

GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



GIG283 – You Are the Temple

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.

The beginning of Hanukkah is at sundown tomorrow, and it is a time of a miracle, really. When you talk about the bottom line of Hanukkah, no matter what you are believing about the miracle, you still have to bottom line it with a miracle. So most people are saying it is the miracle of the lights, and the oil lasted for seven days while they were making new oil. That was a miracle. Others talk about the Temple being rededicated. Well, the rededication came after the miracle of the winning of the war and the taking back of the Temple, and so however you look at this time, it is a time of recognizing the miracle that God has worked for His people, and it is a celebration following the miracle. It is not a prayer or a belief for a miracle, it is a recognition of the miracle that has taken place. And I think that these are maybe little pieces to the puzzle, but when you put it together, this is the picture of Hanukkah.

We are, each one of us, to be recognizing the miracles that God has worked in our own lives, and the miracles that He has worked through so many people and places around the world. The miracle of Israel, that there is a state of Israel; the miracles of healings that we have experienced; the miracles of deliverance, whether they be spiritual, mental, emotional, or physical healings. But it is a time that we recognize, “Look what God has done for us,” and we celebrate these days of basking in those miracles and recognizing that if God can do one miracle, He can certainly do more. Therefore we can look forward to all the miracles that we need to see transpiring in this time and say, “We know that it is done and we believe in it now, and we receive it into our hearts and into our lives, that everything around us in a natural level begins to change to conform to the miracle that You have accomplished.”

Of course, I especially relate it to the war that transpired with the Hasmoneans and with Mattathias, and what he began to do – the retaking of the Temple and the purging out of the Temple. These are things that we know historically are a part of the idea behind Hanukkah. And so, it is a miracle, and it is a miracle that I love to relate to, because it is talking about winning the war when it seemed impossible to do. I mean, my gosh, at the time Israel did not even have an army. It was a bunch of farmers with pitchforks and shovels and whatever they could find and pick up, and they just refused to be under the oppression of the enemy any longer. They refused the persecution, they refused the torture that they were experiencing at that time, being skinned alive, being killed in public, for acting out their faith of Judaism. And they just said, “Enough is enough.” And I think that we should have that same heart in our own being as we approach Hanukkah.

When we look around the world today and we look at the evil and the wickedness that is transpiring, when we look at the raging of satan to destroy this country, to destroy Israel, to destroy Brazil, many

countries in the world, and you look at what is happening in Europe, at some point we may look like a bunch of ragtag farmers that have no army, that have no weapons or munitions, or it looks like we do not have what we need to be able to fight such a fight. But we just stand up and say, "Enough is enough!" According to Christ on the cross, it is finished and it is done, and there is a new king and a new ruler in this earth. According to Psalm 2, Yeshua has been established and set as the King on the throne in Mount Zion; and so, that is just the reality of where we come from. I think that we should have a very aggressive attitude surrounding us during this time of Hanukkah as we look at the things in the world that need to conform to what God has already said, what He has already spoken, what He has already prophesied; and we just stand up and say, "It is finished. It is already done, and enough is enough." Enough woke mentality, enough sin and corruption in the world leaders, enough wickedness in high places as well as just in society that surrounds us.

You say, "Well, on what basis are you waging this war? How are you going to win?" It is already won. We are like the king who set the worshipers before the army and said, "Hey, we do not have anything here of ourselves, but God is the God of all creation, and He is the God of the world, and so we just declare in the name of Yeshua, we declare in God's name, that the battle is won, and that His Kingdom is established on this earth." If the world does not recognize it yet, that is not my problem. In my heart it is, and by our voices it is. We do not have weapons to raise, but our weapons are powerful to the tearing down of strongholds; that is our faith and the words that come from our mouths, born from hearts that know that it is done and finished according to the promises and the Scriptures that we see in the Word of God. And so, we declare it today that this is a Hanukkah of miracles, and we look to see miracle after miracle, day after day of the celebration of Hanukkah. We just stand on it, and we are not going to be moved or waver in any way against what we know to be the truth and know to be the facts.

I am assuming that everyone here is agreeing with what I am saying, so we just believe together in this. It is one voice before God, and it is one declaration around the globe of what Hanukkah means to us. And there are enough of us here to change the world. John Stevens said it will only take as many as you need for a good hand of poker, and we have more than that here. So we are enough; and by the resurrection of Christ, we are enough. And we declare that the weapons are mighty to the bringing down of every stronghold, to bring them into subjection to the authority of Christ; and He is capable and able to bring all things in subjection unto Himself, and we see that manifest day after day in Hanukkah. We believe for it, in the name of the Lord.

