

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG121 – What Can We Have Today?

Welcome to the podcast. I am hoping today that we can find some encouraging things from the Word of God that help us as we face the days that are ahead of us. I think that as we face difficult times, which we seem to be in now in this age that we live in, sometimes we can get the feeling that maybe God was in the past, and He will do many wonderful things in the future as He brings His Kingdom; but there remains the question, what about right now? This is where I live, and these are the times that I am going through. Is there anything that I can have from God right now that I really need in my life to face the hour in which I live? And I think the answer to that is definitely a resounding “Yes.” I want to touch on that today in this podcast, so that we feel there is a sense of encouragement; and not only feel that encouragement, but understand how to reach into the Scriptures and mine out the promises that we have which are for us today to move in and walk in. So that is the purpose of this podcast today. I hope it is a tremendous blessing to you. I would ask that you leave us a five-star rating from whatever podcast provider you are listening to, and possibly leave a comment, if this is a blessing to you today. We need to ask you to help us by sharing with friends and family, and those that you may relate to on social media, as we can always use your help in expanding this ministry and the scope of those that we are reaching.

I want to begin at Matthew 28:20. It says, “Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Here we have the promise from Christ Himself that He would be with us through everything that we experience, even to the end of the age. And I want to give out of the Scriptures a sense of that nearness that He has, the promises that He has, and even going into the conversation with His Father before the Crucifixion, requesting that there be this Presence of God with us, whatever it is that we are going through.

In First John 3:24, it says, “The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” So, first and foremost, I want to begin by recognizing that we have the Holy Spirit. This is an experience that is available to all believers. If you question whether you have had that experience or not, I encourage you to find someone to help you, or to get into the Scriptures yourself and recognize that the infilling of the Holy Spirit is something that is a gift for us right now. And so, we begin by looking right to this great blessing that we have. We say, “Well, is there anything for now? Is everything in God from the past or looking forward to the future? I know it is going to be great when we have gone through the last days and we enter His Kingdom, the glorified body that we will put on, and living with Him through eternity. But right now, I am concerned about some of these days that we face, about some of the potential tribulations and persecutions, and what we see going on and facing us in the world.” One of the greatest blessings really that the Scripture points to is the fact that we have this promise of the Holy Spirit, and this being sealed in the Holy Spirit. First John is very specific about this: “The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him.” In other words, we are able in this age and this time to abide in the Lord. He promised us, “I will be with you to the end of the age,” and we therefore can abide in Him till the end of the age. “And we know by this” – how do we know that these things work, and that He is with us and that we are able to

abide in Him? We know this “by the Holy Spirit whom He has given us.” The fact that God the Father has poured out for us His Spirit, then we know that all of this is available to us. The Presence of God being with us, abiding with us till the end of the age; our being able to abide in Him as we are keeping His commandments; these things are available now today. And these are not small things – to say we can live today in the Presence of the Lord, and He will live with us in our present-day reality that we go through. And we are able to know this – how? Because He abides in us by the Spirit whom He has given us.

This experience of infilling, being filled with the Holy Spirit, is of course what we read about in the book of Acts, chapter two, that happened on the day of Pentecost for those original believers after the Resurrection. They received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and it came with speaking in tongues and other signs that transpired. This gift of the Holy Spirit is a way in which we are able to know that He is with us, and that we are able to abide in Him. He said, “I want My servant to be where I am.” He is at the right hand of the Father, but we are able to abide with Him and in Him as He is at the right hand of the Father. So for me, I encourage everyone – if you have never had really the experience of the infilling of the Holy Spirit, with signs of speaking in tongues and other manifestations that come with the infilling of the Holy Spirit, then I encourage you to believe God for that. If you need to find those who can help by the laying on of hands and praying over you to receive it, it is something that you need to have, because with it comes this deep knowing that He is with us. And I want this knowing to be something that you are able to really, really experience in God.

