

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG51- Salvation-Made Alive To God

In this podcast today, I want to talk about salvation. I know that the name of the podcast is *Growing in God*, and the focus of this ministry is on maturing the believer; but you first must become a believer. And as much as we have been talking about the things going on around us in the age in which we live, I find myself always talking about the fact that the answer to all of the issues that we come face-to-face with is knowing the Lord, our salvation experience, and growing and maturing in that salvation experience. Those are the necessities of this time that we live in. But if you don't have that first beginning salvation experience with God, there is no ability to grow in God. So I want to back up a little bit today and talk simply about our salvation, the need for it.

There are many ways to approach the idea of salvation. It is a personal experience that each individual must have in their life. There is a multitude of ways we could approach this, or think about salvation. It is such a vast subject, and it is such a wonderful topic that we can get into. But I want to focus on two specific reasons today why you as a person, living in this time, in this age, need to really seek God today about salvation, about your personal salvation experience. If you don't have that experience, and maybe if you already do have that experience, today will be a wonderful refresher – we can always go on our faces before God and seek Him in a greater way. But there are two specific reasons that I think today you should really seek the Lord, ask the Lord, talk to God about His salvation. The first is the issue of eternal life. We are going to either experience eternal life or eternal death. Right now, we are living in this natural life that we have been given and granted by God. God is our Creator. He created you. He is your God, whether you recognize Him or believe in Him or not, it really doesn't matter. He is still God. He is still your Creator. He is the One that gave you the life that you have in this very moment that you are breathing and your heart is beating. But at some point you are going to transition out of this life. I think if you don't believe in eternal life, certainly everyone believes in death. Everyone will experience death, and there is life after death, and you need to look into that. You need to study the reality of your eternity.

You know, we are in a day where we research almost everything. If you are going to college, you research, "What is the best college for me to go to?" If we are going to buy something, chances are we go onto our computer and we do internet searches to find out what is the best product or what is the best way to do things. My gosh, even if we are just trying to cook a meal today, we tend to research it on the Internet. So if we are going to spend so much time researching these trivial issues of this present age and life we live in, how much more should you give your attention and spend time researching your eternal life or your eternal death?

The best way is through the Scriptures, through the Bible. Read the Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Pick up a Bible. Look it up on the Internet – you can get it for free. But read it, and talk to the Lord about this idea of eternal life. It is spoken of many times through these Gospels, and the rest of the Scriptures speak of this eternal life, the reality of it. It is true – there is life after death, or there is an eternal death that you will experience. It is worth looking into. In fact, it is probably the most important thing that you will ever do, to study this reality and truth that there is an eternal life and you will at

some point be confronted with it, and you will be thrown into it. And the question is, are you prepared? What have you chosen as your eternal life experience?

You have the right to choose. You have the right to decide how you are going to live through eternity. It is worth the time to honestly ask the question. You say, "Well, I don't believe in the Bible. I don't believe in God. I'm an atheist." Well, I'm encouraging you, think again. All of eternity depends on your decision and your faith about this issue. So that is the first specific thing I want to call to our attention. And the first reason I want to talk about salvation today is that every one of us will face an eternity, and that eternity and how we choose to live it is the most important decision, honestly, you will ever make.

The second issue is this present life. We are now living a life that God has given us. God is our Creator and He is our God. As I have said, whether you believe in Him or not, He still exists and He still lives; and He still created you. He brought you forth into this world, and you are now living in this present age. You are now living this present life that surrounds you on a daily basis. And your experience in this present life is very important. It is not necessarily as important as the eternal life, but it will play into your eternal life and what that becomes in later times.

We happen to be living this present life in very unique times. We are living, I believe, in the end of times, in the convergence of the age between eternal life and the present physical age in which we live. And there is much happening because there is much conflict that goes on between righteousness and wickedness, between good and bad, in this. It is all part of what we will experience in this present age. Part of salvation not only deals with what we will have in our eternal life; it also impacts how we live in this present age and through this present age.

I want to read two Scriptures. The first is Romans 6:23, and this one deals with eternal life. Verse 23, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." So it is a gift from God. It does exist. And the wages of sin is death. What is sin? Sin very simply is disobedience to God who is our Creator and our life giver. Because He gave you life, He has the ability to take that life away. And sin is simply a disobedience in living our life refusing Him, refusing His will, refusing what He is providing for us.

Sin brings death, but God is offering to every one of us a free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. That deals with this eternity that we face. In Galatians, the first chapter starting at verses 3-4, it says, "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father." We see here in this verse that this salvation experience provides something for us where we are rescued from this present evil age in which we live. We know that there is wickedness, there is evil. We believe in a personification of that called satan, or the devil. And we realize that he is busily at work, especially in this present age in which we live and exist. Our salvation through the Messiah, through Christ – Christ means Messiah in Hebrew, or, is Messiah in Hebrew – the Messiah, who brings this salvation to us, rescues us not only in our eternity, but He rescues us in this present evil age from the things that we face and confront. That is very important for us to recognize, because we live in a time where the earth is going through a great deal. We see it in the news. We see it surrounding us. We see it in the conflicts that are taking place in this day that we are surrounded with.

