

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG124 – Trust God – But What About The Refrigerator?

Hello, and welcome to the podcast *Growing In God*. I am glad that you are joining me today for what is really a special podcast for myself. This is a little different approach than what I have done before. Generally, I try to stick with strictly biblical-type teaching, and not talk about myself or my own experiences that much. But today, I want to do the very opposite. I want to talk to you about what this Word means to me, and what I have been experiencing in my own life surrounding this year's Feast of Tabernacles. It began with two messages that you can find on our website at hargraveministries.org. One of the messages is a Blog, entitled, *Do You Trust Him?* The other is a Resource, as we used to call them, or a Study Guide, which we now refer to them as, and it is entitled, *Do You Trust God's Motivation?* I was in the process of doing final editing on these two messages for release on the website, and they very, very much touched my own heart and spirit; it really impacted me in a dramatic way. This was right before the Feast of Tabernacles began, so as I got into the Feast, these messages really became the focal point for me, spiritually, in my relationship with the Lord surrounding this issue of my ability to trust Him. And I think this is something that I really want to take into this next year.

This podcast, even though it is being recorded right after the Feast of Tabernacles has been completed, is going to be posted as the final podcast for this year. Therefore, I want to use it as a focal point of going into the next year. You know, generally speaking, when we come to a new year, we make resolutions, or we talk about what we want to see happen in our lives for this coming year; and that is really what I am looking for in this podcast. I want to talk about how meaningful this time of Tabernacles was for me, how meaningful these messages were for me, personally, and I want really have that as the focus of what I bring into this new year that we are getting ready to move into. I really am looking for this new year to be a time when I learn to trust Him with all of my heart. I want to trust God in everything I do. I titled this podcast, *Trust God – But What About The Refrigerator?* Now, I know that sounds a little ridiculous, but it really expresses for me what my experience was. It surrounds this idea that we know that God is able to do all things, but do we really trust Him to take care of the little things that transpire in our lives?

So this is what happened to me. I was in this process of reading these messages, of reaching into the Lord to have this trust relationship come alive for me. I was in a time of repentance, really, over my lack of trust and my lack of being able to trust the Lord; because, as you know, when we celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, what we are doing is we are remembering the days of the wilderness wanderings of Israel. And when we do that, we know the main problem that existed in the wilderness with their relationship with God was their inability to trust Him. They had seen Him do many things, but could they really trust Him to do the daily, small things that really meant life for them, that meant their ability to live? And so, I was in this process of repenting over my own lack of trust, and having the Holy Spirit bring to my mind and open up to me areas where I was not trusting the Lord, and show me how I was not trusting the Lord. Then I was really deepening, I was asking the Lord and asking the Holy Spirit, asking Yeshua, to work in me this level of trust that I really wanted to have, and I really wanted to experience through this time of Tabernacles.

Then I had this event in my life. Of course, we are getting ready to make the Hargrave Ministries Tour to Israel, so we are under a lot of pressure to get ready, and to pack, and to do all the things that you need to do when you are taking a trip of that length. We were trying to finish up all the work that needed to be completed before departing, and all of a sudden, we have a problem where our refrigerator stops working properly. The freezer stopped working. And of course, we had a lot of food in the freezer, because it is Tabernacles. We have a sukkah that is built at our home, and we are inviting people to come every night to be a part of our Tabernacles celebration, and to have lunch or dinner or have time together in the sukkah; so we have a lot of food on hand. All of a sudden, the freezer goes out, and we are faced with losing a lot of food. Now what do we do? So, of course, I call the company that manufactured the refrigerator, and I say, "Hey, I need this serviced right away. Can you help me?" And they say, "Sure, we'll set up the people to come out, and we'll be back to you when we have it set up." I thought, "Okay, thank You Lord. This is really going to be okay." So the next day I get this call from them, saying, "Well, listen, there is a problem, because your refrigerator is out of warranty. And besides that, you live in Hawaii, and we have no one there who can service this refrigerator. So you are out of luck. You are on your own, you are going to have to take care of this yourself." Well, that really was not the answer I was looking for. I was trying to not get angry on the phone, and, you know, trying to keep my spirit right in talking to these people. But I was saying, "Look, maybe the one-year warranty is expired, but parts of the refrigerator are warrantied for five years, and other parts are warrantied for ten years. So how do you know it's not one of those parts? Why are you putting this all back on me? You should bring someone here to evaluate it and see what is wrong; and of course, if it is something out of warranty, I understand I will have to pay for the repairs." But no, they will not help. I tried to talk to supervisors, and do all the things you do when you are in this kind of a situation. So, it just builds.

