

# GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



## GIG248 – Remembering Our Dear Brother, Pope Francis

Hi, and welcome to the podcast. This is a special edition for our Growing in God podcast, as it is produced from a Zoom call that we at Hargrave Ministries have occasionally with our donors. When we have these times together and feel it is important for others to be a part of what we are discussing, we create the meeting into a podcast for release. So, I hope that you will enjoy this podcast; and if you like being a part of these discussions, I would encourage you to go to our website at [hargraveministries.org](http://hargraveministries.org) and join our Fellow Workers.

Greetings everyone. It is good to have you all with us today, that we can all be together on this wonderful Sabbath day. Lord, we just ask for Your Presence. We ask for the Holy Spirit to lead us, guide us, direct us, to fill our hearts and our lives with the fullness of all Christ represents to us in this earth and in heavenly places. And we bless this time together, in the name of the Lord. Amen.

I wanted to begin today just talking about Pope Francis. Today was the memorial and the burial for Pope Francis. He has been such an important figure and connection with all of us, I know, especially with Silas and myself over the years; and I just wanted to talk about it a little bit and have it be alive, and then lead into our prayer that I would like to see taking place over these next days.

First of all, I want to talk about our connection with Papa Francisco; and I will just use that terminology, because that is what I am most familiar with him as. Of course, Papa means Pope, and so, rather than call him Pope Francis, which is kind of the Anglicized version, we tend to call him Papa Francisco, because we are used to working with him in more of a Latin kind of engagement.

We got involved with Papa Francisco starting in about 2013, surrounding the World Youth Day event that took place in Brazil. I do not know how many of you remember that occasion, but it was really a big deal. Many things started and transpired because really, when we have the reality of Papa Francisco becoming the Pope, it was surrounding this activity. Many people do not know that, but we do know that from the things that we have been involved with. Benedito XVI, who was the Pope at the time leading up to Papa Francisco, was in poor health; and it was really his drive to see that the World Youth Day be something that was energetic, that it really met the youth of the world and started a fire in the world for the young people of the world. And that, of course, is what World Youth Day is focused on and all about. It was because of his health that he stepped down, which was a huge event for the Pope to abdicate the papacy. That had not happened for, I do not remember whether it was 600 years or something like that, and that is what he did. And he did it for the reason of his health and the upcoming World Youth Day. He felt like the young people deserved a Pope that was younger and more energetic, and more relatable than he was; because he was quite a theologian, and his focus was doctrine, and working with the doctrine of the Church. So, he literally stepped down from being the Pope, and gave certain requests in his process of doing that, which is really what brought about the election of Papa Francisco to be the replacement Pope at the time; and it was surrounding this event of the World Youth Day and all of the activity.

Of course, World Youth Day really goes for almost, gosh, it is almost a year-long event, because they send bands of young people into the country that is hosting the World Youth Day. These guys were going into places in the Amazon and having services with people, having mass and serving Communion to people who had not had Communion for a long period of time. But they really blanketed the country of Brazil with a lot of really amazing works. And that is one thing I would say about the Catholics, is, boy, they are not afraid to get their hands dirty. They roll up their sleeves and they jump in where angels fear to tread. I know several who have been there, because I have had the privilege of speaking in the seminary there in Rio and talking to some of these guys. But these guys will go for a month and live on the streets of Rio – and not like go minister for the afternoon and then go home; I mean, literally live, sleep on the streets on cardboard, and live with these people who are addicted and homeless and all of this kind of thing.

And so, this was the atmosphere of the lead-up to World Youth Day, and it was something that Papa Francisco also had in his heart, which we will talk a little bit more about; but also the joining together of Catholics and Protestants and Christians of other faith to be a part of what was going on. And somehow, they landed on Silas and myself, and said that they wanted us to be the ones that were moving in the place of working with them. Of course, our first response when these guys called and said, “Can we meet with you?” was, “Hey, are you sure you picked the right people for this job? Do you know what you are getting yourself into?”; because once or twice we have had some bad press. And of course, their response was, “You are talking to Catholics and you think we are worried about bad press? Because we have seen so much. We have researched you guys and we know who you are, and we want to create a relationship with you and get to know you, and have you involved and have you speaking surrounding the event of the Pope being in Rio for the time that he is engaged personally in the World Youth Day.”

