

GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



GIG264 – The Bread We Know Not Of

Welcome to this podcast, I am glad you could be with me today. I want to talk a little bit just born out of my own personal waiting on the Lord, meditation, and prayer from the last few days. I have been feeling this very deeply in my heart; it really has to do with this idea that when we read the Scriptures or when something is alive to us, we really do not tend to put the emphasis on it that we should. Maybe after many years of reading the Word or walking with the Lord we get a little bit conditioned to not put the force of our faith that we ought to, or maybe that we used to, behind things that the Lord is speaking to us or showing us in His Word. So, I want to really change that in my own personal life. When God is saying something, when the Scripture is saying something, I really want to take it not just at face value, but with a force of life behind what it is that God is trying to speak to me and to speak to us as believers in His Word.

So I am going to read out of Isaiah the fortieth chapter, verses 28-31.

Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth
Does not become weary or tired.
His understanding is inscrutable.
He gives strength to the weary,
And to him who lacks might He increases power.
Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,
Yet those who wait for the Lord
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

In reading this and looking at so much that the Lord has been speaking to my own heart, I do not want to take it poetically. I do not want to kind of let my conscious mind or my subconscious mind excuse away what I am not experiencing, maybe on a daily basis, from the power of what is being said here; because I think what is being said here is really amazing. It is telling us that we should be waiting upon the Lord, waiting for the Lord. And if we would engage in this idea of being those who wait for the Lord, or wait on the Lord, it says that we “will gain new strength.” It is emphasizing the fact that we will gain new strength.

There is a tremendous promise here, and there is also a contrast being drawn; because when we look at some of the earlier verses, it says that “He gives strength to the weary.” God gives us strength. God does not grow weary Himself, and that is made very clear in verse 28: “He does not become weary. God does not become tired. His understanding is inscrutable.” So really, this is pointing out the reality that God Himself is energy. God Himself is strength. We know that God is not a human. We have so many ways in which we try to look at God or understand God, and in the process of trying to understand God or grasp

Him, because He is so beyond our human ability to grasp many times, we anthropomorphize Him into some kind of human attributes. But when we take those human attributes of what He looks like, or what He must be like, or where He is sitting way above us in the heavens on a throne, we lose kind of the truth about God Himself.

We know that God is not a human being. He is something that is capable of all things. There is nothing impossible to Him. So He exists in this state, according to verse 28, of energy, of power. It says, "He does not grow weary, nor does He grow tired." God is never out of energy. God is never out of the ability to act. And then He talks about this fact of a contrast with human beings; whereas God never becomes weary, it says in verse 29, "He gives strength to the weary." God has so much energy that He strengthens us in our relationship to Him. "And to him who lacks might..." or power, or strength, however you want to interpret that word back into English, "He increases power." So this idea of strength and power and energy, of not being tired, are all attributes of who God is; and they all relate to things that He gives to us. The reason that He gives those to us is made clear in verse 30: "Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly..." He is contrasting His state of being to our human state of being. We do grow weary, we grow tired. Even in the vigor of youth, we see that dissipating as people grow older; the vigor of the strength, abilities seem to dissipate away. But it is not so with God. He retains His vigor, He retains His strength, He retains His abilities constantly, so there is no weariness.

These are very important realities for us to grasp, because what we are encouraged to do here is to not look to our human flesh for our strength, for our enabling, but we are to find a way to draw from Him. That is what it is talking about, "Those who wait on the Lord, they will gain new strength." And I think "new" can be looked at in two ways. One is, you are going to get strength that you have lost; but it is also a strength that you maybe have never experienced before, because we are so used to living and dwelling and working with the strength that we have on a human basis, that comes out of our physical body.

When we walk as humans, what do we do? We get tired, we get hungry, and we rebuild our strength by eating. So we lose our strength, and what do we do? We go eat something; because then our body digests that, it draws the energy out of that plant matter or that animal matter that we have eaten, and our bodies are capable of drawing energy from that source of energy. That is what food is. Food that we eat is a source of energy; and our body is created in a way to draw the energy out of that and to provide it to our fleshly body so that we have renewing of our strength. So we could say, "Well, why wait on the Lord? I don't need to wait on the Lord, I can renew my strength by just going and having a good meal." But remember this aspect, that our vigor seems to dissipate also. In other words, the human flesh just winds down. It runs out, it grows old. Even in our youth; see, the youthfulness is lost, and a weariness and tiredness seems to replace that. So we know that there is literally a dead end, and I say that and use that in a real way: We die in the end because just living on a human level, from a human plane, does not have a permanence to it. There is no eternity in our flesh, in and of itself; and though we are provided with energy again through what we eat, that always seems to have a lack to it, and a lessening of that ability.

God is trying to speak something to us here; and that is why I am saying that I do not want to just listen to this or read this as kind of a poetic thing, and say, "Boy, I'm really tired. I think I will just lay down and focus on the Lord and get something out of it. When I read the Word, I kind of get something out of it." I think there is a lot more to this. I think there is a new strength that God is wanting us to reach in to,

to learn to wait on the Lord. You say, "Well, I have waited on the Lord before." And we were conditioned to waiting on the Lord and not getting much out of it, not getting a new strength out of it, something beyond any strength that we have ever known, any strength that we have experienced. Because if we are really tuning in to His strength, then it becomes evident to us that it is His strength. Why? Because it does not dissipate. His strength does not grow weary. He does not lack, He does not grow tired. All of these aspects of God's energy are extremely different than the human energy that we are used to.