I am facing all of these things, you know, and I say to myself, "Okay, so I guess I just have to find somebody myself to come and work on this; and how do I find somebody when the manufacturer is saying they can't find anybody to work on it?" So I start making phone calls. And, of course, we are facing the reality after Covid that many businesses have gone out of business, and many of the numbers that you call for repairs are no longer in service; the phone numbers are no good any longer. Other places only service what they have sold, and, you know, you run into all of these things. I finally found one person that said, "Okay, I've got a number for somebody, and he can definitely work on it. He can come and fix it." And I said, "Okay, thank you, thank you." So I hang up and I call the number, and the number is out of service! And I said, "Okay, this is not working. I have to find an answer here, because we have all this food, and then we are leaving town almost immediately." And of course, as we are used to in the islands, things are not available. So if there is a part or something that is required to make a repair, or if there is something you need, you are kind of used to waiting six to eight months or more to get shipped in what is necessary to make repairs, or to accomplish what you are trying to do in construction, or other aspects of your life. So, I thought, "Okay, even if I find somebody, they are not going to be able to fix it right now."

Anyway, I made a few more phone calls. Nothing was working, and I thought, "Okay, I'm going to get in the car, I'm going to go downtown, and I'm going to find somebody that has a refrigerator in stock" – which is almost a joke – "and just buy a refrigerator. I have to get something in here to replace this." So I get in the car, and I think, "All right, I'm just going to worship the Lord. I'm going to exercise what I am doing with these messages. Lord, I am going to trust You." And I just stopped for a minute in the car, before I started the engine, and said, "Okay, Lord, I am going to trust You. I am going to commit this to You. I am going to believe You. I have seen You do amazing things in my life, and certainly repairing a

refrigerator, or finding a refrigerator, is not out of the realm of possibility, when You are able to do that which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man what You have prepared for those that love You.” And so, I just brought my spirit before the Lord, and I was able to enter into the most trust I could enter into; because that was what God was dealing with me about. That is what I was in repentance over, my lack of trust. So I just thought, “This is an opportunity.” So I voice this prayer, and I bring myself to be still, and I am waiting upon the Lord, and the phone rings. My cell phone rings, and I answer it. It is this repair guy on the other end of the line, which, when I dialed his number previously, the number was out of service. So I thought, “How in the world can he be calling me back, when I dialed the number and it was out of service?” This was the one recommendation I got from somebody, and I thought, “Okay, this is amazing. Thank You, Lord.” And so I said, “Here is my problem, here is the issue,” and he goes, “Okay. Well, I’m in the neighborhood.” And of course, I’m thinking, “What is it going to take for him to come – a week, two weeks to get an appointment?” And he goes, “Well, I can be there in probably twenty minutes, because I’m right in the neighborhood. I am just finishing up another job. Does that work for you?” And I said, “Does that work for me? That is just a blessing from God! Of course it works for me.” And sure enough, he shows up in twenty minutes. He tears the refrigerator apart, gets into it, and finds an issue with a part. But, in the meantime, he is able to get the freezer up and running again. And he said, “Well, this should keep operating, because the part that is no longer good is still going to function enough to let this work until I can get the part and get it installed. So I think we’ve got it worked out.”

So he ordered the part; and he was very inexpensive, which was another blessing. And, boy, within an hour after sitting down in the car, this was taken care of. And I thought, “Okay, Lord, I am hearing You. And thank You. This is part of this lesson that I am learning, that I have to trust You in all things – and especially the little things.” This was the lesson of Tabernacles. It is what we see that transpired. God had delivered them out of the land of Egypt, but once they were in the wilderness, they failed in their ability to trust God to care for them in all of their needs. And I think this is something God wants us to learn to do. We know the Scripture says to trust in the Lord with all of our hearts, and this was what they were incapable of doing. And I say this with this repentance still in my mind, and in my heart, and in my prayer before the Lord. I want to get out of me every inability to trust Him in the most simple ways, and have the ability to literally commit my life into His hands, even when everything around me seems to scream the opposite.

So I want to read a few Scriptures about Tabernacles and what really transpired in the wilderness, because I think sometimes we lose this idea of really what happened with Israel in the wilderness. A lot of the terminology in the Scriptures refers to faith, and I know it does connect with faith; but I think it is not really a problem with faith. I think when we talk about faith, we have faith in God. These people had faith in God. They saw Him do so many things. The issue was not really faith, even though Hebrews uses that terminology when it discusses what transpired in the wilderness; but before you are able to move in faith, you must trust God to take care of you.

