

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG65 – God Is Ending Your Limitations

I think as Christians, we have this idea that things around us should not change. In Hebrews 13, verse 8, there is a Scripture that says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever." And I believe that many people from this derive the idea that everything should always stay the same. We feel that about church, about the way we perform service; many of the things that we do, we feel like everything should remain the same. The truth is anything but that. God may not change, Jesus Christ may not change – He may be the same yesterday, today and forever – but that does not mean that God is not in a process of changing us. And I think that we many times have a difficulty when God brings change.

I think a lot of people, just because of our human nature, deal with change really struggling under it and wondering, is God in it or is God a part of it? And I feel like, in this podcast today, I want to just really release us into the sense that God wants to bring change into our lives. He is going to bring change into our lives. Many times when He does, it is not something that we are wishing He would do, or hoping He would do. We may not want the circumstances that surround us to change; but God is going to bring change, because He is trying to make change within our own hearts and our spirits. And to do that, God has to many times bring change to our circumstances and the external situations that we live in or find ourselves in.

In Isaiah 43, starting with verses 18-19, it says, "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." God is very clearly stating that He brings change. And as it is expressed in these verses, when He does bring change, many times it springs forth. It happens so quickly, and again, we are not ready for it. Would we choose the change? Most of the time not. I think about the disciples when Christ announces that He is going to the cross, or He is going to not be with them anymore. They did not want that. If Christ would have waited to go to the cross till the disciples had a hundred percent vote of agreement with it, or if He would have submitted it to them for their input, He never would have gone to the cross; because they never wanted Him to leave them, they never wanted the circumstances they were in to change. They lived with Him for three and a half years, approximately; and they grew very accustomed to the fact that He was with them, and what it provided that He was with them and surrounding them. So they never would have chosen for Him to go to the cross and to ascend into heaven and be gone from their presence. Certainly I don't think they would have ever chosen to have the responsibility that He placed upon them to be His witnesses in the world, to change from the way things were where He was the Master and they were following. But here God very clearly states that the former things should not even be brought to mind.

When God brings about a change, He is looking for something to happen in our thinking, something to happen in our mind. He doesn't want us to go back to old ways of thinking, old ways of walking with Him. He wants us not to ponder the things of the past, to try to figure out what happened in the past or why things were the way they were in the past. But He says, "Behold, I am going to do something new, and it is going to spring forth very quickly. Will you be aware of it?" I think this is really an issue that we contend with – are we going to be aware of what God is doing? Can we change that quickly? Can we

open our hearts and our minds to really receive and accept what God is getting ready to do in our lives, and really try to be aware of what the next steps are therefore? He said, "I will make a roadway in the wilderness." Well, that is the way it seems many times when God brings a change. I know for me in my life, even over the last five years, six years, it has been that way, that the changes God has brought are like a roadway in the wilderness. You don't see it, because it is like something hidden, something you are so unfamiliar with. But at the same time, you have to strive to reach in to Him and say, "Lord, what is Your leading? What are the next steps? Where are You taking me? What are You looking for me to do in receiving the understanding of what it is that is happening for me, and with me? Because I trust You in what You are doing in my life."

In Isaiah 42, starting at 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." Again we have this idea that they are going to spring forth; God is going to move quickly. He cuts the time short in righteousness. This is something that we find in transitions, that they just come upon us so quickly; it is part of the difficulty that we have in dealing with them. But He says, "The former things have come to pass." In other words, "I fulfilled what I wanted with you and for you on the old level that I had you on; but now I am going to declare new things, and they will spring forth and I will 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." God is saying, "I want a new song out of you. I want new worship. There is a new way you are going to worship Me, a new way you are going to relate to Me, something new and different is going to happen." And again, the former things – "I have fulfilled My purpose for you and in you and with you from what you did yesterday, what I had you in yesterday; and now I am going to declare a new thing."

Isaiah 48 has this same process to it. Starting at verses 3-8, it says, "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."

