

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG241 – Will You Be Aware?

I am glad you could join me today for this podcast. I am going to be talking about our awareness. I have titled this, *Will You Be Aware?* I think that there are many things about the end-time that make people afraid; and that is unfortunate, because I do not think we should be afraid of the beasts and all of the things that we tend to read about in the book of Revelation that just kind of scare people. The whole idea of the end-time brings about this sense of fear in many believers. I do not think that we are supposed to have that fear. If we want to be fearful of something, we should be fearful of our unawareness; and that is an internal issue, it is not an external issue.

When we become fearful and concerned about that which is outside of us, I believe our focus is wrong. I believe God wants us to focus inside on what He is doing in us. It is God who is at work in us, both to will and to work of His good pleasure. God Himself is working inside of you; and so, the things that are taking place outside of you are not necessarily the primary focus that God has, and I do not know that it is the focus that we should have. We should be very concerned about what is going on in our own hearts. And one of the greatest issues, especially surrounding the end-time, is will we be aware?

I am going to read some Scriptures, starting with Isaiah chapter 43, verses 18-21.

“Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. The beasts of the field will glorify Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I have given waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people. The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My praise.”

So again, we see the choosing of the Jewish people and of the land of Israel, and that God is going to bring forth wonders there; and part of it is, will we be aware? When we look around the world today, we see that there are many people, even in Christianity, who are not aware of what God is doing, because they are not aware of one of the most simple concepts that we find in the Scriptures; and that is, God has never abandoned His people, Israel, and He is going to fulfill every Word He has over them. Now I use this as an illustration, because again, when we get to these times that we are living in, if we call them the end times or the culmination of all things, whatever, we see this tendency to be unaware. There is a great deal of unawareness surrounding Israel, surrounding the children of Israel, and this is one reason why anti-Semitism can bloom the way it is. If people understood what God was doing with His chosen people and about His chosen people, there would not be this flood of anti-Semitism that is moving right now through this age, and even sweeping through many churches. There are many Christian churches who are supporting the work of jihadists throughout the world; and their number one purpose in being jihadists is to eliminate every Jew on the planet, and to end the existence of Israel as a state or as a home for the Jewish people. All I can say is, that is born out of a great deal of unawareness of what the Scripture is saying, what the heart of God is, and what His purposes are in the earth – especially during the end-time, where we look in the prophecies to see the restoration of Israel, the restoration of the Land, and God bringing about new covenants and new things as He declared in Jeremiah would happen, a new covenant that God brings to His people.

We already see all around us, in the news today, that which is a result of people's unawareness. So, I think that if there is something to be frightened of, it is not even the jihadists themselves, it is the unawareness of people; because that is where the deceptions are able to take root and where we are missing the purposes of God in the earth. We need to get out of that; and the only way we are going to get out of that is by finding a true awareness. I think that within the church, within believers, the heart of believers in this day and age, there must come an awareness. That is why we are emphasizing these Scriptures in Isaiah, because He talks about the fact that He is going to do a new thing. Verse 19: "Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it?" God is warning us that He is going to do something new, and the concern is that through unawareness, we as His people will miss what He is doing.

Isaiah 42 picks up this same concept. In verses 8-10 it says,

"I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you."

Sing to the Lord a new song, sing His praise from the end of the earth! You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it. You islands, and those who dwell on them.

Of course, I had to read that because I dwell on one of those islands. So, even those of us in the islands must be aware of the fact that the former things have come to pass, and God is declaring something new. It is going to spring forth; and before it springs forth, He says He will proclaim it. God is going to proclaim the things that are going to happen.

When I read this, I think about Samuel. If you remember the story, when Samuel was just a child and he was sleeping in the temple, God called out, "Samuel, Samuel." He wakes up and looks around, does not see anybody, so he gets up and runs to the high priest and says, "What? Did you call me?" He replies, "No." So Samuel goes back and lays down; and this happens more than once. Finally, Eli says to him, "It is the Lord. So next time say, 'I am listening, Lord. Speak to Your servant.'" That was a good impression of this idea that God is going to do something new, because certainly God was going to do something new through Samuel the prophet; there was going to be a release. It was surrounding Samuel that the whole concept of the prophet changed. First, they were called seers, and then they became prophets. Part of the prophet ministry is hearing the voice of the Lord, identifying the voice of the Lord, and understanding what the Lord is getting ready to do by hearing that voice; and that is what this Scripture is talking about: "Before they spring forth, I will proclaim them." But there has to be the ear of the prophet that not only hears but discerns and understands, and that is what we see the transition was throughout Israel in the coming forth of Samuel the prophet.

