

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG231 – The Word Made Flesh

Thank you for joining me for this podcast. As we enter into the time of a new year, there is always something in my own spirit that is reaching in for what it is God really wants to do with us, do for us, what He wants to see us press into as His sons and daughters. And as I have been really seeking the Lord about this, one of the things that keeps coming to me over and over again is this idea about the Word being made flesh. I want to read some of the Scriptures that pertain to this. Of course, we are talking about John the first chapter, and I will start reading at verses 14-18.

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

This idea that Christ coming into the earth was the Word of God made manifest into human flesh is really something that continues to grab my attention, personally. I want to back up in John the first chapter, and begin in verse 1 and read through verse 5.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

When we go back now and look at the verses that John was speaking earlier on, talking about John the Baptist, it says in verse 15, "John testified about Him and cried out, saying, 'This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.''" John was pointing out something here that he had a revelation of and understood, and that is that Christ existed before John existed. Now, we see this reality that in Christ coming into the earth, He was the Word of God become flesh. We know that the Word of God existed; all things were created by a Word from God. If we go back into Genesis 1, we see that God spoke, and it was that Word being expressed that created all things that were created, both seen and unseen; and they still exist because they were created by that Word. So, what God does, then, in wanting to express Himself and get through to mankind, is that He brings Christ as the Word; and He brings Him in flesh so that He is something that we, as humans, can relate to.

In these verses, speaking about the Gospel of John, John the beloved, he goes back in verses 16-17 to this idea, "For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ." A lot of times people take this and they belittle Moses in comparison to Christianity, to Christ Himself; they kind of demean Judaism up against Christ. But what is trying to be expressed here is the focus on the Word. Moses spoke the Word. He was an expression of this same Word, but he did not become the Word; he was the voice of the Word. He

was the one who spoke with the Father face-to-face, and God gave him the Word, chiseled into stone, and that was the expression of it.

So we see this reality that God created all things through the Word, then He begins to express to mankind this Word; and He does so in a major way after Israel is delivered from Egypt through Moses, who goes up to Mount Sinai and speaks with God face-to-face. God gives him the Word; Moses is the vessel of that Word, to speak the Word, to express it, to bring it to the people; and that had a glory that was upon it. The Scriptures talk about that glory of the Word. But there is something different when we get to Christ. We have another progression, which is now that the Word of God becomes manifest in flesh. Because even what Moses did – as tremendous as it was being the expression to write that Word, to speak that Word, to give that Word to the children of Israel – the power was not there to release mankind into being likewise this expression of the Word of God. So, God keeps working at this. In verse 18 it says, “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.” We have this terminology that a picture is worth a thousand words. So, we have the Word of God; but something had to express the Word of God to humanity in such a way that that Word could be implanted in mankind, which is what we need to realize that God is looking for.

When I was thinking about this and praying about this idea of where we are going in this new year, it was very real to me that God wants us, likewise, to become the Word made flesh. He is not looking for us to be teachers of the Word, to be scholars of the Word, to be believers in the Word, to be those who are witnesses by testimony of that Word – He is looking for us to be as Christ was. We always think of Christ as our example; He is the example of what God wants us to become. And so, what was Christ? I do not think we often think of Christ enough in these terms – we think, “Yes, He is the Son of God”; we think of salvation; we just finished Christmas time, and we think of Him coming as a babe in a manger. But He was the Word of God made flesh. When we get this, we get what Christ really was; and then we can begin to understand what it was that God was looking to impart through Christ, manifesting as that Word of God. He is looking for you and I likewise to become the Word made flesh.

We are in the flesh. But God is not wanting His Word to be something that is just outside of us, or something that we know or study; He is looking for us literally to become that Word as Christ became that Word. So, the purpose of God in manifesting His Word in His Son is something that is huge, and we must get a hold of it.

When we look at Second Corinthians, we see that Paul had this concept. In Second Corinthians 3, starting with verse 1, it says, “Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you?” Paul was dealing with this conflict that was in the church, and that would be kind of a side eddy for us to go into; but I want to stick on this point about the Word being made flesh. In verses 2-3, Paul goes on to say, “You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, not written with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” So, Paul is recognizing that what he is doing in his ministry is to have the Word become flesh. He is saying, “I am not looking for an external letter. I am not looking for something written on tablets of stone, as it was given to Moses. I am looking to have the Word of God embossed upon your hearts, so that as Christ was, you would manifest also, being the Word of God made flesh.”

I will go on with verses 4-6. “Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the

letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” We see that all who received the Law back at Mount Sinai, and since then, have continued to die, because of that expression of the Word simply being written on tablets of stone, or being written as scrolls. We have the Word of God, but the Word of God does not bring life in the fullness of God into our lives until it in itself is scribed upon our hearts, and we become as Christ was, the Word made flesh.