So what is He addressing here? Well, again, He is addressing the fact that He proclaimed the things that have happened in our lives from old, before we knew them, before we understood them, He proclaimed what would happen. He brought us into the circumstances of yesterday, and He has led us through those things. Now He is going to proclaim and create something new. And He is partially dealing with this idea that in our thinking, we can attribute fulfillment or progress to ourselves and say, "Oh, I did this," or, "My idols did this," "Whatever I am worshipping did this." He is saying and recognizing the trait of humankind that we will take credit for that which is not ours to take credit for. And when we do that, we take glory away from Him. So in His acting to do new things, part of what He is doing is He is circumventing that process of human thinking where we will be able to take credit for what has happened; and we will not be able to say about the future, "Oh, I knew that was going to take place." He is both closing down the old, and He is preparing that we will not be able to say we were the ones

who created tomorrow. How He does that is by creating something new. He does a new thing, and therefore we find ourselves having to be wholly dependent upon Him. And that is what He is looking for. So, we understand this. We know that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. There is a consistency with Them; but that doesn't mean that They leave us in a consistency. They use this change in order to effect the will of God in our lives, in order to effect the transitions that God wants to bring us through and bring us into.

I am going to give several places from the Scripture where God brought tremendous change into the lives of His people, so that we can recognize what a principle this really is, and how often He did it. God did not leave everyone in their circumstances to be the same all the time. We need to grasp this, because God does this in our lives. And somehow, I want to be able through this podcast to prepare us for what God may do tomorrow, and what He may be in the process of doing in your life today. You may find yourselves in a tremendous transition where God is forcing you to think outside the box of yesterday, think outside the limitations, use different methods and ways, find His ways, find new ways. This is what He wants.

Let's look at some examples through the Scripture of how radically God brought changes to the lives of the people that He led and was creating. In the life of Abraham, God met him in Genesis 12. You can read verses 1-4 and see that God had Abraham leave his country, when He was bringing about the covenant with him. Part of it was, He took him out of the country he lived in. He took him away from his family, from the influences that surrounded him. He was in a pagan influence, and God was creating him to relate only to God and to recognize only one God. It wasn't something that he could learn from his surroundings as they were, and so God pulled him out of that. He directed him out of that, and Abraham was faithful to follow Him. When you think about it, he was seventy-five years old when that happened. Most of the time, people that are, you know, that far along in their age do not tend to be very flexible. Yet God demanded this flexibility out of Abram, whom He was going to use to bless all the nations. Tremendous.

But what a change! In Hebrews 11 it talks about it. Verses 8-10 say, "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God." Abraham was looking for something. He was looking for this great promise that God had given him to be fulfilled. But God had to take him out of everything he had known. He had to throw him into something that was completely new. He used that in order to prepare his heart and mind, and bring about the changes that Abraham needed to experience, in order to be the vessel that God would use to bless all the nations.

We see it in the life of Jacob and his sons. They lived in the land of Canaan because Abraham had been obedient to go out and wander within that land of Canaan, and live as an alien in the land; so that became their home. But God again makes a change. They were not able to be comfortable in the land of Canaan, and He takes them down into Egypt. We know that they stay there for, you know, over 400 years; and that is where Israel develops into multitude of people, out of just being a handful that went down into Egypt. But again, He had to take them out of the comfort zone they were in, and what they had grown accustomed to, and He brought them down to Egypt. They went through many different experiences there. We think of them as being slaves in the land of Egypt, but it wasn't always that way.

When they went down, they were part of the blessing that God was bringing of survival through Egypt. Then they became slaves, and it became a different reality.

They went through all of these things they went through; and yet again, they were not permanently in Egypt. But we see, if we look at Exodus the thirteenth chapter, verse 3, "Moses said to the people, 'Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the Lord brought you out from this place. And nothing leavened shall be eaten.'" God gives the directions in Exodus 3 that Israel is to leave the land of Egypt, and to return to Canaan to possess it as a land that they are to live in. They go into the wilderness, God meets them at Mount Sinai, and they are supposed to have an eleven-day journey into the land of Canaan. But they run into a problem; and so again, God does something different, just an immediate change from the way things were supposed to be. Now all of a sudden they are faced with forty years in the wilderness, because of the fact that they had rebelled against the instructions of the Lord to go in and take the land. So God makes them live in the desert for forty years, and to bear the guilt during those forty years of the rebellion of the people against the directions of Moses.

