

GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



GIG259 – The Wearing Down of the Saints

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 and join our Fellow Workers.

This has been such an interesting time, spiritually. For me, at least, it seemed like coming back from Israel was a point of demarcation, because that was one whole reality that we were into while we were in Israel and what was going on there as part of the Solidarity tour; but getting back home, something really did transition. There has been a huge amount of what I would call spiritual battle, and it has been very difficult, physically, mentally, emotionally, just like every level. I am saying that because I think probably a lot of you are into the same kind of spiritual conflict, let's call it that.

Part of what I felt about it after the trip was that we had made an expression to Israel in the Solidarity tour, and we also had the finalization of the book and the printing of the book that wrapped up right at that time of getting back; so it is like we have ministered out several things of great importance to Israel. I think we are trying to break into a whole level of intercession and prayer that is different than maybe what we have known or done in the past, and what I feel is that there is a real repercussion in the spirit realm against us. As much as you guys are a support to me, to Silvana, to Hargrave Ministries, to Bruce and different ones, the whole crew that works on the editing, to Kevin and different ones that are part of the directors, Lisa, Jeanne, I think there is really a tremendous force of oneness and a heart that is in our moving together in what we are doing. I appreciate it, but I also know how things work in the spirit; and so, if there are repercussions, I know it is not just against me, it is against anyone who is helping or being a part or being a force. And I want to voice these things today because I want you to be aware and to remain aware and to remain vigilant spiritually about what is transpiring.

As far as we here in the household are concerned, I feel like Silvana is getting hit much harder than I am in this thing. We went to the doctor again this last week with her. We went the week before and the doctor said, "I do not know what this is, but here is the pill for it." Then this last week we went to a different doctor and he just goes, "This is not natural, this is spiritual." That was his prognosis. So, I do not know if that is good or bad. Sometimes when you look at the load of spiritual impact you think, "Well, maybe I would rather have a cold or something, have a natural-level problem rather than a spiritual one." But anyway, I just think that there is a lot happening, and I want all of us to feel under a covering and that the Lord protect us and put you and your family, your health and your finances, your faith and everything about you in this bubble of His protection.

I know that Bruce was feeling this Scripture this week, and he was praying it for Silvana and I out of Psalm 31:20. I would like for him to read that, because maybe it really is something that the Lord was giving him for everybody, because I think it is so necessary for there to be a spiritual covering, a spiritual

protection in what is happening. I think people need to really hear that. I want there to be this spiritual protection, and I want us to be very aware. I think that as we are learning this new walk in the spirit, let's call it that, awareness is everything. Where we place our awareness and our focus is extremely important. We need to be aware of the battle, but we need our spiritual focus and awareness to be on where He is, where we are with Him, and what has already been done in the promises.

Bruce: Yes, and I would say that as I read this, let's just agree together that we see this manifest for not just Gary and Silvana, but for all of us who are involved, as Gary is saying.

You, Father, "You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the conspiracies of man; You keep them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues."

Gary: I know that as we are moving in this, we are applying all these promises to Israel. And so we do; during this time, we apply this fact that He hides them in the secret place of His Presence. It is like Psalm 91, they are to dwell, and we are to dwell with them, in the protection of the Lord, under the shadow of His wings. And I just bless us all with that.

I feel like that is one thing I had to say for you today. The other part of it is to identify what it is that is coming through. I feel its purpose is to wear us out and to just drag on and drag on and drag on. It is amazing what is happening on a natural level in Israel right now, because you had this huge reality of the US stepping in with the B-2 bombers and taking out the nuclear facilities. There was a sense of, "Oh my gosh, this thing is coming to a head! This is going to really be dealt with, this is going to end." Then it just almost like faded out from there, and they backed off, in a sense, I think at the direction of the US to kind of slow down and wait. I know that part of it was looking for the Iranian people themselves to be able to rise up and overthrow the government and take back their government, rather than have somebody else do that for them.

