

# GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



## GIG79 – Why We Wait Upon The Lord

I recently brought a podcast called *What Is Waiting On The Lord?*, and I didn't quite finish all of the points and Scriptures that I really had in my heart to complete. I feel like this issue of our waiting upon the Lord is so essential in our Christian walk, and so I am going to continue on in this podcast, *Why We Wait Upon The Lord*. I had already begun to cover some of those points, and I will just refresh the idea of waiting upon the Lord before we get started.

We remember that in Matthew 24, Christ tells the parable of the fig tree. As He does, He says that the branches of the fig tree become tender and the tree puts forth its leaves; therefore we know that summer is near. And He is saying, "You too, when you see these things, recognize that He is right at the door. Truly I say this generation will not pass away." So in this parable of the fig tree, Christ is saying that when we begin to see the fulfillment of the different activities that He had spoken of in Matthew 24, and we really see physically these beginning to happen, we know that He is right at the door. One of which was the return of the children of Israel to the land, that He would gather them; and we certainly see that in our generation. We have been seeing that, we have been witnessing that for over seventy years now. And so it is very simple to say, we really, as a generation, are seeing the leaves coming forth on the branch of the tree; and therefore, this generation, according to the Scriptures, should not pass away until all the things which were prophesied take place.

To that generation, Yeshua said, "Be on the alert, because you don't know the day or the hour that I will return. So you must be on the alert." He also tells them, in Luke, to be dressed and ready, to keep their lamps lit. He said, "Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast." This is out of Luke 12:35 and 36. So He gives us two commands, along with this teaching out of Matthew 24. He says to be on the alert, and to be waiting, to be waiting right at the door. There has to be this anticipation. So when we talk about waiting upon the Lord, this is where we are receiving the initial concept and idea and explanation from the Lord Himself about this idea that we wait upon the Lord.

We know that as we wait upon the Lord, what we are waiting for primarily is the return of Christ. That is the blessed hope of all Christian belief, that He will descend out of heaven and return to earth, and establish His physical Kingdom here on this earth. And so we wait for His return. That is what He was referring to in these parables; He was talking about coming back, Himself coming back, and telling us to wait for that, to be on the alert for that. So that is the root of where we get this idea that we are to wait on the Lord. But why do we wait on the Lord? Very specific things happen as we wait on the Lord. I think one of the things that takes place is the fact that we are changed. There is something in this process of waiting wherein we literally are prepared, in our walk with the Lord, we are prepared for His Presence. We are prepared for His appearing. We are prepared to receive the fulfillment of the prophecies and the Words that God has given us. So, we receive that preparation.

We also know that when Paul talked about these things, he talked about the fact that there would be this hastening of His coming. This is mentioned in Second Peter. Paul talks about it, but here in Second Peter, chapter 3, Peter talks about the fact that there will be this hastening of the coming of the Lord that transpires. Paul talks about, in Romans 8, this earnest expectation that we have as we wait in earnestness for the adoption as sons, which is the redemption that we wait for in Christ. He also talks about, in Philippians 1:20, that, "According to my earnest expectation and hope, I was not put to shame." So we see that by his waiting with an earnest expectation, circumstances were driven to take place according to his faith. He was exercising a faith in his waiting, in his alertness, and because of that, things transpired accordingly.

We are to exercise this waiting on the Lord as something that we do towards God, first and foremost. Our waiting is for Him; our waiting is upon Him. But in each case of our waiting, we also find, if we connect it to a Scripture, that something happens for us that is a change in us or for us. And that is the point I want to make. Why do we wait? We wait because of really the metamorphosis that takes place in our lives because of the Word that is being spoken by God, spoken by the prophets, and then being waited on by us. It connects the invisible realm of the Word and the prophetic that has been spoken by God, to the natural level that we live in – including, as Paul was talking about in Romans 8, literally the change of our body into His glorious form.

That is what I want to emphasize in this podcast: why do we wait? We are waiting for things to transpire. Yes, of course we are waiting for His return; but there are things that happen within that. I think I used in the last podcast Isaiah 40, verses 30-31, and I will read it again: "Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary." Don't you need that in your life? I mean, how many of us don't, in this time that we live in, don't need to be refreshed, strengthened, invigorated in our bodies to stop from stumbling? This is what comes to us as we wait. Yes, we are waiting for Him. But according to this Word, as we wait for Him, here are the promises that will manifest in our own life, and we need to see. That is why we don't just wait on the Lord as some type of meditation. We are waiting on the Lord for very specific fulfillments of promises and Words that God has given us.

I want to go to Isaiah 49, starting with verses 22-23: "Thus says the Lord God, 'Behold, I will lift up My hand to the nations and set up My standard to the peoples; and they will bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters will be carried on their shoulders. Kings will be your guardians, and their princesses your nurses. They will bow down to you with their faces to the earth and lick the dust of your feet; and you will know that I am the Lord; those who hopefully wait for Me will not be put to shame.'" All right, what does this do for us personally? Well, it tells me that as we wait upon the Lord, we gain the revelation about God's purpose with Israel and His chosen people.

