

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG82 – The Hiding Place Of Lies

There are several things I have been looking to the Lord about lately. One of them is just the awareness that we have of His Presence – do we really have His Presence with us? And I know I hear of people seeking for His Presence, really wanting the Presence of the Lord on another level. Which, they may be finding a difficult time getting ahold of that, or experiencing it. Also, I feel like there is a drive for real deliverance. I know that we are forgiven of our sins as we experience salvation through Yeshua, through Christ, in faith of the cross and His blood. But there is a further deliverance I think that all of us need.

I think every person has deep, interpersonal issues that they are trying to bring before the Lord, to really be free of these things. And, are we able to accomplish that in our seeking Him, in our prayer life? We need to have that. He says that He will appear again a second time, not with consideration of sin, but to bring salvation. When we talk about salvation, a lot of times we limit it in our thinking to this idea of our initial salvation experience, which is bringing to us forgiveness of sin and opening the door for eternal life. But there is more to salvation. There is a complete and thorough salvation. Paul talked about being sanctified, spirit, soul and body being preserved blameless to the coming of the Lord. Not blameless after the coming of the Lord, but being preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord.

So there are experiences yet in our salvation that we are looking for. And I think there is a deep, deep cry in the heart of believers that are really hungry, and really looking to have a deep walk with God and to grow in their spiritual maturity, that is wanting more of not only His Presence, but personal deliverances from areas of our lives that are really a hindrance to us and holding us back from what we want in our relationship with the Lord.

I was thinking about Isaiah 58, because He gives instructions here for how we fast, how we are to fast. And He says that He has chosen a way of fasting, and this is what it includes. I'll start with verse 7: "Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and to bring the homeless poor into the house; when you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?" So when we think of fasting, to me I think of a time where we are giving ourselves to a special pursuing of God, going after deeper things, getting more from God, maturing more in God. And so God says here in Isaiah 58, "This is the fast I have chosen, that you divide your bread with the hungry, and that you bring the homeless into the house." But then He goes into this interesting aspect of saying not to hide yourself from your own flesh. And I think about that – of all the things the Lord could have emphasized for us in times of seeking Him, He makes a real emphasis from this idea that we are hiding. We are hiding from our own flesh. We are hiding from our own awareness of our flesh, of our need. So when we sometimes wonder why are we not really having the experiences that we are looking for in His Presence, or why do we

not really attain the release and deliverance that we cry out to Him for, could it be that it is hidden somewhere? Are we in a process of hiding the very issues that the Lord really is looking to get at? If we are not hiding it from ourselves, we are not going to be hiding it from Him. And if in fact we are hiding it from ourselves, then there is a good chance we are hiding from Him. So there is this ability that we have to seek Him, or seek His Presence; and yet at the same time, be withdrawing from His Presence, or really not placing ourselves into the Presence of the Lord as we can; or to be reaching for deliverance from things, but not really being honest with ourselves about what the root of these issues in our life could be.

So I want to talk about this idea of hiding from our own flesh. And where I believe the Scripture takes us with this is to find that the hiding place that we make is a hiding place of lies. We can tell ourselves that, "Oh, this or that is really the problem," when it's not. And there are ways in which we build up a dwelling for ourselves to protect ourselves – whether it is from ourselves or people around us, or even from the Lord. But if we are going to really meet the Lord, we are going to have to come out from under this hiding place of lies. We are going to have to end this idea of hiding in lies or deception, and come out into the light of the truth.

Here in Isaiah 58, the Scripture goes on to talk about what happens in this fast that He has chosen, where we are not hiding ourselves from our own flesh. Verses 8-9 say, "Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' If you remove the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness." So instantly we see these two things happening: the Presence of the Lord grows, and we break through into a true Presence of the Lord that we haven't had before. Also, our recovery is there; our release from those things which we find ourselves in bondage to. So I think there is something here. We have to really be able to open our hearts and seek the Lord with this idea of not hiding from our own flesh – in our own minds, and certainly not from Him – but the ability to bring it all out into the light. And verse 8 starts that way: "Then your light will break out like the dawn," something of coming into the light. When we come into His Presence, we come into the light, and all things are made light, the Scripture says. So we are breaking out of this refuge of lies that has been made.

I want to go on with some Scriptures in Isaiah, because it is interesting, some of the story that is being told by Isaiah. Isaiah is prophesying to Israel, and he is warning them about what is going to take place; about the fact that they are going to be taken captive, that they are going to go into bondage, that these foreigners are going to come and take them. And they won't listen to it. They make up other avenues of how to get out of it. They go, "Well, we will go make pact with Egypt, or we will trust in chariots, or we will do whatever" – anything they could do not to trust in God. And this is what these lies do. They make up other places for us to go to try to find relief or release or deliverance, and it never gets us there. But it is truly deceiving ourselves, it is hiding from our own flesh, it is lying to ourselves about the state that we are in.