In Isaiah chapter 24, starting at verses 3-6, it says, "The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the Lord has spoken this word. The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away. The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a

curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left."

Now this concept is important for us. Why does the earth come into play when we are talking about our personal salvation? It comes into play because when God created man, He put man over the earth. Therefore, the earth is in a sense under the rulership of man. When man sinned, then sin came into the world and the world fell under a curse, in hope that man would accept the salvation experience from God and be able to deliver, not only themselves into eternal life, but deliver the earth that we were made responsible for.

So we see what is going on around us. We hear a lot today about the what is going on in our planet. We hear about global warming. We hear about pollution. We hear about destruction. We hear about the whole earth being out of balance and things not functioning as they used to or as they should. And people are wondering why and coming up with all of these solutions. These solutions will not work, because the curse that now rests on the earth is what is making all of these events that we behold with our eyes and hear about transpire. They are transpiring for a reason. There is a curse upon the earth. Why? Because of our sin. Because of our disobedience to God, these things are happening surrounding us.

That is why in Galatians, He says that in salvation there is a deliverance from this present age. The things happening in this present age can be turned around as humankind will accept this salvation experience. And that is why this message on salvation is such a burden on my heart, because we need as mankind to come together in a salvation, in a restoration of our relationship to God, that will bring a change in this world in which we live. It is very important that we are changing our eternity, but we also want to change our present life that we now live. In salvation is a deliverance from this present evil age in which we live, and we can turn things around.

I believe there can be an experience that is almost like a global salvation. I know salvation is a very personal, individual event and personal meeting between you and Messiah, you and God the Father. But I also see in the Scriptures the story of Jonah, where Jonah for three days went and spoke to Nineveh, the great city. There was like 120,000 people in the city of Nineveh; and as Jonah spoke to them to repent and meet God, they did. The whole city did. And the judgment that was to come on Nineveh, God removed, and Nineveh was saved. This is what I believe can happen in our age. We can see a time of revival in this earth where we give ourselves individually, yes, to seek salvation; but somehow there is a global impact to the drive for salvation. You know, things are not just happening individually anymore. They are happening globally. We see it with COVID-19. This is a global event. We find ourselves in a time of global events. Why can we not see global salvation beginning to take place surrounding us, and see the power of that global salvation bring a rescue of mankind from this present evil age? I believe we can see it. And if you are listening to this podcast as a believer, I think we as believers should pray for this to take place.

Okay, but salvation is an experience that each individual must have. And so what are the steps that lead us to salvation? The first, I think, is you need to know that God did create you, and you do not exist apart from God. In Psalm 24, starting at verses 1-6, it says, "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains" – that is us. We are contained in this earth – "the world, and those who dwell in it. For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?" Who can come into His Presence, it's saying. "And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a

blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face – even Jacob." So this is what we do. We seek His face about salvation. "Make Yourself real. God, You are the owner. You are the Creator of the earth. The earth is Yours; and because we dwell on the earth, we are Yours. Make Yourself real to us. Let me know You and let me know the joy of Your salvation."

In 1 Corinthians, this thought is repeated. In chapter 10, verse 26, it says, "For the earth is the Lord's, and all it contains." We must recognize that everything in this earth belongs to God, including you. He created you. He brought you forth. You are His, and therefore we must seek Him. And we must seek to be obedient to Him because He created us, and we are His, as the earth is His.

Because of sin and disobedience, our spirits literally died towards God; and that makes it impossible to relate to Him. So we want to find in salvation the reversal of this death of our spirit. We want our spirit to come alive to God so we can begin to communicate with Him; we can begin to relate to Him; we can begin to grow and mature in Him and become His sons and daughters. In Ephesians chapter two, starting at verse 1, it says, "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins." What does it mean, "you were dead"? Well, you are saying, "I am alive." That was what happened in the Garden of Eden, in the Book of Genesis. God said, "If you eat of the fruit, you are going to die." The devil comes along and says, "No, you are not going to die." And Adam and Eve surly ate of the fruit of the tree and it seemed like they didn't die. What died? Their spirit died. Their spirit died towards God. Their soul didn't die. Their physical body didn't die. And that is the state that unbelievers live in. They look alive, but their spirit is dead. The purpose of your spirit is the ability to relate to God and come into a relationship with Him that is deeper and growing.

