

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG115 – The Spirits That Are Now Working

Hello, and welcome to another podcast of *Growing In God*. I am glad you are here with me, and I hope you are enjoying these podcasts. Once again, if you are listening, please go into your podcast provider and give us a five-star rating, or make a positive comment. Pass it on to your friends, encourage others to listen. And visit our website at hargraveministries.org, to see all of the other things that are taking place through Hargrave Ministries. We really appreciate your help and your involvement with us in all that the Lord is leading us to do.

This podcast is born out of a great deal of concern to me, personally. Schedule-wise, I know that I am recording this rather early; but I have been so concerned in my spirit about the months of October, November, and following through to the end of the year and the beginning of the next year. This takes us through the time of the Jewish feasts, and through the Jewish New Year, and it leads into the time of the U.S. New Year, through December and January. There has been almost a foreboding in my heart about things that I feel are potentially upcoming during these months. And so, I want to address that concern; even though, as I said, I am forced because of my schedule to be recording this rather early. But I still feel like it needs to be addressed. At the same time, I have wanted to continue this schedule of podcasts that are emphasizing the Feast time, and the messages I feel are important for the time of the Fall feasts, rather than getting into this now. But this podcast should be airing at the end of October, and so it will address the time remaining; even though we will have been through September and October, for the most part, we still have some of these timeframes remaining that I am concerned about. I know that we are facing elections during these particular months, and that is part of the concern that I feel. But it is much deeper than that, and it has been being led into for a while now. I feel that things are intensifying, spiritually, and therefore, I want to address it. I want to address it with faith, and I want us to approach things with faith.

One thing I want to mention here is that for me, personally, I do not believe in a pre-Tribulation Rapture. Now I know there are many listening that probably hold that doctrinal belief. And first of all, I would say, I do not feel like it is something that needs to divide us as Christians, or that we should necessarily argue about. I think it is always important to put our doctrines out there on the table, and to be able to look at them through a different lens, and to really study the Scriptures surrounding doctrinal beliefs that we hold. And I have done that with this, personally. I am very thankful that as I became a Christian, I was not involved in a church or a movement that did teach the pre-Tribulation Rapture. However, I have many times studied the doctrine fairly intensely and checked my beliefs, and reread the Scriptures as best as I can, asking the Holy Spirit to lead me and direct me in my faith. But mostly, I want to say that it does not divide me from others who hold that belief. I do feel like it does affect my faith, but that is very simply because I am not looking to be removed out of the earth during the time of the Tribulation; and those who do hold to a pre-Tribulation Rapture are obviously believing that they are not going to be here during some of the trying times of tribulation and the things of the end time that we read about in the Scriptures. Therefore, when I look at the Scriptures, I am very concerned about what this means to be in the Tribulation, saying, I will be one of those who would be called a “left-behinder,” and I am going

to be here during that time. What do I expect, and what do I do about it? It is one of the reasons why I am driven that we mature in God, that we grow in Christ, that we become strong in our faith, that we are able to endure persecution and endure the difficulties that we may be facing in the end time. And I will try to address this more in upcoming podcasts, but that is not the focus of this specific podcast. Yet at the same time, I feel like it is necessary to voice it, because otherwise it may not make sense to people the concern that I have as we enter into these times of the end, and times that would be considered times of tribulation or difficulty, and expecting that myself, and believers, and the church as a whole, will be here during that time.

I want to look at Matthew the twenty-fourth chapter, and I will back all the way up to verse 1 so that it makes sense. I am not trying to get into an end-time expose here of the Scriptures, but it is necessary to read this to see where we are going, at least as I believe it and perceive it. "Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He said to them, 'Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.' As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'" The disciples are asking Him three basic questions, one referring back to the removal of the Temple – "Tell us, when will these things happen, the Temple being torn down"; and, "what will be the sign of Your coming," because they knew He was to return; and, "of the end of the age." Notice that they combined the second two questions into one: "What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age," because those things in their perception were one thing, not divided dispensationally.

Going on to verses 4-7: "And Jesus answered and said to them, 'See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened.'" Let's not be frightened. Lord, deliver us, please, from all fear. And we know that perfect love casts out fear, so we ask for Your perfect love in all of our hearts so that we are not fearful, whatever our beliefs are, leading up to the days of the end time and Your return. "'See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famine and earthquakes.'" Verse 8: "'But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.'" I know we have talked about these things; you hear much in reference to the end time of wars and rumors of wars, and famines and earthquakes, and all of this stuff. And it tends to invoke fear, which the Lord recognized it would. He said, "Do not be fearful." Whenever He tells us that, it is a commandment, and therefore we are able to not be fearful through these days of the end, whatever we face; because the Lord is with us, and He will deliver us from all of our fears. But He said, "These are the beginning of birth pains." He relates to the end-time events as the birth of a child. We know that the birth of a child has a purpose, and it has an end moment when that child is born; and the purpose of the pain that the mother goes through is for delivering that child into the world. But He said, "These are merely the beginning of things."

