

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG235 – Is Your Trust in the Lord?

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

I know we have taken a lot of time with these things, but I want to get into a bit of a word flow that has been on my heart. There has been so much on my heart as we are going forward, because there are so many things happening that we could talk in multiple directions. But what I am most concerned about right now, and a Scripture just came to me while Bruce was talking where it says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." (Proverbs 3:5) I think it is one of the things we witness over and over again as events around the world take place, because this time in Los Angeles, this disaster that is still unfolding in Los Angeles, is kind of a reminder to us of how many disasters there are globally that are transpiring at this time. We look at what has been going on in the United States recently with hurricanes and other disasters, disasters at the border, things that have been unfolding; and one of the things that we talked about last night in our Shabbat evening around the table was rehearsing those same types of events which are unfolding in other nations. Because, as we have talked about, I think there is such a focus now on the nations, and what is happening among the nations. Many times it escapes our notice, because as you know, for Americans, or Brazilians, or those in Mexico, whatever our news sources are doing generally does not make it easy to follow the events that are going on in other places; and it is very difficult to dig and find the truth when the media is talking about things.

We were rehearsing what is going on in China; China is facing disasters, economic disasters. Obviously, we look at what is transpiring throughout the Middle East right now; we have seen a historic, biblical transition in places like Syria which is interrupting the whole of the state of the Middle East through many nations. And then you see what is going on in Turkey, and you see what is going on in Russia; and it seems like what everybody is focused on and worried about is all of the wars and the rumors of wars, and the attacks, and this and that. But really, there is a deep, underlying vulnerability in each of these countries that seems so threatening right now. And of course, I think they are threatening; there are dangers that exist in what they potentially will do over the next period of time in history. But many times, that reaction is to the true insecurity and unraveling of the nation that is taking place within. We all know that there is nothing more dangerous than a trapped animal. You take an animal that has its leg caught, and boy, do not approach it, because of the danger. And I think more than what looks like the overt danger is that which is really triggering potential actions from within that are huge weaknesses and impending disasters on a national level.

I am not giving you any facts to go fact check, you can look into it yourself and see. That is not what is important to me, I am just throwing it out as kind of a general statement. But I think it is something

that is going to play out, because there are so many things happening in global events, and at some point the rubber band snaps. One of the things I mean by that is there are no finances. I know that Biden committed to cover all the costs of the Los Angeles disaster for the next 180 days – what a ludicrous statement that is! America does not have the funds to do that. We could not take care of the Dakotas in the storm disaster; FEMA was out of money because of what was transpiring on the southern border. And now you are saying, “Oh, don’t worry, we are going to take care of this”? The natural resources, and this is probably the main point, the natural resources begin to run dry. I just want us to look at that concept, because we are so used to being taken care of, and we have spent years with our security coming from things other than the Lord. We have worked the Lord out of our lives, out of our national marketplace, out of our schools, out of every aspect of society.

I know we heard this on Maui so much about the Maui fires, there were so many weird concepts about, “What started this fire?” There was, “The government did this,” and there was, “Beams coming from Mars,” and “What is God doing? God is judging the wickedness” of whatever. And I hear that kind of talk, the blame game is already happening in LA; it is going on behind the scenes in every place. But I had this strange sense this morning, what if God is not in any of this? What if He is not doing anything? What if this has nothing to do with God? I know that sounds a little weird, because we say, “Oh, well wait, I thought we are in the end-time. I thought these were the last days. And, of course, we know that the end times are about God judging; you know, He is going to judge this and He is going to judge that and judge the other thing.” But I don’t know, I think one of the greatest things that God does is that when He is invited out of the room, He very much like a gentleman just leaves; and I think it would be interesting to try to evaluate that in our prayer, in our repentance. I know we always keep going back to Second Chronicles 7, with the prayer, “If I do this and if I do that, then My people should humble themselves.” But I would still encourage us, because I think if God is not doing anything that we should still humble ourselves. We should still repent of our wicked ways before Him.

