

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG158 – Is Your Love Growing Cold?

Hi, and welcome to the podcast today. I am glad you could be with me. I want to talk about the emotions that Christ used as He ministered in the earth. In order to get into it and paint the picture of why I am going in this direction, I am going to start by reading Matthew 24, verses 6-13. It says,

“You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. 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 famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. 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 and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. [Most people’s love will grow cold.] But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”

I think this enduring to the end is partially, at least, referring back to the fact that people’s love is growing cold, and that cannot be allowed to happen for the believer. Now, this puts us into a timeframe, if we are saying this is happening around us, which I personally think in a very real way it is. Before I started this podcast, I was looking up the figures and the publications about the persecution of Christians that is going on in this age; and the year of 2022 was the largest increase in persecution and martyrdom of Christians since the Open Door group started keeping track of this data. So we are absolutely in a time when it says they are going to deliver you over to tribulation, and you will be killed. A lot of times I think this leaves our notice for two reasons: one, because in many countries like the United States, Brazil, or other major nations, this is not necessarily happening. However, it is happening in many nations; and the numbers are increasing to amazing amounts of individuals being martyred on an annual basis, being persecuted, being marginalized, because of their Christian faith. And so, I think we need to recognize that even if we look at the natural statistics of this timeframe we live in, we are living in a day that very much fits these Scriptures.

One of the things that we see will happen is that iniquity is going to abound, or lawlessness increase, as verse 12 says (depending upon the version of the Bible you are reading from), and most people’s love will grow cold. It is not just some people, it is most people’s love. Personally, I believe we are facing this timeframe where people’s love is growing cold; and it is not just the love, it is emotion on every level that is going away. Compassion, sympathy – it is just amazing to see what humans are doing to humans in this day and age. You can only do that because something has happened to the heart where there is no more conscience, no more recognition, no more emotion that is emoted towards other human beings. And so, we are in this time. And I think that as Christians, we need to recognize that one of the greatest battles we face in the time of the end days, the last days, if you will, is the war against our heart. I feel like we need to understand it, we need to be aware of it, and we need to counter this.

How do we counter it? We counter it by opening our heart, especially by receiving the Holy Spirit and allowing the fruit of the Holy Spirit to grow within us. This is a very real need that we have. It is a need of

awareness. It is something that you do not read about in the media; but I think it is being removed from the media on purpose. I don't think they want it to be known or understood, because I think a lot of people would be more responsive if there was really a recognition and an understanding of how much persecution is taking place in the days that we are personally living in right now. So I believe that we are in this time. I believe what we are facing is a reality that most people's love is in the process of growing cold; and not only godly emotion, but just human emotion is going away from people. Therefore, iniquity will increase, and things will get worse, because there is no love to constrain the actions of people. Our emotions are a lot of what directs our actions – what we feel, we act out. If our hearts are filled with love, then we are going to move with love. If our hearts are filled with compassion, we are going to move in acts of compassion. I want to use this podcast to point this out, especially relative to Christ and His moving in the earth. And so, I am going to read several Scriptures that talk about it, and recognize how real this was on the part of Christ.

Matthew 9:35-36 says, "Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd." Christ moved in miracles. His teaching, the healings, His actions were all driven by the compassion that He felt when He looked upon people and saw the need that they had. They were in distress and dispirited, their own hearts were sick; and so, He in His compassion was moved by that.

When we talk about this thing of heart, we know that the Scriptures are really talking about the internal organs. It is something that has been understood down through time, that our gut has feelings. We have the Vagus nerve that runs from our guts up to our brain, and is one of the greatest feeders to our mind of what we are feeling and how we are feeling. It has always been understood that the internal parts of man have this. And so, the term *heart* is used to generally speak of all of the emotion that man feels. This, like I said, is proven out from history. It was understood that the *viscera* – the stomach, the heart, the lungs, the spleen, the liver, the kidneys, the intestines, all of these – were all the place where the emotions of man were generated and felt and responded from. So it is this depth from within us that is being spoken of when we use this term about our heart.