So Isaiah experiences this. In Isaiah chapter 2, starting at verses 8-11, it says, "Their land has also been filled with idols," talking about Israel; "they worship the works of their hands, that which their fingers have made. So the common man has been humbled and the man of importance has been abased, but do not forgive them. Enter the rock and hide in the dust from the terror of the Lord and from the splendor of His majesty. The proud look of man will be abased." What are they trusting in? They are trusting in idols. What are idols? Idols are a lie. There is no other God; only Yehovah, only the true God. And when you are trusting or hiding or believing in something that is not the true God, the one and only God, then you are really trying to put your trust, faith, or hide, or whatever, find your solutions, in a lie. They were so dedicated to the lie that they actually would enter into the hiding places and try to hide from the terror of the Lord, and from the splendor of His majesty. And there is a way we have to find that in our own lives. Where are we, actually? We may be seeking the Lord, but are we hiding from Him at the same time? That is for us to really, in our fasting before the Lord and our refusing to hide from our own flesh in what we are doing, face what we are and what we are doing, and not hide in something else.

Isaiah 2 goes on in verse 17 to talk about how "the pride of man will be humbled and the loftiness of men will be abased" – See, God is getting ready to deal with Israel; He wants to deal with them – "And the Lord alone will be exalted in that day." Only the Lord is going to be exalted; and only the Lord is going to be my answer and your answer. There is only one answer and that is Him. Verses 18-21 go on to say, "But the idols will completely vanish. Men will go into caves of the rocks and into holes of the ground before the terror of the Lord and the splendor of His majesty, when He arises to make the earth tremble. In that day men will cast away to the moles and the bats their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, in order to go into the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs before the terror of the Lord and the splendor of His majesty, when He arises to make the earth tremble."

So what is going on here? We see that people are, again, they are trusting in idols, they are trusting in lies; and God is going to bring it all down. And when He begins to bring it all down, even when the people admit to the fact that the lie that they have been holding on to, this idol, is not working for them – they don't get deliverance, they don't get the Presence of the Lord out of their idols – so they cast it off to the moles and the bats. But what do they do? Do they open up to the Lord? Do they come into His Presence? No. It says then they go into the caverns, to the rocks, the clefts of the cliffs; they hide from the terror of the Lord, the splendor of His majesty. We cannot be hiding. We cannot be hiding ourselves. We cannot be hiding ourselves in our flesh from His Presence. His Presence is our deliverance. His Presence is our answer. While beholding Him, the Scripture says, we are changed from glory to glory into His image. We are changed through that, we are delivered. We are able to stand before Him because we are open before Him, and behold Him in all truth and in all honesty. And this is what the Israelites were not doing. All of Israel was hiding.

We go on and we see the same picture carries itself all the way through the Scriptures. When we get to the Book of Revelation, nothing has changed. In Revelation 6, starting at verses 14-15, when the Lord appears, it says, "The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains." This drive in our flesh that humanity has to hide from the Presence of God – we have got to recognize that it goes much deeper than we think. Even when we think we are being open, we need to go back and recheck it and say, "Am I hiding behind something else other than really coming out before the Lord and hiding in Him, and dwelling in Him?"

Verses 16-17, again, "And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'" Well, I'll tell you, we are. If we cast off the lies, if we mature in our relationship with the Lord where we are constantly rejecting the lies that hide us from ourselves, the lies that hide us from His Presence, we will become prepared to stand before Him, to stand in that Presence, in the awesome Presence of God. And as Peter talks about, we will not be shamed away from His Presence when we behold Him. And that is what we are looking for. That is part of this spiritual maturity that we look to grow into, is the ability to stand openly before Him and to face Him, and see the total transformation that we have been looking for. But we work ourselves into that slowly, casting off the idols, casting out the lies, ripping away every other thing that we hide under, and practicing this Presence of God so that He becomes our dwelling place and our hiding place.

Again, going back to the story of Isaiah, because we see how they are hiding, and it carries all through the Scriptures. But, to kind of end what was going on here with Isaiah and Israel, in chapter 28, starting at verse 15, it says, "Because you have said, 'We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have made a pact. The overwhelming scourge will not reach us when it passes by, for we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception.'" And it is hard to look around at this age we are in right now and not recognize that all the age is hiding itself in falsehood, and making lies their refuge, concealing themselves in deception. At least they think they are. There is so much deception and lying and falsehood that is going on. Why is it? Because people are hiding themselves and hiding the truth of their lives, and what is going on in their lives and in their hearts. But listen, God knows. He knows all things. And we may be fooling ourselves, like He began there, you may be hiding from your own flesh – but you are not fooling Him. And He sees it; and we might as well come before the Lord and stop this hiding from our flesh and from what is really in our hearts and minds and spirits before the Lord.

