

GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



GIG268 – Remember That God is Able

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.

I kept feeling the last week that this is the time of preparation. We have a very short time; today is the 6th of September and on the 22nd is the beginning of Yom Teruah, or the Feast of Trumpets, and that kicks off the whole season of the Fall feasts that we are very much looking forward to. I just have this drive in my heart that says I want to be prepared. I do not want to wait to come to the feast, even with an expectation, looking for something, believing for something; I want us to move into it with a drive. What has been real to me has just been the whole revelation of God, and I feel like we have to approach the time of the feasts and the fasts with an understanding, this real understanding about God, and recognizing that so much of what the times of the feasts are for is dealing with a reminder. It is a reminder. God is saying, “Remember” – that is Yom Teruah. God was the first one to blow the trumpet when He touched down on Sinai, but it was to remind them, to get their attention.

What was He reminding them of? Well, they just came out of Egypt and they saw with their eyes the mighty works of God; and yet, at the same time, as they come into the wilderness they are concerned about water, and they are concerned about food, and they are beginning to grumble against Moses and against God Himself because of what they are in need of. Yet God just spent, I do not know, they estimate a year showing one wonder and one deliverance after another to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. You look at that and you realize that for us as humans, how quickly we forget and lose sight of what has happened right in front of our face. And I just know that these times, when you look at the different aspects of the Feast of Trumpets, of the Day of Atonement, of Sukkot, Tabernacles, and we look at the great eighth day where we are sitting remembering all that God has done during the time, it is one time after another that God is saying, “Remember. Remember Me. Remember what I did. Remember how you got here.” And I just think we need this, because how quickly we forget; and especially we forget when we are facing something that is life threatening, but it is different.

So here is Israel. They are in the wilderness. Yes, they are convinced that God can deal with the Egyptians, right? Because they have just watched it happen, including watching Him drown them in the Red Sea; at which time, of course, Miriam danced on the shore and sang that beautiful song about God in His deliverance. So they were witnesses, eyewitnesses to what God did. But they get into the wilderness and all of a sudden they are without food, they are without this and without that, and they lose sight of the sheer power of God, of His authority, of His ability. And I think that happens to us more than we recognize. We can say, “Yes, God is able. He is all powerful. He can do anything that He wants

to do. And God did this and God did that, and we remember.” But the point of remembering is to bring what happened previously into the present.

That is why I think things like studying the spirit realm, or the quantum realm, however you want to picture it, are important, because all of that is about now; and God is now. He is always in the now. He is not a historical figure. We do not study God like He is some past president, or some past event. He is not a past event, He is present. One thing I did, which I do very rarely, is I went into my library of books – I use Logos to study with, and I have some 9,000 volumes in my Logos library – and I thought, “Okay, I am going to go in and look at some of the theology books.” Because it really is amazing how much is there even in Christian theology, which was not necessarily my favorite subject in school, let’s just put it that way; but when you look at the concept of theology, there is more understanding about this reality of God than we really give credit to, or live our lives from. And I thought, as Christians it is important for us to go back and rehearse some of these things. So I copied off some notes out of some of the theological books, and I just want to read some of these ideas to us.

We have God’s omnipotence. We all kind of hear that terminology, but what it means is that God has unconditioned power to do that which He wills in accordance with His nature. In other words, God has all ability, all power to do whatever He pleases and whatever He wants, and to make it manifest in accordance with His nature. So God is not limited in any way. Then we have God’s omniscience. The attribute of omniscience refers to God’s perfect knowledge of both Himself and that which He has created – which, by the way, includes you. God is constantly knowledgeable and knows about you, and knows what you are going through; and yet, isn’t that one of the big battles, that we get into something and we just feel like, “Did God forget? Did God forget we are out here in the wilderness, and did God forget that we are humans and we need water?” No, God created us, He did not forget. He knows we are human, He knows what we need. Even Yeshua taught that in prayer, do not pray for stuff that God already knows you need. Why would you do that? He is here. And yet, in our humanity, we so easily lose what and who God is, and what He is capable of at any given minute.

I want us to have this going into the feast, that we are not celebrating some historical thing. Are we remembering? Yes, He told us that. Trumpets itself is a loud noise, to do what? To wake us up to remember. To remember who He is, to remember how powerful He is, how unlimited He is, how knowledgeable He is. He knows everything. He knows all that we need. And the reason this is important to me is because we are facing things right now. Israel is facing things right now. In a sense you could say, “It is one thing that God could deal with Pharaoh in Egypt, but boy, it seems like we are losing the media war, at least, in Gaza. It seems like Hamas is not being defeated. They just keep putting up some other story to the media, which they are selling to the nations and bringing people against Israel in their minds and hearts.” And you think, “This is an impossible situation. How is God going to deal with this?” If we are not careful, it almost feels like the children of Israel crying out for food, crying out for water, going, “How can He do this?”

