

# GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



## GIG77 – The Messianic Calling Card

I am calling this podcast "The Messianic Calling Card." I am using that terminology because I know that we live in prophetic times, and I want to look at Scripture that shows us how to live in these days of prophetic fulfillment. Our first example is going to be Christ. He understood who He was, and what to do because of the prophecies of Scripture. That was His Messianic calling card.

I am going to begin at Matthew the eleventh chapter, starting with verses 2-6. "Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, 'Are you the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.'" So when Christ was asked who He was by John, was He the Messiah to come? He answered by virtue of the prophecies of Scripture.

I think that is significant, because as part of that, He tells them to report to John "what you hear and see." There is this idea that as we live in prophetic times, as we live in times of the prophecies being fulfilled, we will both hear and see the evidence of that reality. I believe that we are in such times, and I believe that we are in a place where we are seeing and hearing the fulfillment of prophecy.

Now, what was Yeshua talking about? He was quoting Isaiah chapter 35, beginning at verses 3-6. "Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. Say to those with anxious heart, 'Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you,'" speaking to Israel. "Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah."

Also, in Isaiah 61, starting with verses 1-3, it says, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me," and we know that Yeshua quoted this in His ministry. "Because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes," and he goes on. But Christ quoted these prophecies when He was identifying who He was. Now, people would ask Him to identify, "Are You the Messiah?" But He was doing that by virtue of the Scriptural evidence of Messianic prophecy. He recognized that He was the Messiah, that He was fulfilling these Messianic proclamations from Isaiah. He Himself could look at what He was doing, at the works, and understand by the works what was happening through Him; and therefore know for sure that was confirmation to what God had called Him to do. So we see that Christ had this recognition of the prophecies being fulfilled, and that He was in the time of the unfolding of these Scriptures that had waited years to be fulfilled, from the time of Isaiah until His coming forth.

We see a similar story with John the Baptist. We know that John the Baptist understood who he was and what he was doing, because he knew the prophecies and he saw the events of those prophecies

unfolding around him. So let's again look at the Scriptures, beginning at Mark chapter 1, verses 1-2. "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way.'" Now, I think this is great, because here we have the beginning of the Gospel; and the beginning of the Gospel, as it says, is really heralded through Isaiah the prophet, who talks about the messenger that would come before the Messiah's appearing. Going to verses 3-8, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.' John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey. And he was preaching, and saying, 'After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'" So again, John is moving absolutely by an understanding of the prophecies. And seeing the events beginning to unfold around him, knowing that he is in the midst of this prophetic fulfillment, knowing that it is through him that prophecies are being fulfilled, he makes these statements.

Going on in John, the first chapter, at verses 19-21, it says, "This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, 'I am not the Christ.'" See, he knew who he was and he knew who he was not. "'I am not the Christ.' They asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' And he said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' And he answered, 'No.'" Because the prophet would refer to the Christ, to the Messiah. Verses 22-24: "Then they said to him, 'Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord," as Isaiah the prophet said.' Now they had been sent from the Pharisees." So they take back this answer to them. But John answers; again, his calling card was by virtue of the prophecies, that he understood what Isaiah had said. And so as he watches the events and he lives his life in the relationship with God that he had, he recognized himself, as well as the coming of Messiah, and he understood these things; so he identified himself. He presented as his calling card, as did Yeshua, the prophecies of Scripture about him and what he would do.

We see that Isaiah 40:3 goes on to say, "A voice is calling, 'Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.'" This is exactly the prophecy that John was speaking about himself. This is a great revelation for us to have of what it is like to live in prophetic times. If we are truly living in prophetic times, we see the unfolding events around us; we hear the events unfolding around us; and we are able to compare those with the prophetic Word of Scripture to recognize exactly where we are positioned, and what is to transpire.

I will give you one other example, and that is with Peter. Now this example is a little different, because when we are talking about Yeshua and we are talking about John the Baptist, they were having as their personal calling card the prophecies of Scripture that they themselves were fulfilling. But this is unique with Peter, because he is not necessarily talking about himself, but recognizing, again, the atmosphere and the reality of prophecy unfolding around him in the time in which he was living. Of course, it would have related to his walking with the Lord before the crucifixion; but it also continues on after the Ascension of Christ into what is transpiring now around Peter. We know that God shows Peter in a vision that He is not partial. How does He show that to him? Well, we know that Peter had the vision of the sheet coming down with the unclean animals and creatures in it, and he was told to eat. So God gives

this vision to him. But at some point, Peter is able to connect the vision and the understanding of it to the fact that God is not partial. He does that by his ability to reach back to the prophecies that came about salvation which would reach to the Gentiles, and he connected those two things. So he saw the vision of what God was showing him immediately surrounding him, and he was able then to connect that with the prophetic Word that he understood from the times of his youth of studying the Scriptures.