And so we did. We were in speaking engagements to 5,000 youth. I brought a message about how to pray in tongues for the Pope, which, you know, was kind of something that Catholics do not hear every day. But it was a good teaching, and there were many young people there. And we had other activities that went on, we did some press, some radio at the time. So, this was kind of our introduction to a relationship, not just with Papa Francisco, but also with the Catholic Church. And it ended up being something very deep with Dom Orani, who is the Cardinal now; he was not a cardinal at the time, actually he was the bishop who was, if you go back and look at much of the video that you get from World Youth Day in Rio, he was always at Papa Francisco’s right hand. And born out of the relationship that they had before and during that time is where Dom Orani was ordained and brought to be a Cardinal. Which, again, was a tremendous part of the relationships between Protestants and Catholics.

We do not realize it so much in the US, but when you go into South America, that is like the Hatfields and McCoys. That is a war between Catholics and Protestants. I mean, we had people literally protesting on the streets what we were doing while the Pope was there; and those were Protestants out with placards, not liking this idea of there being Catholics, because many Protestants do not consider that Catholics are Christian. And so, it was bringing down a lot of things that had pre-existed for years. Again, in Brazil it is a big deal, because you do have mixed marriages of Protestants and Catholics, husband and wife, and so many times that is a difficulty. Of course, Silas and I did radio where we talked about that and answered some of the questions and gave our thoughts and feelings. And of course, you know, when you go on radio and TV in Brazil on the Catholic channels, I mean, there is no such thing as other channels; the regular television channels cannot hold a candle to the number of people watching and listening to these things. So, you are talking about in the millions of people who are being a part of this.

It was a fantastic time. It created very, very deep relationships between us and, like I said, not just Papa Francisco, but ongoing with Dom Orani and many of the bishops and the priests there in Rio de Janeiro. We were actually invited to the ordination of Dom Orani in Rome, which, if I remember correctly, Silas, that has never happened before, right? where Protestant pastors were invited to that ceremony.

Silas: There is only one on record.

Gary: Only one on record. And I was unable to go, but Silas went and was a part of it, and it was another groundbreaking situation. We have had several groundbreaking events; and I just wanted to remember that with you guys, and bring it to light on this day of Papa Francisco's memorial and his burial, because I think that this has been something that has been fantastic. In fact, I brought to the meeting today, this is Papa Francisco's kippah. I just thought I would wear it today during the meeting. But anyway, we had a trade with him. If you buy the right one, if you know the right store to go to and you get the one that he actually wears and it is the right size, then you can trade with him, and he will take yours and give you his, and whatever. So anyway, we still have this. It is kind of our remembrance of Papa Francisco, and our blessing that we have with us always of our time with him.

He was called the people's Pope, because he really had that attitude and that love for people. He was phenomenal during the World Youth Day, filled with so much energy, so much life; and literally, what he did in many ways was groundbreaking. I know that there are people who criticize some of the ground that he broke. He was a little too liberal, I think, in many areas that got out of being biblically sound. But I feel like what is important to me are all of the things that he did that were so positive in a way of being groundbreaking, and his ability to draw in not only the young people, but draw believers back into the church, which at the time was not faring very well.

One of the areas also with Papa Francisco, and Silas, I will give you an opportunity here too at some point to jump in and pick up the thousand points that I am missing and forgetting. But one of the things that people do not know very well is that Papa Francisco was baptized in the Holy Spirit; he prayed in tongues, and he promoted the Spirit-filled Catholic movement, which was not something that was backed by the organization. The Vatican, a lot of the leadership of the Catholic Church was not in favor of that. And he did a lot. I tell you, Silas and I have been in services, meetings, with some of the Spirit-filled Catholics – worship that was like worship you guys would know and love. Just powerful worship in the Spirit, powerful songs that were written. The words, just amazing. And so, to me, the Spirit-filled part of the Catholic Church is like an engine that drives, I think, God's blessing into the Catholic Church. And we have to credit Papa Francisco for opening the doors and letting that be pushed and increased, and it still works.