I do not want us to be in this position. I want us to go into these aspects of these feasts and the fasts and the seeking of God knowing that in every instance, He is able. It’s like, if we are going to have the Day of Atonement, I do not want to go into Atonement wondering if my salvation is intact: “Is God powerful enough to literally wash away my sin? Is He powerful enough and righteous enough to do what He said, which is, ‘I will remember your sin no more’? Beyond that, is He so powerful in His atonement that He can make me forgive myself and forget what I have done in violation to Him? Is the blood of Yeshua that powerful? Is it that capable?” And I think, “Yes, it is.” So I do not want to just go into Atonement and

say, "Thank You, Yeshua, for going to the cross." I want to go in recognizing the power of His salvation; because remember, salvation is not just the cross, it is not just the suffering, it is the resurrection. When we read in the New Testament Scriptures about Paul and the Apostles going out, notice what they talked to people about. They did not talk about the cross, they talked about the resurrection. That was the sign of the Messiah – the resurrection. And so, all of these things are a package. And we have to understand that God has the ability to free us of our sins, of our problems, to give us the forgiveness of ourselves, give us forgiveness for those around us that may have offended us in some way, but also to bring us into that resurrection power.

Paul talked about the power of His resurrection; that is what he was looking for. And I want us to come into that day looking for the power of the resurrection of Christ manifesting itself in the earth today in a powerful way; the kind of power that has the ability to save the Muslim world, that has the power to save the Gentile nations out of where they are standing right now. They need that. We have to see salvation as a powerful thing. Paul related to it that way because to him it was the power. It was the power that freed him from being a murderer. It freed him from his persecution of Christ and persecution of the followers of Christ. It was a powerful experience for him. So we can look at it today and say, "Gosh, we are facing all of these things in the world. We are facing these problems with the Arab nations. We are facing it with the Gentile nations." We can just worry about it and fret over it, and then say, "Oh yes, let's remember what happened." No. Let's remember what happened to set us in a place where we go, "This power exists today for my problems that I face today."

These things are for Israel today. Sukkot is for today. For what? For God dwelling among His people, for the Presence of the Father, the Presence of Yeshua coming into the world. At Sinai it says, "God touched down on the earth." I do not want that to be a story for me, or just a memory for me. We need God in the world today. We need the return, the Presence of Yeshua in the world today, for the release of His authority. Why is He coming? He is coming to be King. So when we think about Sukkot, and we think about the tabernacle in the wilderness, this is God dwelling among His people on the earth. It is about His authority being manifest. When they camped in the wilderness, they all camped in order around the Tabernacle in the wilderness. So, I want something to happen for us, and I want something to happen to us that as we are approaching this, we are bringing these things into now.

What is the answer in Gaza? I do not think any human has an answer for Gaza. I do not think any human has an answer for radical Islam. I do not think any human has an answer for Islam, period, which leads people into that way of thinking and believing, because it is counter to the will of God. And I feel like we have to know, we have to come to this time knowing that He is the answer. His thoughts are not our thoughts, His ways are not our ways, but we want His ways. We were taught to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on this earth now as it is in heaven." I only want us to remember so that we can take the knowledge of what we are remembering and bring it into our reality right here, right now, today, and know that these biblical feasts are His time. He put these into place for us, because He is going to move during these times to do exactly what He says He is going to do. And I want us to come into these times like a steam roller that just is rolling over every bit of unbelief and every bit of negativity that could possibly exist, and recognize that we are coming to worship the God of creation. All of these things are within His ability.

Let me just read a couple more of these qualities of who God is. God is omnipresent. Omnipresence is the name for the Christian belief that God is everywhere present, and is not limited to any location or physical space. People ask me, "Why are you getting into quantum physics and studying the things

about the quantum?" Well, call it the spirit realm if you want to. What is it? He is everywhere. He is everywhere at every time. He knows all things, and He holds all of what has been created into His awareness at every moment. This is who we worship. This is who we relate to, who we live with. And I think there is something about looking at this, because these qualities – I do not know how they exactly became Christian theology, but I read this and I go, "Boy, you just prove that God is the quantum world, and He is the source of it all." If we can learn to live in that world with Him, that is Sukkot. We are to live with Him in His Presence all the time, every day, and we are to plug in to that power.

I love the story of Yeshua when He was at the well and He was exhausted from His day. He was traveling with the disciples, and He said, "I am weary, I am hungry." He sits down by the well and the disciples all leave to go get Him some food and come back, thinking, "We have to minister to the Lord." Meanwhile, this woman comes to draw water, and He asks her to draw water for Him, and it gets into the conversation. We all know the story; you can read it again after the Zoom call to refresh it to yourself. But the key of it was, when they asked Him, "I thought You were hungry," He said, "I have food that you know not of." And when we talk about who God is, and we talk about the spirit world, there is life and power and miraculous existence that we have the ability to tap in to. And these feasts, they are a window for us to touch into the world of spirit, into the realm of God.