This applies to us in a real way, because we have these two examples with John the Baptist and Christ; but also we have with Peter this third illustration of how he is identifying the current moving of God surrounding his own lifetime. Therefore he is able to understand through the study of the prophetic Word what it is, and identify what it is that is taking place, how he fits into it, and really be able to proclaim to people what is transpiring.

I want to go to Acts the tenth chapter, starting at verses 34-43. "Opening his mouth, Peter said: 'I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality'" – see, he is getting this from the vision; but again, we will see how it reaches back to the prophecies – "God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him" – in every nation; see, all of a sudden here comes this revelation about the Gentiles which had not existed before; even Peter said, when he went into the house of Cornelius, "It is not legal, it is not lawful for me to enter the house of a Gentile"; but here he proclaims that – "in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him. The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)—you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

Again, notice how Peter is pulling from the prophecies of Isaiah to prove to the audience that he is speaking to that Yeshua was in fact the Anointed One, the Messiah. So he is taking the life and the events surrounding Christ, and he is coupling that with the prophecies, the prophetic Word of Scripture; and he is therefore proclaiming and illustrating that yes, Yeshua was the Messiah. So, "With the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God, was with Him. We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

Now again, notice how Peter is expanding the whole revelation of salvation here as he is speaking to both Jews and Gentiles about the events that took place at the house of Cornelius. He is saying that this idea of salvation through His name – all who believe in Him receive forgiveness of sin – this wasn't something that Peter understood before the vision that he had back at Joppa, or before he went to the house of Cornelius and witnessed the events that transpired there.

Verses 44-48, "While Peter was still speaking" – so he is talking in the house of Cornelius – "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. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, 'Surely

no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" So what is Peter saying? "Hey, the Holy Spirit fell on them. That was the witness to us of God's promise to us." So when he sees the Holy Spirit falling upon Gentiles, again, he is observing the unfolding of this end time prophecy, as far as his mind is concerned, of what transpires. He looks at the events around him, and then is able to go and connect that with the Scriptures. And I will point a few of these out as we go forward, but let's finish these verses first. So he says, "No one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days."

Peter is observing many things. He is having a vision. He is going into the house of Cornelius, recognizing at least that God is, you know, not showing partiality, so it is okay for him to go into the home of Cornelius. And as he is talking, then all of a sudden, the Holy Spirit literally falls on the Gentiles and they begin speaking with tongues; and he goes, "Now we have another whole level of prophetic fulfillment and proof that the Gentiles are being included into this. So Peter, observing what was going on around him in the unfolding of prophecy, is capable of reaching to the Scriptures and identifying exactly through the prophecy what is happening; and therefore he knows how to act and to react in the events. And of course, as I said, after the house of Cornelius he has to go explain these things to many of the Jews, including going to Jerusalem to the authorities and leaders of the church, to tell the story, so that everyone will have the revelation, connecting, again, back to the prophetic Scriptures, that the Gentiles also are included in the salvation work that has transpired through Christ.

Let's read just a couple of these prophecies; any one or several of them could be what Peter identified in his mind or went back to when he observed the vision and saw the Holy Spirit fall. Isaiah 52:9-10, "Break forth, shout joyfully together, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God." Here we have this wonderful prophecy in Isaiah that is saying, "Okay, the Lord has redeemed His people." And Peter knows that. Peter knows that Christ was the redemption of Israel, and He has redeemed Jerusalem. But now all of a sudden verse 10 kicks in, and the Lord is bearing "His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God." What an ability to recognize the prophecy of Scripture and tie it to the unfolding of what is going on around you in your life.

Isaiah 45:22-23. "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from my mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance." Isaiah 49, starting at verse 5, "And now says the Lord, who formed Me" – now, this again is really a fantastic Messianic prophecy, and it is here Christ speaking – "And now says the Lord, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and My God is My strength)." And we know that is what Christ did. He came to reconcile Israel unto God. And this is what He is saying about Himself here. Verse 6 says, "He says, 'It is too small a thing'" – now He is repeating the words of God – "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

If you see and understand prophecy, you understand from the very beginning that the Messiah was coming – yes to save Israel, and first to save Israel. But then He says, "God says, 'That is too small a thing. That is not enough. It is not enough that I have My chosen people, Israel, reconciled to Myself.