We are very close with the father in Rio that is in charge of the Spirit-filled Catholics in Brazil. I mean, it is just an amazing thing, some of what was done. I know, again, too far afield for us on the things with transgender and some of the gay things that were done; but I would say, beyond that, probably the most difficult thing was the lack of real revelation where Israel is concerned, and where the Jewish people are concerned. That was a difficult point. But again, when you are developing oneness, you are not afraid to bring up problems, but you keep the oneness moving; because at some point I believe that the Holy Spirit is like a river, and things are purified as they move. And when you run into problems and you stop and say, "I am breaking oneness, I am not going to fellowship with you anymore because of these points," then I think we are really missing something. And I know that many times it is a fine line, because you do not want to be allowing things to go that are not Scriptural or that you really disagree with. And you cannot, you have to speak up; but you have to keep the oneness and you have to keep

moving forward and keep the dialogue going where you run into those problems. And I think that that is where we are at. I think it is where Silas is still at and what he is doing, moving with CONIC<sup>1</sup> there in Brazil. This idea of the oneness is something that Dom Orani is a huge proponent of, and Papa Francisco was that also. So, those were some of the main points that I wanted to bring out. And like I said, Silas, I let you voice some things that you feel are really important to you.

Silas: The impact of the relationship is really, really heavy. Even when he passed now, I was leaving Monterey when I got a call from a TV station here asking for few words about it. They were considering calling Gary, but Gary was in transit as well, so it was kind of confusing. But before leaving Monterey, I recorded a one-minute video; and when I got here, literally people were..., like today, I had someone stopping me in the street, saying, "You are the pastor that loves Papa Francisco. Thank you, thank you for what you said!" So, it was a big deal here, for the Catholics especially, just the fact that we have that type of relationship; and also with Dom Orani. Obviously, Dom Orani is in Rome right now. But this coming Monday, we have the Holocaust Never Again ceremony in Niterói, which happens every year. Dom Orani is here every year. So, he texted me this morning, saying, "Okay, I have this one priest that will represent me for the speech, but you are the one that represents me for the relationship with the Jewish community. So hug them for me," and stuff like that. So all of a sudden, I am here representing a cardinal as well in this coming event on Monday evening. It is going to be here in the city hall of Niterói.

Anyway, it is a very deep relationship that has been going on for so many years, and it is just growing, actually never stopped. So, I appreciate what you are saying, and the love and the cry for this time of transition that the Catholic family is going through right now.

Gary: Yes. That is why I wanted to talk about this, because I think that it is important for everybody to realize that huge steps are being made; and one thing that we want to see is the continuation of the progress that exists here through these steps. I wanted to just bring out some facts, and talk about the Conclave. Does anybody know when the Conclave begins? Because I did not hear that yet, and I forgot to look it up before we got together. Anybody know when the Conclave starts?

Silas: One thing I heard is ten days after he passed away, so I do not really know the exact date, but somebody else may know.

Gary: Yes, they have to finish the time of mourning. Anyway, it will be coming up. One thing to realize is that Dom Orani, of course, is of the age and status that he will be a part of the Conclave. Not all cardinals are part of the Conclave. Those who are over eighty are excluded, and there are ones that are not a part of it. But he will be a part of choosing the next Pope, so, we want to be praying for him. I know there has been talk about the possibility of Dom Orani being selected; and honestly, I have to say in my heart, I have really prayed about it and I want the will of the Lord, but I feel like it would really take away from so much of what is happening in Rio and in Brazil right now, which is kind of a flash point for a lot of these things to go on. I would not like to lose him, because I feel very deeply that if that would happen, what has been going on would be stopped. I really do not want to see that. But Lord, You know, and You are in charge. So, we want to be blessing that.