I am going to jump to John the fourteenth chapter. Now I am going to read a lot of verses with this, but it is important. I think that when we speak of these times, living in the end times, going through different trials and testings of our faith as we do, we need to have the Word with us as the confidence that declares to us what we have available today in God – not yesterday, not tomorrow, we know all of that exists – but it is today that we want to be confident in and know for certain that Christ provided for us, and that the Father provides for us, something in this day to allow us to walk through the times that we find ourselves in. In John 14, starting at verses 1-4, it says, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.” These are very important verses, because this is Christ speaking with the disciples just before the Crucifixion. He is leaving them with final instructions, if you will, as well as final directions, and also a final understanding of how things will be once He has left this earth, what they can expect to receive and walk in after His ascension to the right hand of the Father. I like the way He begins here, because it reminds me of Matthew 24, where He says, “Listen, don't be fearful.” It is part of the reason for this podcast. I am so concerned for believers in this age, and the sense of fear, the spirit of fear, that almost becomes overwhelming to people. And once again, we have Christ telling the disciples that they should not let their hearts be troubled. They should believe in God, and believe in Him. In this faith that we have, and in this knowledge that we are sealed in Them, having received the Holy Spirit, there is more than just a comfort. There is a power that we receive to walk as believers in a faith that is unshakable.

“In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.” He says that there is a place being prepared. Now, as we read through these Scriptures, one thing we have to learn to do is to be able to divide between what is future and what is available now that He is beginning to promise. We know that Christ is preparing a dwelling place with God. He is preparing a Kingdom, and He is going to return again. But we also know that there is a spiritual place that is being prepared for us as believers

where we can abide with Him now. That is what He was saying in First John, that we can abide with Him, and that He will abide with us. So there is an abiding now – not just only in the future; but as we learn in our walk with God to walk in the Spirit, we find an ability to abide in His Presence and have Him abide with us. And so we have two things being spoken of. One is certainly future tense here, about the things that will come; but also, He is alluding to what we can receive now, that “where I am, there you may be also.” And I believe that is something that we can experience now. We can be seated with Him in heavenly places, the Scriptures say, and we need to learn how to walk by the Spirit and experience that ability to be seated with Him where He is even now, with the Father.

Verses 5-12 say, “Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.’ Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Phillip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these will he do; because I go to the Father.’” In these verses, we find a mixture of things that may have a future fulfillment to them, but we also find that there is a very real life in God that we have. Thomas was saying, “We do not know the way that we go. Where is the way?” And Jesus says to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” That applies both to now, in our walk with Him today, as well as to anything in the future. “No one comes to the Father but through Me.” We are in a process of coming into the Presence of the Father, if we can be seated with Him in heavenly places, if we can come before Him. When Christ taught the disciples to pray, He said, “Look, come into your closet and close the door behind you, and there in the Presence of the Father you have your prayer life.” There is a truth to our ability to be with Christ now, to be with the Father now, to experience Him. You say, “Well, I do not know how to do that. What is the way?” Christ is the way, and we learn through Him.

This is why it is so important to me that we go beyond just a sense of our salvation experience, and we begin to grow in God, and mature in God, and learn those things which we need in our present-moment walk with Him. It is not all about learning what God did in the past, or what will transpire in the future. We cannot sit here and say, “Well, I know He is returning.” That is great, but there is much you are going to experience and go through between now and when that return of Christ takes place. We want to live in the life that He has made available for us through His Resurrection and through His Ascension. You say, “How do we get that?” We get that through Him. He is the way to the Father. Verses 10-12 say, “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these will he do; because I go to the Father.’” We are literally to experience this.