As we see at the end of those forty years, they have another massive change. I mean, this is an amazing thing, that Moses now is going to die, and he is going to be replaced by Joshua. All they had known was to be led by Moses during this time. It is not that they were always submissive to him or obedient to him; but yet that generation that came up had learned obedience, because they were the Joshua generation that would go in and take the land. So they knew how to take instructions, and they knew how to walk in a way differently than their parents had walked. This was like an earthquake in their lives, that all of a sudden Moses – the intention was for him to lead them into the land of Canaan – now he is going to pass away, and Joshua is going to lead them. A change of leadership, many, many times, is something that just throws people completely off. Whether it is within churches, or within a natural realm in companies, or within the government, whatever it is, a changeover of leadership is something that really throws people into tremendous challenge of change in their lives. And this is what God did to Israel when Joshua became the leader and replaced Moses in that leadership to go in and possess the land.

As they begin to go in and possess the land under Joshua, they find another tremendous change. The wilderness really had been a pretty blessed place for them. They had none of the diseases that were on the people in Egypt. They were fed manna. They were led by the Presence of the Lord. The Presence of the Lord was with them visually twenty-four hours a day, either by the cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night. So it was not a horrible atmosphere. In fact, it is really, in the Scriptures, one of the concepts we see of the Kingdom of God, of God dwelling with His people on Earth, because it is literally what He did. But He brings them into this change, and now where they had not been being circumcised, they were circumcised; and where they had been fed manna, they were no longer going to be fed manna. And where they had been led by this visual Presence of the Lord – that was a major change that they experienced – now they are going to be led by the captain of the Lord's hosts. They had not been under that kind of military demand of obedience in leadership while they had been in the wilderness. So this again was a tremendous change that they had to undergo.

I want to read just a few verses here out of Joshua, the fifth chapter, and I'll start with verses 12-14. It says, "The manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year. Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold,

a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, 'Are you for us or for our adversaries?' He said, 'No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the Lord.' And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, 'What has my Lord to say to his servant?'" So again, a tremendous change that Israel is undergoing here. They are being led by One who is not just caring for them in the wilderness, providing everything that they need to have. Instead, they are under what we would call the Lordship of Christ. They are under this requirement of obedience; and so Joshua falls on his face, because he recognizes that the Lord of hosts is not for you or against you – it depends whose side you are on. Your obedience makes you on the Lord's side, your disobedience makes you His adversary. So they realized a new lifestyle had to be lived in. What a tremendous change. You have to try to put yourself in the reality of how it was for those who were experiencing these amazing changes in their lives.

Jumping into the New Testament, again we have many examples of this. One of which is, of course, the disciples themselves; because they have been with the Lord for about three and a half years, and been like students learning. He was in charge, and they were following what He was doing. All of a sudden, they are going to find themselves going through a tremendous change, where they now must become the anointed vessels in the earth. They now are becoming apostles to lead. So, a huge change is taking place. We see it in John chapter 20, verses 19-21. "So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace, be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'"

Talk about a life change! They had just been the disciples. They had been the followers. Now Christ is telling them, "As the Father sent Me, so I am sending you." And don't forget where their minds are at right now. They have just watched Him be persecuted and beaten and whipped and crucified. So, "As the Father sent Me, so send I you," had a lot different terminology for them than we think about it today. This was, again, very much unexpected by them; they had no ability to grasp this new thing that God would do. Remember what He says in those Scriptures, "I'll do it quickly. It will spring forth." And this is just happening so rapidly that there is no way that they can really understand what is taking place. It was their reality that Christ was going to bring forth the Kingdom. And there again, they are experiencing a tremendous change of mind and thinking and process right now, because they had totally understood that Christ was the Messiah and that He would bring about the Kingdom of God. John came announcing that – "The Kingdom of heaven is at hand." All of a sudden they are seeing something different, because Christ is making them aware, it is not going to happen that way.

Luke 19:11 says, "While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately." So while He is with them, He is telling them this parable about the fact that the kingdom of God is not going to happen immediately. There is going to be a timeframe involved.

