go away. We do not want to lose our relationship with Israel." I mean, if we have a brain in our head and we believe the Bible, then we know that the individuals or the nations that bless Israel will be blessed, and those that curse Israel will be cursed. That just is reality. So, in some ways, what we do for Israel could be defined as very selfish. We are looking for God to bless this country; and I believe that the decisions that we have made at Hargrave Ministries to support, to pray, to create relationships in Israel, to do the things that we do, are hopefully in that arena. Because God made an absolute covenant with Abraham, and God is going to be faithful to that covenant; and it is going to be at some point God calling the nations to account. My prayer is that when the nations are called to account, that as John Stevens said, the flag of America will be standing; and we, as a people, will be standing with that same heart cry to see God fulfill His Word, His promise, His covenant with Israel. We know that we are grafted in, and therefore we will be partakers of that same covenant.

I think that we have a tremendous, tremendous opportunity right now, and that is really what I want to address in this time, because it is not a time to let down. I do not feel like partying right now. I feel like, boy, if what we are seeing happen is the result of the last several years of Christianity starting to get a grip on itself and starting to cry out to God in repentance, and starting to pray over this nation and over Israel, and over the Word of God and the prophecies to see them fulfilled, then now is not the time to stop. As I said, here is to me where we leave the political angle of what I have been saying. Donald Trump is not the savior of the United States of America. The Republican Party is not the savior of the United States of America; neither is the Democratic Party, and neither is politics in any way, shape, and form. Our military is not the savior of America. Our economy, our brilliance in technology, and what we are as a people together in what unity is still left, none of these things save us. As the prophets would speak, do not depend on chariots, do not depend on horses; they are not going to save you. There is one Savior, and God is going to save us if there is any saving to be had.

What it really says to me is, God is listening. God has been listening to the prayers of the church. How many times have we talked about the Scripture out of Second Chronicles? And we are going to talk about it again and re-read it again today. "If we will humble ourselves, if we will cry out to God in repentance" – because we are a part of this nation, and we are conditioned by a lot of things that this nation is conditioned by. We do not separate ourselves and say, "Oh, that is not us." No, we are the ones who should be standing, repenting. And I think if we can take what happened in this election as a sign that God is listening, because right now where we sit, nothing has turned around, nothing is different yet; but I do believe that we have an open door, or a window of opportunity, however we want to see it; and I think that that is going to move forward, just as we got to this place. I am hearing God say, "Okay, I am listening. Here is an opportunity – what are you going to do with it?" What is Christianity going to do with it? What is the nation, what is America going to do with the opportunity that has been handed to us? Are we going to return to Him?

We always look at the illustration of Israel, and we see God disciplining Israel; we see God chastening them for the error of their way, many times for many specific reasons. One of the things it says in the Scriptures is, "You are not serving Me with joy," and He brought judgment on them (Deuteronomy 28:47-48). I think, "Well, okay, we could all kind of take a lesson from that." But we need to see what I think has started. Among all the bad news, just one of the things that happened, I think it was last week, Texas A&M University had ten thousand students in the arena listening to the Gospel and crying out to God, turning their hearts to the Lord. People were receiving salvation and being baptized. That movement that started a while ago in the university has not quit, it has still been moving; and of course, it is the good news, and so you do not hear too much about the good news, but that has been happening. There is prayer in Washington, DC, marching to the Mall and crying out to God. That started several years ago with the movement called The Return. I do not know if you were aware of that or remember that, but this call to prayer has been happening. And I think what we just saw is God saying, "I am listening, and I am giving you an opportunity now." What I am wanting to see is that we do not blow this opportunity. I think now is the time to really get busy, not go, "Oh great, we can take a break because God is hearing us and things are going to change." Things are not going to change unless we change them through faith and prayer, and they are not going to change unless God is the force behind the change that happens. We know that. We understand that. And so, I want us to really take this opportunity to press in even higher, greater, faster.

I want to read a Scripture and talk about the spiritual thing that came to my heart when all of this really took place. This was something that just hit me the next morning after the election, that now is the time to get busy. I thought about the Scripture in Second Kings the thirteenth chapter, and I know you all are going to know this story and remember it, but we are going to read it and I want it to encourage our hearts. I am going to start with Second Kings chapter 13, verses 14-20.

When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash the king of Israel came down to him and wept over him and said, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen! [He was seeing in the Spirit the death of Elisha that was taking place.] Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows." So he took a bow and arrows. Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." And he put his hand on it, then Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands [I think what was being done here was very significant]. He said, "Open the window toward the east," and he opened it [that is always significant of prayer, isn't it, when you have the window open to the east]. Then Elisha said, "Shoot!" And he shot. And he said, "The Lord's

arrow of victory, even the arrow of victory over Aram; for you will defeat the Arameans at Aphek until you have destroyed them.”

Then he said, “Take the arrows,” and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground,” and he struck it three times and stopped. So the man of God was angry with him and said, “You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Aram until you would have destroyed it. But now you shall strike Aram only three times.”

Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the bands of the Moabites would invade the land in the spring of the year.

It is interesting, because there was this window of opportunity that was given to the king, and it was an open window of prayer and intercession to cry out to God to see the victory. And so, he shot the arrow, and the arrow was saying, “This is the victory. This is the victory.” We can look and go, “Great, we got a victory. The election was a victory.” But then Elisha said, “Take the arrows and strike them on the ground,” and he only struck them three times. It is easy sometimes to feel that way: “Well, we got the victory.” Yes, but I think we determine what will the victory actually be, and I think we are in that time. I think these weeks, months, years ahead of us are the times when we as the body of Christ are now going to determine really what the victory is – how it is going to happen, what it is going to be; and it is dependent on us. I think it was significant that as soon as the king did that, Elisha died. It was not like he could go, “Oh, wait, wait, wait, wait! I will strike them a few more times.” The opportunity was gone. And I do not want us to lose an opportunity that God is giving us.