We want to realize that the Conclave is coming up, and that in the Conclave there will be the selection of the next Pope. I think that needs to be important to us as Christians – who is the next Pope? and that this is very, very impactful for us. So, I went to the Pew Research Center information that I could find on

---

<sup>1</sup> CONIC is an acronym for Conselho Nacional de Igrejas Cristãs do Brasil, which in English is National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil. <https://www.oikoumene.org/organization/national-council-of-christian-churches-of-brazil>

the Internet. Of course, the Pew Research Center does a lot about things regarding faith and religion, and so they are kind of a go-to for information about church, and people going to church. This is information that came from the Pew Research Center. There are an estimated 2.18 billion Christians in the world today. That is their estimate from their research. Of those 2.18 billion Christians, 50.1% of those Christians are Catholics. Now, that is a heavy number, because you have to realize that many, many Protestants do not consider Catholics to be Christians at all, and exclude them from the body of Christ and from faith; which I think is, number one incorrect, and I think it is very unfortunate that we have this huge divide. When we talk about the division, like Silas was mentioning the book, *Is Christ Divided?*, that book came generally from messages that were brought about this idea of the division between Catholics and Protestants, and other Christian believers.

I think it is a very unfortunate thing that has crept into the body of Christ, and it literally, for all intents and purposes, tries to split the body of Christ down the middle. So, half of the body of Christ, in the mind of the rest of the body of Christ, is excluded from the body of Christ. It is an issue. 50.1% are Catholic. Protestants make up 36.7%. So, you would think, "Well, the other 50% are Protestants," but that is not true. Only 36.7% are Protestant. Out of the one hundred percent, 11.9% of Christians are Orthodox; this would be made up mainly of the Eastern Church, and that is another fairly good percentage. Then you have 1.3% that are just considered "other Christian believers." That is how the body of Christ worldwide right now is kind of split up and divided. So, you can see that as we work within this issue of Catholics and Protestants and their relationship together, we are really talking about huge numbers of that; because you would be putting together over 80% of the body of Christ if you were bringing a oneness just in these two groups alone.

I want you to be impressed with this number of Catholics. This means that approximately 1.1 billion Catholics are in the world out of the 2.18 billion Christians. Again, that is a huge number. So, what is happening right now in Rome, what is happening right now with the death of Papa Francisco, what is going to be happening in the days just ahead of us in the Conclave, and what is going to be happening in the very near future with the choice of a new Pope, greatly impacts the body of Christ. And whatever problems that you have doctrinally, or we as Protestants or other believers in the body of Christ have with Catholics, we better realize that we are facing something that is of epic proportions when it comes to faith, and the faith of the body of Christ moving forward. And so, I think it is well said that we should be very much believing that the events that are just ahead of us really come out in the will of God.

We know the greatest prayer that Yeshua gave us is, "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on this earth as it is in heaven." And I think this event falls squarely into the scope of that prayer. We need to see the will of God and the Kingdom of God really brought to bear in these events; and do not think that Satan is not going to be fighting what is needing to happen with everything within him, because of the opportunity that it gives for the demonic world to keep the body of Christ in division. I think division in the body of Christ is the most concerning issue that we have, because our oneness is our power. It is our power in the world of spirit. Oneness means everything, and our agreement as Christians, our ability to pray in agreement. Of course, I do not think we have to have agreement on every little doctrine and every little point of faith in order to have agreement about the big rocks that affect the world that we live in, that affect those who are not Christian believers, that affect the governments and the politics around the world, the evil and the wickedness around the world. I think that we, as Christians, need to be able to move in our intercession to see change come in the world. We are the light of the world, and we need to be on top of our game as the body of Christ right now. And this has huge ramifications and impacts on that.