In Acts one, starting at verses 3-5, it says, "To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, 'Which,' He said, 'you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'" They have no concept of what this Holy Spirit baptism is, and what is going to happen to them by virtue of it. In

verse 6, it goes on to say, "So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, 'Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?'" So all this is taking place, and again, look at these disciples – this is the best of the best, right? in following the Lord. And they are clueless about what is really taking place. When changes happen like this, God strips away everything of our processes, of our thoughts, of our expectations that are born out of an old day. He is trying to throw us into a place where we have to rethink, we have to recalibrate, all that is going on in our hearts and minds, to find out where He is going and what it is that is happening.

In verses 7-8, "He said to them, 'It is not for you to know the times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses.'" So they are going to be His witnesses. But again, try to place yourself in these changes. We think the changes that happen in our lives are just excruciating. They happen so quickly. They are so beyond what we could imagine. It just seems like one left turn after another left turn from what we anticipated, because when we hear what God is telling us, we always have a way of putting our spin on it, or trying to figure it out in our own minds. And most of the time we miss it, because His thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways. So we end up, when we are left in the old that God was doing in our life, with a lot of concepts that are not what God wants us to have – a lot of ways of doing things, a lot of ways of thinking about things, that are really not from the Lord. In these instances – and this is a beautiful one, because we can sympathize with what these disciples went through and recognize how almost incapable they were, even though the Lord was speaking to them. When we read the Scriptures today, it is very understandable what He was trying to tell them. And yet when you look from their perspective, they did not get it. They did not recognize it.

That is really the way we are in many things. So God has to shake up our lives, and radically change our circumstances. He has to remove us from what we have known of the past, and He has to quickly throw us in to something new – you know, it says it will spring forth suddenly. He casts us into the new day, and we have no capacity to recognize that new day. And so we wander around in the new day, going, "Lord, what are You doing? Lord, what are You saying? Lord, speak to me." And we have to open our hearts. We have to allow our spirits to be washed, and our minds to be washed, of all of the things that have conditioned us from the past, so that we can even begin to grasp what it is that God is doing in our lives today.

One of the other examples to me that is so key is the vision that Peter had about the clean and the unclean. It comes out of Acts the tenth chapter, you can start reading in verse 10 and go down through 17. Peter had this vision where the Lord was telling him to kill and eat creatures and animals that were unclean. And Peter did not know where to go with this; because as a good Orthodox Jewish boy, he had been taught what was kosher and what was not kosher, what you ate and what you did not eat, if you were to be clean before the Lord and acceptable before God. So God brings this vision to him, which is, you know, shocking, really; it is contrary. This is God telling you something that to your understanding is contrary to everything that you have known about. God. Have you ever had that experience? I think we have. I think God does that to us. And so, born out of this, we realize God is preparing Peter to open the door to the Gentiles.

Now, before this time, Peter would not even go into the home of a Gentile, because that was not acceptable within Judaism of the day. And so God is giving him this vision, and all of a sudden preparing him. In Acts 10, starting at verses 26-28, it says, "But Peter raised him up, saying, 'Stand up; I too am just a man.'" He raised up Cornelius, because Cornelius had bowed at his feet. And he said, "'Stand up; I too

am just a man.' As he talked with him, he entered and found many people assembled." So he just entered a house filled with Gentiles. "And he said to them, 'You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.'" What a beautiful thing. We walk today as Christians, most of us are Gentile Christians; and it was this event that opened the door of acceptance for us. It leads on into Acts the fifteenth chapter, where the apostles get together and they recognize that because the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon the Gentiles, that they have the same ability to come into the Presence of the Lord as anyone else.

In chapter ten, verses 44-45, it says, "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also." So they recognize, again, this huge transition. The Church, the Church up to this point, from the Ascension of Christ until this time in the Book of Acts, had only been Jewish people, most of them Orthodox. This is probably in the neighborhood of fifteen years later. So for the first fifteen years of its history, the Church was only Jews. What a huge shock this was for the Church to be confronted with the reality that God was including the Gentiles into the Church, and including them into the experience of salvation that had been brought to them through Christ. They had no ability in themselves to grasp or to know this unbelievable change. And yet, my gosh, the blessing that they had in opening the door for the Gentiles was tremendous. And I am so thankful for the spirit of those Jewish people that really were able to have a gravitational shift that they did into welcoming the Gentile believers to be equally, with them, a part of the Body of Christ. Tremendous change.