All right. This is more of just a prophetic declaration to begin with, but I want to look at the Scriptures so that we have something that we can connect with on this. There is something that started three weeks ago, actually in the prayer group here in Maui, where we were declaring John 17:20-26, and we are just studying that because we want our hearts to be open and we want to believe this and have it really, really strike our hearts. Like the statement where Christ says that the Father loves us individually as He loved Christ. That statement still to me is astounding, and it is something that I want settled and believed in my heart. But I do want to go back, because we have been going over and over it, and I hope you have been doing that, going back and reading this. If you haven't, it is not too late, start now. It is still a Word from God, it will work. But I want to read verses 21-23. It says,

"That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may

be perfected [*into one* is a better translation, but this says] in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

This has been something that has been ringing in our hearts over this period of time, and we just stand knowing that Christ was in the Father, and the Father was in Christ, and Christ is in us. Verse 23 says, “I in them and You in Me.” Christ is in me, but God is in Christ. So, Christ and the Father dwell in us, and we are being perfected into a oneness, a wholeness with us individually, us together as the body of Christ, filled with Them, filled with the Father, filled with Christ. This is, again, where this power comes from.

I want to emphasize to us this idea of God dwelling in us, Christ dwelling in us, just like we took weeks with the Scripture to really have what the Lord was saying sink in, that the Father loves you just as He loved Christ. And we know He loved Christ. We know the love that the Father had for the Son. We know that He loved Him with such power that He raised Him from the dead; and there is a power in this love. It is not just kind of a humanistic love that we have or that we receive, but God, the Father, loves us as He loved Christ. Just like He loved Christ, He loves you and me. That love is the same love, and it has the same power in it; and that is why there is a power in us. Our weapons are powerful to the bringing down of strongholds; that is the love that God had in Christ, right? He went to the cross, and by the cross, through the love of the Father, He tore down every stronghold. He brought satan down. He ended the rule and the reign of satan as the prince of this world, the prince of the power of the air.

There is a power in this love, and therefore there is a power in us that I want us to see, I want us to recognize; because if we are going to be proclaiming miracles during Hanukkah, then we need to understand where that declaration comes from. It comes based on the fact that Christ is in us and the Father is in Christ, and God the Father loves us as He loved Christ, and He dwells within you and me in this day. We can add this idea to our Scripture memorization of John 17. But I also want to go on from that and have you also go back and read John the tenth chapter. I am going to read starting with verse 22, but I encourage you to go back and read the verses before that; I do not want to do it here because of just time constraints. But Christ is talking about this idea of Himself and the Father and the love, and how the Father is in Him. This is the mindset that Christ is in, and what He is talking about when we get to John 10, at verse 22, which says, “At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem.” What does it mean, “At that time”? At the time He was in the Temple, at the time He was in Jerusalem talking about this relationship between He and the Father, at that time it was the time of the Feast of Dedication. And we realize that the Feast of Dedication is the feast of Hanukkah.

Truly, that is what Hanukkah is about. Following the war, when they retook the Temple, they took all of the stuff out of the Temple, and what they were doing was cleansing it so that the Temple could be used – getting rid of the idolatry, getting rid of the wickedness, getting rid of the sin that had taken place there, the violations that had taken place. They had to cleanse the area itself. They had to cleanse every tool, the scoop shovels, everything that was used in the process of the sacrificing of the animals; the laver, the altar, everything that was used in the process of the sacrificial worship had been tainted by the worship and the sacrifices that had been being done in the Temple. So they had to cleanse it, and that is truly why, when we look at Hanukkah, it is about the miracle. It is about the miracle that they got the Temple back. But then it is known as the time of dedication, because once they took it back, by God giving it to them miraculously, then they went in and they, by their initiative, cleansed the space, the grounds, the building, everything that was used in the Temple worship. So it truly was a time of dedication. And Christ is talking about that, and that is why I encourage you to go read in John 10 above

verse 22 so you can get this feeling of how aware Christ was. I mean, I think He was walking through the Temple at that time looking at what was going on with a recognition and an understanding, "Hey, I am really about to cleanse this Temple"; because He is the Day of Atonement, and He is the atonement sacrifice that will be the true cleansing of the Temple and all worship before God.

Christ had that. When you read John 10, you see that awareness was in Him of the love of the Father and how the Father had chosen Him and called Him to a purpose. And so, He understood what this feast was about. He was not just there kind of celebrating with everybody else; He was coming with the recognition that He Himself was the dedication of the Temple. And the Temple was not just the Temple made with hands; it was His Body, the Temple, that was being presented to God as the true sacrifice of worship before Him in absolute obedience. So this is the context that you have to feel with what John 10 is going into.

It says in verses 22-25,

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place in Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ [Mashiach], tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me."