Let's look at some of these Scriptures. We are going to start with Deuteronomy the first chapter, and I am going to begin reading at verses 26-31. It says, ““Yet you are not willing to go up, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God.”” This is when God had opened the door for them to go into Canaan land the first time out of the wilderness. ““And you grumbled in your tents and said, “Because the Lord hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us. Where can we go up? Our brethren have made our hearts melt, saying, ‘The people are bigger and taller than we; the cities are large and fortified to heaven. And besides, we saw the sons of

the Anakim there.” Then I said to you, “Do not be shocked, nor fear them. The Lord your God who goes before you will Himself fight on your behalf, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as a man carries his son, in all the way which you have walked until you came to this place.””

Verse 32, and remember this verse: “But for all this, you did not trust the Lord your God.” They had seen all these things, they had experienced all that He did in Egypt for a year, with the miracles and the judgments taking place. Then they saw Him manifest in the wilderness, and feed them, and give them water. All these things they had seen, and I think, how much have we seen? How much have we, as Christians, as believers in Yeshua, Jesus, seen what God has done for us in our lives? Just our salvation, what He has saved us from, eternal damnation, and He has brought us into the family of God, and He has delivered us out of so much. And yet, there still exists this thing deep in our spirits where we are not able to really trust Him. And that is what Israel was facing. He said, verses 32-34, “But for all this,” – for all these things you have seen – “you did not trust the Lord your God, who goes before you on your way, to seek out a place for you to encamp, in the fire by night and cloud by day, to show you the way in which you should go. Then the Lord heard the sound of your words, and He was angry and took an oath.” And I think, this is it. We have seen; this is the Lord. He is the one who goes before us on our way. As we walk with Him, He goes before us. He is the One who takes us, leads us on our way. He is the One who seeks out the place for us to encamp, by the fire, by the cloud. He is the One who shows the way in which we should go. And every time we fall by not trusting, every time we fail by not trusting, I think we enanger the Lord. I think we invoke the Lord's anger towards us, as Israel did. This is a lesson. This is the lesson of Tabernacles. This is why we celebrate year after year the Feast of Tabernacles – we are remembering their experience, and this was the root of their experience. The Scripture says He took them into the wilderness to test them. It was a test of trust. You can say, “Well, it was a test of faith.” Okay. For me, it was a test of trust, as Moses is saying here: “With all you have seen, with all you have experienced, you could not trust the Lord your God.” And the Lord wants to bring us to a place where we trust Him.

Verses 34-35 say, “Then the Lord heard the sound of your words, and He was angry and took an oath, saying, “Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall see the good land which I swore to give your fathers.”” So, at that point they failed, and the Lord brought His anger upon them. Numbers 14:11-12 says, “The Lord said to Moses, ‘How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they.’”

I want to remind us of some Scriptures here that you can study, and I hope you will take the time to study this on your own. First of all, I hope you will go back to some of these messages that I mentioned at the beginning. You can find them at hargraveministries.org: *Do You Trust God's Motivation?* and the Blog, *Do You Trust Him?* We need to come into a place of trust. And I believe this year, it is important that we get rid of everything within us that does not trust in the Lord with all of our heart. We have to be able to break through on this issue, because I believe we are going to face things in this coming year, and we are going to need that ability to trust.

Read Psalms 95:7-11, it very much talks about this. Hebrews 3:6-11 also repeats these words of God swearing that they would not enter His rest. Hebrews 4:1-11 talks about this. Verses 1-2 say, “Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did

not profit them.” And that is what we are facing. Does the Word that we have heard profit us? Does it become real in our life? We still exist in the place where we need to enter God's rest, and we enter God's rest through our ability to trust in Him with all of our hearts.

Remember Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Isaiah 26:3-4 says, “The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock.” And again, I believe that this year, in these things that we are beginning to face in the world around us, we need a rock to build our house upon. We need to not be moved by the things that are going to come against us. And that is born out of trust in the Lord. Those who will have this experience of building upon a rock will be those who trust Him.

Remember Philippians 4:19-20: “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” He will supply all of our needs. I know we have faith in the Lord for the big things; but going forward, I want to trust Him that He supplies all of my needs in everything that I face; that it is He who leads my path, He who provides the fire by night to keep me warm, He who provides the cloud, the pillar by day, to shade. He provides the water, the food, the covering, the sheltering, the defense, all that we need. But it is born out of our ability to trust in Him with all of our heart.

I just want to end this with a few points of emphasis. Number one, we know and have faith that God can do all things – but do we trust in our daily lives that He will and can supply what we need? Number two, I would say, I want to make this for me, personally, a year that I learn to trust the Lord in all things.

So I would just voice this prayer to end: Lord, let this be a year that we walk in Your Word. Your Word that states, “I trust in the Lord with all of my heart, and I do not lean on my own understanding.” Let this be the focal point of our lives. Let it be what we are able to obtain by faith in our walk with You as we enter this new year. We believe for it, and we trust in You to provide it and create it within us.

Amen.