I think one of the deepest hurts in the heart of God – it talks about grieving the Holy Spirit; I think God is grieved. I think He is grieved at the way we leave Him out. I think He is grieved at the way we as humans have become dependent on other things, and we look to other things, when He wants to be glorified. And one of the ways God is glorified is that we look to Him for everything. That is one thing I love about Judaism – Judaism has a prayer for everything. If you pick up a cracker to eat it, there is a special blessing to thank God for that cracker. You cannot have a meal without having the grace, the thankfulness, the gratefulness after you partake of that meal; because we recognize and we glorify God, and we honor God, and we constantly express that. One of the things we find in the New Testament is the encouragement to say, “Hey, you guys who are saying, ‘Today and tomorrow I am going to go do this and I am going to go do that’; what we should be saying is, ‘If the Lord wills, then we will do this and we will do that.’” And I think we have so lost that, which, of course, is probably grieving to everybody who is from any given country. I am sure Silas grieves over this with Brazil; I am sure Jeanette and those in Mexico grieve over Mexico; and we do in the United States. We grieve over how much we have lost this simple knowledge of dependency on God.

We depend on Him for every breath that we take, for everything we are able to do; for everything we put in our mouth; the fact that we can be on this call. I mean, I do not think there is a way to take this concept too far. My gosh, when I walk my dog in the morning, we have this horrendous hill; Bruce can attest to the hill. I go up that hill and I just think, “Thank you, Lord, that I can do this. Thank You, Lord, that I have the breath. Thank You, Lord, that I have the strength.” I just give Him all of the glory, because I think, how many people cannot go up that hill. But everything in our lives is that way.

We need to get back to a gratitude to trust in the Lord with all of our hearts, to stop leaning on our own understanding. When we lean on our own understanding, then we create things and we build systems and cities and AI's and things around us; and all of a sudden, before we know it, we are dependent on them, and we are trusting in them. I know in the United States we would laugh about, "We are not idolatrous!" But I think idolatry is just trusting in anything except God. I think we do that all the time, every day. And so, I just want us to open our hearts and I want us to pray for the globe. I do not want us to just pray for America. I do not want to just pray for LA. We have said this before: the Lord is dealing with nations, not just people. There are a lot of people in every nation that do not agree with their government, and do not agree with the way things are done within the government and within the societies that they live in. We should pray for those hearts to be strengthened, to open up, to begin to express to their country and to their countrymen around them a different way of life where we honor the Lord, where we glorify the Lord, where we come into a state of gratitude, of thankfulness. We talked about this in the Thanksgiving podcast: I do not want to just say, "Thank You, God, for doing this one thing." I want to realize that thankfulness has to become the state of my being. I have to live thankfulness, because truly, there is nothing that I have. What do we have that we have not received? Christ said it best, "You have no life in yourself." There is no life that we have in ourselves. The very life that we have was breathed into us to create us and bring us to birth in this world. So, I think this is something that is important for us to get.

I want to go back to the story about Elijah. Remember when Elijah was off in the wilderness and praying he would die, and all this stuff that he was going through? And so, he is fed, and he comes to the cave. We are talking about 1 Kings 19, and I am going to start at verses 9-11. The story actually begins before that, and you can read a little earlier. But I want to just get across to us this point, because, again, we are watching TV today about so many things; especially, LA has the attention of the news media; the upcoming transition of the government in the US is going to have the news media's attention. But I feel like so many people are saying, "Oh God this, and God is doing that, and this is what God is after, and we need to pray for this." So, we just take these verses as a help to us in this moment. It says, speaking of Elijah,

Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." So He said, "Go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord."

I thought, how appropriate this is for us. There is so much where we could feel like, "God raised us up to prophesy to the nations, to speak to the peoples, and all of this stuff, and it seems like nobody has listened. We have been persecuted, and this and that has happened that we have gone through." God says, "Yeah, yeah, go stand on the mountain and I will talk to you."

Verses 11-14,

So He said, "Go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.