You know, the disciples are kind of being lost here. They are not sure what is going on. And you say, “I am worried about the time that I live in. It seems like a time of tribulation and confusion.” Well, this was a time of tribulation for the disciples. Believe me, it was a great tribulation for them, because they were in the transition time and period out of Christ being with them, leading them and teaching them and

standing before them, into a whole new way of life which they had no way to really grasp or to understand what it was going to be. And Christ is trying to transition them through that. But in the process of working with them, He is transitioning us, because it is a time that we live in. We live in the time when He is at the right hand of the Father. He has been crucified, resurrected, and ascended to the right hand of the Father, and He now dwells with Him there. And we are believers who, as the disciples had to transition, are living in this state. Listen to what He is saying about the state that we are living in: "Truly I say to you that he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works, because I go to the Father." So we must understand this. Believe me, it was difficult for the disciples to understand this timeframe, because nothing to them seemed greater than the fact that they were walking with Christ on the earth, as it had been prophesied about through the prophets that Messiah would come. This, to them, was the pinnacle of fulfillment of the promises and prophecies of God; and yet Christ is pointing to something greater. He says, "Listen, the works that I do, and greater works than these, will you do because I go to the Father." We must get this into our hearts – there is something greater. This is not a time when we are in a lull between dispensations, as some would call it. But we instead are in a tremendous time when there are things to be transpiring because of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the infilling of the Spirit, which opens the door to Christ and the Father abiding with us and in us, He and the Father taking up Their abode in us. There are tremendous things that are to transpire for us in this time and in this age. So, we are not in some lesser time when we are to hover in the corner in fear and just wait for the Second Coming of Christ. According to what He is saying here to the disciples, "Greater works than these will you do because I have gone to the Father." That is the expectation we should have. We should have a tremendous expectation! You say, "But I do not know how to do it." He is the way, He is the truth, and when He gives us the Spirit, it is the Spirit of truth. And we will go on to see that.

Verses 13-17: "Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you." Christ is saying here, "Look, you have never been in this place before where you ask the Father, and He will give you this Helper, the Holy Spirit. You are going to ask in My name, and I will do for you what you ask in My name. Whatever you ask I will do, so that the Father will be glorified." There are these tremendous aspects to this. I know the disciples had a hard time hearing these things, because they were almost traumatized by the reality that Christ was being removed out of their midst. And I think sometimes we are that way. Sometimes we find ourselves in a situation – and I believe as we get closer and closer to what we call the last days, and we look out upon the world and see difficult things beginning to come, we can feel alone. We can feel abandoned like the disciples probably did. But He said, "Look, I am not leaving you as orphans. I am not giving you some lesser timeframe to walk in. I know it has been tremendous having Christ here on the earth with you, but there is something even greater to look forward to – Whatever you ask in My name." This is what we should be reaching for, as the disciples were supposed to. In our maturing and growing in our walk with God, one of the things we are to grow up into is this life of keeping His commandments in a way, and relating one to another in a way, where when we ask whatever we ask, the Father will do, that He may be glorified in Christ. That is something that is yet to happen now, in this time. This is not a promise for heaven. This is not a promise to take place after the return of Christ to the earth. This is a promise for disciples who find themselves living in this timeframe when Christ is at the right hand of the Father, and He has been to the cross and has been resurrected. That is us! That is our life! And we

should feel so blessed. Remember how we began this by saying, “Do not let your heart be troubled.” “Trust in God,” “Trust in the Father,” “Trust in Me.” Don’t be troubled by the time we live in. We should have a tremendous expectation of what a life in God can be. We should be searching the Scriptures, we should be searching the Spirit, to see how to appropriate and walk in promises like this that Christ is giving to us – that “these works and greater works than these will you do, because I have gone to the Father.” This is the time that we really abide in Him.