Verse 16 says, "Therefore thus says the Lord God, 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.'" I thought it was so classic that in this whole story of Isaiah, where God is telling them what is going to happen and they are refusing to repent and open up to Him – to the

point here in verse 15 where they say, "Look, we have made a covenant with death and with Sheol, and therefore, God, Your Word is not going to get to us; these judgments are not going to come upon us" – they are literally rejecting and saying that His judgments will not touch them because they have made a pact with death and with Sheol. They have covered themselves in lies, and they have made falsehood a refuge place. They are hiding in their lies, and they have concealed themselves with deception. They feel like God cannot see them, cannot find them, and the judgments of God will never touch them. And don't tell me that we are not living in a similar age. I think it is both within the Body of Christ and without. I think we need to check ourselves before God; we need to come before Him, as we began this podcast, in the fast that He has chosen, and make sure that there is no hiding ourselves from our own flesh and concealing ourselves in deception, and creating a refuge, or a hiding place, or a housing of falsehood around ourselves. We must be bathed in the truth. We must come into a place where we embrace the truth about ourselves and everything else around us.

In the midst of this refusal and rejection they have, we find here in verses 16-17 one of the most classic Messianic prophecies that there is, and it is not just Isaiah saying it. It says, "Therefore thus says the Lord God, 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone.'" Remember how in all these other verses they are trying to hide in the rocks and the stones? And God is saying, "I made a stone. I am bringing a different stone." That stone will become our hiding place, believe me. But here we have this Messianic prophecy. While they are making a covenant with death and Sheol, and creating a refuge of lies, God brings the truth. He brings the Messiah. And He said this is "'a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. And he who believes in it will not be disturbed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the level; then hail will sweep away the refuge of lies and the waters will overflow the secret place.'" God is going to sweep away the lies; and it will be much easier if we take our own initiative in this fasting before God. I don't care whether you are saying it is a fast from food or water or whatever – it is a fast from hiding in lies. It is a fast from covering ourselves from ourselves, and hiding from our own flesh. That is the fast that we need to be on. That is the fast that He has chosen. And He says that He will sweep away the refuge of lies. He is going to do it one way or another. I would rather cry out to Him and say, "Lord, deliver me from the refuge of lies that I have made. Deliver me from every falsehood; in every area where I am hiding from my own flesh and my own need, deliver me from that. Come with the hail of Your Presence and sweep it away. Come with the waters and overflow the secret places where I think I am hiding, but You certainly know where it is."

In verse 18 it says, "'Your covenant with death will be canceled'" – and that is what Christ did: He canceled our covenant with death, He brought us into eternal life – "'and your pact with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, then you become its trampling place.'" He goes on to talk about how all this is going to transpire. But it is such a beautiful picture that we can see that Messiah comes to release us. He wants to be our deliverance – but we cannot be hiding ourselves from Him.

That is what He faced in John the eighth chapter. We will start reading with verses 31-32: "So Jesus was saying to those Jews who believed in Him." Now remember, these are the ones who believed in Him. And this podcast is for believers. It is for those of us who believe in Him. These guys still had a problem, even though they believed in Him. "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." The truth makes us free because what it is freeing us from is the lie. It displaces and replaces the lie that is our bondage, that is what is blocking us from the Presence of God, and it sets us free.

Verses 33-37, "They answered Him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, "You will become free?'" Now see, this is how the lie works. They are so given and bonded and committed to their lie, they are not realizing how long that they have been under bondage. They are forgetting about the First Temple; they are forgetting about being carried away into Babylon; they are forgetting about the fact that they have been under Greek rule; and right now, as they are speaking, they are slaves under Roman rule. So what do you mean that you have never been in bondage? You are in bondage right now! But see, when you are in that bondage, you cannot even see it. When you give yourself to a lie, and you make that lie your refuge and a place of hiding and dwelling, at some point you lose the ability to see and discern it. And that is why this takes a real seeking after God to go in and begin to break those things, like those idols that they have been holding onto.

But they said, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that you say, "You will become free?'" Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.'" They need to come in to Him; they need to drop the lies; they need to be made free. And the truth will set them free. "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you." Why doesn't the Word have place? Because you are already filled with the lie; there is no place for the Word to dwell. If you have filled yourself with these deceptions or these lies or these hiding places, there is no place for the Word of God to dwell in us any longer.