Could we have made those changes? Would we be quick, that quick, to be able to adjust our paradigms and our thought processes to be able to deal with the reality? Or would we have rejected them, and forced them to follow the Law of Moses and be circumcised? There were many who wanted that. But the leadership knew better, and they did not allow that to happen. So we recognize that as we live and as we walk with Him, His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. And so God, many times, has to bring outward changes. He brings these shifts in our lives, and in our circumstances, in order to effect the internal changes to our hearts and our minds and our spirits that He is looking for.

Isaiah 55, starting at verses 6-9, says, "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' declares the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.'" In Romans 11, starting at verse 32, it says, "For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all." God's intent is to bring us mercy, to bring us through the transition out of our disobedience into the ability to walk with Him. Verses 33-35 say, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again?"

See, we try this in our lives. We try to counsel Him. "Now, Lord, I know what You are doing, but let me tell You, if You would just do it this way...." It sounds like Peter, doesn't it? "Now, Lord, I hear what You are saying, but You shouldn't talk that way. You are not going to suffer. You are not going to go to the cross." And Christ turns to him and says, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are not savoring the things of the

Lord." Peter had no ability to conceptualize what God was trying to do through the life of Christ. And we find ourselves that way. So many times, I think even in our prayers – and we should be careful – prayer is not a way to counsel God in what He should be doing versus what is going on. We should come into His mind. We have not given to Him that He should pay us back for anything.

Verses 11:36-12:2, "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." It is our job to be given to Him in these transitions. When we don't understand, we give ourselves to Him. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." We must follow Him. We must be given to this transformation that He is bringing to our minds, to our thoughts, to our ways, in order that we might prove out what the will of God is, what is good and acceptable and perfect. We need to come into this new day. We need to understand it. We need to be able to walk in it with all of our hearts before Him, serving Him, in a new worship.

God is going to shake all things surrounding us in order to bring us into His perfect will in the fulfillment of His purposes in our life. Believe me, He will. Hebrews 12:25-26 says, "See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.'" He is going to shake all things, and we are going to receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken. And therefore we show gratitude to Him, and we offer to God a worship of reverence and awe. When we are in confusion, we come before Him with reverence and awe, going, "Your ways are beyond anything I can imagine. But I trust You, and I am going to give myself to You and to these days of transition that You are putting me through."

The Lord knows His plan for us. We don't. And whatever the circumstances are that He has you in right now, His ultimate purpose is to enable you to participate in and receive the fulfillment of His plan for your life. Jeremiah 29:10 says, "For thus says the Lord, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.'" See again, Israel went through an unbelievable change. They were taken captive into Babylon. The Temple was burned down. Jerusalem was destroyed. And yet God comes and says, "Listen, after a period of time, I am going to fulfill My word in you. You are in this place now, but you won't be here forever. I am doing something that I want you to catch up to, and not be caught in the old that you are a part of."

Verses 11-14 go on, "'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. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'" Beautiful prophecies to be fulfilled over Israel. But they are also words that we can relate to, because He has a plan for us; and wherever He has you right now, whatever circumstances you are in – you may feel like you are a captive in Babylon. You may feel like you are completely out in left field, or you are in this process of shaking that He is talking about in Hebrews. Wherever you are, know He is bringing you into His plan. He has a purpose and a reason for what is going on, and it is because His thoughts are higher than ours. We cannot perceive or conceive of

what He is going to do. We cannot get there from where we are. We cannot achieve His will and come into His plan in the place we now dwell. He must take us through changes and through a process to bring us into the mind of Christ and the thinking that we must have.

I want to conclude this podcast just with a few points. One, our human tendency is to get conditioned to, and therefore stuck in, our ways. Also, our conditioned thinking becomes a cage of limitations that stops us from thinking God's thoughts.

The Lord must shake up our lives and circumstances to force us to think outside the box, and to bring us in to the mind of Christ.

Lastly, the Kingdom of God is coming; but we cannot enter into it if we are caged in our old ways, in our old ways of thinking.

To conclude, I just want to voice a prayer: Father, bring us into the mind of Christ. Let our thoughts be Your thoughts, and let us leave our ways to walk in Your ways. Deliver us from the limitations that have imprisoned us, blinding us from seeing Your plans and Your will for our lives. Let us clearly perceive Your will and the path into Your Kingdom. Amen.