That is a really interesting verse to study in Hebrew. I do not want to distract us with it, but this is so powerful; because it is saying, other than a gentle blowing, it is like a blast of God speaking.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Then he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

It is just like the nations have gone awry. They have forsaken God. They have forsaken His ways. They have ripped up His covenants. They have kicked Him out of the marketplace. They have kicked Him out of the educational system. They have destroyed His prophets. They are persecuting the Christians and the Jewish people who are standing for His Word and His moral covenant. They have done all of this; and not only that, "...they are after me to kill me." Then it is interesting, because God goes on to give him such a word of direction, very specific about what he is to do, who he is to speak to, how he is to act. But I just thought, while everybody is evaluating what is going on, certainly in the United States, but I know in other nations; and they are giving their editorials on, "Well, it is this. Well, God is doing this. Well, God is doing that." And I just think, you know what? I do not know that God is in any of this. I do not know that He is in the wind of the hurricane that devastated the East Coast. I do not know that He is in the fire that is destroying LA. I do not know that that is God.

Can we stop blaming God? And can we look at it and say, "You know what? All of this is the result of how we as humans have lived." Part of that lifestyle is that we have stopped trusting in Him, we have stopped giving ourselves to Him. I do not know that we are not just simply reaping the natural consequence of our lifestyle; and God is standing over on the sidelines. He is ready to speak to us, but I think first we need to recognize, "Lord, we have to trust in You. We have to put our trust in You." We have to stop, as the prophets would say, "Stop trusting in chariots, stop trusting in horses, and start trusting in the Lord your God." We need to stop trusting in all of these things that we as humans have built around us, the glory of humanity. It is like the glory of humanity is burning down around us; it is being blown away around us; it is being destroyed around us, and there is nothing we can do about it. It is just happening, and we are going to live with the results of it. But I think we need to see that we are reaping the fruit of our life.

I think that there is an answer to it all. It is not to look and say, "Well, God is judging this, and God is judging that, because you are a bunch of sinners." We all need to humble ourselves and come before Him, and say, "We repent of our wicked ways." You say, "Well, what is my wicked way?" That we do not trust in Him. That we are not giving our lives to Him. That we are not honoring Him for all that He is. Whatever we have built, it is only because He has given us the ability to build. Whatever we have done, it is only because of His enabling, His wisdom, His blessing of intelligence to move forward in things. The last time I think we saw people obviously build something that God was not in was the Tower of Babel; and it all came tumbling down. I do not know that we are not seeing many, many things that are going to come tumbling down among the nations, among all the nations, until humanity itself comes back to Him and says, "Okay, there is one God. There is one Lord. There is one Creator." It is like the Jewish prayer: "You are the Creator of the universe. You we glorify, and You we honor, and You we begin to trust on another level. We have gone astray, but like You said in Chronicles, if we come and we pray to You, and we do humble ourselves and repent of what we have done and what we have been doing, then You said You would come and heal the land." So, in all that is happening, no matter how difficult it

seems, how impossible it seems to recover from what we are facing, if we turn to Him, He has all the answers; and He has all the power and He has all the ability, and He will heal the land, just as soon as He heals our hearts.

We bless this today. Lord, we ask for Your grace in the areas that we have gone astray. And we ask not only for LA and what is happening in LA, which is honestly a disaster, and we do not make light of it in any way, shape, or form. People's lives – people are losing their lives, they are losing everything. Everything they are losing, and it truly is a disaster, and we ask You, Lord, to meet them. But it is happening in so many places, on so many realms. Whether the news is showing it to us today or not does not mean it is not happening out there, and it is just as impactful as what is happening in Los Angeles. And so, Lord, we ask You to help us to be a force in this age and in this year to humble ourselves and to repent of our wicked ways. And whatever we are trusting in, Lord, wherever we put our trust and it is not in You, we repent of that wickedness. We take our trust back, because we can do that. We take our trust back and we place it in You, Lord, because only You are able.

So we bless it today, Lord. We bless You, we bless this Word. Bruce, would you like to seal it to our hearts?

**Bruce Larson:** Father, we do bow before You, and we do repent of our wicked ways. My wicked way is I do not think like You think; my ways are not Your ways. I tend to go day-by-day and not find You in everything I do. Lord, we open wide our hearts. Give us another level of trust, another way of opening our eyes to see and our ears to hear, that in everything we do, we more than acknowledge You; in everything we do, we know You. We know Your ways, and we hear Your voice. And we do, we seek Your face with all of our heart. We claim the promise, Lord, if My people would humble themselves, repent and seek My face, You would heal the land. And Lord, we claim that promise today, in Your name.

**Gary:** Amen. Amen. So awesome to have you guys with us.