Verses 9-10: "'Then they will deliver you to tribulation.'" So He is dividing these events that He was talking about, these things that happen, and He said, "Those are just the beginning of the birth pains. Then something else will happen; you will go into another phase." And you see that with actual labor, that there are phases of labor, there are stages of labor that a mother goes through, and they are measurable because things intensify. They do not necessarily get different, they merely intensify. And that is one way to look at the Tribulation – are things going to happen? Is He saying things are going to

happen that have never happened before? Not necessarily. But things may intensify. Things, for instance, may become global, rather than isolated to specific geographic locations, or peoples. So, whatever He is trying to get across here, He is saying these are the beginning of things; now, something more begins to take place at verse 9: "Then they will deliver you to tribulation." He says, "Now you are going to go into tribulation." You may have been observing these happenings, but they may not have been affecting you. They may have – you may have been caught in one of the earthquakes, that would have definitely affected you. But now you are going to be delivered into tribulation. You are going to start experiencing it, where you have not before. "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away," speaking of people of faith. People of faith will begin to fall away.

This is one of my major concerns about the pre-Tribulation Rapture doctrine, for the people who hold to that; because if we start being delivered into tribulation, is their faith going to fail? Because their faith is so wrapped up in the fact that there will not be an experience of tribulation, that they will be removed from that experience. God help us that this not be a cause of many falling away because things begin to transpire that they were taught would not transpire, that they would be saved from; and all of a sudden, they find themselves, as Christ said, being delivered into tribulation, and being martyred for the name of the Lord, and things happening that they believed they were not going to experience. You know how it works: somebody says, "Well, I didn't believe this was going to happen, and therefore, all of my faith is wrong," and they lose the entirety of their faith. "Many will fall away and will betray one another." Now, this is key to me, because, see, this is kind of a new event that is transpiring, that there is a falling away because of these events. And believers – it seems to be speaking about believers here in this sentence – "will betray one another and hate one another." This is part of the concern that I have as we are coming into these days that I see just before us, because I think we are beginning to see on the horizon and in manifestation this reality that believers are moving against other believers, and believers are beginning to hate other believers. And when I am talking about believers, I would say even in a Judeo-Christian sense, whether it is antisemitism, or whether it is Christians with Christians; whatever it is, there is a building of hate that is taking place. And I believe that that is spiritually motivated. I think what Christ is talking about here is that things are being released into the world now. Again, you will be delivered into these things; something will happen that has not been happening. There has been a protection, a covering, if you will, a deliverance from these things transpiring. But now, it is like that protection is removed, and you begin to experience things and are thrown into things that you were hoping would never happen, or did not believe would ever happen. It affects very deeply the believers within their own faith, and it affects believers in their relationship to one another. They are betraying each other. What does that mean? It could mean many, many things. For example, if things about our faith were made illegal, they may be turning one another in. Hating one another is pretty obvious. So, something new begins to take place.

He goes on in verses 11-14: "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come." I think we have quoted this Scripture about the Gospel of the Kingdom going to the ends of the earth, or to the nations, for many, many years. But I think we forget sometimes that it is associated right here, out of the mouth of Christ, with the time of the end. This is something that does not necessarily happen until we get to a certain level of this experiencing of tribulation, or end-time events. And again, it is not all negative. There is both the positive and the negative. I believe the

Tribulation is very much that type of a timeframe, where there are difficulties happening, but there is also a time of great blessing of protection from the Lord, and of the Gospel of the Kingdom being spread to the ends of the earth.

All of this transpires, and I want to bring this out, because I have this sense that we are entering this time. I do not like what I see taking place in our world right now. I do not like what I see taking place between believers and other believers. I do not like what I see taking place because people are getting so involved in the spirits that are being released into this age, and it is bringing division to the church; it is bringing division and hatred among believers. It says, "because lawlessness will increase" – see, as wickedness increases in these end days, then the love of many grows cold. You lose your love. We are seeing that in this world that we are in right now. That is why murder is so prevalent. I mean, rage is taking over, and there is no such thing as debate or discussion. You go immediately from disagreement into shooting one another, hurting one another. And it is because there is a lack of just love and respect for life that is a part of this time. It is not some unusual, strange thing happening; it is literally part and parcel of this time of tribulation, and the increase of wickedness and lawlessness. What I want to emphasize, and the reason for all of this – because you could say, up to this point this has been kind of by way of introduction – is to recognize that there is a release in the spirit realm of the spirits of wickedness, and the spirits that will begin to control men and their actions. And I think that is deeply impacting what is taking place in our government, in our politics, in other aspects of our world and our lives and our education, the attack against our children. Some of it is just ludicrous, of trying to bring sexual preference changes to children that are of age six and too young to be even understanding some of these things. But when you look at what is being talked about, it is sheer wickedness, it is craziness. It is driven by something that is so beyond what we have known as reason and reasonableness, or simple understanding of truth and facts, that you have to see that there is something transpiring now that is beyond what we have experienced in the past. And that is where I think we see this dividing line at verse 9: "Then they will deliver you to tribulation." It is that then something else is going to happen that has not happened before in this way. And I think we are moving into that.