I know we live in a day of tremendous antisemitism. We live in a day where people are saying, "Oh, there is nothing special about the Jewish people. The covenants are all over with now. The Jewish people and the promises to them have been displaced and replaced by Christians, and everything that will be fulfilled will be fulfilled in Christianity and over the church." But those who wait on the Lord will be able to see the light of the revelation, that God has not finished with His people. And in fact, He will lift them up, and He will carry them on the shoulders and bring them back in the bosom of those who will lead them into the land of Israel, into the promises. Kings will be the guardians, and princesses will be the nurses. And what does it say? It says those will "bow down and lick the dust from your feet."

Those who engage in antisemitism and persecution of the Jewish people and seek the destruction of Israel, they will be put to shame. That is what these words are saying – there will be a shame to those. However, "those who hopefully wait for Me will not be put to shame." We will understand. We will know and understand what God is doing. We will be part – in our waiting upon the Lord – we will be part of this earnest expectation that is actually bringing these things to pass, hopefully quickly, in the time in which we live. And we understand, and we will not be put to shame, as those who have engaged in the persecution and the antisemitism that will run so rampantly in this age. So once again, we are encouraged to be on the alert. We are encouraged to wait. Why? Because the waiting opens up the revelation and the perception for us to see what God is doing in this generation with and especially for His people, and for the nation of Israel.

Lamentations 3:22-26: "The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I have hope in Him.' The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of the Lord." I tell you, there is nothing more that we need in our lives than the lovingkindness of God – for His compassions to never fail us, and to be renewed to us morning by morning. I want His lovingkindness, His salvation, and His compassion in my life new every day, like manna that I can collect; and as I wait silently for His salvation, these are things that I receive. And see, as we receive these things, we inculcate them into our life and into our walk with God; they become the very foundation of how we relate to Him, and they are the things that enable us to walk with Him in this day in which we live.

Hosea 12:6 says, "Therefore, return to your God, observe kindness and justice, and wait for your God continually." There is a kindness, there is a justice. It has left the world; we live in a world where because iniquity abounds, the love of many waxes cold, and there is no justice, there is no righteousness. But there is something that is imparted to our hearts and spirits as we wait for Him. As we wait for His return, we find that kindness and justice are imparted to our spirit. And that is so important, because the things that we are facing today we must be able to forgive. We must be able to express the love and the kindness and the justice that is in Christ. You know, I think about, and I was praying yesterday over the reality of the cross. You recognize that Christ in that moment of challenge to Him of being tormented, and abused, and persecuted, and crucified, He could have looked to the Father and said, "God judge them. Send them to hell. They are a wicked people." And He didn't do that. He said, "Father, forgive them." That is where salvation comes from, that moment when Christ on the cross said those words, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And Hosea is prophesying that those realities of kindness and justice will be worked in our hearts as we wait upon the Lord continually.

Micah 7, verse 7, says, "But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me." Wow. Don't you want God to hear you? As we wait upon the God of our salvation, as we watch expectantly, as we stay on the alert as He has commanded us to do, there is something that happens in our prayer life – and that is that God's ears are open to hear us. I want to be heard of the Lord. And it comes as we wait upon Him.

Zephaniah 3:8-9 says, "'Therefore wait for Me,' declares the Lord, 'For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; for all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal. For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.'" Wow, amazing. What is going to happen? God's judgments are going to come;

and judgments aren't always bad. He is going to pour out His indignation, and according to the Word, it begins at the house of the Lord. But as a result of it, what transpires to those who are waiting, those who are able to go through the time of God's purification? He said He will purify our lips, that we may call on the name of the Lord and serve Him shoulder to shoulder. I think one of the greatest things that we need right now as the Body of Christ, as individuals in our own lives and families, is this ability of oneness to walk shoulder to shoulder. We live in a day of division. We live when people are divided. In Psalm 133, it says that the Lord, in the oneness of the brethren, declares the blessing of life forever. The blessing of life comes to us when we are in oneness. And our ability to be purified and refined and come into this oneness and walk shoulder to shoulder happens as we wait, according to the Lord's command to us.

First Corinthians 4:5, "Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God." We are not to pass judgment. We are to wait. We will be judged as we judge. Why is He saying, "Don't pass judgment"? Because He is also saying that our motivations will be revealed, and then our praise will come from God. We are not to be caught up in judging others. We are not to be caught up in the spirit of this age. We are to go through this process, because of our waiting on Him. It says, "But wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts." Lord, we don't have to try to judge peoples and distribute truth. But instead, we are to wait upon You, who will both bring to light the things hidden and to disclose the motivation of the hearts of men. If we try to do it, it will be a disaster. But if we wait for Him, then each man's praise will come to him from God.