So if we say, "I waited on the Lord, and I really got something from it. I was sort of renewed in my ability and I was able to get up and try again, and work a little harder," then I think we are missing the point of this contrast that is being drawn here. God's strength is not the same strength that we get from eating a good meal. I do not care how healthy it is, I do not care how organic it is, it is not going to provide for you the kind of strength and energy that is provided when we wait upon the Lord. When we plug in to God, there is an energy in God. God is energy. He is the energy of the universe.

I think it is better sometimes if we relate to the Spirit rather than talking about God, because we know that this is a spiritual realm, the Holy Spirit. The Word tells us we should be "born of the Spirit," and that is a new life. That is a new strength. It is a new energy. We cannot think of this as, "Well, I am going to wait on the Lord and I am going to have an experience that sort of equates to after eating some good food and getting some energy out of it. I will be able to get up and go back to work and do things because of that energy, that strength." That is not God's strength.

God's strength is something that is provided for us. Even Christ had that experience, and I think we need to understand that. Christ was going through His day and He was walking with the disciples, and all of a sudden He comes to the well and He says, "Hey, I'm tired, I'm hungry. Go get Me something to eat." And so, the disciples go into town, they get Him some food, they come back and here He is ministering to the woman at the well; and He has this strength. They try to get Him to eat the food that they brought and He says, "No, I have food that you know not of." That is what is being spoken of here. When we wait on the Lord, we are to receive this food that is not a human, natural-level food. This is something that, like the Lord said, we unfortunately know not of, and we are supposed to learn about it. Our waiting on the Lord is supposed to bring us into the knowledge and connect us with the fact that there is an energy that we can tap into. There is a food – a spiritual food, if you will; I am trying to draw an example so that we can understand it and grasp it with our human minds. But it is not food, it is energy; and Christ knew how to tap into that spirit world. He knew how to connect with the Father who is energy and never grows weary. And so, Christ in His weariness in the flesh reached in to God the Father and was energized by that process, without eating natural food that is just on a material level; and He was strengthened in His physical body by that which He plugged in to in the spirit world, in the Father, in the quantum world, in the eternal world that exists around us. It is energy.

When we talk about eternity, it is energy. Everything that exists in the universe is energy. There is an energy force that finally science is beginning to understand and connect with, but this is what we talk about as being the spirit world. And we as believers should know how to reach in and connect with this world of spirit. We need to plug in to God, if you will. That, in part, is what Christ was here to teach us, to plug in. He is the one who said, "You must be born of the Spirit if you are going to see the Kingdom of God." We have to be born into another world, into another relationship with the Father, that is different than just relating to Him at arm's distance from this material world that we live in; and I really want us to get this. I want us to look again at Isaiah 40:28-31 and not take it on some poetic level, or make it into

something that it is not. It is saying what it is saying: God never is weary. The energy of God exists in the world around us, through us, but we have to plug in to it. It is like saying, "Well, I have natural food." Good. You can set a wonderful table and you can put the food all around you, but if you do not eat that food, you do not gain the energy out of it. And so, it is not enough to say,

"God is everywhere at all times."

"We are surrounded by the spirit world."

"We exist in this quantum realm of the spirit," whatever you want to call it.

If you do not know and do not learn how to plug in to it, how to draw the strength and the energy that comes from it, the new strength that is available, then you are missing it. There is a strength that is waiting for us to learn.

Waiting on the Lord is not something I think we have really accomplished yet, because I do not think we have learned how to walk in the energy of it; and yet, certainly the Scripture encourages us to do that. It encourages us to live by the Spirit. In Galatians it talks about that: "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." Do we live by the Spirit? Do I live by the Spirit? I know I live physically by the food I eat, but is there a life that can come to me and even come to my flesh that comes through this relationship with Christ and having the Father, the Spirit of the Father, dwell within me? It is not enough that we just have Christ in us; we are to have the Spirit of the Father dwell in us. Romans 8 makes that very clear. In verse 10 it says, "If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness." What does Christ come and do? He reconciles us to the Father. He plugs us in. He allows, He opens the door for us to be able to plug in to, to be reconnected with, the Father. Yet it says here, "If Christ is in us, the body is still dead." And we see that reality. Christians die every day who are filled with Christ, believe in Christ. But it goes on in Romans 8:11 to say, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead" – who raised Jesus from the dead? The Father. God raised Jesus from the dead – "dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

People get saved and they go, "Well, I'm saved! I'm done, that's great. I've got it now, I've got my salvation." No, there is way more. There is way more. That is the open door – He reconciles us to the Father. Why? Because if we keep reaching, if we keep waiting, if we keep drawing, if we keep connecting with the Father, then the Spirit of the Father Himself dwells in us. And if the Spirit dwells in us, then our mortal bodies are quickened, and we begin to literally live as Galatians 5:25 was saying, "Live by the Spirit."

Is it possible to live a life by the Spirit, by drawing from God, by the energy that comes from God, and to walk by that same Spirit? I think it is possible. We wonder at how old some of the forefathers were when we read the Old Testament. How did they live so long in their mortal bodies? Do you think there is any possibility that they were plugged in to a new energy and a new strength that came from the Father, that has been lost to us in our wonderful age of knowledge and wisdom and understanding on a human level? It seems like the smarter we get, the dumber we are in a human level, especially where the Spirit is concerned. So I encourage us, let's look at the reality of this. Let's learn to wait on the Spirit in such a way that literally the power of the Father that raised Christ from the dead dwells within us; and if He dwells within us, our mortal bodies will be changed, quickened, and we will be energized with a new energy. And as it says in verse 31 of Isaiah 40, "Those who wait on the Lord will gain new strength."

They will mount up with wings like eagles.” See, we will move into the realm of spirit. “We will run and not get tired; we will walk and not become weary.”

I think it is time for us to learn to wait on the Lord and be filled with the Spirit.

Amen.