We also see the same idea in Christ, that He was able to hear the voice of the Father. He said, "I do those things which I see the Father doing, I speak those things which I hear the Father speaking." It is that prophetic understanding and awareness. It cannot just be a voice that is nonsensical; it cannot be a voice which you do not understand the meaning of. You know how simple it is to get into a conversation with somebody and be on two different planets with what is being spoken, and there is no understanding. So, even though there is hearing, it does not mean that there is understanding; and that is what God is trying to say to us in these verses in Isaiah, that we have to be aware of what He is going to do. We cannot just live by virtue of what has happened in the past, and say, "Well, I understand what God has done. I have watched what God has done through the Scriptures, and I have seen this and that." No, you have to be able to hear His voice today, and understand that voice so that you know what

to do, and you know what it is He is speaking. That is what Christ represented in the earth – one who knew the Father, one who heard the voice of the Father, one who saw the Father and had the exact understanding of what God was doing, so that He was able to manifest it before people and on the earth as He came forth.

God will speak these things. He will declare the new things before they spring forth, and they will be proclaimed, but there has to be that Samuel spirit restored – the spirit of Samuel the prophet, the spirit that was in Christ that was able to see and be aware and understand. When Christ came, people were not aware. They were not aware of who He was. They could watch what He was doing; of course they could see the miracles, and they could listen to the teaching. They could hear what He was saying to them, but was there an awareness that allowed them to understand? Just as we see with Samuel, that when God first began to speak, Samuel did not understand; he grew to become that prophet. And I think it is time that the body of Christ grows in the Lord to become the prophets of God. We must be those who are seers and prophets, hearers of what He is speaking and proclaiming now; not just being able to teach the old things and explain what God has done in the past. We must know now what He is doing today, and that is one of the big problems that we face – it is great to be a biblical scholar, but do you hear the voice of God today? That is point one. Point two is, when you hear that voice, if you do, do you understand what it is that He is proclaiming? Because it is a new thing.

This is the concern that we should have in these end times. Do not be necessarily caught up in what seems to be going on outwardly; you know, “Oh, the mark of the beast is going to happen!” Well, worry about what is going on in your heart. Do not be looking around every corner for somebody to come and stamp you with the mark of the beast. The issue is what God is doing. He is trying to create in us today an awareness so that we can be His people who hear and understand and are able to proclaim what is to take place.

Isaiah 48 verses 3-9 say,

“I declared the former things long ago and they went forth from My mouth, and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass. Because I know that you are obstinate, and your neck is an iron sinew and your forehead bronze, therefore I declared them to you long ago, before they took place I proclaimed them to you, so that you would not say, ‘My idol has done them, and my graven image and my molten image have commanded them.’ You have heard; look at all this. And you, will you not declare it? I proclaim to you new things from this time, even hidden things which you have not known. They are created now and not long ago; and before today you have not heard them, so that you will not say, ‘Behold, I knew them.’ You have not heard, you have not known. Even from long ago your ear has not been open, because I knew that you would deal very treacherously; and you have been called a rebel from birth. For the sake of My name I delay My wrath, and for My praise I restrain it for you, in order not to cut you off.”

So, we see this reality that God is going to speak. He is going to speak new things because of the arrogance of man to say, “Oh, yeah, I knew God was going to do that. Yeah, I heard that. I was proclaiming that a long time ago.” Well, be careful, because God is going to do something that you have not heard. He is going to speak now. It is not good enough to have heard from long ago what He was going to do. You must know what it is that He is doing and going to do. And really, when we look at the issues of the end-time, we know that new things are going to transpire, new things are going to take place; and again, the issue really becomes our awareness.

Let's look at 1 Thessalonians 5, starting at verses 1-3. It says,

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, 'Peace and safety!' then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

Here in 1 Thessalonians Paul is talking about things that are going to transpire in the last days, off in the future from his time moving forward. It is a warning that we see multiple times in the Scriptures that deal with this idea of our unawareness, and are warning us about our unawareness so that we can get out of this. He says, "You know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. And while they are saying, 'Peace and safety!'" See, there is going to be a lot of false prophecy, because people are going to be hearing but not understanding what God is saying; and so, they are going to be saying one thing, but God is going to do another thing. As a result of it, He will come as a thief in the night.

Verses 4-9 say,

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation....

This idea that we should not be asleep – we should not be of those who are not understanding. We should understand. We are not of the darkness; we are not of the ignorance that is going to overtake this age. We are of those who must come into the ability to see, discern, and understand what God is going to do in the days that are just before us.

In Luke 21, at verses 29-31, it says, "Then He told them a parable: 'Behold the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.'" He is talking again about this idea of the Kingdom coming forth, and He is saying, "Hey, you have to be aware. You have to recognize the signs. You have to correctly discern these signs when they come."

In verses 33-36 it says,

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place...."

We are not supposed to suffer through all these things. We are supposed to be able to escape these things. That is what it is saying: "Keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things." To escape these things, there must be the awareness of the things that we have; and in the strength of that understanding and knowledge, we escape what takes place. It says that it is those who are unaware who are trapped. I like that word "trap"; "suddenly like a trap" is the way that the day of the Lord comes. But the trap is because of the unawareness, and the strength to escape these things is because of the awareness that exists.