Maybe I am overkilling it, but I do not know that it can be overkilled, because I think that it is something that we, on a daily basis, just tend to not think about or worry about. Especially Christianity in the United States; as I have said, this does not seem to be important, you know, it is kind of a “who cares?” sort of an issue. But I care, and I think we should all care. So, this is just recognizing the huge impact that this will have moving forward.

So I am calling us, I am asking you guys that we pray, that we really enter into prayer over what is coming – what has happened, what is happening right now this moment, what is going to be happening tomorrow and the days ahead of us. And so, we should be praying for the Pope, and the selection of the Pope. What I would like for us to do is be very creative. I would like us to get into this meditation; not just voicing prayers, but a meditative prayer where we move in the Spirit, by the Spirit, to see the quantum-level prayers ministered into the spirit world to make this impact. So I have some suggestions, if you will allow me, of how I will be praying and how I wish we would pray.

Number one, I wish we would start our prayer with this:

“I am creating a Pope.”

I think we need to do this more in our prayer. “I am” is one of the most powerful things that exists. It is what God introduced Himself with. It is what Christ introduced Himself with. And I believe that, They dwelling in us, we need to come to grips with this fact that it is God who is in us both to will and to work of His good pleasure. He is in us to do that will and to do that work. So, we do not just pray, “Thy Kingdom come,” we literally are manifesting it. And so, I think saying “I am” is very appropriate. I think that it makes us form our prayer in a way that has impact in the world of the Spirit, and in the quantum reality to bring things about.

So, this is how I will pray. You can just pray over it yourself and see if this rings a bell with you. But I am starting my prayer with, “I am creating...” And then, I want to lead into some very specific things that I think are important. As I am doing it, you may want to think and jot some things down; maybe we will take a few minutes when I am done and you may come up with a few good prayers yourself that you think we should add to our prayer list. But this is how mine goes.

The first is,

“I am creating a Pope that loves the Lord God with all of his heart, with all of his soul, with all of his strength, and with all of his mind, and loves his neighbor as himself.”

That is a creative prayer. And of course, it is based on Matthew 22, starting at verse 36 and going through verse 40; and also Luke 10, verses 26 and 27. I especially like Luke 10, because when you read it, it is really something unique. I probably should podcast this that Yeshua did. Verse 26 starts, “And He said to him,” remember, because this was a challenge put out to the Lord by a lawyer asking Him a question to try to trip Him up. “And He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?’ And he answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength,’ which is what is quoted out of the Hebrew Scriptures. But look at what he added: “and with all of your mind.” I think this thing of our mind moving in this realm is very key, and it was added to this prayer. I am sure it is in the spirit of the Hebrew Scripture, but it was never voiced this way so directly. And so, that is why I think this prayer is very appropriate as we are creating this next Pope to come forth.

My next one is,

"I am creating a Pope that has a revelation of the unbreakable covenant of God with the Jewish people."

Of course, we know, and we have said already, this was a weakness where Papa Francisco was concerned, and God bless him and forgive him. The next one is,

"I am creating a Pope that has a revelation of God's unbreakable covenant with the Jews and the land of Israel."

"I am creating a Pope that has a revelation of God's Kingdom manifest on this earth, with Christ the Messiah King ruling over that Kingdom."

"I am creating a Pope that walks by the Spirit and promotes the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Church."

"I am creating a Pope that promotes speaking in tongues, worshiping in the Spirit, and moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit."

"I am creating a Pope that continues to promote the Spirit-filled Catholic congregations."

"I am creating a Pope that promotes the oneness of the body of Christ – Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, and others together, recognized as the body of Christ."

"I am creating a Pope that creates the Vatican to be welcoming, submissive, and obedient to the perfect will of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit."

And so, that is my request to you. It is some of my recommendations to you, that we really get into the Spirit in our meditation, our waiting upon the Lord, and we get into a creative mode of bringing this forth. Not just asking God to do it; He is working in us to will and to do of His good pleasure.

All right, thank you guys for this, and we just lock these prayers in.

God bless. We will talk to you soon. Be well.