You are going to be a light to the nations, and My salvation is going to reach to the ends of the earth." So, Peter understood. Once he saw the vision, and he was able to observe what was going on around him, he was able to reach to the prophecies and go, "Oh, okay. Now I get what is going on." And that is what we should be able to walk in.

Joel 2, this is the last one. And we add this because remember, the observing of the Holy Spirit came after the vision that Peter had; but when the Holy Spirit was poured out, I am sure Peter's mind went to Joel 2:27-29: "Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other; and My people will never be put to shame." See, salvation has come to Israel. And, "it will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days." So after the salvation of Israel, we see that the plan of God, through the prophecies of Joel, is that the Spirit would be poured out on all mankind, not Israel only. But Israel would first be redeemed, and receive it, because all those who received the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost were Jews. They were the first to receive the salvation and the blessing and the gift of God through Christ. But after that, the Spirit would be poured out on all flesh. So Peter, seeing the Spirit fall in the house of Cornelius, again, he recognizes, "Okay, this is in the prophecies. This is what Joel was speaking of would happen."

I am saying all of these things because I feel like they should be lessons to us and examples to us of how we walk in the day we are in, because I believe we are living in prophetic times. I know we can refer to it as the end time or the end of the age, or whatever; but to say we live in prophetic times or the fulfillment of the prophecies of Scripture means that we should see and observe around us those events taking place. Don't just wait for an end of something; we are participating in the prophetic unfolding that is now taking place around us.

Christ refers to this when He talks to the disciples and others. Back in Matthew 24:32-35, He says, "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door." Notice what the Lord is saying: "So you too, when you see these things, recognize." When we see the things transpiring around us that are prophetic fulfillments, we should likewise recognize by that, that we are seeing that He is near, right at the door. He goes on to say, "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away." I don't know that Christ is saying that the heavens and earth are going to pass away. He is saying, "Look, here is an impossible thing, for heaven and earth to pass away. And so, My Word won't pass away. It is the proof that My Word is eternal and forever." And even if the heavens and earth pass away, His Word does not pass away. It is eternal and forever. That is important for us to realize, because it is what we see in that Word that we hold to and get the understanding of what is going on in our life.

When Christ is speaking to them, when Yeshua is speaking to them here, He says, "When you see these things." Okay, what things is He talking about? Well, He is referring back to verse 31, partially, and He says, "and He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other." So He is talking about these people. And again, remember, He is not talking to those that are sitting in front of Him when He is referring to these things. He is saying, "When they see these things transpiring, then this generation will not pass away until all of these things take place." What things? He had just made this statement, in verse 31, that He was going

to send forth His angels and He was going to gather together the elect from the four winds of the earth, from one end of the sky to the other. Now, in our generation, we are seeing that transpire. We are seeing that the Jewish people have been scattered since 70 AD, and even before, into the Diaspora, spread into all the nations; and they have dwelt from one end of the sky to the other. They have dwelt through all the earth. But Christ is saying here, at some point there is going to be this sign that takes place, the gathering of the people, His chosen ones, the gathering together of His elect back to Jerusalem. If we look around, and we are observant, then we should recognize like Peter did. When the Holy Spirit fell, he went, "Okay, something is happening here. I need to understand why this is happening, and what it means." When we see things begin to happen, we need to do the same thing. We need to recognize what we have seen, and be able to attach it to the Word of God that is in the prophetic Scriptures. That is what I think we should do. And He says, "When these things, when you see these things, then this generation is not going to pass away, and you need to recognize what is going on."

I believe we are in that time. I believe we are in the time where we are seeing prophetic signs. We are seeing the results, the physical out-working of prophecy in the earth today on a natural plane, on a natural level. It is not all taking place in the heavens and in the spiritual realm. There are things in the heavens; there are things in the spiritual realm. But much of prophecy is fulfilled physically, including the return of Christ. It happens physically, that He returns to the earth and is established in Jerusalem on the throne of David as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. That is a very natural event that you are going to see with your eyes and you are going to hear with your ears. And so He is trying to get us, and I want this podcast to get our attention, to say, "Look around. Things are happening." We need to recognize them as Peter did; as Christ did; as John the Baptist did. And we need to be able to not just recognize what is happening today around us and see that there it is prophetic fulfillment; we also need to attach it to the Word of God and the prophecies that came.