2 Peter 3:10 says, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat...." I just want to reinforce this over and over again. The Scriptures are not confusing about this idea that there must be an awareness at the end-time. But that awareness is something we must develop. It is not something that we just hope is going to happen: "Boy, I hope I can understand. Boy, I hope I hear the voice of the Lord. I hope I understand the voice of the Lord." No, we have to develop within ourselves the ability, like Samuel did; he grew and became the prophet that was able to know what God was doing and what He was speaking to Israel, and he became the voice of the Lord to Israel during his time.

Even in the book of Revelation, in chapter 3, verse 3 it says, "So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you." So the idea is, "I am going to come as a thief. I am going to come as a thief. People are going to be shocked. People will not know when I am coming." And yet, at the same time, you hear this still small voice over here saying, "If you do not wake up, if you are not aware, I come as a thief." You have to put those two things together. It is not just, "He is going to come as a thief to everybody." No, there are going to be those who wake up, and they are not going to be surprised. It is those who are unaware that will be surprised. But He will come as a thief, and it will seem that He is coming as a thief because of the unawareness that lives in the day of His coming. And that is what the demonic world, that is what satan is working on right now, is to bring unawareness; it is to bring a stupidity, to bring a stupor on people where they cannot hear, number one, and they cannot understand the voice of the Lord, number two.

Mark talks about it in chapter 13, verses 31-34. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like a man who goes away on a journey...." So He tells this whole story about how He comes, and there is an unawareness of it. We see it again, the story, the parables, in Matthew 24. In verses 37-39 He uses Noah as an example, and says, "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away...." See, it came like a thief; it came in their unawareness; they were unaware, and that is when it came. That is why they were eating and drinking, and marrying and giving in marriage, doing all these things; they were going on with their daily lives because they were not aware of what was about to happen. And we, as God's people, as the body of Christ, cannot be unaware.

Let me read one more Scripture out of First Corinthians 2, starting with verses 1-6. Paul is saying, "And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." He came with a knowledge of the relationship with Christ; and Christ came with that same thing. He said, "I know the Father. I hear the Father. I see the Father." He heard and He understood, that was the awareness; it came from hearing and understanding, but it was born in the depth of the relationship. And that is how Paul said he came to the church at Corinth; it was in that relationship. He did not know anything except "...Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away." See, we are not speaking to those

who do not understand, we are speaking to those who understand. "The rulers of this age and those who are passing away, they do not understand what I am saying; but I am speaking a wisdom to the mature." We must mature in God.

Verses 7-8, "But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." See, this unawareness was on Satan at the crucifixion of Christ; he thought he was destroying the Messiah, and in fact he was creating the open door for Him to rule and reign forever as King. So, that unawareness existed. That is one thing you do not see a lot of times about the end-time, but you need to recognize, that what seems to be playing itself out in great wisdom and understanding in taking over the earth is actually functioning out of an unawareness and an inability to understand what God is doing; and that is what Paul is talking about. There is a wisdom, and it is a wisdom that the rulers of this age cannot understand. Do not worry about the rulers of this age, they will never understand; worry about yourself. It is not what is going on outside of you, it is what is going on inside of you to be able to understand this wisdom, the mysteries that God is unfolding to us to walk through these days.

Verses 9-12,

But just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him." For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world [so we do not have the spirit of the world, we do not have the wisdom of the world], but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.

This is what we are looking for. We are looking to have this awareness. But part of awareness is the understanding, and that is what he is saying – we are not learning about the things of this world, the things outside; we are learning the things of the Spirit so that we hear the voice of the Spirit, we hear the voice of the Lord. It comes via the Spirit to us. It is the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things that are being given to us by God.

He says in verses 13-16,

"...which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom [this is not what comes out of our conscious mind, out of the wisdom of man, out of book learning; this is what is given to us and] ...taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him [see, even if you hear the words, it is a language you do not understand]; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

It is this mind of Christ that comes to be the awareness that we need, to be the understanding that we need; and that comes to those who learn to grow and mature in their relationship with Christ, with the Holy Spirit, with the Father, until we have ears to hear and a heart to understand what God is doing in this age. Paul came and spoke a wisdom that no man understood, it was foolishness to man; but he spoke to those who were mature a wisdom by the Spirit, that was imparting to them all they needed to

know of what God had prepared for those who love Him, because God was revealing to them through the Spirit what He had made and brought forth in that age; and He is looking for those who can do the same in this time.

I bless us to be those who seek the Lord to grow like young Samuel did, until we not only hear the voice, but we understand what it is speaking to us in the mysteries of this age, revealing to us the new thing that God will do in our day.

Amen.