Verses 38-44. "I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father.' They answered and said to Him, 'Abraham is our father.' Jesus said to them, 'If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. But as it is, you are seeking to kill me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. You are doing the deeds of your father.' They said to Him, 'We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.'" Do you realize what they are saying here? I mean, talk about lies. They are throwing up in the face of Yeshua, "You are a bastard. We know Your history. We know how You were born." And they are saying, "Abraham is our father. We are not born of fornication like You are." That is the accusation here that they are bringing. But see, they believed that lie about Yeshua – so how do you hear the truth from Him when you believe a lie about Him? "Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I

proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desire of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

One reason this podcast and this message is so important is because it does go all the way back to Adam and Eve; when they believed the serpent, when they believed satan in the garden, they believed a lie. When they believed a lie, they believed in him and they were bonded with him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own nature. And it is that nature of lie that has touched humanity, and has worked through humanity ever since that time. So for us to say, "Oh, this is not for me. I don't have to worry about this. I am not a liar. There are no lies I believe in." You don't realize how deep this nature goes, and how chosen that humanity has been in believing the lie and therefore choosing a father other than God. Choosing idols – that is what Israel was doing, choosing idols. When you choose a lie, you choose an idol. What is the idol? The idol is the likeness of satan, the devil, satan, whatever you want to call him. It is the likeness of him, it is the image of him that you find you are holding on to. And it is something that goes back and it was infused at that point into our nature.

We have to be very careful and humble before the Lord to say, "This must be broken out of my nature and I must reject and be delivered from the lie. And I need to choose You, Father, through Yeshua, through Jesus Christ. I must choose You as my Father." That is what it said Christ came to do was reconcile us to the Father. The Father is truth; and when we are reconciled to the Father, we are reconciled to truth. But we cannot serve two masters. We cannot be holding on to these lies and say, "We are serving God." And that is what these people were trying to do: even though they believed, they were holding onto the lie. He goes on in verse 45 to say, "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me." See, the capacity to know the truth was lost.

I want to read out of Matthew 23, starting at verses 37-39. This is the cry of Yeshua as He is looking back at Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives: "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. 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!"" The Lord is looking to gather us. He wants to be that refuge. He wants to be our hiding place. He wants to be our dwelling place.

But see, they would not. They were holding on to other things, to idols, to lies, and they would not be gathered to Him. Can we please not repeat this in our generation? He is crying to us – can we be gathered to Him? Can we throw away our idols? But then let's not go make another hiding place in the rocks, like Revelation talks about, like Isaiah talks about. We don't want to hide from Him. We want to throw away all the lies, come into His Presence, to dwell there with

Him in His Presence. Be gathered to Him. Let Him become your dwelling place, His truth become your dwelling place.

Psalm 91 is a beautiful Psalm about this. Verses 1-7 say, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!' For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark." We need to come to Him. We need to come into His Presence. He is our deliverance. He will deliver us from everything that we need deliverance from in our own personal life, no matter how deep the need or the problem. He will be our hiding place. He will save us from the deadly pestilence. That is appropriate for us in this day and age, don't you think? He is our refuge and our fortress. We need to come to Him. He says, "You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that lays waste at noon. A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not approach you."

The Lord is our answer. He is our deliverance. It is His Presence that brings our transformation into His likeness, and this is what we want. When the Lord comes, He brings with Him all of His attributes. That is why we wait upon the Lord for His return; because when He returns, truth will return to this earth. In the meantime, we seek His truth. We must run after Him. We must cry out to Him. We must enter this fasting from hiding from ourselves, hiding in lies, and covering ourselves with that which is no covering. We need to dwell in the shadow of the Almighty. We must come to Christ who is still sitting upon the Mount and entreating us to be gathered to Him.

John 16:12-14 says, "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now." I know there is a lot more we could say with this podcast. "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of mine and will disclose it to you." We have the Spirit of truth. We are baptized in the Holy Spirit. We have the Spirit of truth; the Spirit of truth will lead us and guide us into all truth.

You say, "How do I walk in this Word? How do I get out of the lie?" Give your heart to the Holy Spirit. Be led by the Spirit. These are the sons of God – they who are led by the Spirit. And what does He do? He leads you and guides you into all truth. He guides you out of the lies, and He will guide you into the truth; and in a very mild and meek way, He will make you aware of your hiding places and your idols, and He will show you the truth. If you open your heart to the truth, that truth will set you free, and that is what we need in this generation.

We have to remember these few points: We are to hide and abide in the Lord. We must abandon the refuge of lies. Cry out to the Lord for the Spirit of truth to lead you into all the truth, especially about yourself. Yeshua wants to gather you under His wing so that you will abide in Him.

I really pray that this is a revelation to your hearts, and is a blessing and release for you to help you grow into the things of God. Amen.