I believe God is giving us an opportunity. And I believe that we as the body of Christ, if we have been praying up to this point, if it has been our prayer which has brought us to where we are right now, then we need to recognize an intensified level of intercession. It is one thing to shoot the arrow and say, “Oh good, the victory,” it is another thing to determine and shape and form the victory that is set before us. I believe that it is the time, and I believe it is our prayer. We need to be praying for the body of Christ, saying, “Do not go to sleep now. Do not quit now.” Whatever we see manifesting in things like the Return, prayer on the Mall, prayers in the universities, my God, let’s see the universities turn around! Let’s see the ones get in and start really shaping something different in our colleges. Let’s see something shaping a different reality in our high schools; and my God, we have to go down to the elementary schools! They are the ones being taught that you can pick your own gender. They are the ones being shown pornography in their books, being taught how to have anal sex with their partner. I mean, this stuff has to stop. And I do not want to just see a little victory; I want this victory to reach down to the very roots of this country. I want to see it reach down to the roots of the heart of Americans ourselves and get us into a repentance that brings a nature change.

I do not think we understand how affected we are. We are affected to the point where we have had years of a silent majority; and I hope that part of what is happening now is we are waking up enough to go, “Silent majority doesn’t work.” We have to be a bold prophetic majority that begins to speak the Word of God, that begins to bring the Gospel back into the community of our cities, our schools. Forget this, “You cannot have the Bible in court. You cannot have the Bible in schools.” The Bible can be everywhere. If you can have pornography being taught to our elementary schools, then by God, we can put the Bible back in. Let’s use that for our reading text.

I just think that we need to be a bold group of people. Honestly, I would say that there is almost a conditioning in those that have been part of the Living Word Fellowship over years not to be bold about your faith, not to be bold about the Scriptures and telling people about the Gospel and walking with

God. It is something that there is almost fear about. Okay, let's get out of the caves. Let's for sure have our own faith and prayer and intercession coming to another level; but let's open our mouths, and do more than just vote privately in our houses. Let's start letting people hear and see, like we are doing with Israel. We need to stand up for Israel. That can be dangerous at this point, but that is fine; we need to do it.

So, I bless us. I bless us that we are going to take the arrows that are being handed to us by the Lord right now, and we are going to splinter them to the place that there is not even a toothpick to be found. I really loose us as a people. I want you to know how effective you can be, how powerful your prayers can be, and that we can accomplish what needs to be accomplished now to determine what this victory looks like, what it means, and how deep it can go into the heart of our nation. I really bless us with that.

I do want to read again out of Second Chronicles, because I think this is the hallmark, it is the centerpiece, and it has been the centerpiece for years for us in our prayers. It is in Second Chronicles chapter 7, verses 11-16.

Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's palace, and successfully completed all that he had planned on doing in the house of the Lord and in his palace. Then the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer [and I believe what we are seeing is a sign that God has heard our prayer] and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land [which we are damn close], or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place. For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually."

I believe that is an expression to us of where we are at. I believe God is listening. I believe He is watching. We have gotten His attention and He is there; He is observing, He is listening, He is watching. I believe we have this opportunity, and it is time for an intercession like we have never had before to see this nation turn around. Because I do believe that America has a place on this globe, and that we are not just changing this nation; by changing this nation, we literally change the world. We need to know, understand, and believe in that.

So, I bless us. Lord, hear our cry. Give us the drive to take this opportunity and really create it into seeing the manifestation of Your Kingdom on this earth – Your Presence, You coming back and healing us and healing our land. I believe for it.

Bob Barton, would you like to just voice a prayer? It was interesting this morning when we started our prayer group, because Bob was there. I said, 'Bob, why don't you start the prayer this morning?' and he just laid out this whole word that I just brought. And I thought, "That is pretty good confirmation that this is what we need to talk about." So, Bob, can you seal this to our hearts?

**Bob:** Yeah, absolutely. I know every heart here is into this. And my faith says that every heart that was ever touched by the Living Word is into this; whether they know it or not, I don't really care. And others, Christians, Arabs, Jews, Zoroastrians, I don't care, for there is a heart for God, whether or not you know what you are doing; you are into this Word. I embrace this, I know this is true. Every day I get up and every night I go to bed, and all day I hold this, I hold the current situation in the United States before the

Lord. I figure for at least four years, by that time it is going to be a habit; but for at least four years we hold this, because whatever good is being done right now, it will not succeed without a covering of intercession. It just won't work. It has to have the intercession of the prophets and the men and women of God. It has to have that. And we bow our hearts to do this with delight. This is not a burden, this is a delight. We bless everything good that is happening in this country, every man and woman that is standing up for good in what is happening. Everything that is not good, it is just going to go away. We don't have to fight it, it's out, it's done; just let it have its consequences. We press ahead into the truth and in the profitability and the fulfillment of the will of God in this country, and Israel, and the Middle East, and the earth. And I agree with what you said. I bless it.

**Gary:** Amen. Yes, it is not by might nor by power, but by His Spirit that all things take place. Man cannot fix this. Man has created the problem, God is the fixer. We bless this to our hearts.

Amen.