

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG75 – Freely Receive The Kingdom

In my personal time with the Lord lately, I have been asking myself this question: what stops me from simply accepting and receiving what the Father wants to give me? I think, as we come into the days of the Kingdom, this is especially an important question for us to answer and really talk to the Lord about; to open our hearts with Him about and find the source of, I think, a block that we have just in our nature, or maybe it is in our personalities, that we are not free to receive what He is giving us. God wants to give us these gifts that He has; and He has done all that He needs to do through Christ to give us everything pertaining to life and godliness and His Kingdom. Why is it that we seem incapable of just reaching out our hand and receiving from Him all that He has for us? So I want to take you along with me on the journey that I have been into, searching the Scriptures, just discussing this with Him, discussing it in my own heart, holding this before God, and seeing if I can find a true release and deliverance from this issue of not being open to receive.

I'll start at Romans the eighth chapter, verses 31-32: "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" The Father is seeking to give us all things; and all that He did in and through Christ was with this purpose, to give us all things. I believe that is part of the answer, at least in my own heart it seemed that way, of really recognizing what God has gone through in order to provide for me the gift. You know, when you give someone a gift, usually you have had to purchase it. Somehow you have had to attain it yourself in order to give it; and this is exactly what the Father did. This is what Christ was willing to do, was become that which the Father sacrificed in order to purchase these things for us. Salvation, the Kingdom, the blessings, all of this comes from the Father at a great price that He paid.

So He paid the price, obtained these things for us, and now He wants to give them to us. And I believe that, for me, is part of the issue – God paid so much. It is such a heavy cost that the Father has, and such a heavy cost for His Son Yeshua, to be able to provide these gifts for us. When someone tries to give you something of great value, it is many times hard to receive it, because you recognize the value and that there is no way you could have ever afforded that on your own. You know, it is one thing if somebody gives you something small. You can be appreciative and receive it. But, you know, it is like if somebody came up and wanted to give you \$5 million, you would kind of hesitate and say, "Well, maybe I will take fifty, and I am thankful for it. But to take \$5 million is just difficult." And when we come to this relationship with the Father, when we come to the relationship with the Lord, with Christ, we realize the tremendous price that was paid in order to receive what it is and to possess what it is that the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are looking to impart to us for free. So I think that is part of the hesitation. At least, I find in my own heart that it seems that way. I find myself reluctant because it is just too much. It is too much to believe for. It is too much to really sense that you can just take it, and that it is freely given, and that I must freely and thankfully receive it. But it is the free gift of God. And the Father seeks to freely give us all things through Christ. But there is this refusal, or this reluctance, that we bump into in our own nature; and we must recognize that and we must see it removed.

Yeshua recognized this when He was here in the earth. In Matthew 23, starting at verses 37-39, He says, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling." You were unwilling. "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'" This is a very deep portion of Scripture, because Christ is revealing what He wanted to do and what He wanted to be to the people. He wanted to gather them. He wanted to take them under His wing and be a protection to them, and save them, be the salvation for them that God was providing; and they were unwilling to do it. See, He bumps into this unwillingness that is in man to receive what it is that God is looking to do. And He says, "As a result of this, your house is being left to you desolate." You know, there is a price to pay if we are unwilling to receive what God is trying to give to us. So we must find the answer to this. We must open our hearts. We must rid ourselves of this unwillingness and be ready to take all that God has for us.

In John 5:39-44, it says, "'You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling.'" Yeshua is pointing out this unwillingness in man to receive what it is that He has come to provide. Again, verse 40: "And you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?" Again, Yeshua is pointing out this problem that we have of our unwillingness, our refusal. It is easy sometimes to take a gift from a human, from a man. Why? Maybe, again, because the value is not there. It is not something that is so extreme in our own thinking beyond what we can imagine. But that is what the Father has to give us, and we must be ready in our hearts to receive it. He says, "You don't have the love of God in yourselves." And I wonder if that is part of the answer, that we need to seek more love. The Father first loved us, so that we could love Him back. If we completely are able to open up to the tremendous love that He has – it is because of that tremendous love that God has for us that He is willing to give us such tremendous gifts of tremendous value, that are beyond human ability to imagine or provide for ourselves. But we must seek the Lord and say, "We open up to Your love, and we want that same love to come back out of our hearts to You. Through that love for You, we can then find our hearts open to receive what You have for us."