I'll go back to verse 17: “That is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.” The Spirit of truth abides in us and will be in us, and we will know Him. I want to know the Holy Spirit in a deeper relationship than what I have now. That is something we should believe for every day. Verse 18, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” Is He just talking about His return? Well, I am sure He is talking about His return; but I also feel He is talking about right now. He says, “I am not going to leave you as orphans. I will come to you.” How does He come to us? He comes to us by the Spirit of truth. Why? Because He is the way, the truth, and the life. So the Spirit of truth and Christ the truth come and abide in us and with us during this time. Verse 19 says, “After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.” In these days, we are to have life. We are to have abundant life, because He lives. Resurrection has already been experienced and manifest, and the abundance of that life is in Christ right now this minute. It does not take place when He returns; that life is available to us to live in. We should anticipate abundant life. Verse 20, “In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” Wow, I would say that is a promise! That is a promise for now. This day we have the ability to have Christ abide in us, the Spirit, the Father, abiding in us. Verse 21, “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.” Revelation should be our portion; revelation of Christ as we walk in these days, keeping His commandments, doing what we find in the Word to do, submitting to His will, living a Christian life – we should see Him disclosed to us by the Spirit. And that is something that I anxiously await on a daily basis. We should be getting up in the morning, waiting upon the Lord, believing and knowing that He will disclose Himself to us as we live every day in this life. Let not your heart be troubled – this is not a time of fear. This is a time of dwelling in the glory that Christ won on the cross. We should have a tremendous daily experience of Him abiding with us.

Verses 23-28, “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you.’” I have to repeat that. Please, as we are going through the days of tribulation, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled.” He says it again, as He started out these verses – “Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” God deliver us from fear. “You heard that I said to you, “I go away, and I will come to you.” If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.” We should be thankful that Christ is at the right hand of the Father. It is the blessing that He lived for. It is the blessing that He went to the cross for, to be one with the Father, to do the will of the Father, to be pleasing to the Father; and now He is with the Father. The disciples were over here, devastated that Christ was leaving, and Christ said, “Listen, you should be thankful. You

should be joyful for Me. Maybe not for you, but you should be joyful for Me, because I am going to the Father, and He is greater than I.” But we should be thankful for ourselves, because as He said, “If I go, He will send to you the Spirit.”

Verses 29-31. “Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.” And I would say that too: Come on, let's get up and go from here. Let's proceed forward into our walk with God. Let's realize that Christ has left tremendous things for us to walk in, in this day and age. This is not a day of fear. It is not a day when we are to withdraw and hide in a corner somewhere. We are to appropriate the things that God has promised and given us. And we begin with this great baptism, the Holy Spirit. He has given to us the Holy Spirit, and we move forward in this, in the name of the Lord.

I love these verses. I hope that they help you as you move forward through this time, as He keeps saying, “Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe.” Believe in Him.

I want to read again a few more of these verses, to repeat them. Verses 25-26, “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” And I pray, Lord, loose this as our experience. Let the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth – whom the Father has sent to us now, since the Day of Pentecost in the book of Acts, to fill us and to walk in us, and to show us Your life and Your way – let Him be the one to show us and teach us all things, and to bring to remembrance that which the Lord has spoken to us. And following up on the fact that we have the Holy Spirit as our Teacher, whom the Father has sent, and a promise that He will teach us all things – you say, “What should I be doing during this age, in this time?” You should be talking to your Teacher. You should be digging in to learn all that the Holy Spirit has to teach us, which is all things pertaining to life and to godliness.

He goes on in verse 27 to say, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you.” The world does not have peace at this point. We know it is in great turmoil. We know it may not get better before it gets worse. But this is a reality – this is the Word of Christ – “Peace I leave with you.” And that peace is resident for us in the Holy Spirit. I encourage us, as we walk, to remember, He has given to us this Spirit. And within the Spirit is peace, within the Spirit is the understanding of all that He has to teach us. And in it is access; in and through the Holy Spirit is access to Christ at the right hand of the Father, and to dwell in the Presence of the Father as He is seated with Him in heavenly places.

I bless you with these words, and I pray that God give our hearts enlightenment. Let not your heart be troubled, but reach to the Lord to see today the fulfillment of all that is available to us today in Christ through the Holy Spirit. Amen.