One of the realities is, He is omnipresent. He is always in every location, physically He is in every location. And He is free from time, so He is in all time. He never is in the past, He is always now. There is His immutability. God's immutability is His freedom from change, and His being the same at all times, past, present, and future. The reason is because with Him, there is no past, present, and future, there is only now. That reality is something that we can live in, and that is why we can appropriate all that He has for us and walk in it today, because once He spoke it, it is. It was brought into existence just as creation was. Today we are celebrating Shabbat. What is Shabbat recognizing? He created. He finished His work. When He finished His work, He sat down and rested in that work; and He said, "I am looking for a people to enter My rest." Which means that they can absorb and draw from the truth and the reality that all things are now created; and once they were spoken, they exist for you to appropriate and bring into your present life today.

God is self-existent, in that He has no cause or source, but is unlike all else; He is uncreated. One of the things that we realize about the quantum is, it points to the reality that there is a source for everything. Thank God science is finally finding God. He is the source of all things that surround us at all times, at every moment. And so, in reading this, I thought, let us be reminded of this amazing God that we serve, who is absolutely unlimited. He is all powerful. He is all knowing. And therefore, we should not come to these new events in our life the way Israel faced them. We are always learning from Israel, both from the good and the bad. And so we realize, yes, what we face today may look completely different than anything we have ever faced before. We may have challenges. Israel may have challenges that look impossibly different than what Israel has ever faced. But it does not matter, because God has not changed. His ability to be the answer that we need today for all things that we have no answer for is to me why we come to the feast, because we worship Him in that attitude and in that place. And we say, we are not going to do as they did. We are not going to complain about no water, complain about no food, complain about all the things.

I mean, I could get off complaining about the media: "Why can't we win the war of the media? Why does the media seem to be winning the hearts of the world, especially our young people and the college kids, where they are believing all of these lies?" And we know who is the father of lies. But we start

murmuring against the Lord: “Why is this happening? Why are these things happening? We have all these prophecies and promises about Israel and for their restoration and their blessing; why does it seem like there are so many terrible things happening surrounding them now?” No, we are not coming with that attitude. We are coming with an assurance that we know He has the answer, that we know He is able. And I think it is that trust, remembering who He is and that trust that we have in Him, that whether or not we see the answer does not matter because we see Him. And ultimately, that is the only answer we need.

And so, I bless us in our preparation during this time. We have a very short time, but I want us to come with our hearts really prepared for what the Lord is going to do. I had so many Scriptures and so many things that I was going to talk about this morning, but I feel like this just imparts to us the feeling, the sense I had, and the sense I want us to come into. But I will give you the scriptural references so you can go back and read them. Deuteronomy 6, verses 1 through 25. Of course, this leads into verse 4, which is the Shema prayer, Sh'ma Yisrael. And I would really like you to read this beyond just verse 9 and see where this Shema prayer leads, because it kind of leads into what we are talking about, an understanding that God is here and God has the answers, and that we are not to forget. Which, in verses 12-13, it says, “Then watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.”

We are not to have any other gods, but we are to remember these things; and we are to remember that that power was manifest for us, manifest for us once, maybe twice, maybe many times in our lives, and it is going to work again. We have the answer. It says in verse 16, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test as you tested Him at Massah.” That is what happens when we do not bring our knowledge of who God is into the now, for what we are facing today, in order to create our future. When we do not do that then we tend to test Him. Something goes haywire with our prayer, and our prayer turns almost into a complaint about what is not happening, and why it is not happening, and, “Why are we going through this?” And I tell you, we bless Israel because they have more reasons to complain right now than they have had in a long time of history. But we bless them, because they are going to come into this time of the feast with their faith strong. They are going to remember that when they were in Egypt, they were hopeless. There was no hope, there was no answer; and it seems that way now. But all it took was God coming on the scene, and we know that these feasts and these times are all about God coming on the scene.

So we bless this. I bless your preparation for the feasts. I bless the time that we have. And what I would like to do is just have us agree together that we can come forth like an army of faith expressing this reality that He is what we are looking for today, and what He has said, He will do. We will not doubt, we will remember. We will not complain, we will remember. And we approach the feast with this faith and this determination, in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Alright, did you have something you wanted to share?

Bruce Larson: One of the things the Lord asked B'nei Yisrael, the sons of Israel, over and over again was to be in awe – “I just want you to live in awe of Me.” And Father, I repent for a shallowness of thinking that allows unbelief to keep creeping in. Lord, by Your grace let us always live with that awareness, just in awe of Your power. When You appeared in Sinai, Lord, the mountain shook, the noise was so loud that they covered their ears. They were shaken to the core by Your power. And Lord, let us live there. As we enter into this time, and our time with You every day, and our prayer and our seeking You in

these times of the feast, first and foremost, Lord, let us just live with that awareness of who You are and the power that You have, and that You want to demonstrate to each of us personally. You have counted the hairs on our heads. You are personally interested in each of us to manifest Your power within our lives. And we open our hearts to this word.