I think it was something that needed to be done by the Iranian people. And I still feel that I wish it could happen that way, and we can believe for it to happen that way; because I think that when you are dealing with the Middle East, you are dealing with people's pride, and you are dealing with the fact that this is their country and they are the ones who have been oppressed for so many years. And I feel like to just bring things to a place where they could step in and bring about a new government would be the best scenario, but it did not happen quickly enough; and now there is a lot of bloodshed and kind of a negative direction that things are going where the country is concerned.

We can believe for that to be reversed. But in the long term for Israel, and for us spiritually, I feel like part of what happened was that all of a sudden you have missiles coming back into Israel again on a daily basis, and it is like nothing changed. I was looking around going, "Lord, this cannot be." This is not a way of life. This is not the answer that we are looking for. This is not what Israel is needing, and this is not in alignment with the promises that we have and the prophecies that we are re-speaking and proclaiming as our current reality to be where we are dwelling and where they are dwelling. In the Father's house there are many dwelling places, and it is time for them to move out of the dwelling place they have been in, where every day is living under threat of death and under missiles and attack and all of that. We are picking them up and moving them out of the dominion of darkness into the Kingdom of His beloved Son.

We are looking for a new day, a new place to dwell, a new place to live in. So I want to see something really transpire, but I want us not to be tricked into this sense of... it is not just a discouragement, I would not call it a discouragement, I would say it just wears you out. That is where I feel like, if we

would tune into Israel on a natural level, you just cannot sustain a lifestyle where you are running five times a day for a bomb shelter. And part of that is in the middle of the night. Every night they are timing these things so that you are getting up at three in the morning, having to pack up your kids, wake them up, take them to the shelter; it literally wears you out physically, mentally, emotionally. And I think with us spiritually, you keep grinding away at it and saying, "No, it is this. This is where we are dwelling. This is what we are making our present reality." And there is just that factor of robbing your energy.

So I want to read out of the book of Judges about some of the story of Gideon, because I feel like it goes right along with what we are doing and what we are facing. We are in Judges the sixth chapter, I will start with verses 1-2. "Then the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord gave them into the hands of Midian seven years. The power of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of Midian the sons of Israel made for themselves the dens which were in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds." We see that with Israel. They have had to make bomb shelters in every condominium that they build, and they have to have places, natural places of stronghold, that are protecting their lives and their loved ones. We see this being a reality, which is nothing new; I mean, Israel has been at war since they declared themselves the state of Israel. This is not some new war, this is something that is dragging out. And what we are recognizing now is that there must be an end, and we must be able to see an ending to it for a time of peace to emerge.

It goes on in verses 3-6 to say,

For it was when Israel had sown, that the Midianites would come up with the Amalekites [which is of course an interesting group to come up with] and the sons of the east [another interesting location there to be attacked from] and go against them. So they would camp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel as well as no sheep, ox, or donkey. For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, they would come in like locusts for number, both they and their camels were innumerable; and they came into the land to devastate it. So Israel was brought very low because of Midian, and the sons of Israel cried to the Lord.

So here is this idea of being brought low. And you feel that, just a low energy, like I said, just this sense of being worn out. I feel like that is the challenge right now, and we cannot succumb to it. We have to cry out to the Lord in our intercession in a way that really resolves this. And so, I am taking it as a challenge to what we are moving in and what we are doing in this way of walking and moving in the Spirit to exercise His Word and His promises as being past tense: It is, we are living in it now. We are not being suckered into this idea of, "Oh, we better just pray for it and ask for it in hope against hope that it works." No, we are declaring that the Lord has brought us to a new place, and we are dwelling in a place that we have not dwelt in before; and it is from this new dwelling, this new place in the Spirit, this hiding place, like Bruce was reading out of Psalm 31. I like the way it words it to say a secret place. You know, a secret place is someplace that nobody else knows about. If you are in a secret place, kind of the connotation I get is that then they cannot find you. They cannot get to you, because they do not know where you are. And I feel like the Lord wants to bring Israel, wants to bring us, into a secret place.

