

Shout for Joy



To Reverse the Impossible!

GARY HARGRAVE



You Have Been Prepared for This Day

IN THESE DAYS OF DARKNESS AND GLOOM, THE PEOPLE OF THE LORD WILL SHOUT JOYFULLY AND SEE THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES REVERSED. GOD HAS HUMBLING HIS PEOPLE AND REFINED THEM IN THE FIRE OF HIS PRESENCE. BUT ONCE THESE DAYS OF HUMBLING ARE COMPLETED, THEY WILL NEVER BE LIVED AGAIN.

Esther was prepared, spending six months of myrrh and six months of sweet spices before she was brought before the king (Esther 2:12). Joseph spent time in prison before he was hurriedly brought out of the dungeon to stand before Pharaoh. Pharaoh set Joseph over all the land of Egypt, put his signet ring on Joseph's finger, and a gold chain around his neck (Genesis 41:14, 42). God is glorifying His people and His Spirit of glory will be visible on them (Isaiah 60:1-2). He is turning our mourning into dancing, for "the sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous" (Psalm 118:15).

**Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth!
Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains!
For the LORD has comforted His people
And will have compassion on His afflicted.**

ISAIAH 49:13

Why is it necessary for the LORD to comfort His people? Because "WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES" (HEBREWS 12:6).



The Surpassing Greatness of His Power

The Father loves His children and disciplines His people to enlarge our capacities for the unlimited blessings He wants to give us. Christ learned obedience through the things that He suffered, endured the cross for the joy set before Him, and is seated at the right hand of God where He ever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 5:8, 7:25, 12:2). Job was blameless, upright, feared God and turned away from evil (Job 1:1). He went through many difficult things but the LORD loved him and wanted to give him a double portion (Job 42:10). God had to shake things up for Job, and something must jolt us out of accepting our present limitations as well, in order that we might know “the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe” (Ephesians 1:19). When God makes us uncomfortable, it throws us into an unlimited appropriation of all that He has for us. As Yeshua’s Lordship becomes more real in our lives, we will experience the same discipline, as well as the same joy of Christ’s victory over every power and dominion that has held us in bondage. Our faith in His Lordship over all things as Head of the Church opens the door to the double portion, the exploits, and the greater works (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,
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.**

EPHESIANS 1:18-19

Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

ISAIAH 12:6



God Is Our Hiding Place

The Father wants to turn something loose in the earth that will be awesome. I believe we are facing an age of miracles like we have never seen before. But this will only happen as we submit to His chastening, appropriate His fullness, and share in His holiness (Hebrews 12:10). Although these days may be troubled and filled with darkness, the LORD God of Israel declared that His glory “will appear upon you” (Isaiah 60:2). God is our hiding place and He will preserve us from trouble and surround us “with songs of deliverance” (Psalm 32:7). We are to be filled with joy and experience great rejoicing, “for the joy of the LORD is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10). As we move into the fullness of sonship, remember how our Savior “endured the cross, despising the shame” for the great joy set before Him of reconciling the world back to the Father (Hebrews 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:18).

Has your life been filled with ashes and mourning? Then know that the victor’s garland, the oil of gladness, and the mantle of praise are yours. “So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified. ... Instead of your shame you will have a double portion” and “everlasting joy will be theirs” (Isaiah 61:3, 7). Your troubles may be as big as a mountain, but faith can remove that mountain and cast it into the sea (Matthew 21:21). Caleb and Joshua refused the aging process (Joshua 14:10-11). And Christ said, “Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die” (John 11:26). We are coming into a tremendous day without limitations in which the people of God will shout for joy!

**They will come and shout for joy on the height of Zion,
And they will be radiant over the bounty of the LORD—
Over the grain and the new wine and the oil,
And over the young of the flock and the herd;
And their life will be like a watered garden,
And they will never languish again.**

JEREMIAH 31:12



God Will Fulfill His Word

It is your choice to have faith or to be discouraged. People have about as much faith as they decide to have. Determine to focus on the promises and believe in the joyful fullness of the Lord that has been promised to the people of God. Believe that the best things are ready to happen in your life. Believe that things are going to turn around, for “we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). It is a decision that happens in your heart. As you give yourself to Him, your faith and obedience to God can actually change the facts, because your faith determines what the facts will be. I want to reach into the faith of Christ that brings the promises into reality. It is God’s Word and He is going to fulfill it.