Let's go on and read these Scriptures about Christ and how He moved, and see the consistency with which we find this word *compassion* used every time Christ moved. In Matthew 14:14, it says, "When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick." If you go on and read these verses along with Matthew 15, starting at verse 32, you realize that you are reading the Scriptures about the feeding of the 5,000 and the feeding of the 4,000. These miracles were performed out of the heart of compassion that Yeshua felt for the people. In Matthew 15:32, it says, "And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, 'I feel compassion for the people, because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.'" Yeshua is saying, "From My gut I am feeling these emotions for these people. Look, they have been here with Me for three days, listening to Me and receiving what I have been saying, and I just don't have it in My heart to send them away. My emotion for them is too great to send them off without making sure that their needs are taken care of."

In Matthew 14, we see the feeding of the 5,000; in Matthew 15, we see the feeding of the 4,000; and it was all accomplished out of the compassion. You say, "Boy, I want to do miracles like Jesus did!" Great. Then you need to have a heart of love and compassion as He did; because what He did, His acts, the miracles, the teachings, all of these things, were born from the emotion that He had. And I know that

sometimes emotion is not well thought of in church circles. This is what the Pentecostals have faced, that they were too emotional. Well, I think what God was doing when He poured out His Spirit on some of these Pentecostal movements, He was trying to break loose the hearts of people that had just become so dull and staid in their worship and their service to Him. And I think God wants that from us. He is looking for this, and it is by the pouring out of His Spirit that our hearts should be released into the emotions that we must feel in God.

In Matthew 20, verses 29-34, it says, "As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him. And two blind men sitting by the road, hearing that Jesus was passing by, cried out, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!' The crowd sternly told them to be quiet." See, it is not cool to be emotional. But these guys, they were blind, and the thought of being able to see again stirred this hope of joy. Imagine how you would feel if you had been blind from birth, or blind for many years, and all of a sudden here is a moment, because Yeshua is passing by, when you could get your eyesight! What would you feel? "Oh, I would feel sadness. I would just try to be quiet, not interrupt anybody and make a spectacle out of myself." Well, you know, that is one of the problems – emotions a lot of times make us a spectacle. But these guys didn't care. And I think there are ways in which we need to understand how deeply restrained we have become in our hearts, how much the battle of the end time is against our hearts to make our love grow cold until it dies and disappears out of our hearts.

These men triggered something. They cried out to Him. The crowd around them is sternly saying, "Be quiet, calm down!" And if we really receive the fruit of the Spirit, we may find that surrounding us; that there is a persecution that may erupt because we are being too emotional: "Don't be so emotional!" Really? I don't think there is any greater thing in creation than the love of God. God is love, that is an emotion. So if it is not too emotional for God to be love, then it is not too emotional for us to feel and express His love. They told them to shut up and be quiet and calm down. "But" it says, "they cried out all the more." God give us that same response. Let us reach in, let us demand all the more to have hearts that are filled with the fruit of the Spirit. They said, "'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!' And Jesus stopped and called them, and said, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' They said to Him, 'Lord, we want our eyes to be opened.' Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him."

They immediately became disciples. What made them become disciples? They were touched by the compassion. We say, "The church has a mandate to go and make disciples of all the nations." Well, we are not going to do that if our love has grown cold, and if we are restrained in our own hearts. If we do not have this level of compassion to touch the world with, they are not going to follow, they are not going to become disciples as these two blind men did. Imagine, can you just watch these guys dancing down the road after Yeshua, singing and being loud? And of course, at that point the crowd is not about to tell them to be quiet, because it is obvious what happened. God give us that same joy and delight.

Remember when David sinned and he cried out to the Lord for forgiveness? He used emotion. He said, "Lord, restore to me the joy of Your salvation." That was where he knew he would find true repentance, if he had the emotion in his heart, the joy of salvation. If he could remember the joy, then he knew he could put away the sin. And I think that would work for us in a very real way.

Let's look at Mark the first chapter, verses 40-42. It says, "And a leper came to Jesus," to Yeshua, "beseeking Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, 'If You are willing, You can make me clean.' Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I am willing; be cleansed.' Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed." How did it happen?

Compassion. You say, “What was it? What were the tricks that Jesus used, that Yeshua used to heal people? You know, was it the way He laid His hands on Him? Was it the special way He spit in the mud and put it on people’s eyes? What was the way He performed those miracles?” It was the compassion in His heart.

In Mark 9:22, it talks about the father who brought his epileptic boy to Christ. He said, “It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!” This father knew exactly what he needed to entreat the Lord for – he needed to entreat that compassion. And we know that that compassion was triggered, and that Christ healed the epileptic.