What is the work in His Father's name? the sacrifice on the cross that cleanses us and is the ultimate cleansing of the Temple. So this dedication and cleansing of the Temple is what I want us to have as our reality during this time of Hanukkah. And I want it really to strike us and be real.

I want to go down to First Corinthians, because we have to add this element in. It has to bowl us over with the power of God's love and why He loves us, and what He is doing in our lives. In First Corinthians 3:16-17, it says, "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are." So when we get to this, if we are going to celebrate this Hanukkah revelation, what we have to see is that it is pointing to us. It is pointing to you. You are the temple that is being discussed here in the prophetic sense of what is transpiring, that Christ comes to cleanse the Temple. He came to cleanse the Temple. He went to the Temple and He was there for Hanukkah for the celebration, but He Himself understood, when you read John 10, that He is the one that is ultimately cleansing the temple. And He knows that the temple is not just the Temple He is walking through; you are the temple. Remember, going back to John 17, He was telling the Father, "As You sent Me, so send I them. I am sending them like You sent Me." He came into the world as the true Temple, right? He is the true Tabernacle of God in the earth. God sent Him for that purpose. And God sent you, and God sent me, into the earth with this same purpose, that we should be the temple that God is going to indwell.

During this time of dedication, I know it takes a miracle, right? You do not have the Temple back in your control without the miracle. The miracle is the cross. Christ on the cross gave us the temple back. He cleansed us from the sin. He took us out of the hands of satan, took us out of the hands of wickedness, and gave us back this temple. But He does more than that; He then gives us the power that we can dedicate it to the Lord. Once we receive Him, then we are able to dedicate ourselves as the temple, restored by a miracle that Christ came to restore us to the Father as the temple of worship that would stand forever proclaiming His name and proclaiming worship before Him.

We were strangers and we had no God in the world. Christ comes and He reconciles us to the Father as the temple of worship. But then we become those who dedicate ourselves and make sure there is the cleansing, the reviving of the temple to a state of purity through which the worship can come. And we have to see this reality that we are coming to celebrate something that, yes, it happened then; but what happened then was a sign of what was to happen and is happening now in and through our lives, that *we are* – “Do you not know that you are a temple of God? Do you not know that?” And I feel the same way when I read the verse in John 17. He said, “Do you not know that God loves you like He loved Me?” And I thought, “No. It is almost too much for me to grasp how much God loves me, if He loves me the exact same way that He loves the Son.” Then this statement comes kind of after it in the same way: “Do you not know that you are the temple that is being talked about here in Hanukkah, that is being rededicated to God and cleansed unto God because the Spirit of God dwells in you?” The Spirit of God dwells in you. You are a spirit from God. We are divine beings having a human experience, and at some point that has to be real to us. God is capable of being everywhere; I mean, even the theologians agree with that one. So God is everywhere, and the Spirit of God is in us. We are a slice of God that was put here on this earth, and He dwells in us. We are to be the dwelling place of God, the Spirit of God; and as it was being said in John 17, “The Father dwells in Me and I dwell in you.” It cannot get much clearer than that. Who are we? We are the temple that exists on the earth in this time; and Christ dwells in us, and the Father dwells in Christ, and the Spirit dwells in us, and we cannot minimize this any longer. This is a true cleansing of the temple, and it is a true cleansing of our hearts and our minds that we can no longer doubt this. We can no longer shove it off into a back corner. Like John Stevens used to say, if you do not understand something, put it on a shelf until you can get it. Well, it is time to take this one off the shelf. It is time to take off the shelf the reality that we are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in us, and Christ dwells in us, and God dwells in Christ, and this has been His plan and His purpose all along.

This to me is what I want to be aware of during Hanukkah. I want it to be the establishment of this where I can no longer forget it. That is the dedication. I want to dedicate my heart to never minimize ever again in my heart, in my mind, in my being, spirit, soul and body, that I am the temple that God created and built on this earth, and He is dwelling in it. And the purpose of Christ was to cleanse us, to restore us to the Father so He could dwell in us. This is what we are going to give ourselves to know and to understand.

First Corinthians 6:19-20, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.” Second Corinthians 6:16-17, “Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’” I know we believe that second part, that He is our God. God will dwell among us. We are believing for the return of Christ, for Christ to dwell in the earth. Okay, but we better start where He started: God dwells in us. He lives in us. “We are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,’ says the Lord.” This is the dedication. We dedicate ourselves. “Do not touch what is unclean.” See, they had to go cleanse everything in the Temple during Hanukkah that had been polluted by the world. There is a pollution in us that blinds our hearts and minds from really accepting and seeing and believing and understanding that God is in us. We are the temple of the living God and God dwells in us. And this is what I think has to come alive for us during this time of Hanukkah.