So Ephesians 2:1-4 says, "You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air..." See, Satan has tricked us, saying, "Oh, you are not going to die. Everything is going to be okay. It does not matter if you are disobedient to God your Creator." You don't want to be subject to that anymore. We don't want to walk according to the course of this world, "of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us..." God loves you. He not only created you, He is your Father. He loves you with a love that is beyond compare. And it is the depth and power of His love towards you that will bring this salvation, if you seek it. Verses 5-6 go on to say, "even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

See, as our spirit comes alive, we are able to be one with Christ and dwell in the heavenly realms, and have a life that is freed from what is necessarily transpiring in this evil age in which we live. Verses 7-10 go on to say, "So that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

God created you, and He created you for good works. He created you for a purpose. There is a destiny and a purpose in your life, and you find it as your spirit comes alive to God and you enter into this place of salvation. Not just in eternity – it does affect your eternity, these works that He created us for – but

specifically, right now, it is life-changing as we come into a knowledge of God and enter into salvation, this free gift that we receive by faith.

Ephesians the second chapter, at verse 12, goes on, "Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world." Without salvation, we are in this world without God, without hope. There is no hope! At the end of this life, what is there? Death. So what is the purpose of life? What is the purpose of whatever you accomplish in this life, if it simply ends in death? There is no hope. And we were in this world without hope, until we received the hope and the gift from God that is salvation in Christ.

Verse 13 says, "But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." So by His blood and by His sacrifice, we come in to this new life. What we want and desire is a change in this day and age we live in, this present age. To have eternal life, we must be reconciled to God through Jesus, Yeshua. Romans the fifth chapter, verses 8-11 say, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." See, God loved us so much, He doesn't wait for us to come to Him. He already provides this salvation. What we do is seek Him to find it. We seek Him, we ask Him for it, and we find it. We ask Him for the faith and we move in faith. Christ died for us while we were yet sinners because God loved us so much He provided the answer.

"Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation." See, whereas we were dead in our spirits, separated from God, no ability to reach to Him or relate to Him, no ability even for Him to reach down to us and relate to us because there isn't the capacity when our spirit is dead – He makes the provision through Christ that we can be reconciled to Him by our spirit coming alive through faith in the blood of Christ, who died for us while we were yet enemies. And He gave Himself in obedience on the cross, that we might find life, both eternal life and life in this age, a new life to live.

In Romans the fifth chapter, verses 17-18 it says, "For if by the transgression of the one," speaking of Adam, "death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men...." See, through one act of disobedience, in Adam, all received this condemnation. Because of the sin that entered the world, the earth was put under this curse that we now still live under. All men receive this through the one act, and then righteousness comes. And through that one act... In verse 19 it says, "For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous." Christ lived righteous. He learned obedience through the things that He suffered. The Father disciplined Him, made Him perfect; and He was obedient to the point of going to the cross and dying for us, that we might receive salvation. Because we now are made one with His obedience, and therefore our sin is washed away, and we come into a new life of faith and hope.

2 Corinthians, starting at chapter 5, verses 17-18, says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." Once you are

reconciled, God puts upon you the ability to speak to others. And that is where I believe this salvation can grow exponentially in this age that we live in, because we ourselves take on this ministry of reconciliation. What does that mean? Verses 19-21 say, "Namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." We become His righteousness. We are reconciled; but as we do have that experience on a personal level, we become the cry of God to the world – "Please," as it says, "we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." Once we receive this experience of salvation, it should trigger something of a cry within our lives to bring others in also, and to see them experience that same reconciliation through the cross of Christ.

I want us to remember some very specific points about this experience of salvation. The first, God created you and you do not exist apart from God. Number two, because of sin and disobedience, our spirit is dead to God. Number three, to have eternal life, we must be reconciled to God through Jesus, Yeshua. And lastly, I would say, salvation and reconciliation come through faith in Yeshua, Jesus, Who became obedient to the point of death on the cross and was resurrected from among the dead by the love and the power of God the Father. These are the elements that make up our salvation.

I want to voice a prayer. Voice it with me if you have never received this experience. And if you want to see it renewed in your life today, then voice it along with me also. It will be in print later on the website, and you can use it as something that you pray and cry out to the Lord, seek the Lord with. "Father, I want to know You as my Creator and as my God." Repeat it with me:

"Father, I want to know You as my Creator and my God. I repent for my rebellion and disobedience to You. I want my spirit made alive that I may know You. I want to have eternal life and not eternal death and damnation, so I ask You for forgiveness and salvation through Yeshua, Jesus. Yeshua, I ask You to come into my life and I believe that You in obedience to the Father died on the cross for me. And I believe that by Your suffering, Your shed blood, and Your resurrection from the dead, I am forgiven and washed from my life of sin and disobedience. And I want to live a new life of faith, living to know You and the power of Your resurrection."

Pray this prayer and seek to walk with Him. And come back to these podcasts, which will help you grow in your maturity and your relationship with God. Amen.