Yeshua goes on in Mark 13, verses 33-37, to say, "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether it is in the evening, at midnight or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you, I say to all, "Be on the alert!" So Christ goes on from this prophetic sign of the gathering of the people to say, "Now here is what you need to do in this generation, this generation who will not pass away before all of these things take place – you need to be on the alert. You need to be really on the alert, watching and waiting."

In Luke 12:35-36 it says, "Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks." And so this is what He is talking about, the master coming back to the house. Luke is repeating this. So, you are to be in readiness; you are to be alert; you are to be waiting. This is the cry to our generation. We are the generation who is observing the signs. If we are aware, if we are alert to what is going on around us, then we should be alert and our attention should be grabbed by these events, until we recognize, "Wait a minute – this is the fulfillment of prophecy. Now, I need to wait for this Word. I need to have an aggressiveness in my heart and spirit to say, 'Lord, I am right at the door. I am waiting for You to come. I am waiting for these other signs to have their fulfillment, so that as it is taking place, I am ready and alert to proclaim what is transpiring in my generation, as Peter did in his, as Christ did in His, as John the Baptist did to his generation.'"

Matthew 25:10-13 says, "And while they were going away to make the purchase," remember, this is the story of the virgins, the five foolish and five wise, and their lamps had gone out. The wise virgins have brought more oil. The others were going on the way to purchase it. And, "The bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him" – those who are alert, those who were waiting, they "went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Later the other virgins also came, saying, "Lord, lord, open for us." But he answered, "Truly I say to you, I do not know you." Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour." So again, we are given this command, if you will, to be on the alert. We need to know, what do we do in this generation? What is our place in the Scriptures? How are we to respond to the unfolding of prophecy and the fulfillment of Scripture around us? We are to be alert. We are to be waiting. We are to be at the door. We are to be identifying these things and connecting the events with the prophecies that were proclaimed back in whatever generation, in whatever book of the Scriptures they were proclaimed. We need to know these things. We need to be studying the Scriptures, knowing the prophecies, so that we can identify, as Peter was able to identify, as John was able to identify, as Christ Himself was able, and use it as His calling card. I wish we could have a prophetic calling card, saying, "Here we are, we are on the alert. We are watching, and we are waiting. And we are seeing those things. We are able to identify them in our alertness."

Now, a few more Scriptures. We are almost done, so hang onto this and let it just impact your heart, and bring something to your spirit that you are able to walk in. We need to wait in His Word. We need to know the prophecies and know that they will come to pass. In Psalm 130:5 it says, "I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope." See, we need to know the Word. We need to know the prophecies, because our hope is, "Hey, this prophecy will be fulfilled." What do we see in the prophecies? We see many things, again, things around us that are beginning to happen. I will give you a clue: watch Israel. There is so much in prophecy about what is just getting ready to take place. We see that much has; for the last seventy years, there has been the unfolding of prophecy in the land of Israel surrounding the Jewish people. But there is more to come. Do you know what it is? Study that Word; study the prophecies, and see what it says; so that as you begin to watch events unfold, you will go, "I know where that is. That is right here. God said this was going to happen, now I see it happen. So I know where I am. I know where I am in the timing of God and in His program, and who I am supposed to be, and what I am supposed to be proclaiming to the earth."

Psalm 119:73-74 says, "Your hands made me and fashioned me." We are here, fashioned and ready for the time He placed us to live in. So what do we say? "Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments. May those who fear You see me and be glad, because I wait for Your word." I want to be one who waits for the Word of the Lord to be fulfilled. Every day, every minute, I want to be alert to it; and I want to wait for it. Not passively, just sitting around. That is not waiting on the Lord. We should talk about what waiting on the Lord really is. But we wait; we wait with an earnest expectation, with an aggressive drive in our heart to see that Word fulfilled, because it is our hope of the day that we live in.

Psalm 119:34 says, "Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all my heart." We are in a time when we need to be alert, we need to have the understanding so we can observe in the Law these things that are transpiring around us.

As we come to a conclusion, I just want to make a few points very, very clear, so that we are without any confusion whatsoever. Number one, we are in this generation to be on the alert. That is the command to us. Number two, I would say we are to wait on the Lord with an earnest expectation. And lastly, I would say we must study His Word and be alert to understand the prophecies, and we should be

awaiting with hope and anticipation their fulfillment. And if we are in these days of prophetic fulfillment, we may see these happen day after day in our lives. Lord bless us to be aware. Open our eyes and open our hearts, Lord, that we may see what You are doing in our generation. Amen.