I was thinking about the Lord teaching the disciples to pray. He said, "Go into your room and shut the door." There is a prophecy about that in the Old Testament: "For a little while, go in, shut the door, hide yourself in the secret place." (Isaiah 26:20) So there is a lot for us to recognize that God is doing something. He is positioning us, but we cannot waver on our position. We cannot leave this realm of spiritual walk to go back to just a crying out to God, saying, "Oh, it did not work. It is not working." It is

done. It is finished. We are with Him and we can move from that place of being with Him in that secret place He has provided. And He has not only provided the secret place, He has also transferred us out of the old dwelling into this new place; and that is where we are establishing ourselves in what we are believing, and we are believing it for Israel. You just can feel it trying to eat away at their faith, going, "Oh my gosh, are we going to live like this eternally?" The answer is, "No. That is not what the promises say." The Lord is going to restore. He is going to restore the land, the wealth, He is going to restore the dwelling place of Israel. He is going to restore all the things going back to Joel, the things that the cankerworm has eaten and the palmer worm has eaten. It is just like that feeling that everything is trying to eat away at you and devour you until there is nothing left of your strength, of your hope, of your faith, and we are not going there. Anything that seems like it is lost, anything that seems like it has been destroyed or is gone in permanence, the Lord said He would restore. The Lord said He would restore what has been eaten away at by the enemy. We know that for Israel, we know the many prophecies that state that over and over, and we know that we, by virtue of being grafted in, by placing ourselves with them, are going to experience the same thing.

So if you feel like you are being overwhelmed by a cloud of locusts that just seem to be gnawing away at you, and gnawing away at your energy and your faith and whatever, just don't buy into it. The Lord will restore. He is restoring. We live in the moment of the restoration. We live in the moment of all things being finished and completed and handed over to us. We must be strong if we are going to minister strength to Israel and to others; we must be strong. So it is so important to me that we not be taken down by what we are experiencing and going through.

I like what the Lord says to Gideon in verse 14: "The Lord looked at him and said, 'Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?'" And I bless you, I bless us, I bless the body of Christ: has He not sent us? Did He not tell us to, "Comfort, O comfort My people"? Did He not call us to be those watchmen on the wall? So where does our strength come from? Our strength comes from the fact that He has sent us to be part of the deliverers of Israel, part of the watchmen on the wall, those who are going to stand up and proclaim to Israel what the Lord has said.

Here was Gideon, telling the Lord how nothing he was and how bad things were going; and the Lord just looks at him and says, "Go in this your strength and deliver Israel. Have I not sent you?" That is your strength: has the Lord not sent you? Has the Lord not called you all these years of your life in your walk with Him, in the words over you to be the prophets, the prophetesses, to be the intercessors and those of faith? Has He not sent you in this hour? He could have had you born in any generation, and God chose not to do that. He brought you forth in this generation for this moment so that we would be the proclaimers of now. It is now that the Lord will move to bring forth the fulfillment of every Word that He has spoken, and that is our strength. I bless you. I bless you to rise up in your strength and be the deliverers of Israel, because delivering Israel is the first step to delivering the nations and bringing all nations into the Kingdom that God is setting up and establishing in this hour.

I bless each one of you not to be weakened in any way, not to be doubting and say, "I am just going to go back to an old asking, because I certainly do not see it." No, you see it in His Word, and His Word is the truth of what He created when He spoke that Word. And you now are going to hear that Word, see that Word, know it is the reality of now, and speak it yourself into existence in the moment.

In Daniel 7 we see a similar situation. I will read starting in verses 24-25. It says, "As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. He will speak out against the Most High." And again,

Psalm 31 was talking about the voice of those coming with the accusations, because we realize that in the world of spirit, voice is vibration; it is spirit. It is not the words, it is the force of the vibration that is ministered through them.