I think we are moving into a wickedness, into a lawlessness, into literally a craziness, where we are calling evil good and good evil. Things that have been tested and proven in our society for many, many years – we have been, at least in the United States, hundreds of years into this way of life and government – and now we are flipping things that were called good and calling them evil, and wicked, and we are rejecting and we are hating one another. In my mind, this is definitely attributable to the spirits which are being released and will be released in this age. I believe much of the tribulation events are driven by the world of spirit, and the spirits that are being released and taking hold in this day in a way that they never have. Jumping to Ephesians the sixth chapter, starting at verses 10-11, it says, "Finally, be strong in the Lord." I encourage us, because I know it can be scary to think, "Oh my gosh, the Tribulation! Oh, these events!" Do not be fearful. Just like the Lord said, do not be fearful. The Lord will provide for us what we need to be strong. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." We have to see and recognize that as these things unfold, they are the scheme of the devil, and they are the purpose of the devil. If satan has his way, there will be no flesh saved alive. The Scripture says that: "Lest these days be shortened, there will be no flesh saved alive." But God will intervene. Read all of the story – there will be many, many positive things. And as for us, we put on the full armor of God, and we put on strength, and we stand strong, and we are able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Verse 12: "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood." I want us to remember that. This is the greatest takeaway we can have from this singular podcast. We are not battling each other. We are not battling humankind. We are not battling mankind. Mankind is in trouble because he is being motivated and manipulated. In his disobedience to God, there is a door open to be manipulated by satan and the spirits that we are fighting against, and have been turned loose, these schemes of the devil that we are facing in this. But do not mistake people for spirits. Do not mistake even actions, many times, for the people themselves. These things are being motivated spiritually, and our struggle as believers is not against one another. Get out of this hate, whether it is hate for brother and sister, or hate for those who are sinners. We are to love our enemy. We are to pray for those who spitefully use us. We are not to turn into their methodology, and this is the concern I have. You can say, "Well, I am conservative, and I am on the right of things." And I have to be honest, whether I look on the left or I look on the right, whether you look at this news channel that is conservative, or this news channel that is liberal, to me, the anger is all the same. The fomenting of anger and hatred and prejudice against one another is all the same. And it is because it is from the same spirit. Please, do not get into this battle against flesh and blood. Do not be deceived into acting from this spirit, because the spirit does not care whether you are conservative or liberal – it only cares if you hate. It only cares if you are violating the principles and the personality of God. We are to love. We are to enter into the peace and the joy and the love. We are to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom until the end comes, and that Gospel of the Kingdom is a gospel of grace and love and forgiveness and salvation. We are to be the light in the world in the time of tribulation. And we cannot do that if we are drawn into taking sides, if we are drawn into being motivated and driven by the same spirit that is driving the rest of the world.

Verses 12-18: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm" – Stand in our faith. Stand firm in our faith. Stand in the love of Christ that saved us and brought us into His glorious Kingdom. "Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth." We are not to choose sides here. We are not to argue politics. We are not to argue doctrines. We are to find the Holy Spirit moving in us. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, and He will lead us and guide us into all truth. We must be driven by the truth, not by the spirits of wickedness, the spiritual forces of this age that are beginning to take over on another level beyond what they ever have before. That is the change that we are seeing. It is not necessarily that wickedness was not in the earth; it is not that spiritual forces of wickedness did not exist. But I tell you, they are moving and increasing to a level that we have yet beheld on the face of this earth in our lifetime. Maybe it has existed in certain places and times, but not in our experience.

So we "stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." We are to be able to move. Our intercession is to be effective. We are not struggling against principalities and powers, but against these spirits of wickedness in the heavenly places; and we are to be able to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. We should bring down the wickedness, bring down the lies in our prayer, in our intercession. "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." And please remember, with that sword of the Spirit, we do not fillet one another; we use it against the spirits of wickedness. "With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit." We must be praying in the Holy Spirit, praying in tongues, praying with all of our hearts, at all

times. "And with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints." We do not hate one another. We pray for one another, and we love one another with all of our hearts.

There is so much that I could go into with this, but I want to really just wrap it up, and look for an opportunity through other podcasts to continue to address these things. Just remember, I believe we are entering into a new place of the end-time events. We are seeing a new level, a new phase, just like a woman in travail. And we are, as God's sons, along with all creation, as Romans 8 says, we are travailing to see the manifestation of the sons of God and the release of Earth from futility. So we are to see this unfolding. And we know that it includes the persecution, and the hate, and all of that; but these are spiritual forces that are now at work, and we must keep our eyes clear. We must not be deceived into feeling that our fight is against one another, against any flesh, even that of the wicked. We are to pray. We are to be an answer to them, and to have the Word of the Gospel ready for them.

We are going to face spiritual forces, and I believe we are already facing spiritual forces on a level never before experienced. Maybe this is especially true in the U.S., because we have been very blessed and protected, and now I am not sure that some of these walls of protection are not coming down. But let's walk in our faith. Let's put on the full armor of God. And let's do the will of God and be His voice and be His manifestation of light in this age, whatever we face, as we move forward with our focus on His Kingdom. Amen.