I will give you another example, in Luke 7, verses 12-15. “Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’ And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise!’ The dead man sat up.” I am just thinking of what the crowd did, the pallbearers. Imagine holding this coffin and all of a sudden the guy sits up! “The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother.” But what made it happen? Christ was just watching this from a distance, and yet the compassion filled His heart for this woman and what she had gone through becoming a widow, and now having her son die; and He through that compassion raised the dead. I don’t know if it amazes you, but it amazes me how Scripture after Scripture after Scripture, event after event, healing after healing, were all triggered by the heart of compassion that Christ had in Him.

I want to read one more parable, because I want us to see that this compassion was not something that was just in the heart of Christ Himself, but it was a compassion that came to Him from His Father. Remember, Christ said, “I can do nothing of Myself. It has to be the Father that is in Me doing these works.” Well, what of the Father was in Christ that initiated and triggered these miracles and raising of the dead, and so forth? In Luke 15 is a beautiful parable that we know, it is called *The Prodigal Son*. You are very familiar with the story, so I am not going to read the whole thing, but I want to get down to the verses that really matter for us. Let’s all read verses 17-24.

“But when he came to his senses,” [talking about the prodigal son] “he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.”’ So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves,” [notice the father doesn’t even respond to what the son is saying, doesn’t even address it] “Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate.”

This parable is given about each one of us. It is given about the life that we live, where we become very unaware of God, His love for us, and we violate all that He is and all that He has given for us. At some point, we come to our senses; and we hope that for the world at large today. Father, let this age come

to its senses and wake up from its woke mentality, and come to You, because there is this compassion. He doesn't even address what the kid did; he doesn't address what he says about how he sinned; he just embraces him. His compassion overwhelms him. What does the Scripture say? "Love covers a multitude of sins," and that is what the Father does. "While we were yet enemies, Christ died for us." This compassion that God has for us covers everything, changes everything. And it is this compassion – where did it come from? Where did Christ get it? It came from the Father. He ministered it to His Son, and His Son ministered it to the world as a representative of the Father. That is who we are to be in this end time. But if this love and compassion in our hearts is growing cold because of the atmosphere around us, because of the iniquity that abounds in this age, because of the sinfulness of this age that we live in, and if we let ourselves in our emotions be affected by this world and come to agreement with this world, then there is nothing in this world any longer to be a reflection of this love and compassion that the Father has for all mankind. That is who we are to be in this age, and I encourage us.

Galatians 5:22-24 gives the fruit of the Spirit. It says, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." We crucify the human fleshly emotions and we put on these that are the emotions of God. What happens when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit? You say, "Oh, well, you know, I spoke with other languages! I moved in this and that." No, what happened was the emotions of God, God's heart and the emotions of His heart, were planted in you like a seed; and like a fruit, they are to grow on the tree of your life, and they are to manifest themselves in your heart.

The only thing we have in us that manifests and shows emotion is the heart. And so, these things are going to grow and be expressed out of our heart: love, joy – that is what Christ had. Everything He did, including going to the cross, was motivated by the love and compassion that He saw. When He was on the cross, as painful as it was, as tormenting as it was, He still had the eyes of compassion as He looked down upon those around the cross that were the source of His suffering. And through those eyes of compassion, He saw all mankind, and He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." It is by love, by that same compassion that raised that dead boy, that gave sight to those blind men, that healed all the sick while He was on the earth. That same compassion ministered the salvation of God to us. And what is salvation supposed to bring? Joy. And what do we find ourselves doing? We love. Why, because He first loved us. These things are to grow in our hearts.

When we talk about Christ, we know that He walked by the Spirit. We know that He was led by the Spirit. So, what does that really mean? It means He was led by emotion; that is the fruit of the Spirit. We are likewise told by the Scriptures to be filled with the Spirit, to be led by the Spirit, and to walk by the Spirit. That means that we, likewise, just as Christ, must be driven by a heart that is filled with the emotional fruit of the Spirit. And I believe that in these end days, the war is over our heart. But if our hearts are filled with these emotions, the fruit of the Spirit, then we, as Christ, will minister to the earth in these days with the same compassion that moved Him. And we believe for it. Amen.