This is to be a time of tremendous joy for the people of God. When a certain widow in Israel looked at the facts of her life, she cried out to Elisha and said, “My husband is dead, ... and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves” (2 Kings 4:1). The facts of her life looked bleak. So Elisha asked, “What do you have in the house?” She responded, “Your maidservant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil” (2 Kings 4:2). So the man of God told her to gather as many vessels as she could find and pour the oil into each one. Imagine how impossible this must have felt to her, but in obedience as she poured, the miracle of the oil continued to flow until every last vessel was full. Oil was precious in her day, so she became a wealthy widow! I want great faith that makes the promises of God a fact in my life as well.



Today Is a Day of Reversals

As the Kingdom begins to come forth in power, we will see a great restoration of many things that must take place. God's people will rebuild the ancient ruins, raise up the former devastations, and repair the ruined cities that have been desolated for many generations (Isaiah 61:4). Both Isaiah 60 and 61 talk about the reversals that are to happen for those who trust in the LORD. Although satan intended to destroy all that God envisioned for His creation, we will see his plans nullified and millions of hostile spirits that were set to implement his plans brought down. Once this victory is won in the spirit realm, everything else will have to change on earth as well. There will be a reversal of spiritual gravity as all the nations stream to Jerusalem to learn the ways of the LORD (Isaiah 2:2-3). And the Lord's Prayer to the Father will be fulfilled, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

It is a day of visitation as the Spirit of the LORD is being poured out on all mankind (Joel 2:28-29). The power of God will become greater and greater and will continue to grow until "the knowledge of the glory of the LORD" fills the whole earth "as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14). We are living in exciting times! Christ is coming "to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed" (2 Thessalonians 1:10). Trust that He has a marvelous plan for your life and draw on His joy.



Joyful Praise Builds a Wall of Immunity Around You

We are in the battle of the ages, and tremendous victories are taking place for God's people. What does the LORD God of Israel say He will do for us? He will clothe us with a garment of praise and anoint us with the oil of joy and gladness (Isaiah 61:3). God is anointing His servants and clothing them in joyful praise. If you determine to rejoice and praise Him in all things, it will build a wall of immunity around you. Joy and rejoicing are expressions of faith. As Paul emphasized, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). The Father has something wonderful in mind for you, and you can trust Him because He is good and can only do good for you. We do not yet realize the immunity God gives us when He clothes us in garments of praise. As we clothe ourselves in His joy and praise, we are like a wise builder who constructs an impregnable fortress.

When Jehoshaphat saw the Ammonites and Moabites coming against Jerusalem, he cried out to the LORD. Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel who prophesied, "Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's" (2 Chronicles 20:15). When the army of Israel arrived, they discovered that God had brought a great deliverance and the enemy was already dead. So when the enemy comes against you, just clothe yourself in garments of praise and watch how the attack will be overwhelmingly defeated. It is not with idle words of praise; rather, you must praise God because you trust Him. There is a rest in Him and in His goodness and in His promises. Regardless of your circumstances, you can trust in His deliverance as you exalt Him with continual praise in your mouth.

**To grant those who mourn in Zion,
Giving them a garland instead of ashes,
The oil of gladness instead of mourning,
The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting.
So they will be called oaks of righteousness,
The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.**

ISAIAH 61:3



The Power of Praise

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were severely beaten and cast into the inner prison with their feet in the stocks. It could have been a devastating moment; instead, they joyfully sang hymns of praise to God while the other prisoners listened. God was so pleased with their response of faith, that He caused a great earthquake, “so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened” (Acts 16:26). Now that is an outstanding illustration of the power of praise! Praise builds up your defenses and defeats everything that comes against you. Although the early Church faced a great deal of persecution, they continually rejoiced in Yeshua (Jesus) our risen Lord and Messiah. As Paul exhorted us, “Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Trust that God will take care of you. Just keep praising and rejoicing in Him. Trust that He has a good plan for your life and rejoice in all that He has done for you and will do for you in the days ahead. You have a tremendous opportunity set before you as His servant. What a wonderful life you will have as you look to the future with faith. You have a great privilege in Christ to walk with the LORD, our God and Father (John 20:17). Continually praise Him and shout for joy at His goodness.

“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS THAT I HAVE FOR
YOU’ DECLARES THE LORD, ‘PLANS FOR
WELFARE AND NOT FOR CALAMITY TO GIVE
YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE.’”

JEREMIAH 29:11

** All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995).*

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org.

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

Hargrave Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through the generous contributions of ministry friends and partners. To learn more about the work of Hargrave Ministries or to partner in its outreach to Israel, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org