Paul goes on to magnify really what Moses was and what he did. He says in verses 7-8, “But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?” Let's go back and try to unpack this a little bit. He is talking about what Moses was and what he did. Moses spoke with God face-to-face. God engraved the Words of the Covenant upon tablets of stone. Moses was beholding this process – he was with God in the Spirit there, and it came with a glory. We know that when Moses descended from the mountain, his face shown. There was a glory, because the Word was being expressed on this level, though it was still not imparted. Moses did not become the Word made flesh – Moses was the deliverer of the Word inscribed outside of the heart of man. And yet, even that experience brought a glory to the point where his face shown, and the people beholding his face could not handle it; so they asked that he cover his face when he was in their presence, as he would come down from the mountain.

So, it is not like this was nothing. The Word of God is the Word of God in any way that it manifests. The fact that we have it written on parchments, the fact that we have it in the scrolls that have been preserved by the Jewish people over thousands of years, is a fantastic thing. And there is a glory, there is something that works through that, because it is, in fact, the Word of God. Paul goes on to talk about, “So if this ministry had glory, how much more will the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?” God is looking for us to enter in to something greater than what we have. It is amazing that we have the Word of God, that we have it so simply that we can pick it up off of our shelves and read it. And we are thankful and grateful to the generations of scribes and to the Jewish people who have preserved it, and the others who have followed along in preserving both the Old and New Testament writings; because there is a glory that manifests, there is a working of that Word. But we have to see that God is looking for something greater. And that is what He was looking for when He brought Christ to dwell with us in flesh. He was looking for a greater glory, and a greater manifestation of that Word to come and be more impactful and effective.

In verse 10, it says, “For indeed what had glory, in this case,” talking about Moses, “has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it.” What God has planned for us so far surpasses the glory that existed from Mount Sinai, and within the written Word, that it is seemingly almost no glory at all.

Verses 11-14,

For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory. Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.

What he is trying to convey to us is that there is this relationship in Christ that we must follow. He is our example. If we stay with the Word scribed on stone, or in texts, or whatever, and we think that we have all the glory that there is to be manifested through the Word of God, we are missing something. He has something that is removed in Christ of that lesser glory, that we are to be partakers of.

Verses 15-16 say, "But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away." And it is this turning to the Lord that I personally want to reach into for this year that we have before us – whether this is waiting upon the Lord, or seeking the Lord, or crying out to God in prayer; however you want to term it, it is this idea that we are turning to the Lord to see the veil removed from over our eyes and our hearts that we might experience something different.

Verses 17-18, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." See, the one glory was passing away. Now God is saying that there is a level of glory, of fullness of that glory, that He is looking to bring to us, and that is what we are reaching for. So we must reach in for this experience of having our faces unveiled, so that we can behold Him and see the Word, the glory, as it is, and have it written upon our own hearts by the Spirit.

First Peter 1:23 says, "For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring [or abiding] word of God." The Word of God is what comes and is planted into our hearts. See, Peter is using the illustration of a seed. We do not just believe the Word when we hear it; we do not just believe and have salvation; there is a seed that is planted in our hearts. And that seed is the living, enduring Word of God, which is to grow into its fullness until we, as Christ, manifest in the flesh as the Word of God made flesh.

Ephesians 4 talks about this relationship as we are to mature in Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12 begins by saying, "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ." So, the reason for all these ministries, the reason for the church, is to build up the body of Christ. Okay, what does that mean? Well, verse 13 says, "Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." Now, remember, the beginning Scripture out of John 1:16 said, "For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace." So the fullness we have received; and this fullness is what we are looking to see manifest – not a lesser thing, not a lesser glory, but the fullness of what we are to have, to the mature man.

We always talk in this podcast, *Growing in God*, about the maturity of believers; and it is until we come to this mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. What was the fullness of Christ? He was the Word made flesh. And we, likewise, are to attain to that knowledge of the Son of God, to that mature man, to that measure of stature which belongs to Him. We are to come into His fullness. And according to John back in the beginning, we have all received of that fullness. What has been imparted to us since the beginning, from our salvation and our faith growing on as we walk with Him, is an expansion of what is His fullness, until it becomes fullness within us. John 1:16 says, "For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace." We know we walk by grace. We know we receive this by grace, it is not by works. I want you to remember this Scripture in John 1:16, and memorize it: "Of His fullness we have all received." It is the fullness of the Word made flesh that was the manifestation of Christ in the flesh brought into the world; "and grace upon grace" allows us to walk and to see this fullness expand.

Paul says in Ephesians 1:18-23,

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling... [Do we really know what is the hope of His calling? What is it we are expecting out of this calling, out of the salvation that we have received? Paul realized the body of Christ needed to know] what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church... [I want us as the church to wake up to what is available to us], the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

We are to come to the fullness of Him who is filling all things. And what is He? And who is He? He is the living and abiding Word of God. As Christ came into this earth in human flesh, as the Word made flesh, we too, having received of this fullness, must grow by grace and increase until we likewise come to this place where His Body is the fullness of Him who is filling all things. We too must become in this age that Word made flesh. That is what will have the power, authority, that we need to move in the greater works that He has promised.

Amen.