As we wait, one of the things we recognize is that we are specifically waiting for what is written in the Word as promises. I'll give you some examples. In Psalm 130, verses 5-6, it says, "I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchmen for the morning; indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning." "My soul does wait," he says, "and in His Word do I hope." What are we doing when we are waiting on the Lord? What are we waiting for? Why do we wait? We are waiting for the fulfillment of every promise, every prophecy, every provision; they are all in the Word. We need to find those things that He has declared will happen, and wait for Him with hope in those Words. That is really a key to our waiting upon the Lord.

In Psalm 119, verse 114, it says, "You are my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Your word." Are you facing things that are overwhelming you? Are you facing enemies that are coming against you? All right – for those who wait on His Word, He is the hiding place and the shield. We need that in our lives. Every day we need Him to be the hiding place. Remember when Yeshua said, in His prophecy over Jerusalem, "Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how I would have gathered you under My wing as a mother hen gathers her chicks together, and you would not." Waiting on His Word brings us to the place where we will be gathered unto Him, and He will become our shield. Lord, I need that. And I want it for myself and for Your people.

Psalm 119, verses 147-148: "I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for your words. My eyes anticipate the night watches, that I may meditate on Your word." We meditate; but again, not with some blank mind, trying to free our mind from thoughts. No, we fill our mind with the thoughts that are created by His Word. We repeat His Words. We meditate by re-speaking every Word that He has given with promise.

Habakkuk 2:1-3 says, "I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved. Then the Lord answered me and said, 'Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens towards the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarry, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay.'" This is a promise that bolsters us, that carries us in our walk with God. We live, again, in a generation where they are saying, "What do you mean, 'The fulfillment of the Word'? Nothing has changed since the coming of Christ. All things remain as they are." Christ said these mockers would be there. And the apostle said that the mockers would come and mock our waiting and believing in His Word. But He says, "I wrote these things. You are to write them down so that those who read them may run." We need the strength and the energy to run. We need the vision that is for the appointed time. And He encourages us to say, "Listen, it hastens towards the goal. It doesn't matter what it looks like on a natural realm. The Word of God hastens to the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarry, wait for it, for it will certainly come and it will not delay." Be encouraged. You say, "Well, I have been waiting for so long. I have been believing for so many things and they don't seem to happen." Wait for it. Wait in faith. Wait on the alert. Wait with this anticipation, this earnest expectation, that these Words are not being delayed. They hasten toward the goal, and their fulfillment is right at the door.

In Acts 1, starting at verses 4-5, it says "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.'" This is such a great encouragement to us about our waiting. The Church itself began by waiting. Yeshua commanded them to wait, and they waited; and they received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the empowering of their lives to be the witnesses to all the earth. It came upon them because they waited in obedience and an anticipation. This is the beginning of the Church; and I believe it will be how the Church comes to its fulfillment – by our waiting upon Him, our waiting for the fulfillment of His promises and His Word. They will all transpire. Remember what He said about the virgins that went out to buy oil, because their lamps had gone out. When they came again, He said, "Truly I say to you, I do not know you. Be on the alert, then, for you do not know the day or the hour." He is talking to us. We do not know the day or the hour; so be on the alert then. Don't run out of oil. Don't say, "It's been too long." Don't say, "You don't know how long I have prayed. You don't know how long I have waited for these things to transpire." The Word of God is faithful. His Word will fulfill itself. His Word does not return to Him void, without accomplishing that which He sent it to do. But He is looking for us to engage with that Word, to have that hope in the Word, to lock ourselves into the fulfilling of the Word, both within our lives and surrounding our lives. Be on the alert then. Be waiting at the door for Him. We are in that day, I believe. And I believe we are the generations that will see these things transpire.

We already see the leaves on the prophetic tree, and therefore we know it is the time. Don't lose your faith. Don't grow weary in your well-doing. And how do we accomplish that? How do we really walk day after day through everything that we face? It is by waiting. This is why we wait upon the Lord, because it is our strength. It is the equipping of our lives with what we need in order to do the will of God in our generation. I encourage you: learn to wait on Him. Search the Scriptures, and find and connect with those things that are to take place. And then wait. Touch them with hope. Embrace them with earnest expectation, until we see their absolute fulfillment in our lives and in this world. And as I said in the beginning, ultimately, we are waiting for Him who appears and brings forth His Kingdom into this earth. He is the great hope that we all share together.

A couple of points I want to just reemphasize. We wait for Him, because by doing so, we hasten the day of His coming; and we must believe that. Also, as we wait upon the Lord, we are equipped by His Word. We are filled with His Word. It becomes a part of our life, and it manifests through our life. I encourage you, be on the alert. Be on the ready. We do not know the day or the hour. But we do know that we are in the season, and we see these things coming to pass. Wait on Him. Amen.