Not only did Yeshua realize this in the heart of man, Paul also recognized and identified this lack of willingness and this refusal of the human heart to freely receive from the Lord. In 2 Corinthians 6, starting at verses 11-13, he says, "Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide. You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections. Now in a like exchange—I speak as to children—open wide to us also." Again, Paul kind of identifies this as a problem of our emotion or affection, our inability to open up, or our restraint. Our refusal to open up is a restraint of our own emotion and affection back towards God. And so, Paul saw this. The Corinthians were actually known for moving so freely in the gifts. So there was a way in which they were open to the apostle, and they were open to the Holy Spirit to receive gifts; and Paul speaks mostly about the gifts to the Corinthian people. Yet within that, he still recognized that they were restrained in their own affection from really opening up to him and receiving freely from him as they needed to. This may be why the Corinthian church got into trouble, because they were only partially perfected in what it was that Paul had and was ready to impart to them.

We see this, that the Father longs to make us sons of God. Just as He perfected Yeshua in His Sonship, He looks to bring that same sonship and perfection to us. In Romans 8, starting at verses 27-29, he says, "And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And 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." God has a purpose for us. It is in the will of God that we receive these things from Him. Verse 29, "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren." Christ in His Sonship to the Father was to be the firstborn Son. He was to be the first illustration, and open the door for other sons to come to birth. And God was in the process and is in the process of bringing many sons to birth. Verses 30-32 say, "And these whom He predestined, He also called." Now He is speaking of us – "these whom He predestined." He predestined us to be conformed to the image of Christ the Son. "And these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified." He saved us. He cleansed us from our sin. "And these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"

God has gone to all this trouble. I mean, you look at the words, the terminology in these verses – it really is mind blowing. He foreknew us. He predestined us to conformity to the image of the Son. He predestined us; He called us; He justified us. And then He glorifies us. He brings us into these things. And He did not spare His Son in order to possess the ability to give us all things through His Son. We must now recognize His intention and His will to bring us into this sonship.

In Galatians 4:4-5 it says, "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." The redemption that He brings to us, the salvation that He brings to us, has a greater purpose – it is so that He may unfold these gifts and calling to us, and bring us into adoption as sons.

Second Peter 1, starting at verses 2-4, says, "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust." He is calling us into this new nature of sonship. Yes, He is saving us. Yes, He is forgiving us of our sins. He is delivering us from an old nature, a human nature; and in that nature is this lack of willingness, this resistance and reluctance. But by these great promises that He has given to us, and through His great power and the glory of His excellence, He is able to impart to us and make us partakers of this divine nature, and therefore escape the corruption that is in the world.

What is the corruption? Well, part of it is related to the fact that we refuse to receive the life that He is seeking to freely give to us. I think this is most important as we enter into the days of the Kingdom, because it so applies, this principle applies. The principle of receiving applies, especially in the days of the Kingdom. So I want to focus on several Scriptures, at this point to the conclusion, about how the Kingdom must be received by us. Therefore, any reluctance or unwillingness must be gotten rid of, if we are going to walk into the days of the Kingdom.

Luke 1:31-32 says, "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Yeshua. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David." Notice this; very key for us to understand. Christ, of course, is our example and our illustration. He is the pattern that we follow. Christ had to receive the Kingdom. He did not work for it. You say, "Well, He went to the cross." No, He did not work to receive the Kingdom. He was given the Kingdom; and He had to be brought to the place where He was willingly able to receive from the Father that Kingdom, the throne of David. And so, as He had to receive the Kingdom, and could not work in order to gain it, we also must find in us that even though this is precious and beyond our ability to even really fathom what God has planned for us in our lives, we have to humble ourselves. We have to rid ourselves of all reluctance and unwillingness – just simply receive the gift that He is wanting to give us.