Ephesians the second chapter, verses 18-22, says,

For through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

I love this because it talks about the fact, and believe me, I know this for sure, that you guys are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ being the cornerstone reality of that truth, and He is building us. And I think that, first of all, we have to be impacted by this fact that we, individually, are the temples of God. God dwells in us. The Holy Spirit dwells in us. Christ dwells in us. But then it adds this part that we are being built together. Something is happening where these temples are coming together to be built into a singular temple unto God for His dwelling purposes. And that is what Ephesians 2 is emphasizing. It says that we, "having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together...." You kind of get the sense that this is what is happening. We know there is a creation of the body of Christ that is happening, and it will be finalized. And what it is now is the fitting together of the individual stones, the individual temples and housings, into one great temple. It "is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit." So we are the buildings, we are the tabernacles of God on the earth. And we are also being built into this huge, gigantic oneness, building, dwelling of God in the Spirit that is taking place. So there are amazing things that happen when we get this revelation of who we are as the dwelling place of God.

Philippians 2:12 says, "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling." I think that is what we are doing here. We are working out our salvation. Our salvation is powerful. It is beyond.... Let's be honest, our carnal mind, our heart, has a hard time grasping the truth and the reality of these words that we are the temple of God, that we are His dwelling place and He dwells in us, Christ dwells in us, the Spirit dwells in us. Does it sound like I am repeating myself a little bit through this message? But I think it is worth doing that, because I think it is so hard for us to really grasp and submit ourselves to the truth of this. And it says that we are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. I think we approach this dedication of our temple, of ourselves as the temple of God, with fear and trembling unto the Lord, because God is at work in us both to will and to work His good pleasure (verse 13). He is working this in us, and doing this for us.

I like Second Corinthians 13, and you can read some of the other verses surrounding this, I am going to start only with verse 5. Paul says, "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!" Listen to what Paul is calling the faith: "Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?" That is the faith. It is not a faith for blessings or miracles or to move in gifts, or to do this, or to do that. The faith is the recognition and understanding that Christ dwells in you now. Christ is in you – that is the faith. And Paul said, "Listen, test yourself on this. Prove yourself." And I think part of that proving is that we have to believe it. Faith means you believe something without question. Faith is the substance of the thing hoped for. And so, our faith means the substance of Christ dwelling in us is our portion, and we literally walk daily with that as our revelation, and who we are and what we do.

There are other Scriptures that we could read about this, but I think what I want to emphasize as a last point is how many times this is said. This is not like a one-off statement in the Bible that you can excuse

and say, "Oh, well, does it really mean that?" No. "Do you not know that you are a temple of God?" You are a temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you. That is why we are rededicating ourselves during this time of Hanukkah, to be those in whom God is living and moving. And the first thing that we are doing is washing off any unbelief, polishing away any wickedness of unbelief that does not grasp and will not submit and know that He is in us and we are His housing on this earth; and that Christ, as He said to the Father, "As You sent Me, Father, so I have sent them into the world." Without question, we know that Christ was the dwelling of God. In Him dwelt all of the Godhead bodily. In Him dwelt all of the Godhead bodily. And as He was sent to be that temple of God in the earth, so are you.

So we bless this time of Hanukkah, and we believe for it to be a real experience for each one of us. Lord, we ask that You help us. Lord, we wipe away every tainting of unbelief, every pollution in our hearts and minds. We will not be conformed to this world in this matter. We will be conformed to Your Word that says we are the dwelling place of God in this earth, and that the Spirit of God lives in us and God dwells in us. Help, Lord, our unbelief, and let it be wiped away, washed away, and cleansed away by our time of dedication in these days of Hanukkah. Amen. We bless it.

Anybody else want to voice a prayer to seal this to our hearts?

Bruce Larson: I just want to add that I feel like hearing this is like the Lord is renewing our minds into the mind of Christ. I feel like it is just sweeping away the limitations that our carnal mind keeps trying to remind us of. And I know you read a lot of verses, but Ephesians 3:16-19 says,

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

I feel like, Lord, we reach into You with all of our hearts. Let this be a true renewing of our minds. Let there be something that sweeps away every limitation, everything from the old way of thinking as human beings. We are divine beings who are called to be those temples filled with the fullness of God. We refuse to have something in our minds that says, "Well, I have a little bit of God in me." No, we are to be filled with all the fullness of God. And Lord, we reach in with all of our hearts. Let this penetrate our hearts, let our ears be open to hear this in a new way that just sweeps away the old and establishes what You want to do, creating us as the temple that are going to really impact the earth the way that Christ did the first time He came.

Amen.