“He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One.” That is what is going on here. It is this drive to wear us down, the drive to have us just like eaten away at by the locust, being devoured from top to bottom in what we are doing. This was the thing Daniel saw in the vision at this time of the great conclusion. But of course, in verse 26 it says, “The court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed.” And we know that is already the fact. We read it in Revelation the twelfth chapter that judgment has come, he has been thrown down. You may say, “Well, he was only thrown out of heaven, not out of the earth.” Yes, but we dwell with Christ in heavenly places. So where we are dwelling, where we are moving to in this process of the many dwelling places, we are dwelling where he has been cast out. It is history, it is the fact. We are living in that reality, we are proclaiming that reality; and the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated, destroyed forever. That is the moment that we are in. So we believe that, understand that, know that, and we are going to live that with all of our hearts.

I am going to go to Ephesians 6, verse 18. It says, “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.” This idea of our perseverance, our awareness of what is going on – we need to be aware at all times. We need to be in petition, staying on the alert and praying for all the saints. Again, our prayer is the proclamation of where we are and what is taking place now. We are seated with Him in the heavenly places – He made that so, so very clear. He is “going to prepare a place for us,” and He did. He was not just resurrected, which is a pretty key part of our faith that He was resurrected; but more than being resurrected, He was taken to the right hand of the Father, where He dwells. And He said, “My servants will dwell with Me, so that where I am, there My servants will be also.” We are to be with Him.

If we are down here living in this natural level and we are running into problems, we should not be surprised whatsoever. We need to get the hell out of Dodge. We need to move into the heavenly places. He prepared that. He was not just resurrected, He ascended to the right hand of the Father. He dwells in that place, and we are to dwell with Him there and move with Him from there in all that we are doing, and realize that we have been chosen and commissioned for this. And we believe in it.

There are other Scriptures. Did you want to read the other Scripture that you had?

Bruce: Well, I can quote it. What he was talking about is in two places. It is in Ephesians 2:4-6, “For God, being rich in mercy, by His great love raised us up to be seated with Him in heavenly places, even when we were dead in our transgressions.” This has nothing to do with our sin nature, whatever. He has raised us up in Christ. And the one that has been really meeting me is Colossians 3:3. It says, “For we have died and our life is hidden with Christ in God.” What Gary is saying is a tremendous principle. Isaiah 55:8 talks about our thoughts are not His thoughts, our ways are not His ways. And where I try to live my life using my ways and my thoughts, of course the enemy can wear me down. But there is a principle that we can tap into, and that is why the meditation and praying in the Spirit that Gary has introduced to us, or the Lord has introduced to us, is so key, because we literally can come to the point where we reckon our lives as dead and we move into a different place. Our thinking can change, how we pray changes. I am not praying separate from God, we are praying with an awareness of Him and His thoughts and His ways, which are the Scriptures that Gary is pointing out that are as alive as they have ever been.

And they are spirit, they are life; the living Word is powerful. There is an energy in the life of Christ and in the spirit realm where we have been raised up that I really believe we can and are tapping into.

Gary: Right. And we do, we loose that power to move through us as we go through this week, and as we continue to walk in this way before the Lord. I pray that this has really been a great blessing and an assistance to all of you. I want it to be just a washing from the Lord, a washing by the Spirit of God. I want it to reestablish and reconfirm in our hearts and minds who we are, what we are here to do and accomplish, and for us to understand that there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ. All of that, the old has passed away, behold, new things have come. We are new creatures in Him, but we are seated with Him as those new creatures. We are not to live in this old age, in this old place, as new creatures; we must transcend into the secret place of the Most High and dwell with Him there and minister from that place to Israel, to the Jewish people, to the body of Christ, and to ourselves, our families.

So I bless you. I hope this has been a blessing for you. We just seal this with all of our hearts to every one of you.

Amen.