In Daniel 7, verse 18, it says, "But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come." Here is a prophetic word that says we will accomplish this. We will come to the place where we are able to receive freely the Kingdom of God from the hands of the Lord, as He gives it to us the same way He received it from the Father. The saints of the Highest One will receive the Kingdom. This is prophetic.

In Luke 12:31-32 it says, "But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom." We do not imagine how it thrills the Father to deliver to us, to give to us, as a free gift, the Kingdom of God. And Yeshua taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on this earth." So we have prayed and asked for it. But we also, then, must be brought to the place where we are willing to receive it.

In Luke 18, verses 16-17: "But Jesus called for them, saying, 'Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.'" I am going to also read Mark 10. It is saying the same thing, but it is stated twice for a purpose – to make impact on us. And I want it to have that impact to us as we read it a second time. Mark 10, starting at verses 13-14: "And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, 'Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'" Can we get this? The Kingdom of God belongs to them. He is saying it is theirs. It is for them, belongs to them. The Kingdom of God belongs to you. And God wants you to receive it, and Christ wants to impart it to you; and He was angered when someone was trying to hold it back. We cannot let anything hold back the Kingdom from being given to us freely.

Verse 15: "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all." There is no other way to get the Kingdom other than to freely receive it. And I would suggest, with a great dose of thankfulness we receive it. But we must gladly, freely, openly – with no unwillingness, no resistance, no reluctance – receive this amazing gift of God that He has been preparing for the world down through history, and down through the Scriptures. He has prepared a Kingdom to give to you, and He says it is yours. And He looks for us to enter it by simply receiving it from Him.

Verse 16 is great: "And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them." They came to the Lord, and He took them up into His arms, and He blessed them. He is wanting to bless us today and impart to us the Kingdom of God. Open your heart; open your soul, your spirit. Don't let your emotions hold you back, or your affections. Don't close your heart to the Lord. Freely receive, because freely He is giving.

In John 16, starting at verses 23-24, it says, "In that day, you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full." We have not asked, but He is saying now, "Ask"; and we should be asking for the Kingdom. I think part of the process of this asking does ready us in our hearts. It is part of getting rid of the reluctance; because if we ask with an intensity and a drive, and we really come before Him, we get rid of everything of reluctance in this process of asking. That is why the Scripture is so encouraging to us: Knock and keep on knocking; Ask and keep on asking; Seek and keep on seeking. Because something in this process of us approaching the Father will enable us to get rid of everything that holds us back from receiving freely the gifts that He has to give and to impart to us.

I want to read as a last Scripture Ephesians 2:8, because it is just a reminder that we always need about the grace and the gifts. Ephesians 2:8-10: "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."

See, it is not works. We say, "Well, Christ worked. He came; He, you know, led the disciples; He suffered, went to the cross." No, those works were prepared beforehand. We don't walk in works. Works are prepared for us by God before we ever arrive on this earth. So the works are simply the walking out of His gift and His will in our lives. But all that happens, we must remember, is by the gift of God into our lives. It is the grace through which we are saved, through which we become, through which we grow and mature in all things into His image.

I will end with just a few simple points. Number one: Yeshua identified the unwillingness in mankind to simply receive what God wanted to provide. And we must confess and admit that unwillingness exists within us. Paul also identified the same reluctance to receive in the hearts of the Corinthians. We see that reluctance in us. So, number three, we must see crucified the nature in us that is unwilling and refuses to receive by the grace of God all that the Father is giving to us through Christ. Let's get rid of this issue.

One last thought: the Kingdom will be given to us, but only if we have a pure childlike openness to receive it. I bless you to open your heart and to receive. Amen.